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Abrogation of Article 370; A True Tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee: PM Modi

PM Says removal of J&K's special status fulfilled Jana Sangh founder's vision; Urges youth to emulate his ideals



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JULY 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday described the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A as the "true tribute" to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, saying the decision fulfilled the late leader's lifelong commitment to India's unity and integrity. In a commemorative article released on the occasion of Mookerjee's 125th birth anniversary, the Prime Minister described him as a nation-builder whose legacy was rooted in scholarship, patriotism and selfless public service. He said Mookerjee's contributions continue to inspire India's pursuit of national

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Article 370 abrogation brought 'real freedom' to J&K: Nitin Nabin

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

JAMMU, JUL 06: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Nitin Nabin on Monday said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir attained their "real freedom" after the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35-A in 2019, and exuded hope that the BJP would eventually form the government in the Union Territory. According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Nabin addressed a 'Karyakarta Sammelan' at Mishriwala on the outskirts of Jammu on the concluding day of the nationwide celebrations marking the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Nabin, who is on his maiden visit to J&K after taking over as BJP National President in January this year, said, "The constitutional changes carried

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Women's Empowerment is Key to a Viksit J&K: LG Felicitates 32 KWO Fellows

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 6: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Sunday said that women's empowerment is central to building a developed Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the progress of women guarantees the progress of society as he felicitated 32 recipients of the Kashmir Women's Organization (KWO) Fellowship at a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar. Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor described the fellowship awardees as symbols of Jammu and Kashmir's transformation toward a future founded on self-confidence, equal opportunity and



dignity. He said the young women had challenged deeply rooted stereotypes and opened new avenues for future generations through their achievements. "By challenging deeply entrenched stereotypes, these fellows have redefined what is possible. They embody J&K's ongoing transformation toward a future built on self-confidence, equal opportunities and dignity for all," he said. The Lieutenant Governor commended Dr. Fida Firdous and the members of the Kashmir Women's Organization for creating a platform that enables women from the region to confidently pursue their

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Amarnath Yatra To Cross One Lakh Pilgrim Mark Today, As 85,779 Devotees Complete Darshan

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUL 6: The annual Amarnath Yatra continued to witness a strong turnout on its fourth day, with 28,818 pilgrims offering prayers at the holy cave shrine on Sunday, taking the cumulative number of devotees who have completed the pilgrimage since its commencement on July 3 to 85,779, according to official figures. The latest count places the Yatra on course to cross the one lakh pilgrim milestone on Tuesday, reflecting the steady influx of devotees from across the country. Official data shows that Sunday's pilgrims included 20,420 men, 7,554

women, 243 children, 249 sadhus, 32 sadhvis, nine transgender devotees and 311 security personnel. Meanwhile, the fifth batch of 5,794 pilgrims reached the twin base camps in Kashmir safely after departing from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu in the early hours of Monday under elaborate security arrangements. Of the latest batch, 2,304 pilgrims opted for the shorter Baltal route, while 3,490 chose the traditional Pahalgam route. The Baltal-bound convoy left at 3:10 a.m., followed by the Pahalgam-bound convoy at 3:50 a.m., escorted by the Police, CRPF and other security agencies.

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JKSSB announces 645 vacancies across PWD, Prisons departments

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUL 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on Monday issued two recruitment notifications, announcing a total of 645 vacancies in the Public Works (R&B) Department and the Prisons Department. In Advertisement Notification No. 06 of 2026 accessed news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS), the Board has invited applications for 357 posts of Works Supervisor in the divisional cadre of the Public Works

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Reliable, Affordable Electricity is Central to J&K's Development Agenda: Omar Abdullah



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 6: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reaffirmed that reliable and affordable electricity remains at the core of the Jammu and Kashmir Government's development agenda, directing the Power Development Department to accelerate reforms, modernize infrastructure and ensure efficient, consumer-centric power services across the Union Territory. Chairing a high-level review meeting of the Power Development

Department, the Chief Minister assessed the sector's overall performance, including implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), revenue realization, reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, transmission projects and the roadmap for future reforms. The meeting was informed that power sector reforms under RDSS are progressing steadily, with projects worth more than Rs. 5,700 crore currently under execution across

Jammu and Kashmir. Of these, works valued at nearly Rs. 4,700 crore, primarily focused on reducing transmission and distribution losses, have already been awarded. Officials said the ongoing metering reforms are expected to improve billing efficiency, enhance transparency for consumers and significantly reduce power losses. Extensive infrastructure works, including installation of aerial bunched (AB) cables, feeder segregation, underground

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CM Meets Mutton Dealers, Assures Resolution

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met a delegation of mutton dealers from Jammu and Kashmir who apprised him of the difficulties they have been facing in transporting livestock through Punjab, an issue that has impacted the smooth supply of livestock into J&K. Minister for Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmed

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CM Chairs IMPARD Council, Seeks Excellence

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the 13th meeting of the Executive Council of the Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development (IMPARD) at the Civil Secretariat, reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening institutional capacity, administrative excellence and

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Amid scorching heat, water crisis worsens across Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 06: The drinking water crisis has deepened in several parts of Srinagar leaving the people in lurch. Residents from multiple localities including Habba Kadal, Fateh Kadal, Chotta Bazar, Guru Bazar, Karfali Mohalla, Qamarwari and adjoining areas, besides several uptown localities such as Karan Nagar, Batmaloo and Natipora, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that prolonged disruption in potable water supply has left them to fend on their own amid the scorching summer. They said that they have been

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Flash Floods Hit Chenab Valley

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

JAMMU, JUL 06: Flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy overnight rainfall disrupted normal life in the Chenab Valley on Monday, blocking the Doda-Kishtwar National Highway, burying several vehicles under debris near the under-construction 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Power Project and affecting traffic.

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Complete Digital Arrest Mechanism Without Delay : Chief Secretary Atul Dulloo

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JULY 6: Chief Secretary Atul Dulloo on Sunday directed the early operationalisation of the Digital Arrest prevention mechanism across Jammu and Kashmir, stressing that all statutory, administrative and technical formalities must be completed within the stipulated timeframe to ensure the system becomes fully functional without delay.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on cyber crime prevention, Dulloo ordered monthly monitoring of the implementation of the Digital Arrest mechanism and other cyber security initiatives to ensure adherence to timelines and effective coordination among departments. He also directed all concerned departments



to upload progress on the designated

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Pahalgam Attack NIA names Hafiz Saeed in supplementary chargesheet

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JULY 6: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed charges against Pakistan-based terrorist and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed in connection with the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam attack that claimed the lives of 26 civilians, including 25 tourists and a local resident. According to the NIA, Hafiz Saeed has been chargesheeted in his individual capacity as well as in his role as the chief of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its proxy outfit, The Resistance Front (TRF). NIA has invoked various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967. The

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Abrogation of....

integration and development. Highlighting Mookerjee's longstanding opposition to the special constitutional status previously enjoyed by Jammu and Kashmir, Modi said his struggle and sacrifice had found fulfilment through the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He recalled Mookerjee's campaign against the erstwhile permit system in Jammu and Kashmir and referred to his death in custody as a sacrifice etched into the nation's collective memory.

The Prime Minister also recalled Mookerjee's role during the Partition, saying he worked to ensure that West Bengal remained part of India at a crucial moment in history.

Paying tribute to Mookerjee's contributions beyond politics, Modi highlighted his achievements in education, noting that he became one of India's youngest university vice-chancellors and championed an education system focused on leadership, innovation and national development rather than merely preparing students for employment.

The Prime Minister further credited Mookerjee with helping lay the foundations of India's industrial growth after Independence. He cited his support for major projects, including the Damodar Valley Corporation and the Sindri Fertilizer Plant, while also promoting handloom, cottage industries and traditional artisans.

Modi said the revival of the Sindri fertilizer unit under his government held special significance as it reflected Mookerjee's vision of a self-reliant India.

He also described Mookerjee as a steadfast believer in democratic values, recalling that although he served in the first Union Cabinet led by Jawaharlal Nehru, he resigned over policy differences that he believed were contrary to the national interest.

The Prime Minister also remembered Mookerjee's humanitarian efforts during the Bengal famine of 1943 and relief work following the 1942 Midnapore cyclone, saying compassion and public service remained defining features of his life.

Concluding his tribute, Modi urged the nation's youth to draw inspiration from Mookerjee's ideals of dedication, honesty and service, saying his life continues to offer a guiding vision for building a stronger, more prosperous and developed India.

Article 370....

out by the Narendra Modi-led government fulfilled the vision of the BJP ideologue for the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country."

Stating that significant changes have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir after 2014, Nabin said the national tricolour now flies proudly across the Union Territory, including Srinagar's Lal Chowk, which, according to him, reflected a transformed political and security environment.

He said that previous governments opposed attempts to hoist the national flag at Lal Chowk, citing concerns over law and order.

Recalling his participation in the Rashtriya Ekta Yatra in 2011 as then Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha national general secretary, Nabin said a three-member delegation, including himself, had sought permission to unfurl the tricolour at Lal Chowk but was denied approval. He alleged that curfew was imposed to prevent the programme and claimed that a Pakistani flag was seen flying at Lal Chowk during that period.

"Only the persons with blinkered vision are unable to see what has changed in J&K. Tricolour proudly flying high at Lal Chowk and everywhere else in J&K after Narendra Modi took over the reins of the country as the Prime Minister delineates the change in J&K. Prior to 2014, when Congress was at the helm of affairs at the Centre and was in coalition in J&K government, hoisting tricolour was not allowed on the pretext that it would disturb peace in Kashmir and would create law and order problem," he stated.

Contrasting the situation with the present, Nabin said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are now being recognised for achievements in sports rather than for unrest, adding that the Union Territory was moving towards peace, development and prosperity.

"Many people ask 'what changed?' and I tell them that a lot has changed in Jammu and Kashmir" he said adding, "Today, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are known as Ranji Trophy champions and not stone pelters," he said, reiterating that J&K is moving towards "a new era of peace, progress and prosperity".

The BJP president described July 6 as a "very significant day for J&K as it marked the birth anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee who laid down his life here for integrating it fully with the rest of the country with one flag and one constitution."

He also recalled the struggle of Dr Mookerjee, former BJP president Dr Murlidhar Joshi and Narendra Modi, before he became the Prime Minister, to "see tricolour unfurling at Lal Chowk and every nook and corner of J&K".

"My heart swells with pride that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi realised this vision. It is further heartening to note that as we are observing 125th birth anniversary of Dr Mookerjee, the BJP flag is also flying high in West Bengal – the birth-place of BJP ideologue (Dr Mookerjee)," Nabin said.

Calling upon party workers to strengthen the organisation, the BJP president said the party should continue expanding its outreach across Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed confidence that "the day is not far when Jammu and Kashmir will also have a BJP government," adding that while the lotus had already bloomed in Jammu, it would soon bloom in Kashmir as well.

Referring to the contributions of Dogra leaders and warriors, including General Zorawar Singh and Brigadier Rajinder Singh, Nabin urged party workers to connect with people at the grassroots and spread awareness about the Centre's development initiatives and welfare programmes.

The rally marked Nabin's maiden visit to Jammu

and Kashmir after assuming charge as BJP national president earlier this year. The event concluded the fortnight-long Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Pakhwada, observed across the country from June 23 to July 6. —(KNO)

Women's....

aspirations while contributing meaningfully to society.

He said the organization had, in a short period, emerged as a "powerful hub of hope, trust and positive change," adding that the fellowship programme reflected the spirit of collective responsibility towards women's empowerment.

Outlining his vision for the Union Territory, Sinha said he envisaged a Jammu and Kashmir where women play leading roles in academia, industry, governance, entrepreneurship, social organizations, art and literature, while shaping public policy and driving inclusive development.

"I envision a Jammu Kashmir where every young girl grows up believing that her dreams are valuable, her voice is powerful, and her future holds limitless possibilities," he said.

Recalling the legacy of eminent women from Kashmir's history, including Rani Didda, Kota Rani, Lal Ded, Habba Khatoon and Mata Rupa Bhawani, the Lieutenant Governor said women have always played a defining role in the region's social and cultural evolution and should continue to lead its future development.

He also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that several initiatives undertaken by the Government of India had strengthened the rights of women in Jammu and Kashmir by removing discriminatory practices.

Emphasising that women deserve equal and dignified participation across social, cultural, economic and political spheres, Sinha urged society to create an environment that nurtures women's capabilities and leadership.

Highlighting emerging social concerns, the Lieutenant Governor called for a comprehensive, region-specific study on the rising challenge of substance abuse among women. He urged the fellowship recipients to examine its root causes so that stronger rehabilitation strategies could be developed for affected women.

During the event, the Lieutenant Governor also released the book Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipal Council in India, authored by Dr. Nazrul Islam.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Darakshan Hassan Bhat, President of the Kashmir Women's Organization, Dr. Fida Firdous, President of the Kashmir Writers Association, members of both organisations and senior government officials.

Amarnath Yatra....

The convoy consisted of 267 vehicles, including 126 buses, 32 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 104 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and five two-wheelers.

Authorities have maintained extensive security, medical and logistical arrangements along both routes, including continuous surveillance, traffic management, emergency healthcare facilities and deployment of security personnel to ensure the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

As part of the CRPF's "May I Help You" initiative, women personnel have been deployed along the Baltal route to assist pilgrims with guidance, accommodation support, language interpretation, connectivity issues and emergency medical assistance.

CRPF Deputy Inspector General Sudhir Kumar said the initiative aims to make the pilgrimage more accessible for devotees arriving from different regions of the country.

"Pilgrims come from across India and many face language barriers. The CRPF represents a mini India, and women personnel from different states have been deployed so devotees can communicate in their own language and receive timely assistance," he said.

Officials said the pilgrimage has remained peaceful so far, aided by favourable weather conditions and robust security arrangements. They added that all necessary measures continue to remain in place to ensure the safety and convenience of pilgrims, including several foreign nationals who have also participated in the ongoing Yatra.

The 57-day Amarnath Yatra commenced on July 3 from the twin routes of Baltal in Ganderbal district and Nunwan in Pahalgam, Anantnag district.

JKSSB....

(R&B) Department. The online application process will commence on August 1, 2026, with the last date for submission being August 30, 2026.

Candidates applying for these posts must possess a Matriculation certificate along with an ITI certificate in Building Construction or Carpentry Trade from the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Technical Education or the Director General Trainings, Government of India.

The selection will be based on a written/OMR examination comprising objective-type multiple-choice questions, with a negative marking of one-fourth mark for each wrong answer. The application fee is Rs 600 for general category candidates and Rs 500 for those belonging to SC, ST-1, ST-2, EWS, and PwBD categories as per the notification.

In a separate notification accessed KNS (No. 05 of 2026), the JKSSB has announced 288 vacancies for the post of Warder in the UT Cadre under the J&K Prisons Department. The application process for these posts will begin on July 27, 2026, and conclude on August 25, 2026.

Candidates applying for the Warder posts must have passed at least Matriculation and should not have exceeded 10+2 level of education from a recognized Board. The selection process comprises a written test followed by Physical Standard Test (PST) and Physical Endurance Test (PET), both of which are qualifying in nature.

For male candidates, the physical standards require

a minimum height of 5 feet 6 inches and chest measurement of 32-33.5 inches, while female candidates must have a minimum height of 5 feet 2 inches. The endurance test includes a 1600-meter race for males and 1000-meter race for females, to be completed in 6 minutes 30 seconds.

Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) are not eligible for the Warder posts, the notification clarified. The application fee for these posts is Rs 700 for general candidates and Rs 600 for candidates belonging to SC, ST-1, ST-2, and EWS categories.

For both recruitments, candidates must be domiciles of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and possess a valid Domicile Certificate issued by the competent authority on or before the respective cut-off dates. The age limit for Open Merit candidates is 40 years, while reserved category candidates have an upper age limit of 43 years.

The Board has issued strict instructions regarding the use of mobile phones, smartwatches, or any other electronic device, which are strictly prohibited inside the examination hall. Candidates have been advised to carefully fill their online applications as no requests for changes will be entertained after submission.

"The decision of the Board in all matters relating to eligibility, acceptance or rejection of applications, and conduct of tests will be final and binding on the candidates," the notification stated.

The detailed terms and conditions, along with category-wise vacancy distribution, are available on the official JKSSB website. The Board has clarified that the number of posts is subject to change, and the final selection list will be issued based on the outcome of any pending court cases. (KNS)

Reliable....

cabling, augmentation of distribution transformers and strengthening of the distribution network, are also nearing completion in several districts.

Reviewing the financial performance of the power sector, the Chief Minister noted encouraging gains in revenue collection and operational efficiency. Officials informed the meeting that billing efficiency has improved from 56 per cent in 2021-22 to 77 per cent in 2025-26, while AT&C losses have declined substantially during the same period. The gap between power purchase costs and revenue realization has also narrowed, reflecting improving financial sustainability of the utilities.

The meeting also reviewed the impact of reduced hydroelectric generation during the current summer due to low water availability, which has increased reliance on electricity purchases from the energy exchange during peak demand hours. Officials assured the Chief Minister that measures are in place to maintain uninterrupted power supply despite seasonal constraints.

Emphasizing that reforms must continue beyond the ongoing RDSS programme, Omar Abdullah directed the department to ensure timely completion of all sanctioned projects, strengthen monitoring mechanisms, remove implementation bottlenecks and enhance accountability at every level.

He also stressed the need to expand AB cable coverage, strengthen the transmission network and adopt advanced technologies to improve system reliability and reduce technical losses. Calling for greater focus on consumer satisfaction, he underscored the importance of building a financially sustainable and technologically advanced power sector.

The Chief Minister was also briefed on proposals for additional infrastructure investments, including expansion of AB cable networks, critical transmission projects, battery energy storage systems and rooftop solar initiatives aimed at improving grid stability, integrating renewable energy and providing dependable electricity to remote and border areas.

The meeting further reviewed electrification of uncovered habitations, feeder-wise power curtailment, tariff proceedings for the financial year 2026-27 and other initiatives designed to modernize the power sector and strengthen long-term energy security in Jammu and Kashmir.

CM Meets....

Rana and Minister for Transport and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma were also present during the meeting.

The delegation highlighted the challenges encountered during transit and sought the Chief Minister's intervention to ensure the unhindered movement of livestock.

Giving a patient hearing to their concerns, the Chief Minister assured the delegation that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir is fully committed to resolving the issue and safeguarding the interests of traders, livestock transporters and consumers.

He informed the delegation that a high-level team of senior officers from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir will shortly visit Punjab to hold discussions with the concerned authorities and work towards an early, practical and mutually agreeable resolution to all issues affecting the transportation of livestock.

The Chief Minister's intervention follows his earlier outreach to Chief Minister Punjab Bhagwant Mann, to whom he had written a D.O. letter urging the Punjab Government to facilitate the smooth and uninterrupted movement of livestock and address the difficulties faced by transporters from Jammu and Kashmir during transit. Responding promptly, the Punjab Chief Minister had assured that the matter would be examined on priority and necessary action would be taken to resolve the concerns.

The proposed visit of the high-level delegation forms part of the follow-up mechanism initiated by the two governments to ensure effective coordination and an early resolution of the issue.

CM Chairs....

good governance across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting comprehensively reviewed the func-

tioning of IMPARD and deliberated on a wide range of measures aimed at enhancing the institute's role as the premier training and capacity-building institution for J&K's civil services.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department M Raju, Director General IMPARD Rehana Batul and other senior officers.

At the outset, Director General IMPARD Rehana Batul presented a detailed overview of the institute's functioning, ongoing initiatives and future roadmap. She placed the agenda items before the Executive Council, which discussed each proposal extensively before taking considered decisions.

As Chairman of the Executive Council, the Chief Minister engaged in deliberations on important institutional matters, including recruitment of faculty members, finalisation of new recruitment rules, review and strengthening of training programmes, and support needed for organisation's long-term growth and sustainability.

The Council also examined various employee-related issues, including welfare measures, deputation of faculty members to fill up key positions at IMPA in the short term, implementation of career advancement, service matters, compassionate appointments, engagement of consultants and examination of other proposals through the designated sub-committee. The EC observed that these measures shall strengthen the institutional framework and ensure greater operational efficiency.

Emphasising the pivotal role of IMPARD in nurturing a professional and accountable civil service, the Chief Minister stressed the need for continuous institutional reforms, high-quality training and innovation in public administration. He underscored that a modern governance framework requires well-trained, motivated and future-ready public servants capable of responding effectively to emerging challenges and citizens' expectations.

The Chief Minister called for regular upgradation of training modules in line with evolving governance practices, greater adoption of technology-enabled learning and stronger knowledge partnerships to ensure that government officials remain equipped with the skills required for efficient public service delivery.

Amid scorching....

receiving little to no drinking water for the past several days, forcing families to fetch water from private sources, rely on neighbours or purchase water for daily use.

Shafiq Ahmed Mir, of Karfali Mohalla, said, "There has been no proper water supply in our area. People are facing immense hardship and are struggling even for drinking water. The authorities must restore the supply without any further delay."

Ashiq Khan, another resident of Chotta Bazar, said the crisis has affected every aspect of life. "We have no drinking water in our homes and now have to rely on packaged drinking water purchased from outside. What is the point of having tap connections in our homes and paying water bills?" he asked.

Residents of Guru Bazar and Karan Nagar further alleged that despite repeated complaints, the situation remains unchanged.

Mukhtar Wani, of Qamarwari, said many households have exhausted their stored water. "Routine household work has come to a standstill. People are struggling even for drinking water and are depending on private arrangements. The authorities must act immediately," he said.

Residents from Batmaloo, Natipora and Rawalpura also voiced similar grievances, alleging that unreliable water supply has become a routine affair during the peak summer season.

When contacted, a Superintending Engineer of the Jal Shakti Department told KNO that there was no major issue with the overall water supply system.

Meanwhile, an official from the PHE wing said the grievance mechanism receives around 10 to 20 complaints every day regarding water supply.

"The highest number of complaints are received from areas fed by the Dodhanga Water Treatment Plant, including Rawalpura, Rajbagh, Kursu Rajbagh and the Batmaloo belt. Around 10 to 20 water tankers are dispatched daily to localities from where complaints are received. As far as Downtown is concerned, there is no water supply issue at the department level," the official said.

The affected residents urged the Jal Shakti Department to immediately restore regular drinking water supply and take long-term measures to prevent recurring disruptions, saying access to safe drinking water is a basic necessity that cannot be compromised—(KNO)

Flash Floods....

including the annual Machail Yatra.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) floodwaters carrying mud, rocks and boulders swept across National Highway-244 at Prem Nagar in Doda district, damaging a portion of the road and bringing traffic to a complete halt.

Vehicles were stranded on both sides of the highway as restoration work was launched to clear the accumulated debris and reopen the road.

The highway closure also disrupted the ongoing Machail Yatra, prompting authorities to advise pilgrims and other commuters to avoid the route until it was declared safe for travel.

In neighbouring Kishtwar district, heavy rainfall triggered a major landslide near the tunnel area of the under-construction 540MW Kwar Hydroelectric Power Project.

Several vehicles parked near the project site were buried under mud and debris, while many sustained extensive damage.

Officials said debris clearance operations were initiated immediately to retrieve the trapped vehicles and restore normal movement in the affected area. No casualties or injuries were reported in either of the incidents.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre in Srinagar forecast generally cloudy conditions with intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir over the next few days.

It said a few places, particularly in the Jammu division, could receive heavy rainfall or brief spells of intense showers during the late afternoon, evening and early morning hours.

The weather office said many areas of Kashmir were also likely to receive light to moderate rainfall with isolated intense showers during the afternoon and morning hours.

Similar weather conditions, accompanied by hot and humid weather between rain spells, were expected to continue from July 9 to 12.

The MeT department warned that heavy rainfall between July 6 and 8 could trigger localized flash floods, landslides and mudslides at vulnerable locations, particularly in the Chenab Valley and the Pir Panjal range. It advised people to stay away from streams, seasonal nullahs and landslide-prone areas.

Independent weather forecasters also cautioned that the interaction between a weak Western Disturbance and active monsoon winds could produce sudden heavy showers over parts of Jammu and Kashmir during the next three days.

They said the risk of high-intensity rainfall along the Amarnath Yatra routes through Pahalgam and Sonamarg would remain elevated, while isolated cloudburst-like events and landslides could not be ruled out—(KNO)

Complete....

government portal by July 20 and submit all pending proposals and required documentation to facilitate the issuance of necessary government orders for the seamless rollout of the mechanism.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, Home, Additional Director General of Police (CID), Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology, Commissioner Secretary, Law, Inspector General of Police (Crime), Senior Superintendent of Police (Crime), SP Operations and other senior officials. Officers posted outside Srinagar participated through virtual mode.

Reviewing the Union Territory's preparedness to tackle cyber crime, the Chief Secretary expressed concern over the increasing incidence of cyber fraud and online financial scams. He emphasised the need to strengthen institutional capacity through regular training and skill development of officers engaged in cyber crime investigation and digital enforcement.

Dulloo also called for an extensive public awareness campaign across print, electronic and digital media to educate people about emerging cyber threats, particularly digital arrest scams, online financial frauds and safe online practices.

He said that public awareness, technological preparedness and coordinated institutional response would be critical to effectively counter increasingly sophisticated cyber crimes and safeguard citizens from financial and digital fraud.

During the meeting, officials made a detailed presentation on the roadmap for implementing the Digital Arrest mechanism, outlining the status of infrastructure, institutional preparedness, key milestones achieved, existing gaps and the action plan for strengthening the cyber security framework across Jammu and Kashmir. The presentation also highlighted measures to improve coordination among stakeholder departments to ensure an effective and responsive cyber crime prevention system.

NIA names....

charges include waging war against India and conspiring from across the border to execute the deadly terror attack.

The chargesheet, filed as a continuation of the original 1,597-page chargesheet, details Pakistan's alleged conspiracy, Hafiz Saeed's role in orchestrating the attack and the evidence gathered by the agency through scientific investigation and extensive field inquiries.

The NIA said the supplementary chargesheet builds upon its earlier investigation. In December last year, the agency had chargesheeted Pakistan-based handler Sajid Jatt, along with three terrorists who were later killed by security forces during Operation Mahadev in July 2025, besides two arrested accused.

The agency had also chargesheeted the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba and its proxy outfit, the Resistance Front (TRF), as legal entities for allegedly planning, facilitating and executing the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Pahalgam attack had left 25 tourists and a local resident dead.



Chief Secy lead SEC approves Rs. 751.46 Cr disaster recovery projects for J&K

Roads, Schools, Health and Power Sectors to benefit from 1,033 recovery projects

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 06: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the 2nd meeting of the State Executive Committee (SEC) for 2026-27 under the Disaster Management framework and approved a series of proposals aimed at accelerating post-disaster recovery, strengthening disaster preparedness and enhancing the response capacity across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, senior officers of the Finance Department, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), and other stakeholder departments.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon all implementing departments to ensure timely execution of the approved projects with complete adherence to the prescribed technical standards, transparency and quality parameters so that the affected communities receive the intended benefits without delay.

He further directed the departments whose projects are yet to be submitted, despite approval of funds by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), to expedite the



process and furnish their proposals within the next few days.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the entire basket of funds earmarked for the Union Territory should be fully utilized in a planned and efficient manner to execute disaster mitigation, restoration and protection works for the larger welfare and safety of the people.

During the meeting, the Committee approved projects worth Rs. 751.46 Cr under the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) funding for Jammu and Kashmir to facilitate reconstruction and restoration of critical public infrastructure damaged during the disasters of 2025.

The approved projects pertain

to sectors including Roads and Bridges, Power, School Education, Health, Social Welfare and Agriculture Production. These projects comprise 1,033 individual works and activities to be executed by the respective departments in accordance with the Recovery and Reconstruction Guidelines, approvals conveyed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), sector-wise recommendations of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the PDNA report.

The Committee was informed that the High-Level Committee (HLC) of the Government of India had approved Rs. 1,534.58 crore for Jammu and Kashmir based on the recommendations of the

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Sub-Committee of the National Executive Committee.

The SEC also approved Rs. 33.19 Cr worth of recovery projects for District Ramban under the PDNA undertaken following the April 2025 disaster. The approved interventions cover the sectors of Education, Animal Husbandry & Livestock, Roads and Bridges, Housing, and Irrigation & Flood Control. These projects will facilitate restoration of essential public infrastructure and services in the affected areas.

To strengthen disaster preparedness and enable prompt response to emergencies, the Committee approved the release

of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) assistance to all the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) and Divisional Commissioners. Under the approved package, Rs. 2 crore each will be released to every District Disaster Management Authority, while Rs. 1 crore each will be provided to the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir divisions for meeting emergent disaster management requirements and enhancing institutional preparedness.

The Chief Secretary underscored the need for building resilient infrastructure and improve institutional preparedness against future disasters. He stressed that effective utilisation of the approved funds, timely completion of projects would significantly strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's disaster resilience and ensure faster recovery for the affected communities.

The meeting reaffirmed the Government's commitment towards developing a robust disaster management framework through sustained investments in recovery, preparedness and capacity building while safeguarding lives, livelihoods and critical infrastructure across the Union Territory.

J&K Government Modifies CDF Guidelines

MLAs Authorized to Provide Medical Assistance Up to Rs. 20 Lakh Per Annum for Life-Threatening Diseases

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 06: In a significant move aimed at providing major financial relief to patients suffering from life-threatening ailments, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered an amendment to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Scheme guidelines.

As per the official government order, sanction has been accorded allowing Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to utilize up to Rs. 20.00 lakh out of their annual CDF allocation exclusively for providing medical assistance to patients from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and other notified economically weaker categories.

Under the revised guidelines, financial assistance can be sanctioned up to a maximum limit of Rs. 5.00 lakh for organ transplantation, Rs. 2.75 lakh for cancer treatment, and Rs. 1.00 lakh for chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis, alongside other diseases notified by the government.

To ensure optimum utilization of resources, the assistance will be admissible for the uncovered portion of the treatment cost only after the patient has exhausted all eligible benefits under existing schemes, including PM-JAY SEHAT, Medical Aid Trust (MAT), and the Cancer Treatment and Management Fund for Poor (CTMFFP).

This timely welfare decision taken by the Omar Abdullah government is expected to benefit the poor patients suffering from critical ailments belonging to Below poverty line families and economically weaker categories to be notified by government.

SKUAST-K Reinforces One Health Vision with World Zoonoses Day Symposium

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 6: Reinforcing its commitment to the globally recognized One Health approach that integrates human, animal and environmental health, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Monday organized a symposium on the theme "One Health, One Future: Together Against Zoonoses" at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Shuhama, to mark World Zoonoses Day 2026.

The symposium, organised by the Divisions of Veterinary Microbiology & Immunology and Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology under the Sentinel Surveillance Site on Zoonoses (SSSZ) Programme funded by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, brought together experts from the National Institute of One Health, SKIMS, Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, Sheep Husbandry Department, Animal Husbandry Department and SKUAST-K to deliberate on strengthening integrated zoonoses surveillance, preparedness and intersectoral collaboration in Jammu & Kashmir through the One Health framework.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director, Extension, SKUAST-K, and Chief Guest, said that emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases require coordinated action across the veterinary, medical, agricultural, environmental, and wildlife sectors. She highlighted that contaminated soil, irrigation water and fresh produce, including salads, can act as carriers of zoonotic pathogens, making integrated surveillance and preventive interventions across the human-animal-environment interface imperative.

Director Education, Prof. M. Altaf Bhat, who was the Chief Host, emphasized that greater public awareness and institutional coordination are essential for preventing zoonotic diseases and strengthening health security. Registrar, Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, appreciated the organizers for creating a multidisciplinary platform for scientific exchange.

Satish Sharma meets delegations in Srinagar, assures welfare of workers, traders, youth

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 6: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today met several delegations from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

He listened to their grievances and demands, assuring prompt redress of the same with intervention of the concerned departments.

A delegation of Rehbar-e-Khel (ReK), led by MLA Khansahib Saif-ud-Din Bhat, called on the Minister and projected various issues. These included regularisation of Rehbar-e-Khel teachers, enhancement of their service conditions and the need for a comprehensive policy to address their long-pending demands.

The delegation highlighted the significant contribution of ReKs in nurturing sports talent at the grassroots level across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister assured the delegation that the government is fully aware of the issues confronting the Rehbar-e-Khel community and that their genuine concerns would be redressed shortly. He said the contribution of ReKs in strengthening the sports ecosystem is invaluable and every effort would be made to find a practical and sustainable resolution.

A delegation of the Mutton Dealers Association also met the Minister and expressed gratitude to the administration for its timely intervention in



resolving issues affecting the trade. The members appreciated the proactive role of the government in ensuring smooth functioning of the sector and thanked the Minister for safeguarding the interests of traders as well as consumers.

Interacting with the delegation, Satish Sharma reiterated that the government remains committed to maintain a balance between consumer welfare and the legitimate interests of traders. He assured the members that constructive dialogue with stakeholders would continue to ensure transparent and efficient functioning of the sector.

Besides, several other delegations from different districts and regions of Jammu and Kashmir called on the Minister and apprised him of various public issues, developmental requirements and sector-specific concerns.

The delegations sought intervention in matters related to public services, youth welfare, sports infrastructure, technology-driven governance and developmental initiatives.

Responding to the issues projected by all the delegations, the Minister assured them that the same would be examined on merit and appropriate action would be initiated in coordination with the concerned departments.

Satish Sharma emphasized that sustained public outreach and continuous engagement with stakeholders remain essential for effective governance. He said such interactions provide valuable feedback that enables the government to formulate responsive policies and ensure that the benefits of development reach every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Kulgam Wins Public Appreciation for Responsive Governance and Development-Focused Administration

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, JULY 6: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam (IAS), has earned widespread appreciation from the people of the district for his proactive, people-centric and development-oriented approach to governance. Residents from different parts of Kulgam have expressed satisfaction over his accessibility, prompt response to public grievances and consistent efforts to improve the delivery of government services.

Since assuming charge, the Deputy Commissioner has been regularly interacting with members of the public, listening patiently to their concerns and issuing on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for the timely redressal of grievances. His emphasis on transparency, accountability and efficient public service has strengthened public confidence in the district administration.

Officials said that Shahzad Alam has been conducting regular review meetings with departmental heads to monitor the progress of developmental works and ensure that projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe. During these meetings, he has stressed the need for close coordination among departments and strict adherence to quality standards.

The Deputy Commissioner has laid special emphasis on accelerating the execution of ongoing infrastructure projects across the district. He has directed the concerned agencies to expedite the construction of roads and bridges, which are vital for improving connectivity in rural and far-flung areas. He has also instructed engineers and executing agencies to remove bottlenecks delaying projects and complete the works without compromising quality.

Recognising the importance of uninterrupted drinking water supply, Shahzad Alam has asked the concerned departments to ensure the timely completion of water supply schemes and take immediate measures to address shortages in areas facing drinking water issues. He has directed officials to closely monitor the functioning of these schemes so that people receive adequate and safe drinking water.

The district administration has also intensified efforts to strengthen public infrastructure and improve civic amenities. The Deputy Commissioner has instructed all departments to prioritise public welfare projects and ensure that essential services reach every section of society in an efficient and transparent manner.

To enhance accountability in government offices, Shahzad Alam has directed all officers and employees to maintain punctuality and regular attendance. He has made it clear that public offices must function efficiently and citizens should not face inconvenience due to the absence or negligence of officials. Surprise inspections of government offices have also been emphasised to ensure discipline and improve service delivery.

The Deputy Commissioner has reiterated that responsive governance and prompt grievance redressal remain among the top priorities of the district administration. He has urged all departments to adopt a citizen-friendly approach and work with dedication to address the genuine concerns of the people.

DC Kulgam Reviews Development Works in DH Pora, Stresses Timely Completion and Transparency

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JULY 6: Deputy Commissioner Shahzad Alam on Sunday conducted an extensive tour of the DH Pora subdivision to inspect ongoing development projects and review the implementation of key rural development schemes. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the construction of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Office, Treasury Office and other public infrastructure projects. He directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work while



maintaining high quality standards to ensure completion

within the stipulated timeframe.

Later, Shahzad Alam visited the Block Development Office (BDO), Pombay, where he reviewed the functioning of the office and assessed the implementation of flagship rural development programmes, particularly the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and VB-G RAM-G schemes.

Emphasising transparency and accountability, the Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to strictly follow prescribed procedures for the disbursement of material payments under the

schemes and ensure financial discipline in their execution.

He also directed the concerned officers to engage only genuine labourers whose names are reflected in the muster rolls and to carry out regular verification to maintain the integrity of the employment programme.

The inspection was attended by Chief Planning Officer Malik Suheel, Sub-Divisional Magistrate DH Pora Bashir-ul-Hassan, Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings Department, the Tehsildar DH Pora and other senior district and block-level officials.

Deputy Chief Minister conducts surprise inspection of PMGSY, JKPC, DIQC offices in Jammu

Stresses accountability, timely project execution, quality service delivery

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 6: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today conducted surprise inspection of several engineering offices in Jammu to assess their functioning and review progress of developmental works.

The Deputy Chief Minister visited the office of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) at Bikram Chowk, Jammu, where he reviewed the overall functioning of the department and assessed the status of ongoing road projects.

He directed the officers to ensure timely execution of works while strictly adhering to prescribed quality standards.

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that improved road connectivity is vital for the socio-economic development of the region. He called upon the officials to work with dedication and accountability.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister also interacted with the officers and staff, emphasizing the importance of maintaining transparency, efficiency and responsiveness in departmental function-



ing. During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister said that every project should be completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising on quality.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the offices of the Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPC) and the Design Inspection and Quality Control (DIQC) and JKPC office at Panama Chowk in Jammu. He reviewed the operational efficiency of both the departments and took stock of the progress of various ongoing works.

Expressing the need for strengthening institutional accountability, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to maintain discipline in offices, ensure regular monitoring of projects and uphold the highest standards of quality in execution. He said that effective supervision and timely completion of projects are essential to delivering better public services and meeting the expectations of the people.

He further stressed on ensuring greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in public service delivery.

DC Bandipora reviews progress of Bunpora OHT, AMRUT Scheme at Sumbal; Directs expedited completion of Works

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JULY 06: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired separate review meetings to assess the progress of the 75,000 Gallons Over Head Tank (OHT) at Bunpora Hajin under the Languishing Scheme and the AMRUT Scheme at Sumbal Town, with emphasis on expediting the completion of both projects at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

Reviewing the progress of the 75,000 Gallons OHT at Bunpora Hajin, the Deputy Commissioner held detailed deliberations on the testing and commissioning of the facility.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore to take all necessary steps, in coordination with the concerned stakeholders, to facilitate the ear-



ly testing and commissioning of the OHT so that the water supply scheme is made functional at the earliest for the benefit of the public.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore, along with officers of the department, besides other concerned officials.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of the AMRUT Scheme at Sumbal Town, particularly the laying of the AMRUT pipeline and restoration of the PMGSY road.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the PMGSY Division, Bandipora and Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore to work in close coordination to ensure laying of the pipeline on the pending road stretch without further delay.

On the occasion, the DC further directed that a joint inspection be conducted by the officers of the PMGSY Division Bandipora and Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore under the supervision of the Chief Planning Officer, Bandipora after completion of this PMGSY stretch to assess the extent of road restoration required.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the concerned departments to complete the road restoration estimates promptly and explore the use of suitable machinery, including a JCB fitted with a narrow bucket, to minimize damage to the existing road surface during trench excavation.

Emphasizing timely completion of both projects, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to maintain close coordination, expedite the pending works, and ensure that all procedural formalities are completed at the earliest so that the projects are completed without unnecessary delay and the intended public benefits are delivered promptly.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Sopore; Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Bandipora, along with officers of the concerned departments.

Nations Development Association (NDA) commemorates the Birth Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 6: Nations Development Association (NDA), MY Jammu under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, organized a solemn programme to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. The event brought together youth volunteers, social workers, and community members who paid floral tributes to the great nationalist, eminent educationist, and visionary leader.

The programme highlighted Dr. Mookerjee's invaluable contribution to strengthening national unity, integrity, and democratic values. Addressing the gathering, speakers urged the youth to draw inspiration from his life of selfless service and dedicate themselves to the nation's progress through active participation in social and com-



munity development.

Floral tributes were offered by Aakash Singh Charak, Ashu Kumar, Aniket Chib, Anivesh Slathia, Bhanu Pratap Singh, Deepak Sharma, Vikram Singh, and several other volunteers and dignitaries. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to promoting the ideals of patriotism, unity, and nation-building among the younger generation.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all attendees for their enthusiastic participation and reaffirming the NDA's commitment to organizing meaningful initiatives that inspire youth and strengthen the spirit of national service.

BJP President should explain how & why loot has taken place in Ram temple under the noose of Modi govt-Congress

When statehood shall be restored, asks Congress to Nabin

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 6: J&K Congress has asked the visiting national President of BJP Shri Nitin Nabin to explain to the people as to how & why loot could take place at holy Ram Temple under the noose of Modi government as the Chairman of Shri Ram temple is also the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.

In a statement, JKPC has demanded that Nitin Nabin should answer in Jammu that how such a loot from holy temple has taken place under the noose of his party's government at the centre and it has hurt the faith of crores of Hindus in the country and abroad by such a shameful loot.

The Party said that Modi government and BJP can't escape responsibility and liability from such an open loot of pious donations to the temple, the holy centre of faith of all Hindus, as the government and party claimed credit right from its inception to setting up of trust and

the selection of people at the helm of affairs of the entire management and control including the Chairman of the Trust being the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.

The party statement said that right from the inception including collection of donations for the construction of the temple and the purchase of land for the temple has remained mired in big controversy but now this open loot has been exposed, which is highly unfortunate & condemnable.

It's unfortunate that the trust was deleteriously kept out of the purview of the RTI, as a result nothing was transparent and the people who donated a lot were deprived of the required information with regards to their offerings and donations.

The party demanded an answer from the visiting national president of the ruling party in Jammu as people from all parts are deeply hurt and want to know from head of the ruling party, said a statement issued by PCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder

Sharma.

The party has also demanded from the national President of ruling party to explain delay and betrayal of his government in restoration of statehood and the silence of his party MPs, MLAs from J&K over the repeated commitment with the people of J&K.

It's nearly two years that an assembly elections were held and an elected government took over but Modi government has gone silent over the issue after BJP failed to get majority.

The Congress party has been spearheading the movement for the restoration of statehood since November 2024 and held continuous protests across UT including at Jantar Mantir but the ruling BJP remained silent over the most popular demand of the entire population of J&K.

It asked Nabin to answer the betrayal of his party so far & give definite timeline in the matter the handout added.

World Zoonoses Day: Javid Dar calls for greater awareness, strengthened disease surveillance

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 6: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today underscored the importance of creating widespread awareness about zoonotic diseases and reaffirmed the government's commitment towards strengthening the animal health systems to safeguard the public health.

In his message on the World Zoonoses Day, the Minister said that being observed every year on July 6 it commemorates the

historic achievement of the first successful rabies vaccination administered by Louis Pasteur in 1885. He said the day serves as an important reminder of the need for coordinated efforts to prevent and control diseases that are transmitted between animals and humans.

The Minister emphasized that Zoonotic diseases such as rabies, brucellosis, avian influenza and other emerging infections continue to pose significant challenges to human and animal health, livelihoods and food security. He stressed that early detection, effective surveillance, timely vaccination and respon-

sible animal husbandry practices are essential for preventing outbreaks and protecting communities.

Javid Dar highlighted the pivotal role of the Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department in disease surveillance, livestock vaccination, veterinary health-care and public awareness. He said the department is continuously strengthening the veterinary infrastructure, expanding immunization programmes and promoting scientific livestock management to ensure healthy animals and safer communities.

The Minister urged the livestock farmers, pet owners and

the general public to adopt preventive measures, maintain proper hygiene while handling the animals, vaccinate pets and livestock regularly and promptly report any suspected disease outbreaks to the nearest veterinary institutions.

Reiterating the importance of the One Health approach, the Minister called for closer collaboration among the Animal Husbandry and allied departments to effectively tackle Zoonotic diseases. He said protecting animal health is intrinsically linked to protecting human health and preserving the environment.

The Minister also appreciated the dedication of veterinarians, para-veterinary staff and field functionaries for their relentless efforts in safeguarding livestock health and supporting the rural economy. He expressed confidence that with collective awareness, scientific interventions and community participation, Jammu and Kashmir can build a resilient system for the prevention and control of Zoonotic diseases.

Javid Dar appealed to all stakeholders to observe World Zoonoses Day by spreading awareness about disease prevention.

Special Crime Wing Jammu Registers FIR in Railway Job Fraud Case

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 6: Special Crime Wing (SCW), Crime Branch Jammu has registered a case against an accused person for allegedly cheating an individual on the false promise of securing him a job in the Railway Department.

The case was registered on the basis of a written complaint submitted by the complainant with the allegations that he was induced by Abdul Razaq Tantray, resident of Baramulla, on the assurance that a Railway Department job would be arranged for him in exchange for

money.

During preliminary verification, it surfaced that the complainant had allegedly paid money through bank transactions as well as cash, to the accused. The complainant was allegedly provided fake documents, including a roll number slip and an appointment-related receipt, to make the assurances appear genuine.

However, neither was the promised job provided nor was the amount returned. The complainant further alleged that when he demanded the return of his money, he was avoided and threatened.

On the basis of the preliminary

verification, a formal FIR has been registered at Police Station Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Jammu under the relevant provisions of law. Investigation into the case has been taken up to ascertain the full facts, identify the role of all persons involved and take appropriate legal action.

The Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Jammu reiterates its commitment to taking strict action against persons involved in cheating and job-fraud cases, and advises the public to remain cautious of fraudulent assurances regarding government employment.

ARMY ORGANISES INTER VILLAGE T10 CRICKET TOURNAMENT AT JOURIAN, AKHNOOR

HT NEWS NETWORK

AKHNOOR, JULY 6: The Indian Army commenced the Inter Village T10 Cricket Tournament at Jourian with the aim of promoting sportsmanship, encouraging youth participation and strengthening the enduring bond between the Army and local communities. The tournament provides a vibrant platform for young players from different villages to showcase their talent, team spirit and competitive en-

thusiasm.

Beyond the boundaries of the cricket field, the initiative reflects a shared commitment to unity, discipline, teamwork and mutual respect.

As the participating teams compete with determination and pride, the event highlights the positive role of sports in bringing people together and channelising the energy of youth towards constructive pursuits.

The Indian Army continues to

undertake such community-oriented initiatives to promote healthy engagement, confidence building and social harmony among the local population.

The tournament was welcomed with great enthusiasm by the participants and spectators alike.

The Indian Army extended best wishes to all participating teams for a successful and memorable tournament, while encouraging them to uphold the true spirit of the game in every match.

Colourful Dambali Folk Dance Performance Draws Tourists and Locals at Nilnag

■ GULFAM BARI

BUDGAM, JULY 6: Shukur Shah Dambali Dance Centre "SSDDC" Gopalpora Chadoora organized a vibrant cultural programme featuring the traditional Kashmiri folk dance Dambali at the tourist destination Nilnag under the

Repertory Grant (Guru-Shishya Parampara) Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India New Delhi. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of local residents and tourists, who appreciated the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir

showcased through the colourful Dambali dance performances. The artists of the SSDDC captivated the audience with their energetic and graceful presentation earning warm applause and appreciation. Speaking on the occasion the speakers emphasized that such cultural initiatives

play a vital role in preserving and promoting Kashmir's rich folk traditions while inspiring the younger generation to remain connected with their cultural heritage. The programme was directed by Manzoor Ahmad Shah President of the SSDDC Gopalpora Chadoora.



DC Baramulla visits Sopore Industrial Estate, interacts with Traders

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JULY 06: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid today visited the Sopore Industrial Estate, where he interacted with traders, entrepreneurs and industrial unit holders to review the functioning of industrial establishments.

The Deputy Commissioner, accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, inspected various industrial and business units and reviewed their production activities and infrastructure. During the interaction, traders and entrepreneurs highlighted the need for construction of a boundary wall (fencing), establishment of a single regulated entry and exit point, and augmentation of other essential infrastructure and facilities within the industrial estate. The Deputy Commissioner, assured them that all demands would be examined on priority and taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action. He emphasized that a well-developed industrial ecosystem is essential for promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and boosting the local economy.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among the concerned departments to facilitate industrial growth and improve infrastructure at the estate. He reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to supporting local entrepreneurs and ensuring a conducive environment for the growth and expansion of industrial activities.

JKAACL commemorates 126th birth anniversary of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 06: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with Viraj Kala Kendra, presented the Hindi play Hey Yugadhar - Shyama Prasad Mukherjee to commemorate the birth anniversary of educationist, politician and nationalist leader

Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. The play depicted his life, vision and contributions through theatrical presentation.

Written and directed by Rajneesh Kumar Gupta, the play traces milestones of Dr Mukherjee's life through a narrative in which a group of young scholars researching his life gradually transform into characters depict-

ing different phases of his journey. Amit Bhalla portrayed the role of Dr Mukherjee. He was supported by Meera Tapasvi, Mukesh, Dr Meetu Meenia, Rishab Manhas, Arun Sharma, Mannat Bhau, Amanjeet Verma, Nitesh Verma and Krishya Bhatia. Music was composed by Ankush Kumar, with musical direction by Yuvraj Gupta. Lighting was by Pankaj

Sharma, makeup by Pintooji, and costumes and properties by Amanjeet Verma.

Secretary JKAACL Harvinder Kour was the chief guest. She appreciated the artists' efforts and said the Academy remains committed to productions based on the lives of great personalities to educate the younger generation about India's cultural heritage.

She also commended the production's artistic excellence.

The performance was attended by prominent citizens, theatre lovers and a large audience. Speaking on the occasion, Rajneesh Kumar Gupta thanked JKAACL for its support and reaffirmed Viraj Kala Kendra's commitment to producing meaningful, socially relevant theatre.

Hosts NIT Srinagar storm into semi-finals with commanding seven-wicket win

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUL 06: All India Inter-NIT Faculty & Staff Cricket Tournament 2026, being hosted by NIT Srinagar, entered the knockout stage with hosts NIT Srinagar, NIT Jalandhar and NIT Hamirpur registering impressive quarter-final victories to book their places in the semi-finals.

On third day of the tournament, the final round of league-stage matches produced several thrilling contests as teams battled for crucial points.

Hosts NIT Srinagar continued their unbeaten run with a dominant seven-wicket victory over NIT Kurukshetra in the quarter-final at the NIT Srinagar Ground. Batting first, NIT Kurukshetra posted 123 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Despite a disciplined effort from their batting unit, they struggled to accelerate against a well-organised NIT Srinagar bowling attack.

Prof. Vikas Kumar was the top scorer with 22 runs, while the hosts maintained tight lines and picked up wickets at regular intervals to keep the visitors under pressure throughout the innings.

NIT Srinagar's bowlers shared the responsibility impressively, with Dr. Shakeel Waseem leading the attack by claiming 2 wickets for 25 runs in his four overs. He received excellent support from Dr. Mohsin (1/18), Dr. Majid Hussain (1/17), Mudasir Qadir (1/25) and Shahid Hamid (1/19), as each contributed a wicket to restrict Kurukshetra to a modest total.

In reply, NIT Srinagar produced another commanding batting display, chasing down the target with ease. The hosts reached 127/3 in just 14 overs, completing the chase with six overs to spare. Dr. Ved Prakash anchored the innings with an unbeaten 50, while Aaqib Sheikh played an aggressive knock of 38 runs.

Dr. Pankaj Kumar chipped in with a brisk 16 off 9 balls, and Shahid Hamid remained unbeaten on

11 off just 4 deliveries, as NIT Srinagar comfortably chased down the target to seal an emphatic eight-wicket victory and book their place in the semi-finals. Dr. Ved Prakash was declared the Player of the Match for his half-century. The award was presented by Registrar NIT Srinagar Prof. Atikur Rehman, who felicitated him with a memento.

At Ganderbal Physical College, NIT Jalandhar edged past NIT Rourkela by eight runs in one of the most exciting quarter-finals of the tournament. Jalandhar posted 157/6 after valuable contributions from Ravinder (38) and Nitin Sharma (32). In reply, Subrat S fought brilliantly with 82 off 67 balls, but Rourkela finished on 149/6 despite his heroic effort. Manjeet Singh claimed 2/22 for Jalandhar, while Subrat S was named Player of the Match for his outstanding knock.

Meanwhile, NIT Hamirpur defeated NIT Calicut by 32 runs to advance to the semi-finals. Hamirpur were bowled out for 107 despite Manish scoring 34 and Aman Kumar adding 22. Dhanesh Rambeth starred for Calicut with an excellent five-wicket haul. However, Hamirpur's bowlers responded brilliantly as they dismissed Calicut for 75 in 17.1 overs. Manish completed a memorable all-round performance by taking 5/21, while Surender Soni supported him with 3/10 to seal a comprehensive victory.

Earlier, the league stage concluded with several entertaining contests across different venues.

MNIT Jaipur produced the highest total of the day, crushing NIT Delhi Faculty & Staff by 99 runs. After piling up 228/8, powered by Sundeep Kumar's 58 and Roop Narayan Sharma's explosive 44 off 18 balls, Jaipur bundled out Delhi for 129 despite Manoj Kumawat's fighting 69. Vijay Singh claimed 3/24 to lead the bowling attack.

MANIT Bhopal defeated NIT Raipur by 24 runs after posting 140/8 in 18 overs. Hasthi Venkateswarlu impressed with both bat and ball, scoring 35 before re-

turning figures of 3/20. Deepak Singh's 37 was not enough to prevent Raipur from finishing on 116/8.

NIT Kurukshetra also registered a 17-run league victory over NIT Andhra Pradesh. Kamlesh Choudhary anchored the innings with a fluent 61 before making a useful contribution with the ball, while Rahul Sharma stole the show with a hat-trick, finishing with impressive figures of 3/13, as Andhra Pradesh were restricted to 126/8.

NIT Agartala registered a five-wicket victory over NIT Manipur. Manipur posted 127/8, with Nabajit Sarkar scoring 37, while Amitesh Bardhan starred with the ball, taking 4/17. Agartala chased the target in 19.1 overs thanks to Dharendra Kumar Pandey's composed 42.

NIT Rourkela bounced back from their quarter-final disappointment with a convincing five-wicket league win over MNIT Allahabad. Tanmaya Kumar Sahoo ripped through the batting order with sensational figures of 6/17 as Allahabad were restricted to just 73/9. Rourkela comfortably chased the target in 12.2 overs.

VNIT Nagpur defeated NIT Nagaland by 11 runs in a closely fought encounter. Sourav Pradhan scored 33 as VNIT posted 159/9, while Dr. Ajit Rathod's disciplined spell of 2/28 proved decisive as Nagaland finished on 148/4 despite useful contributions from Bikash Sarma and Manoj Kumar Patel. SVNIT Surat secured a comfortable 23-run victory over NIT Sikkim after Vishal's all-round brilliance. Vishal scored 49 before claiming 2/22, while Dr. Jogender Singh bowled economically to restrict Sikkim to 136/6 in reply to Surat's 159/7.

In another one-sided contest, NITK Surathkal hammered NIT Goa by ten wickets. After bowling Goa out for 106/8 through outstanding spells from Shailendra (4/18) and Santhosh (3/17), Surathkal chased the target in only 8.3 overs without losing a wicket, with Selva smashing an unbeaten 50 and Santhosh remaining not out on 30.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

CONTENT CREATION COMPETITION

Under
NASHA MUKT J&K ABHIYAN

"Choose the stage of life, not the trap of drugs"

Create • Inspire • Influence •

Substance abuse among youth has emerged as a serious social and public health concern in J&K. To strengthen awareness and encourage youth participation in the nationwide "NASHA MUKT J&K ABHIYAN", the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages invites Higher Secondary and College Students to participate in the Content Creation Competition.

<p>COMPETITION CATEGORIES</p> <p>A) SLOGAN WRITING</p> <p>B) AUDIO-VISUAL CONTENT</p> <p>i) Song (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) ii) Animation Film (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) iii) Short Film (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) iv) Short Documentary (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) v) Cartoon vi) Logo Design on the Theme</p>	<p>THEMES FOR CONTENT CREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say No to Drugs Youth Against Substance Abuse Healthy Lifestyle & Mental Wellness Impact of Drugs on Family and Society Role of Youth in Building Drug-Free India Rehabilitation and Hope Drug-Free Campus Movement 	<p>ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to students of recognized Higher Secondary Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Professional Institutions. Age Group: 17 - 23 Years. Individual Participation: Slogan Writing & all AV Content Categories. Group Participation: Only for Animation Film, Short Film & Short Documentary Categories (Max. 3 members). Valid College/Institution ID Card or Bonafide Certificate from institute is mandatory.
<p>IMPORTANT GUIDELINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All entries must be original and unpublished. Copyright violations will lead to disqualification. Entries may be submitted in English, Hindi or any official Languages of J&K. Only one entry per participant per category. AI generated entries shall be rejected. Only Original and Creative ideas welcome. 	<p>SUBMISSION</p> <p>Submit entries through:</p> <p>e-mail: sec-jkaacl@jk.gov.in</p> <p>Cut-off Date for receiving entries 07 July, 2026 upto 5:00 PM</p>	<p>SELECTION PROCESS</p> <p>A Committee constituted by JKAACL shall evaluate all entries in a fair and transparent manner.</p>
<p>AWARDS & RECOGNITION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in each competition categories. Winning entries shall be showcased during District, Divisional, and UT-level events and future official campaigns. 		

NASHA MUKT J&K ABHIYAN Organised by **JAMMU & KASHMIR Academy of Art, Culture and Languages**

Space Devoted by Headlines Today, Purely in Public Interest

HT EDITORIAL

Healing Through Governance

J&K Government's decision to allow MLAs to fund life-saving treatment from Constituency Development Funds reflects compassionate, people-first governance

The Jammu and Kashmir Government's decision to amend the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) guidelines to enable MLAs to allocate up to ₹20 lakh annually for the treatment of patients from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and other economically weaker sections is a progressive and compassionate reform. At a time when the cost of healthcare continues to rise and critical illnesses often push vulnerable families into financial ruin, this policy stands out as an example of governance responding directly to the needs of ordinary citizens.

Healthcare is not merely a service; it is a fundamental pillar of social justice. While the government has already implemented several health protection schemes, many patients continue to face substantial out-of-pocket expenses for specialised procedures, cancer care, organ transplantation and long-term dialysis. These gaps, though often overlooked, can determine whether a patient receives timely treatment or is forced to abandon hope. The revised CDF guidelines seek to bridge this gap by empowering elected representatives to intervene where existing schemes fall short.

The decision is particularly noteworthy because it complements, rather than duplicates, existing healthcare initiatives. By limiting assistance to the portion of expenses not covered under schemes such as PM-JAY SEHAT, the Medical Aid Trust (MAT) and the Cancer Treatment and Management Fund for the Poor (CTMFFP), the government has ensured that public funds are utilised judiciously. Equally important is the provision for direct payment to empanelled hospitals, a mechanism that promotes transparency, accountability and effective utilisation of public money.

The amendment also redefines the purpose of Constituency Development Funds. Traditionally associated with the creation of physical infrastructure, these funds can now directly contribute to preserving human life. There can be no greater development than enabling a patient to undergo a life-saving surgery, continue cancer treatment or receive regular dialysis without the burden of insurmountable financial stress. Infrastructure undoubtedly builds communities, but saving lives strengthens society itself.

For MLAs, the revised policy presents an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of their constituents. Beyond constructing roads and public facilities, they can now extend direct support to families confronting medical emergencies. Such interventions have the potential to deepen public trust and reinforce the idea that elected representatives are not merely lawmakers but active partners in the welfare of the people they serve.

This initiative deserves appreciation because it reflects the priorities of a popular government that has recognised healthcare as a critical area requiring greater financial flexibility and local intervention. By placing an additional instrument of relief in the hands of legislators while maintaining strong safeguards against misuse, the government has struck a commendable balance between compassion and accountability.

Ultimately, the true measure of a welfare-oriented administration lies not only in the projects it inaugurates but also in the lives it helps save. The revised CDF guidelines embody that principle. If implemented with fairness, efficiency and transparency, this reform will provide hope to countless families facing medical crises and will stand as one of the more meaningful people-centric policy decisions taken by the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

Imam Syed Ali Khamenei: A Life of Faith and Leadership



■ SYED GAZANFAR RAZVI

"History does not merely remember those who held positions of authority; it remembers those whose words awakened hearts, strengthened hope, and inspired generations to stand firm in their principles."

Among the most influential personalities of the contemporary Muslim world, Imam Sayyid Ali Khamenei occupies a significant place in the hearts of millions. Revered by his followers as a religious scholar and leader, his life has long been associated with faith in Almighty Allah, devotion to Islamic values, perseverance in hardship, and an enduring emphasis on justice, dignity, knowledge, and moral responsibility.

Throughout his public life, Imam Khamenei consistently reminded believers that the true strength of a nation is not measured merely by military power or material prosperity, but by the faith of its people, the purity of their character, the pursuit of knowledge, and their unwavering trust in Allah. His speeches encouraged people to replace fear with faith, despair with hope, and weakness with patience and determination.

One of the defining features of his message was his call for justice. He repeatedly urged believers to uphold truth, defend the oppressed, and reject injustice according to the teachings of Islam. To many of his admirers, this commitment to justice became one of the most enduring aspects of his public life.

Another cornerstone of his message was the unity of the Muslim Ummah. He emphasized that Muslims, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or language, should remain united under the principles of the Holy Qur'an and the noble teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him and his family). He believed that unity, mutual respect, and brotherhood were essential for the strength and dignity of the Muslim world.

Imam Khamenei also placed immense confidence in the younger generation. He regarded young people as the architects of the future and encouraged them to pursue excellence in education, science, technology, and intellectual development while



preserving their spiritual and moral values. He reminded students that knowledge without ethics is incomplete, and that true success lies in combining learning with sincerity, humility, and service to humanity.

The timeless message of Karbala remained central to his reflections. He frequently described the sacrifice of Imam Husayn (peace be upon him) as an eternal lesson in courage, dignity, patience, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to truth. According to his teachings, Ashura is not merely a historical remembrance but a living school that inspires every generation to stand against oppression and uphold justice with steadfast faith.

Beyond public affairs, Imam Khamenei consistently emphasized respect for parents, compassion toward the poor, honesty in speech, humility in conduct, and responsibility toward society. He taught that true greatness is measured not by wealth or worldly status, but by sincerity, righteousness, and selfless service to others.

For many people around the world, his speeches became a source of hope during times of uncertainty. His words sought to strengthen hearts, encourage patience, deepen faith, and remind believers that every hardship carries within it the promise of Allah's mercy. His message continues to inspire those who seek to live lives rooted in faith, discipline, justice, and compassion.

As people reflect upon his life and teachings, they remember not merely a leader, but a personality whose message centered on faith, perseverance, knowledge, and moral responsibility. His legacy continues to inspire those who believe that true leadership is built upon sincerity, sacrifice, humility, and unwavering devotion to Allah.

At this moment of reflection, the timeless words of Allama Muhammad Iqbal beautifully capture the spirit of firm faith and continuous striving:

یقین محکم، عمل پیہم، محبت فاتح عالم
"جہادِ زندگانی میں ہیں یہ مردوں کی شمشیریں"

These immortal verses remind us that enduring greatness is achieved through unwavering faith, relentless effort, and sincere love. They continue to inspire generations to remain steadfast upon truth and righteousness.

May Almighty Allah guide us all to follow the path of faith, justice, wisdom, compassion, and service to humanity.

"Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we shall return." (Qur'an 2:156)

The author is a Kashmiri Poet and Writer

Summer Vacation: A Respite, Not a Pause in Learning



■ JAVAID BHAT

The announcement of summer vacations across Kashmir has brought immense relief to students, teachers, and parents as the Valley grapples with an intense and prolonged heatwave. While the break provides a much-needed escape from the sweltering weather, educationists and child safety experts stress that the holidays should be viewed as a period of constructive learning and heightened parental vigilance rather than unrestricted leisure.

Summer vacations are designed to rejuvenate young minds, not to disconnect them from academics. Students should utilize this time to revise classroom lessons, develop reading habits, improve writing skills, and participate in creative and educational activities that enrich their personality. A few hours of daily study can prevent learning loss and prepare them for the next academic session.

Equally important is the issue of children's safety. With temperatures soaring, many youngsters are attracted to rivers, lakes, streams, and other water bodies to beat the heat. Such excursions, particularly without adult supervision, have repeatedly resulted in tragic drowning incidents across the Valley. No moment of recreation is worth risking a precious life.

Parents are urged to remain vigilant throughout the vacation. Knowing their children's whereabouts, discouraging visits to unsafe water bodies, limiting unsupervised outings, and encouraging meaningful indoor and outdoor activities are responsibilities that cannot be overlooked.

Summer holidays should be remembered as a season of relaxation, family bonding, skill development, and personal growth, not as a

period marked by negligence or avoidable tragedies.

As Kashmir endures the heat, let this vacation send a clear message: take a break from the classroom, but never from learning; seek relief from the heat, but never at the cost of safety. The collective efforts of schools, parents, and society can ensure that every child returns to school healthy, confident, and ready to embrace new academic challenges.



A Romantic Legend: P.B. Shelley's Poetic Homelessness



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

"I have drunken deep of joy, / And I will taste no other wine tonight" wrote Percy Bysshe Shelley, the greatest Romantic poet not of an age but for all time.

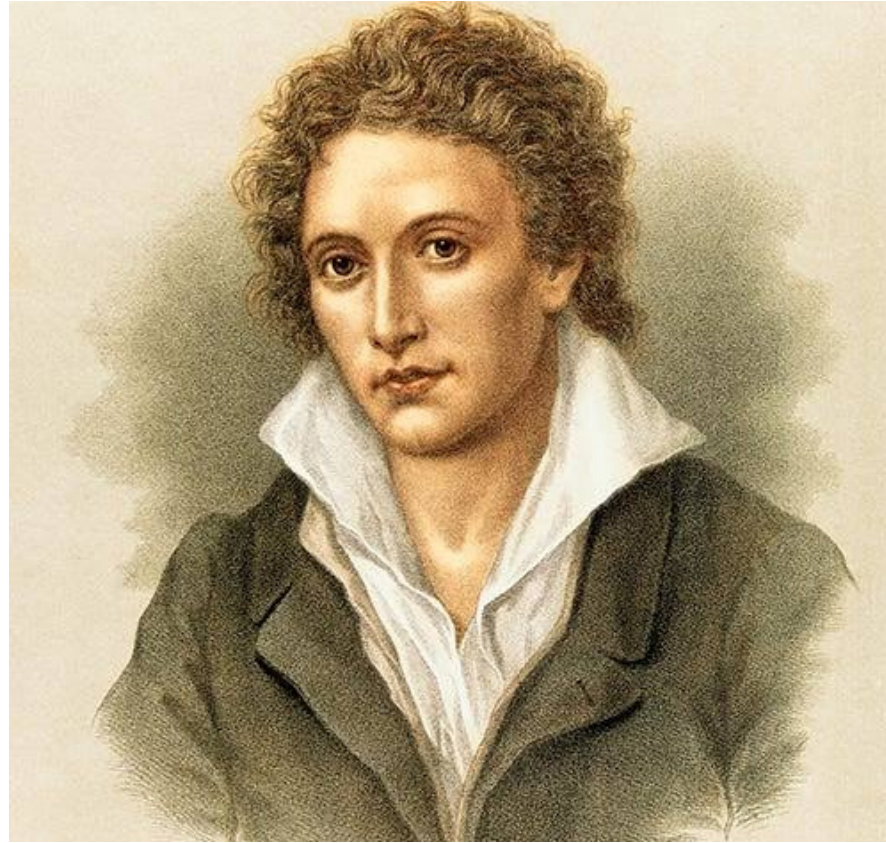
A Romantic never writes poetry that is sufficiently concrete. It is more a strength than his weakness. His apparent reluctance to define a precise relationship between words and things, between poetry and truth is a natural thing for the Romantics. After the passage of two hundred years since his death, critics now focus on the insufficiently concrete nature of his poetry and the most important is 'the poetic homelessness' of Shelley, the Romantic. His poetry reveals his eclectic reading as displayed in his poems and odes. Even in *The Witch of Atlas* or *Prometheus Unbound* we see his movement between the English, Latin, Italian and Greek literary traditions. Hellenism was a moot point in Keats, but Shelley was no less a lover of Greek literature. But he never restricted his poetic vision even to Hellenism. Rather he was more interested in synthesizing various cultures and beliefs. He was drowned aged 29 while sailing in Italy, and his dramatic end has framed our perceptions of his life and poetry.

The idea of a perfectly settled, domestic "home" for a romantic poet can certainly feel like a myth. Historically, the archetype of the Romantic poet is one of perpetual wandering, restless travel, and finding sanctuary not in a physical house, but in imagination, nature, or intense, often fleeting emotional connections. Because so much of the Romantic tradition is rooted in seeking beauty and truth beyond material realities, building a traditional home was often secondary to their art. This pursuit is perhaps best captured by the iconic lines from John Keats's poem *Ode on a Grecian Urn*: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty, — that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." For poets like William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and John Keats,

the physical outdoors—rather than an indoor dwelling—often served as their true home. The natural world provided the sensory experiences and philosophical inspiration they needed. Many of the most famous romantic poets—such as Percy Bysshe Shelley and Lord Byron—were famous for their exiles, traveling constantly across Europe in search of milder climates, new landscapes, and inspiration. The romantic imagination served as a refuge from the hardships of the material world. For these poets, "home" was a state of mind rather than a fixed address.

Eminent critics explored the myths of his final journey which are still an enigma to the readers. He was bohemian and known from his Oxford days, the writer of infidel poetry who was drowned in the Gulf of Spezia. There is little doubt that he could be one of the most powerful of all Romantic legends if on that ominous day of July 8 of 1822 the violent summer storm had not drowned the sailing boat of this real Don Juan of 19th century British literature. Just one year earlier Keats died a tragic premature death in Rome and Byron died only two years later at Missolonghi. Field Place (Warnham, West Sussex is the ancestral estate where Shelley was born in 1792 and spent his youth. The 14th-century property remains a Grade I listed site today. He had his final homes in Italy and Casa Magni (San Terenzo, Leri) is Shelley's final residence on the Italian Riviera (often called the Gulf of Poets). He and his wife Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, lived in this former boathouse in the summer of 1822 before his fatal sailing accident. Casa Frassi and Palazzo Chiesa (Pisa) where the Shelleys frequently stayed in and around Pisa between 1820 and 1822, enjoying a tight-knit literary circle that included Lord Byron. Today we see the historic building located next to the Spanish Steps, a dedicated museum preserving the memory, letters, and manuscripts of Shelley, John Keats, and Lord Byron.

History books are full of forgotten poets and writers consigned to the dustbin of irrelevance after their short time fame. But Shelley was different and whatever Matthew Arnold commented disparagingly on his poetry by comparing him to an 'ineffectual angel beating in the void his luminous wings in vain.' However, even Arnold did not forget to mention that the ineffectual angel was



'beautiful' too. Even today the most pungent critic of Shelley's romanticism cannot deny that he celebrated the total sentimentality of his own time and even beyond. This made his poetry chameleon and his poetry was rich in context, colour and depth which allowed his work to resonate even after two hundred years with each new generation. The West Wind of Time drove his thoughts all over the universe. One big problem in understanding Shelley occurred because we usually judge a Romantic poet from a biographical point of view and misunderstanding began when his own father disowned him and nearly kicked him out of the family home. Shelley lived as an exile and almost as a destitute. Very few poets not even Keats or Neruda ever suffered like him during his lifetime. Practically he did not have any home and this homelessness made him more and more Shelley's last home, Casa Magni, The Great House, in Leri, Italy, as it looks today. A road was built in front of the house, San Terenzo Promenade, in 1888. When Shelley lived there, the house was isolated and it was next to the beach. Shelley, Mary, his family, and friends Edward and Jane Williams, lived at this

rented house in 1822.

Romantic developing inside his mind a distaste for home and reality of life. "I fall on the thorns of life I bleed." It was a cry of his deeper soul not just a sentimental dejection as the critics make an oversimplification. Today we listen to the stories of those who have overcome adversity or have suffered with mental health issues. This was not probably the case of Shelley. He philosophises his poetic homelessness in his writings. He was a tortured soul and restless not for the torture but for the dreams which he nourished inside his revolutionary mind, a dream of the New Millennium as he envisioned in *Prometheus Unbound* or *The Revolt of Islam* and the essence is found in those two lines made cliché by the readers and the critics "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind" It was not a facile optimism but a dream that made Shelley overcome all tortures on him when he was a victim of the powerful elites. He might not be a 'real hero' in their eyes, but he was 'a hero to his ideas'. Mere sentimentality could not make Shelley so great that history could not forget him even after two long centuries. He is neither forgotten nor ignored. It is

not important who had been kind and who had been unkind to him.

More important is that the world feels the impact of his writings even if we do not take into account the changing fortunes of this legend. This year Horsham Museum is trying to focus on the facts why Shelley's death is worth celebrating as it marks the beginning of a remarkable legacy. A year before his birth in 1791, William Fox published an anti-slavery pamphlet that called for boycott of sugar grown by enslaved people. Just three years before his birth Europe was maddened by the three catch words 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity' which inspired the French Revolution of 1789.

As a child of the French Revolution, Shelley had little scope for ignoring real exploitation in the society of the elites. Hundreds of thousands of Britons followed Fox's call and S.T. Coleridge along with Robert Southey described tea as 'blood-sweetened beverage' produced by slaves working under 'the mangling scourge' Shelley, the ineffectual angel of Arnold also quoted the latter phrase in his romantic poem 'Queen Mab' where he denounced 'all polluting luxury and wealth' derived from human bondage and misery. Was it not a Red Shelley more than a Romantic Shelley who with wife Mary joined the Sugar boycott. His political voice in "Ozymandias" or "Song To the Men of England" was not accepted by many which later generations understood fully. His own father did not accept his son's notorious radicalism like the other elites of his time. In *Alastor* he almost prophetically quoted from Wordsworth's *The Excursion* to ironical effect "The good die first." He never sacrifices his mastery of style in spite of the propaganda element in his creative works. Who can forget his majestic use of *Terza Rima* in his odes especially 'Ode to the West Wind' Even a conservative Wordsworth could not ignore the low style of *The Mask of Anarchy*, or the high style of *Adonais* when he had to praise "Shelley is one of the best artists of us all, I mean in workmanship of style."

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THE ENDURING VALUE OF GOOD HANDWRITING

■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

In today's digital world of smartphones, computers, tablets and artificial intelligence, handwriting may appear to be a fading skill. Digital communication has undoubtedly made life faster and more convenient. Emails have replaced many letters, text messages have taken the place of handwritten notes and typed assignments have become the norm in schools and workplaces. Amid this technological revolution, many people question whether good handwriting is still important. The answer is an emphatic yes. Good handwriting remains a valuable life skill that contributes to academic success, professional growth, cognitive development and effective communication.

Handwriting is much more than the act of putting words on paper. It reflects discipline, patience, concentration and attention to detail. A neat and legible handwriting style allows thoughts to be expressed clearly and understood easily. It creates a positive impression and demonstrates respect for the reader. Even in an age dominated by digital devices, the ability to write neatly continues to hold immense practical and personal significance.

One of the greatest advantages of good handwriting is improved communication. Writing exists to convey ideas, information and emotions. If handwriting is difficult to read, even the most brilliant ideas may lose their impact. Clear handwriting minimizes misunderstandings and ensures that the intended message reaches the reader accurately. Whether it is filling out official forms, writing examination papers, making classroom notes, or leaving important instruc-

tions, legible handwriting remains essential.

Good handwriting also plays a vital role in education. Numerous studies across the globe have shown that students who write neatly often perform better in examinations. Examiners can read their answers comfortably without struggling to decipher words or sentences. While marks should ideally depend only on the quality of content, neat presentation inevitably enhances readability and creates a favourable impression. Students with organized handwriting also tend to arrange their thoughts more systematically, making their answers clearer and more coherent.

Beyond examination performance, handwriting significantly enhances learning itself. Scientific research suggests that writing by hand activates multiple regions of the brain simultaneously. It strengthens memory, improves comprehension, enhances concentration and encourages deeper processing of information. Students who take handwritten notes often remember concepts better than those who merely type them on digital devices because handwriting requires active engagement with the material.

Developing good handwriting also cultivates several important life skills. Learning to write neatly requires patience, perseverance, self-discipline and consistent practice. These qualities extend far beyond handwriting and contribute to success in education, careers, and personal life. A child who patiently improves handwriting is simultaneously learning the values of dedication, precision and continuous self-improvement.

Handwriting also reflects an individual's personality. Although handwriting analysis should never be used to judge character

scientifically, neat handwriting often conveys care, responsibility, organization and professionalism. A well-written application, letter, or note leaves a stronger first impression than one filled with untidy and illegible writing. In professional environments where handwritten documents are still required, such as legal work, healthcare, education, banking and government services, clear handwriting can prevent costly mistakes and improve efficiency.

Another often-overlooked benefit of handwriting is its role in creativity and emotional well-being. Many authors, poets, artists and thinkers continue to prefer writing their first drafts by hand. Journaling, diary writing, personal reflections and creative writing become more thoughtful when written manually. Handwriting slows the mind enough to encourage reflection, mindfulness and emotional expression. It offers a peaceful break from constant screen exposure and digital distractions.

Good handwriting also preserves cultural and historical heritage. Throughout history, civilizations have passed knowledge, literature, religious scriptures, scientific discoveries and personal memories through handwritten manuscripts. Libraries and museums around the world protect these handwritten treasures because they provide direct connections with our past. By maintaining the practice of handwriting, society continues a tradition that has shaped human civilization for centuries.

Unfortunately, the widespread dependence on keyboards and touchscreens has contributed to a noticeable decline in handwriting skills, especially among younger generations. Many children spend more time

typing than writing. Some schools have reduced emphasis on cursive writing and penmanship, believing digital literacy alone is sufficient. While technological proficiency is undeniably important, it should complement—not replace—the ability to write neatly by hand.

Parents, teachers and educational institutions share the responsibility of preserving this essential skill. Children should be encouraged to develop correct pencil grip, proper posture and consistent writing habits from an early age. Regular handwriting practice need not be lengthy; even fifteen to twenty minutes of focused practice each day can produce remarkable improvements over time. Reading books, copying meaningful passages, practising letter formation and maintaining personal journals are simple yet effective ways to strengthen handwriting. Adults who feel dissatisfied with their handwriting should remember that improvement is possible at any age. Like any skill, handwriting develops through patience and consistent practice. Slowing down while writing, maintaining uniform letter size, leaving appropriate spacing and using quality writing instruments can gradually transform untidy handwriting into neat, attractive script.

It is equally important to recognize that good handwriting should never become a source of unnecessary anxiety or discrimination. Individuals with medical conditions such as dysgraphia, neurological disorders, arthritis, or physical disabilities may face genuine challenges in writing. They deserve understanding, appropriate accommodations and access to assistive technologies. The purpose of promoting good handwriting

is not to judge people but to encourage clearer communication wherever possible.

The digital revolution has undoubtedly transformed modern life and digital literacy is indispensable in the twenty-first century. Yet technology should enhance human abilities rather than replace fundamental skills. Just as calculators did not eliminate the importance of learning mathematics, keyboards should not eliminate the ability to write clearly by hand. Handwriting and digital skills can coexist harmoniously, each serving unique purposes in education, communication, creativity and everyday life.

Ultimately, good handwriting remains a timeless skill that reflects clarity of thought, discipline of mind and respect for communication. It strengthens learning, improves memory, enhances academic performance, supports professional success and preserves an important aspect of human culture. In an increasingly digital world, beautiful handwriting is not an outdated art—it is a valuable personal asset that continues to enrich both individuals and society.

Good handwriting is far more than attractive penmanship; it is an enduring expression of clarity, discipline and thoughtful communication. As society embraces rapid technological advancement, it must not neglect the simple yet powerful ability to write by hand. By encouraging neat handwriting alongside digital literacy, we prepare future generations to communicate effectively, think more deeply and preserve a skill that has served humanity for centuries.

THE AUTHOR IS A FACULTY IN SCIENCE DEPARTMENT SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB PUNJAB.

Ultra-processed foods can increase the risk of multiple chronic health conditions, such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes

A new study found that a diet heavy in ultra-processed foods can harm male reproductive health and reduce sperm quality

The researchers say that ultra processed foods may contain molecules found in plastics that are known to disrupt hormonal systems in the body

Ultra-Processed Foods May Harm Male Reproductive, Metabolic Health

A new study reports that ultra-processed foods may be linked to a decline in male reproductive health, including sperm quality.

The research, published on August 28 in *Cell Metabolism*, states that regular consumption of ultra-processed foods has several effects on a person's health.

These include higher cholesterol levels and increased body weight. They noted that participants in their study gained more than a kilogram of weight when they ate ultra-processed foods. The amount of fat mass in their bodies also increased.

The researchers added that "sperm quality trended toward impairment" when participants were on an ultra-processed diet. The researchers pointed out that these health effects occurred even when a person on an ultra-processed diet consumed the same number of calories as a person on another type of diet.

"This study provides evidence that consumption of ultra-processed food is detrimental for cardiometabolic and reproductive outcomes, regardless of excessive caloric intake," the study authors wrote.

Philip Werthman, MD, a urologist and director of the Center for Male Reproductive Medicine and Vasectomy Reversal in Los Angeles, says the study is proof that what you eat can be more important than how much you eat.

"It's not the calories you're getting. It's the type of calories you're getting," Werthman told Healthline.

Effects of an ultra-processed diet on sperm quality

For their study, researchers recruited 43 males ages 20–35. Each participant spent three weeks on both a diet primarily of ultra-processed foods and a diet of unprocessed foods, with a 3-month "washing out" period between the two diets.

Half of the participants started on the unprocessed diet while the other half began with the ultra-processed diet. Half of the men from each group were also put on a diet that included 500 extra calories per day.

Researchers noted that subjects on the ultra-processed diet experienced an increase in the phthalate *cxMINP*, a sub-



stance found in plastics that can disrupt hormones.

Those on the ultra-processed diet also saw decreases in their testosterone levels and follicle-stimulating hormones, which are crucial for sperm production.

The researchers said some of the endocrine-disrupting substances may come from the plastic packaging used for ultra-processed foods.

They note that the introduction of ultra-processed foods in the 1970s seems to fall in line with a 60% decline worldwide in sperm count.

Kristin Kirkpatrick, president of KAK Consulting and a dietitian at Cleveland Clinic's Department of Wellness & Preventive Medicine, said the research sends a clear message. "The study found that endocrine disruptors and other components altered hormone levels in men, even if the men were healthy," she told Healthline. "This means, even if you're healthy based on other parameters, yet consume a diet higher in ultra-processed foods, you still are at risk for increases in

chronic conditions."

Werthman added that a man's general health can also affect their reproductive system. For example, a person who has gained weight, developed type 2 diabetes, or experienced a rise in cholesterol levels may see a decline in reproductive health measures such as sperm quality.

"The reproductive system is a function of your overall health," Werthman explained. "The reproductive system is quite sensitive."

Michael Eisenberg, MD, a professor of urology at Stanford University, had one caution about the study's conclusions.

"While none reached statistical significance, there does appear to be a decline in semen quality when examining the summative data," he told Healthline. "However, it's important to note that the intervention was for three weeks, and a cycle of sperm production typically takes between two to three months."

Health impacts of ultra-processed foods

The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) reports Trusted Source that ultra-processed foods account for an average of 55% of total calories consumed by people in the United States.

It notes that people under 19 years of age tend to eat slightly more ultra-processed foods than adults 19 years and older. The agency states there is little difference in ultra-processed food consumption between men and women.

The CDC says ultra-processed foods tend to be "hyperpalatable, energy-dense, low in dietary fiber, and contain little or no whole foods, while having high amounts of salt, sweeteners, and unhealthy fats." It states that sandwiches (including burgers), sweet bakery products, sweetened beverages, and savory snacks are among the top sources of calories from ultra-processed foods.

A July 2025 study reported that ultra-processed foods are a major contributing factor to obesity as well as increasing a person's risk for heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and sleep apnea.

An April 2025 study estimated that

ultra-processed foods were linked to 124,000 preventable deaths in the United States during a two-year period.

A May 2024 study revealed that ultra-processed foods may also increase the risk of stroke and cognitive decline.

Kirkpatrick said there are a number of reasons for these impacts, including what a person is not eating.

"Consuming ultra-processed foods means that other foods, which are found to help in the prevention of heart disease (like fresh fruit and vegetables, healthy fats, and fiber) are not being consumed," she said. "Further, excess sugar and sodium consumption has been found in multiple studies to pose a significant risk to heart health. Sugar and sodium are common ingredients in ultra-processed foods."

Werthman said the pattern is clear. "This study is another confirmation that the food industry has been poisoning us for the past 20 to 30 years," he noted. "We see the effects of that now."

Tips to improve male reproductive health

Experts say there are lifestyle habits that can help improve and maintain male reproductive health. "In general, good diet (whole grains, fruits, vegetables), exercise, and maintaining a good body weight will help overall and reproductive health," said Eisenberg. Werthman says a healthy diet is "a big component" of that equation, but noted that men, especially those in the process of trying to have children, should exercise regularly as well as avoid alcohol and tobacco.

Kirkpatrick agreed. "Eating a diet high in nutrient density, such as the Mediterranean diet, as well as regular exercise, adequate sleep, stress management, maintaining a healthy weight, and abstaining from tobacco and alcohol, may all play a role in better reproductive health," she said.

Werthman noted that heat sources such as saunas and hot tubs can temporarily impact sperm quality and quantity.

"All these things affect the reproductive system," he said. "The body is an integrated system."

Courtesy Healthline

Blood cancer symptoms on skin that you should never ignore

The skin is the largest organ in the body and can often reveal signs of underlying health conditions, including blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma. According to The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, changes in the skin, rashes, or unusual lesions may sometimes be the first indications of these cancers. While many skin changes are harmless or caused by infections or medications, certain patterns may signal blood cancer. Recognising these symptoms early can lead to timely diagnosis and treatment, making awareness critical. Understanding which skin changes to monitor can help patients and caregivers seek medical attention before complications escalate.

Common skin symptoms of blood cancer

Blood cancers can produce visible skin symptoms including:

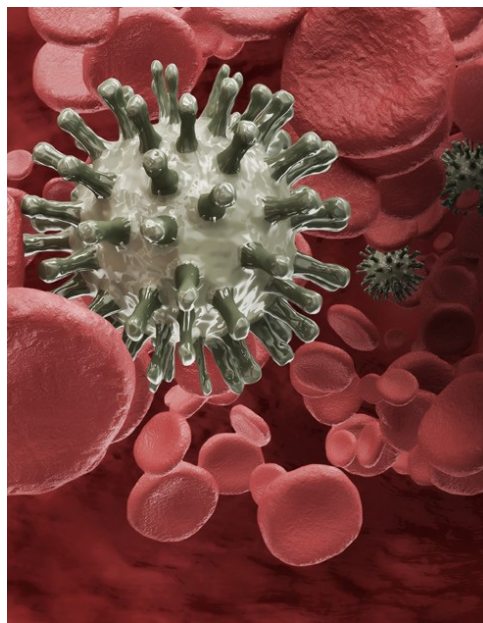
- **Petechiae:** Tiny red, brown, or purple spots caused by broken capillaries due to low platelet counts.
- **Purpura:** Larger blotchy bruises or discolorations that do not fade when pressed.
- **Rashes:** Patches on the skin that may be itchy or scaly.
- **Easy bruising and bleeding due to impaired clotting is common.**

These symptoms often result from blood abnormalities caused by leukemia or lymphoma rather than dermatological conditions alone.

Leukemia and skin signs

Sometimes, leukemia cells can leave the blood and bone marrow and settle in the skin. This is called leukemia cutis. When this happens, it can cause raised bumps, patches, nodules, or sores on the skin.

Another common sign of leukemia is petechiae, which are tiny red or purple spots that usually appear on the arms, legs, or torso. These spots don't turn white when pressed, which helps distinguish them from ordinary rashes.



Other skin changes, such as larger bruises (purpura) or unusual rashes, may appear early in leukemia or indicate the disease is progressing. These happen because leukemia affects the blood, making it harder for the body to clot properly or fight infections.

Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) and other blood lymphomas

Blood cancers like CTCL, a type of skin lymphoma, can show up as dry, scaly, itchy patches or plaques. These often appear on parts of the body that don't get much sun.

Other changes may include:

- Red, pink, brown, or grey patches
- Lumps or bumps that can sometimes break open
- Thickened skin on the palms or soles
- Hair loss in affected areas and swollen lymph nodes

Widespread redness of the skin (erythroderma) in more advanced cases

These symptoms happen because lymphoma affects the immune system and the lymphatic system, which can cause the skin to react in these ways. Early recognition is important because these signs can easily be mistaken for eczema, infections, or other skin problems.

Petechiae: the "hidden" rash

➤ They are not a typical rash. They are tiny red or purple spots caused by small blood vessels (capillaries) breaking under the skin.

➤ They often appear on the feet, legs, arms, or hands

➤ They are caused by low platelet counts, a common effect of leukemia, which makes the blood less able to clot

Even though they may look like harmless spots, petechiae can be an early warning sign of blood cancer, so noticing them and checking with a doctor is important.

Blood cancers can present with noticeable skin symptoms such as petechiae, purpura, rashes, nodules, plaques, or itching. The type and severity vary depending on the blood cancer subtype and disease stage. Early recognition of these signs is crucial for timely diagnosis and treatment. Periodic skin examinations, awareness of unusual changes, and prompt consultation with a healthcare provider can improve outcomes. According to The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, understanding these symptoms and seeking medical attention without delay is an essential step in managing blood cancers effectively. Raising public awareness about these warning signs can play a vital role in saving lives through earlier detection and intervention. Ultimately, vigilance and education remain the strongest tools in reducing the burden of blood cancers worldwide.

TOI Lifestyle Desk

Scrolling on toilet increases your risk of haemorrhoids, new study shows

Many of us are guilty of scrolling our smartphones on the toilet. But a new study from the United States, published today, has found this habit may increase your risk of developing haemorrhoids by up to 46 per cent. So, what's the link? How can time on your phone lead to these painful lumps in and around your anus? Here's what we know.

What are haemorrhoids?

Every healthy person has haemorrhoids, sometimes called piles. They are columns of cushioned tissue and blood vessels found close to the opening of the anus.

Haemorrhoids have a really important role in maintaining bowel continence or, to put it simply, keeping your poo in.

When all is well, we don't notice them. But haemorrhoids can get swollen and this can lead to symptoms such as pain, bleeding or feeling a lump just inside your anus (internal haemorrhoids) or protruding outside (external haemorrhoids).

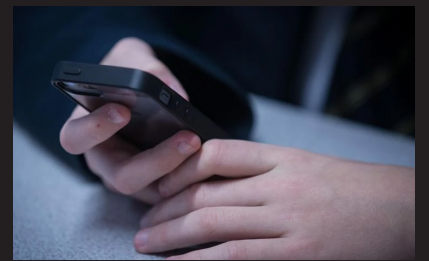
So when someone "has haemorrhoids", it means they have become inflamed or symptomatic. This is extremely common: more than one in two of us will experience symptomatic haemorrhoids at some point in our lives.

You are more likely to get haemorrhoids if you:

- are older (over 45)
- are pregnant
- are overweight
- have persistent constipation or diarrhoea
- regularly lift heavy objects
- spend a lot of time on the toilet.

The link between toilet time and haemorrhoids

Prolonged sitting in general has not been



linked to developing haemorrhoids.

However, a standard toilet seat – unlike a chair or couch – has a large internal opening that provides no support for the pelvic floor (the group of muscles and ligaments that support the bladder, bowel and uterus). Prolonged sitting on a toilet seat is believed to increase pressure inside the pelvic floor and lead to blood pooling in the vascular cushions of the anus. This makes haemorrhoids more likely to develop.

What the new study looked at

The new US study recruited 125 adults, aged 45 and older, who were undergoing a colonoscopy at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre.

Researchers surveyed them about their smartphone habits while using the toilet, including how often they checked their phone and for how long. Participants also reported on other behaviours such as straining, their fibre intake, and how much physical activity they did.

The researchers recorded whether they had haemorrhoids. Since the participants were all having a colonoscopy, the presence of internal haemorrhoids could be directly confirmed visually.

Courtesy The Conversation

Inaugural KCFL sets new benchmark for Football in Kashmir

Draws unprecedented crowds, lays foundation for a new era in Valley football

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 06: The successful conclusion of the inaugural Kashmir Champions Football League (KCFL) 2026 has marked a historic milestone in the sporting landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, with the tournament emerging as one of the largest and most professionally organised football competitions ever held in the Kashmir Valley.

Organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, the league brought together footballers representing districts from across Kashmir, providing a first-of-its-kind competitive platform where local talent from every corner of the Valley competed under a structured league and playoff format. The tournament showcased the immense footballing potential of the region while creating opportunities for emerging players to perform on a grand stage.

Over the course of the competition, the league witnessed exceptional football, fierce rivalries and remarkable sportsmanship, with teams displaying high standards of skill and determination. The floodlit matches added a new dimension to the tournament, giving players the opportunity to perform in a professional atmosphere while offering spectators an unforgettable footballing experience.

The tournament drew impressive crowds throughout its run, the knockout stage, in particular, witnessed an extraordinary



surge in attendance, with occasional prominent sports personalities making their presence, along with thousands of football lovers making their way to the TRC Synthetic Turf Football Ground every evening to cheer for their district teams and favourite local football stars under the floodlights.

The grand finale on Sunday stood as a fitting culmination to the tournament's success, with the TRC venue witnessing a jam-packed stadium as supporters from across the Kashmir Valley

travelled to Srinagar to witness the historic title clash.

The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council expresses satisfaction over the successful conduct of the league, and that the tournament has established a strong foundation for the future of competitive football in the Union Territory. The KCFL has not only provided a platform for talented footballers to showcase their abilities but has also strengthened grassroots football by fostering healthy competition among players representing different districts.

The Council also acknowledged the collective efforts of players, coaches, match officials, organising committees, volunteers, security personnel, medical teams, media organisations and football fans whose contributions ensured the tournament's smooth and successful conduct.

The inaugural edition of the Kashmir Champions Football League has demonstrated that football continues to enjoy immense popularity in Kashmir. The tournament has set a new benchmark for football competi-

tions in the UT and reinforced the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council's commitment to nurturing local talent, promoting grassroots development and creating more opportunities for young footballers to excel.

With the resounding success of its maiden edition, the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council looks forward to making the Kashmir Champions Football League an annual sporting spectacle, further strengthening Jammu & Kashmir's reputation as one of India's strongest footballing regions.

Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public that my name has been incorrectly entered in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 82732830064 as Asia Jan.

My correct name is Aasiyah Aara, bearing Aadhaar Card No. 82732830064. I now intend to correct my name in the Aadhaar records.

If any person has any objection regarding this correction, they may contact the concerned authority within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Aasiyah Aara
W/o Sheikh Amir
Address: Molla Qazihamam,
Near Ziyat Sharief, Baramulla,
P/O 193301, J&K

Public Notice

This is certify that Saima farooq D O B is incorrectly mentioned in the school records 25 _ 08 _ 2010. The correct D O B is 25 _ 08 _ 2013 . If anyone has objection in that record , they will invoke public model school wadwan budgam , within the period of seven days , After completion of said period, no objection will be entertained.

Saima Farooq
D/o Farooq Ahmad Wani
R/o Chattabugh Budgam

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DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

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JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE HAJ COMMITTEE

Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Haj Committee of India

HAJ 2027 (1448 H)

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

- 1 PASSPORT VALIDITY**
• Passport must be valid till **31 December 2027**.
• Passport must be valid on the date of application.
- 2 COVER / GROUP**
• A group can have maximum **5 members**.
• Minimum age - **18 years** on the date of application.
- 3 COVER HEAD**
• Cover Head must be a **male member**.
• Minimum age - **18 years** on the date of application.
- 4 MOBILE NUMBER & WHATSAPP**
• Cover Head must use his own mobile number.
• WhatsApp must be active on the same number.
- 5 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.
- 6 NOMINEE**
• Nominee: Son / Daughter / Parents / Spouse (Legal heir preferred)
• Add only one nominee who will perform Hajj in your place.
- 7 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)

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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).
4. 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

JOIN VIA WHATSAPP LINK: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Lxp9Sdes7r0Ad0RmRdcAfm?sz=qt&p=a&mlu=1>

SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN

Bait-ul-Hujaj (Haj House), Bemina, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, India - 190017

+91 194 249 5365

<https://www.jkshc.org/>

BAIT-UL-HUJJAJ (HAJ HOUSE)

Aapki Tairyari - Aapka Aaram - Hamari Zimmedari

Space Devoted by Headlines Today, Purely in Public Interest

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E- mail: hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in | Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

GIST of Detailed e- NIT No: 27/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Join Ventures etc for "registered experienced Contractors of Production Tube wells" as per details given below. The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ. (Table - I)

S. No	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	E/M	T.D Cost	Class	Technical Sanction	Tender Call
1.	Construction of Bore well at District Jail Anantnag.	Rs.57.01 Lacs	Rs. 1,71,000/-	Rs.1,000/-	50 Days	Under Process	1st

Time of completion: Registered for Construction of Production Tube Wells
Major Head /Programme: 4055-SRE (Police) Building & Structures
Position of Funds: Available
AAA: 1). Superintending Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Hyd. Circle, Anantnag/ Kulgam H.Q Anantnag's letter No. SE/Hyd/Plg/3185-90, Dated: 03.07.2026.

2). Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the Director General of Prisons Jammu & Kashmir
Vide Order No: 321-Prison of 2026, issued vide endorsement No: CW/2024-25/E-178324/3102-04, Dated: 30-06-2024.
The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://www.jktenders.gov.in>
From 07.07.2026 (10:00 AM) to 27.07.2026 (01:00 PM)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: <https://www.jktenders.gov.in>

As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below Table-I

1.	Publishing Date	07-07-2026 (10:00 A.M)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	07-07-2026 (10:00 A.M) upto 27-07-2026 (01:00 P.M).
3.	Period of Submission of bids	07-07-2026 (10:00 A.M) upto 27-07-2026 (01:00 P.M).
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	28-07-2026 (01:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011	
6.	Cost of Tender Document : To be deposited online (If available) or Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/ deposited to Account Head 0215 or in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply). Note: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD / TR/ the hard copies shall have been submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT (if needed)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in	

No instrument—such as an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Treasury Receipt, or Challan-generated prior to the publication of the tender document will be accepted. Any bid submitted contrary to this requirement is liable for summary rejection. In the event the tender is retendered due to government exigencies or otherwise, an instrument shall be considered valid only if generated after the date of the initial tender publication,

The cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 28-07-2026 (01:00 PM) If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/3838-51 | Dated: 06-07-2026.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar

DIPK: 2924/26 | Dated: 06-07-2026

J&K Sports Council clarifies Sports Quota Recruitment Rules

Refutes misleading claims made through various Media Platforms

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

SRINAGAR, JULY 06: The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has taken serious note of certain reports, allegations and misleading narratives circulated through various media platforms and social media regarding the recruitment of Outstanding Sportspersons under the Sports Quota, particularly in relation to the implementation of S.O. 12 of 2022 and the recognition of Pencak Silat & Kyaking & Canoeing (Dragon Boat) as an eligible sports discipline.

Since these reports have created confusion among sportspersons and the general public, the Sports Council considered it necessary to place the correct factual and legal position on record in the interest of transparency and public awareness.

The Sports Council clarified

that the appointment of Outstanding Sportspersons in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is governed entirely by statutory Rules and Government Orders framed from time to time by the Government after detailed examination, inter-departmental consultation, legal scrutiny and approval of the Competent Authority. The policy has evolved over the years through various statutory notifications beginning with SRO-349 of 1998, subsequently amended through SRO-376 of 2004, followed by S.O. 149 of 2021 and thereafter comprehensively revised and consolidated through S.O. 12 of 2022, which was further supplemented by S.O. 412 of 2023. These Government Orders collectively provide a transparent legal framework governing the appointment of Outstanding Sportspersons in Government service. They prescribe

the recognized sports disciplines, eligibility conditions, assessment criteria, evaluation of sports achievements and the institutional mechanism for selection. Every provision contained in these Rules has been notified by the Government after due administrative and legal process and is binding upon all authorities concerned.

It is therefore incorrect to suggest that appointments under the Sports Quota are made on the basis of individual discretion or by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council independently. The Sports Council functions strictly as an implementing agency of Government policy and is required to discharge its responsibilities strictly in accordance with the Rules notified by the Government. The process of recruitment is institutional in nature and is carried out through a duly constituted



High-Powered Selection Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, with senior officers of various Government Departments Such as Administrative Home, Administrative secretary Law, as its members. Every application received under the Sports Quota is subjected to scrutiny of eligibility, verification of sports achievements and examination under the prescribed rules before being placed before the competent Selection Committee. Decisions are taken

collectively in accordance with the statutory provisions, leaving no scope for arbitrary or individual decision-making.

The Sports Council also clarified the position regarding Pencak Silat, as certain misleading statements have been circulated questioning its recognition as a sports discipline. These claims are factually incorrect and contrary to official Government records. The Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, vide Order No. F. No. 9-32/2015-SP-I dated 03 November 2017, granted recognition to the Indian Pencak Silat Federation following the inclusion of the discipline in the 18th Asian Games held at Jakarta, Indonesia. Since then, Pencak Silat continues to enjoy national and international recognition and is governed globally by PER-SILAT, the International Federation for the sport. It is played

competitively across numerous countries and forms part of prestigious international sporting events, including the Asian Games, Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Southeast Asian Games, Asian Youth Games, and World Championships, under the auspices of the Olympic Council of Asia, the continental Olympic body recognized by the International Olympic Committee. The sport is also featured in international university sporting competitions, including the ASEAN University Games. At the national level, Pencak Silat is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, through the recognition granted to the Indian Pencak Silat Federation as the National Sports Federation. It is included in major sporting competitions such as the National Games, Khelo India competitions, and the All India Inter-

University Championships, with athletes also benefiting from various Khelo India programmes in accordance with the applicable scheme guidelines. Pencak silat is also featured in All India Police Games. Furthermore, the Government of India has notified Pencak Silat as one of the sports disciplines eligible for recruitment of Meritorious Sportspersons in Central Government Ministries and Departments under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) policy, thereby affirming its official recognition for public employment.

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, following the inclusion of the mentioned recognized sports disciplines in MYAS Central Govt DOPT, five new games which were already recognized by J&K Sports Council / Govt of India viz baseball, netball, pencak silat, triathlon,

DC Bandipora chairs DRAC meeting

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

BANDIPORA, JULY 06: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) to finalize rent assessment cases of government offices functioning from rented buildings across the district.

Of the nine rent assessment cases placed before the committee, seven were approved after detailed deliberations, while two were kept pending, subject to submission of requisite documents and completion of necessary formalities.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized timely disposal of rent assessment cases in accordance with prescribed norms and directed the concerned departments to submit complete documentation to enable early disposal of the pending cases.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer Bandipora along with BMOs; Assistant Director Handicrafts Bandipora; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Bandipora; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora; DySP DAR; besides other concerned officers and departmental representatives.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a review meeting on the Semi Ring Road Phase-II project to assess the progress of works and address issues requiring inter-departmental coordination for its timely execution.

Reviewing the status of each agenda item, the Deputy Commissioner stressed close coordination among the concerned departments for early resolution of pending issues.

She directed the executing agencies and revenue authorities to expedite land acquisition for tower locations, accelerate the estimation of structures falling within the project alignment, and take all necessary measures for early relocation of the irrigation pump to ensure uninterrupted progress of works.

Emphasizing timely completion of the project, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to accelerate the execution process, remove bottlenecks on priority, and complete all procedural formalities within stipulated timelines to ensure smooth implementation of the Semi Ring Road Phase-II project.

The review meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Superintending Engineer, R&B Circle Bandipora; Project Director, NHAI Srinagar; Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sumbal; Executive Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control Division Sumbal; besides other concerned officers.

ADDC Kishtwar flags off batch of 96 Farmers for 7-day exposure visit/training programme to Palampur

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

KISHTWAR, JULY 06: To enhance farmers' knowledge and exposing them to modern agricultural technologies and best farming practices, the Agriculture Department Kishtwar on Monday organized a seven-day exposure visit/training Programme for a batch of 96 farmers from different parts of the district to Palampur Himachal Pradesh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) ATMA 2026-27.

The exposure visit is being conducted from 06.07.2026 to 12.07.2026 at CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya Palampur, Himachal Pradesh.

The batch of farmers was flagged off by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Vinod Kumar Behnal in presence of Additional Deputy

Commissioner Pawan Kotwal; Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Kushal Chandel and other officers and officials of the Agriculture Department.

During the seven-day training programme, the participating farmers will be exposed to advanced and scientific agricultural practices through visits to the University Farms, where they will observe the latest crop production technologies and research initiatives. The programme also includes interactive sessions with progressive farmers to facilitate the exchange of practical experiences and innovative farming techniques.

In addition, the farmers will visit tea farms and tea processing units to learn about tea cultivation and value addition, the Hing Research Station to understand the cultivation and research of high-value crops and the In-



stitute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) to gain knowledge about bioresource management, agri-innovations and technology-driven farming practices.

The ADDC highlighted that exposure visits under CSS-ATMA are an important extension activity aimed at bridging the gap between agricultural research and field-level adoption. He ex-

pressed confidence that the knowledge and practical experience gained during the programme would enable the participating farmers to adopt improved technologies, diversify their farming systems and enhance productivity and income. He also urged the farmers to share their learnings with other farmers in their respective villages after returning from the tour. The participating farmers expressed immense enthusiasm and gratitude towards the Agriculture Department Kishtwar for providing them with the opportunity to visit one of the country's premier agricultural institutions. The Farmers were excited to learn modern farming techniques, interact with experts and progressive farmers and bring back valuable knowledge that would help improve agriculture in Kishtwar district.

Cooperative Week-2026 concludes in Ramban; MLA appreciates department's achievements

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

RAMBAN, JULY 6: Member of Legislative Assembly Ramban Arjun Singh Raju, today appreciated the remarkable progress and achievements of the Cooperative Department in the district while presiding over the valedictory function of the week-long Cooperative Week (Sahkarita Saptah) 2026 held at Maitra. The celebrations coincided with the fifth glorious year and Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation (GOI).

Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Ramban, Priyanka Sharma, Assistant Registrars, prominent citizens, members of various cooperative societies, officers and officials were present

on the occasion.

The Cooperative Week was celebrated from June 29 to July 6, 2026 under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan as part of the nationwide celebrations promoting cooperative-led inclusive growth and rural prosperity.

On the occasion, the MLA inaugurated a food packaging unit which will help in labelling, branding and packaging of local organic products like Rajmah, Anardana, Amlook, Walnut Kernels etc at Cooperative Mini Super Bazaar, Maitra.

The MLA highlighted the major infrastructure achievements of the Cooperative Department in the district, including the establishment

of the Cooperative Mini Super Bazaar at Maitra, Trout, Curd & Walnut Processing Units under FPU scheme and Cooperative Super Bazaar at Ramban. He appreciated the growing participation of women in strengthening the cooperative movement and acknowledged their significant contribution towards the success of cooperative societies in the district.

He also welcomed the sanctioning of several major developmental projects including Cooperative Canteen in DAC Ramban, Cooperative school building etc.

The MLA urged members of cooperative societies to focus on value addition, branding, processing.

Health Department Doda observes World Zoonoses Day with district-wide awareness campaign

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

DODA, JULY 06: The Health Department Doda today observed World Zoonoses Day with a series of awareness programmes across all medical blocks of the district to educate the public on zoonotic diseases and the importance of preventing their transmission.

The main district level programme was organized at the Government ANMT School Doda and was attended by the students of the institution organized by IDSP Unit under the banner of District Health Society Doda.

The programme was graced by Dy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sat Lal Manhas, Block Medical Officer, Dr. Abdul Gafoor, Principal Government ANMT School Vidya Kotwal, Umar Anayat (Epidemiologist), Sanjeev Rana (Health Educator), Roma Sharma (Data Manager, IDSP) and Saima Kousar (Tutor, ANMT School).

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Umar Anayat, who highlighted the significance of World Zoonoses Day and gave a brief overview of zoonotic diseases, their modes of transmission and the need for coordinated preventive measures.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sat Lal Manhas emphasized the importance of generating awareness on zoonotic diseases and adopting preventive practices to reduce the risk of infections transmitted from animals to humans. He urged the students to act as ambassadors of health awareness in their communities.

Dr. Abdul Gafoor also delivered an informative lecture on the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases, stressing the importance of personal hygiene, food safety, vaccination of animals and early reporting of suspected cases.

Speaking on the occasion, Vidya Kotwal appreciated the initiative of the Health Department and encouraged the students to actively participate in public health awareness activities.

An interactive question and answer session was also held, during which students enthusiastically participated and clarified their queries regarding zoonotic diseases and their prevention.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Faizan A. Trambo.

National Cooperative Mahotsav marks grand finale of Cooperative Week celebrations in Jammu

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

JAMMU, JULY 06: The Department of Cooperative Societies Jammu today organized the National Cooperative Mahotsav as the theme of the seventh and concluding day of the Cooperative Week Celebrations at Kisan Kendra Directorate of Agriculture Jammu. The event brought together officers of the Cooperative Department, representatives of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Cooperative Federations, dairy cooperatives and other stakeholders to celebrate the achievements of the cooperative movement and reaffirm their commitment to the vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhi." Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu Bal Krishan graced the occasion as the chief guest, while Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta

was the guest of honour.

Other dignitaries present included Joint Registrar Cooperative Societies and Nodal Officer for Cooperative Week in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir; Preeti Sharma, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu Bhawani Atri; Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Dairy Cooperative Federation (JKDCF) Vikrant Dogra and Managing Director Jammu & Kashmir Milk Producers' Cooperative Limited (JKMPL) Mushtaq Ahmed.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants, Preeti Sharma highlighted the significance of the National Cooperative Mahotsav as the culmination of the week-long celebrations. She emphasized that cooperatives have emerged as a powerful instrument for empowering farmers, women and rural communities through collective action, capacity building and sus-

tainable development.

Bal Krishan congratulated the Department for the successful organization of the Cooperative Week and appreciated the enthusiastic participation of cooperative institutions and stakeholders throughout the week. He emphasized that cooperatives are vital for strengthening the rural economy and called upon all stakeholders to adopt innovation, transparency and professional management to build strong and self-reliant cooperative institutions.

Anil Gupta highlighted the close linkage between agriculture and the cooperative sector. He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among government departments, PACS, FPOs and cooperative institutions to enhance farmers' income, promote value addition and ensure sustainable agricultural development.

The programme featured technical sessions and interactive discussions on strengthening PACS, FPOs, dairy cooperatives and cooperative federations, with emphasis on capacity building, market linkages, value addition, digital transformation and good governance. A major highlight of the event was the felicitation of outstanding cooperative societies and stakeholders for their exemplary contribution to the cooperative movement. Their achievements were acknowledged for inspiring others to strengthen the cooperative ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir. Representatives of PACS, FPOs, Cooperative Federations, dairy cooperatives and various cooperative institutions actively participated in the programme and shared their experiences on leveraging the cooperative model for inclusive growth and rural prosperity. A representative

of IFFCO emphasized reducing the use of conventional fertilizers and encouraged farmers to adopt innovative fertilizers for higher productivity and better soil health. The National Cooperative Mahotsav marked the successful conclusion of the seven-day Cooperative Week Celebrations, during which a series of seminars, awareness programmes, exhibitions, plantation drives, health initiatives, training programmes and stakeholder interactions were organized across Jammu Division to promote cooperative values and strengthen grassroots institutions. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu expressing gratitude to the chief guest, guest of honour, distinguished dignitaries, participating departments, partner organizations, media representatives.

PM Modi's three-nation tour aims to deepen India's Indo-Pacific partnerships

■ **ARTI BALI**

NEW DELHI JUL 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a three-nation tour of Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand from July 6 to 11 as India seeks to strengthen its strategic, economic and maritime partnerships across the Indo-Pacific. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Modi will visit Indonesia on Monday, followed by Australia, before concluding the tour in New Zealand on July 11.

The visit comes at a time of shifting geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific and follows Modi's recent visits to Mauritius and Seychelles, as well as Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to New Delhi. Senior MEA official Rudendra Tandon said the focus has increasingly shifted towards the eastern maritime region

of the Indian Ocean under India's Act East policy.

Indonesia will be Modi's first stop and his fourth visit to the country, though his first bilateral visit since India and Indonesia elevated ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018.

At the invitation of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Modi will hold bilateral talks, address the Indian diaspora in Jakarta, and visit the UNESCO-listed Prambanan temple complex in Yogyakarta, highlighting the longstanding civilisational and cultural links between the two countries.

The visit is expected to advance cooperation in maritime security and defence. Analysts say discussions are likely to cover the long-pending Sabang-Nicobar maritime connectivity project linking Indonesia's Sabang Port with



India's Nicobar Islands, as well as a possible deal for the export of India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system to Indonesia. Cooperation in critical minerals, particularly Indonesia's vast nickel

reserves that are vital for India's electric vehicle ambitions, is also expected to feature prominently.

Modi will then travel to Melbourne from July 8 to 10 at the invitation of Australian

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for the Annual Leaders' Summit. The two leaders are expected to review progress in trade, defence, technology and strategic cooperation after last meeting on

the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg in 2025.

During his visit, Modi will call on Governor-General Sam Mostyn, participate in the India-Australia CEOs Forum and interact with the Indian diaspora. The Indian High Commission has described the visit as reflecting the growing depth of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the two countries' shared commitment to a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

The final leg of the tour will take Modi to New Zealand for his first official visit to the country. Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has welcomed the visit, highlighting the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement signed in April, which is expected to significantly expand bilateral trade and investment by reducing tariffs on most

traded goods and improving market access for businesses in both countries.

The tour also takes place amid evolving strategic calculations in the Indo-Pacific, with questions being raised over the United States' long-term regional engagement. These developments have encouraged countries such as India, Japan and Australia to deepen cooperation in defence, technology and maritime security while reinforcing partnerships among like-minded regional powers.

Taken together, Modi's visits to Jakarta, Melbourne and Wellington underscore India's efforts to expand its strategic footprint in the Indo-Pacific, deepen engagement with key regional partners and reinforce its role as a leading stakeholder in maintaining a stable, secure and rules-based regional order. (UNI)

10th Song on National Akali Dal chief Paramjit Singh 'Pamma' released in Delhi

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI, JULY 6: National Akali Dal leaders and supporters on Sunday attended the release of "Pamma Bina Dharna Safal Nahin", the 10th song dedicated to party president Paramjit Singh "Pamma", popularly known as the "Angry Man", highlighting his role in public protests and social campaigns over the past three decades.

The song, whose title translates to "No Protest Succeeds Without Pamma", was launched at a



ceremony in the national capital and is dedicated to his decades-long commitment to public service, social causes, and people's movements.

Penned by writer Balwinder Singh Sodhi and sung by Raish Kaur, the song focuses on Pamma's leadership, activism and commitment to public welfare.

The launch event was attended by Paramjit Singh "Pamma", Balwinder Singh Sodhi, Raish Kaur, National Akali Dal National Secretary Vikrant Mohan, National President of the Women's Wing Bhavana Dhawan, Delhi State President Kuldeep Singh Marwah, National President of the Social Wing Rashmeet Kaur Bindra, along with party leaders, workers, and other distinguished guests.

During the event, Raish Kaur also performed emotional songs dedicated to mothers and women, in addition to "Pamma Bina Dharna Safal Nahin". Her performances received an enthusiastic response from the audience.

Speaking on the occasion, Balwinder Singh Sodhi said that Paramjit Singh "Pamma" has been actively fighting for public causes for nearly 32 years.

He highlighted Pamma's campaigns on issues such as rising inflation, education, traders' concerns, women's rights, protecting youth from the harmful effects of online gaming, and raising the voices of ordinary citizens before the government.

Inspired by these sustained public campaigns and Pamma's commitment to social service, Sodhi said he wrote the 10th song dedicated to him.

He also noted that several songs and documentaries have previously been produced on Paramjit Singh "Pamma"'s life and social work, all of which received widespread appreciation. Despite facing difficult circumstances and health challenges, Pamma has remained committed to public service and continues to work actively for the welfare of society.

The newly released song, "Pamma Bina Dharna Safal Nahin", portrays his leadership, struggles, dedication to public service, and commitment to society through music. The release of the song has generated considerable enthusiasm among National Akali Dal workers, supporters, and well-wishers. (UNI)

Labour organisations call upon govt to offer Old Pension Scheme on compassionate grounds

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI, JUL 6: Labour bodies from across the country on Sunday urged the government to bring back the Old Pension Scheme on compassionate grounds.

The request was made by a 19-member delegation, including representatives from Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), Bharatiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh (BPMS), Government Employees National Confederation (GENC), Public Sector Employees National Confederation, SHAR Employees Trade Union, and Space Employees Association, during a meeting with Jitendra Singh, Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

According to the officials, the delegation representing employ-

ees from defence establishments, public sector organisations, scientific institutions and other Central Government services discussed multiple service-related issues, including extending the benefit of the Old Pension Scheme to compassionate appointment cases, career progression, cadre-related matters and wider stakeholder consultations on issues concerning Government employees.

Besides raising their grievances, the Ministry noted that the delegation appreciated the Government's decision to re-deploy nearly 65,000 erstwhile Ordnance Factory employees into regular Government service. The decision was announced last month on June 11, dispelling the fears of over a thousand defence civilian employees.



In October 2021, the Centre dissolved the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), an industrial organisation under the Department

of Defence, that took care of India's military needs, ranging from uniforms and troop comfort items to high-calibre ammuni-

tion, armoured vehicles, main battle tanks, optical devices, and rocket systems and split the 41 factories under the board into seven Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

Fearing job loss due to the corporatisation, more than one lakh workers employed with 41 Ordnance factories across the country started a month-long agitation demanding the government drop its move to corporatise the OFB.

On June 15, the government provided long-awaited clarity and approved the continuation of deemed deputation till retirement for employees of the erstwhile OFB who do not opt for absorption in the seven newly formed Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). (UNI)

Delhi: Police busts interstate 'Rajan Gang', juvenile among 4 held

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI, JUL 6: Delhi Police's Burari Police Station has busted an interstate gang of alleged hardcore burglars, popularly known as the 'Rajan Gang', and arrested three accused along with a juvenile in conflict with law.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Raja Banthia, IPS, the gang members were known to carry firearms and knives while committing burglaries and would not hesitate to attack or open fire if confronted.

Police recovered stolen gold and silver jewellery worth around Rs Rs. 14-15 lakh from the house of the gang leader in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, and claimed to have solved six burglary and theft cases in the Burari area.

The arrested accused have been identified as Rajan (23), Sumit alias Gullu (21) and Sandeep alias Noni (20), while one juvenile has also been apprehended.

Police said the three adult accused were arrested from Shahjahanpur, Uttar

Pradesh, after a four-day manhunt. During interrogation, they allegedly confessed to carrying out the burglary and disclosed that they had hidden the stolen jewellery in a pit dug inside Rajan's house in his native village.

Police recovered two gold rings, a gold chain, two gold bangles, a gold mangalsutra, a gold locket, three gold nose pins, four silver bangles, two silver waist belts and the clothes allegedly worn during the crime.

According to investigators, the gang would conduct repeated reconnaissance of locked houses in Burari, Mukundpur and nearby areas before breaking into them using house-breaking tools. They allegedly carried firearms and knives to overcome any resistance during the commission of the crime.

Police said the accused also admitted their involvement in several other burglary and theft cases, leading to the detection of five additional cases.

Further investigation is underway. (UNI)

INS Sudarshini arrives in New York for Sail4th 250 celebrations

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI, JUL 6: Indian Naval Sail Training Ship, INS Sudarshini, sailed into New York Port on July 4 to represent India at the United States International Naval Review 250 and Sail4th 250 celebrations.

"During the spectacular Parade of Sail along the Hudson River, the iconic three-masted barque proudly flew the Indian Tricolour, celebrating India's rich maritime heritage and centuries-old seafaring traditions," the Ministry of Defence said today.

The visit is part of the ship's 10-month transoceanic expedition, Lokayan 2026, which reflects the Indian Navy's commitment to strengthening maritime cooperation, building international goodwill and deepening engagement with partner navies. "After successful participation in the SAIL 250 events at Norfolk and Baltimore, INS Sudarshini is now berthed at Brooklyn for the Sail4th 250 celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of the United States' independence," the Ministry said

Set against the iconic New York sky-



line, INS Sudarshini stands as a proud symbol of India's maritime legacy. The port call represents more than a journey across the Atlantic. It reflects the enduring friendship, mutual respect, and expanding maritime partnership between India and the United States.

From the vast waters of the Atlantic to the historic harbour of New York, INS Sudarshini continues to strengthen maritime ties, carrying forward India's seafaring traditions while promoting friendship and cooperation across the world's oceans. (UNI)

Indian Naval Ships conclude visit to Singapore

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI, JUL 6: Reinforcing the deep-rooted strategic and maritime partnership between India and Singapore, Indian Naval Ships Udaygiri, Shakti, and Kavaratti of the Eastern Fleet led by Rear Admiral Alok Anand, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, concluded their port call at Changi Naval Base, Singapore as part of

the Indian Navy's operational deployment.

"Aligned with the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation and the Government of India's Act East Policy, the three-day engagement featured a wide range of professional interactions, including cross-deck visits aimed at strengthening interoperability and naval cooperation between the two maritime forces," the Ministry of Defence said on



Sunday School students also visited INS Kavaratti during the port call, gaining first-hand exposure to naval operations, life onboard a warship, and the maritime values that guide the Indian Navy.

The successful completion of the visit marks another milestone in the growing maritime partnership between India and Singapore. (UNI)



The youngest: Vaibhav arrives at global stage

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI: Fifteen-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi etched his name in the record books by becoming the youngest male cricketer to represent India in international cricket, making his T20I debut against England in Chennai.

At 15 years and 99 days, Sooryavanshi surpassed the long-standing record held by legendary Sachin Tendulkar, who made his international debut at the age of 16 years and 205 days against Pakistan in 1989. The young prodigy received India T20I cap No. 122, marking the beginning of what many believe could be a remarkable international career.

The teenager from Tajpur village in Bihar's Samastipur district had been widely expected to make his debut earlier during the tour, with many anticipating his inclusion against Ireland in Belfast or in the opening T20I against England. His childhood coach, Manish Ojha, said the family had hoped to see him debut earlier but described the occasion as a proud and emotional moment.

Already the holder of several age-related records, including becoming the youngest player to debut in the Ranji Trophy, the Indian Premier League (IPL), and score an IPL century, Sooryavanshi has consistently captured the imagination of cricket fans across the country.

Despite the pressure of an international debut, the left-handed batter displayed his trademark fearless approach. After a cautious start, he scooped England pacer Jofra Archer for a six before adding another maximum. His innings ended at 14 runs off 10 deliveries, but the brief knock offered a glimpse of his immense talent and confidence.

While his debut innings was short, cricket experts believe it marks the start of a promising journey. With several records already to his name at such a young age, Sooryavanshi is widely regarded as one of India's brightest emerging stars and a player capable of shaping the future of Indian cricket.

Bangladesh's big guns return for ODI battle against Zimbabwe

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MIRPUR: An experiment with an inexperienced Test squad against a lower-ranked Zimbabwe side could not have gone worse for Bangladesh. While the margin of the defeat - an innings and 85 runs - was damaging in and of itself, the ineffectiveness of their pacers in helpful Harare conditions made it all the more alarming for a side that's going through a fast-bowling revolution. Hasan Mahmud, Khaled Ahmed and Ebadot Hossain took a combined 2 for 266 in their 67 overs in the Test while Zimbabwe's Richard Ngarava, Blessing Muzarabani, Newman Nyamhuri and Brad Evans took 20 for 308. The likes of Taskin Ahmed, Nahid Rana and Shoriful Islam not being available is little justification for that big a gulf.

Bishnoi on the back foot as lack of attention to detail hurts India

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MANCHESTER: India conceded a tenth of the total they scored with three no-balls and the free hits that accompanied them. Three back-foot no-balls bowled by Ravi Bishnoi, a surprise inclusion in the squad in the first place after his IPL team, Rajasthan Royals, played him in only about half of their matches in 2026, resulted in 19 runs, enough to be the difference between a nail-biter and England winning with an over to spare.

That Bishnoi was included twice in the XI against England without playing in Ireland suggests the team management

possibly believed Bishnoi was a good match-up against England. However, three back-foot no-balls in a match, two of them in the 17th over, which India arguably started in ascendance, is just not good enough in a T20 match. With these three, Bishnoi has foot-faulted ten times in T20 cricket since 2022; only three spinners have done it more often.

You can still overlook a front-foot no-ball from a fast bowler. At a pinch, you can make allowances for a spinner overstepping. Back-foot no-balls from a spinner, however, suggest he is doing something he has not done in the nets or, worse, nobody has



corrected him in the nets. By the end of it, Bishnoi just seemed

more worried about where he was landing, which points to more of a preparation issue than execution.

It is a possible sign of how far the game has pushed its spinners that Bishnoi unveiled in this IPL that extreme jump from wide of the crease in his run-up in order to, one can only surmise, use the angles especially when he doesn't turn the ball big. From whatever we know of bowling technique, this doesn't help you turn the ball more or be more accurate. It is mostly desperation to try to do something to stay in a game loaded against you.

Even to the naked eye, it

seemed Bishnoi was starting much wider in this match, meaning he needed a big jump to his right to get into his delivery stride legally. Now, not many teams fuss over front-foot no-balls in the nets leave alone back-foot ones, but, unlike overstepping, this is not a habit you can suddenly correct on match day.

With this defeat, India find themselves in a ridiculous situation where they have dropped the captain and the Player of the Tournament from the World Cup that they won earlier this year, and that is not even close to the reason why they have now lost their last three completed matches.

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