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Fresh landslide strands 1,700 trucks on Jammu-Srinagar Highway

Bridge Will Reopen Only After It Is Certified Safe

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JULY 27: Authorities on Monday intensified restoration and safety operations after a fresh landslide blocked the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Udhampur district, leaving around 1,700 trucks and several passenger vehicles stranded, while the main bridge in Doda was temporarily closed pending structural clearance.

The landslide struck the Dewal area early Monday, forcing the suspension of traffic from both directions on the 250-km highway. Officials said passenger vehicles already on the route were being cleared through a single carriageway while debris removal and road repair work continued.

Traffic authorities said no fresh vehicles would be allowed to travel from Jammu towards Srinagar, Doda, Ramban or Patnitop, or in the reverse direction,



until restoration work is completed and the route is declared safe.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has deployed men and heavy machinery to clear the debris and restore normal traffic at the earliest. Commuters

have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel on the highway due to the continuing risk of landslides and shooting stones and to rely only on official traffic advisories for updates.

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Lay Out Comprehensive Policy to Streamline College Administration: LG Manoj Sinha



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday directed the Governing Board of Gandhi Memorial College (GMC), Srinagar, to formulate a comprehensive policy for streamlining the institution's administrative and operational framework, stressing the need for efficient governance to strengthen academic excellence and institutional performance.

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LG Addresses Ethical Tourism Conclave

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, today addressed the "Ethical Tourism Conclave" organized by the Tourist Trade Interest Guild, J&K, underscoring the imperative of developing a tourism model that is responsible, sustainable, and inclusive.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor extended heartfelt congratulations to the organizers for the conclave, which he described as a significant step in redefining tourism as a moral responsibility for the tourism stakeholders. He emphasized that the theme "Responsible Today, Sustainable Tomorrow, Beneficial for All" reflects the collective duty of society to safeguard natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Jammu Kashmir has historically been regarded as "heaven on earth" for

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Only PM, Home Minister Can Decide on J&K Statehood: Omar Abdullah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday asserted that the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir can be decided only by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, dismissing claims by opposition leaders on the issue.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to Anantnag district, Abdullah said the authority to restore statehood lies exclusively with the country's top leadership, adding that this was the reason his party had organised a protest in New Delhi demanding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Responding to reported remarks by Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, who claimed that neither statehood nor Article 370 would be restored, the Chief Minister said such statements carried no significance in the decision-making process.

"He makes several statements every day. I do not believe the Prime Minister and the Home Minister will seek his opinion on

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Govt Committed To Expanding Jobs, Entrepreneurship And Inclusive Development: Omar Abdullah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday reaffirmed his government's commitment to expanding employment opportunities, strengthening entrepreneurship and ensuring inclusive development during a series of meetings with public representatives, entrepreneurs and industry leaders. The meetings, held at the Chief Minister's public outreach programme,

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Concrete steps taken to address concerns of Kashmir's cricket bat industry: CM Omar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SANGAM (BIJBEHARA), JULY 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reaffirmed his government's commitment to protecting and strengthening Kashmir's iconic cricket bat industry, asserting that it is the government's

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Crime Branch Files Chargesheet in Fake J&K Bank Recruitment Scam

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JULY 27: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch has filed a chargesheet against a Budgam resident for allegedly orchestrating a fake J&K Bank recruitment scam by issuing forged appointment orders and defrauding job seekers of money under the false promise of employment.

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Dr Jitendra Introduces Paper Leak, Unfair Means Related Bill In Lok Sabha

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUL 27: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today introduced the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha.

The Amendment Bill seeks to further strengthen the provisions of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means)



Act, 2024 by providing for fast-tracked investigation, speedy trial through Special Fast Track Courts, appointment of Special Public Prosecutors, time-bound disposal of appeals and more stringent penal provisions to effectively deter unfair means and organised malpractices in public examinations.

The proposed amendments have been brought in to reinforce the existing legal framework in view of incidents of question paper leakages and organised examination-related malpractices reported in recent

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These Public Libraries Are an Investment in Ladakh's Future: LG VK Saxena

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KARGIL, JULY 27: Declaring that "these public libraries are an investment in the future of Ladakh," Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Sunday dedicated 70 modern public libraries to the people of the Union Territory, describing the initiative as a landmark step towards building an enlightened, educated and empowered society.

The Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a public library at Trespone in TSG Block, Kargil, while simultaneously dedicating 35 libraries each in Leh and Kargil districts. Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, Executive Councillors and senior government officials were present on the occasion.

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Delhi Police Identify Over 480 Pakistan-Linked Social Media Handles During Protest Monitoring

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JULY 27: Delhi Police has identified more than 480 social media handles allegedly linked to Pakistan that were actively circulating fake narratives, rumours and AI-generated deepfake videos during and after the recent CJP protest at Jantar Mantar, officials said on Monday.

The development comes as the police have intensified monitoring

of online platforms and begun issuing notices to social media users directing them to remove posts considered abusive, illegal or misleading, including content targeting senior constitutional functionaries such as the Prime Minister.

According to senior police officials, the identified Pakistan-linked accounts are believed to be the same handles that were active during Operation Sindoor. Investigators

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CS reviews implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular focus on the progress achieved under its key components, adoption of digital health solutions, and their impact on healthcare delivery at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department; Mission Director, National Health Mission; Managing Director, ABDM J&K; Principal, GMC, Srinagar/



Jammu; Director, Health Services, Jammu; senior officers of the Health & Medical Education Department, and other concerned officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary underscored that the core objective of the Ayushman Bharat

Digital Mission is the creation of comprehensive digital health records for every individual, and stressed that all efforts under the Mission must remain aligned with this fundamental goal.

He observed that while substan-

tial progress has been achieved in creation of ABHA IDs and digital health infrastructure, the ultimate measure of success would be the availability of complete, secure and interoperable digital health records for every citizen.

To realise this objective, Dulloo directed the Mission to put in place a well-defined implementation strategy with clearly identified milestones for progressively enhancing the generation and linkage of electronic health records across the Union Territory.

He emphasised that implementation of the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)

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Bridge Will.....

Despite the disruption, a convoy carrying 3,823 Amarnath pilgrims in 140 vehicles was allowed to pass through the affected stretch under tight security after authorities restored one-way traffic for the pilgrimage.

Officials expressed hope that normal traffic movement would resume after the second carriageway becomes operational, saying the temporary suspension was necessary to allow uninterrupted restoration work.

The highway had reopened on Sunday after remaining closed for three days because of multiple landslides and heavy rainfall. However, following the passage of the Amarnath Yatra convoy, traffic was once again halted to facilitate fresh clearance operations in the Gangroo area along the Ramban-Banihal stretch.

Meanwhile, authorities closed the Pul Doda bridge late Sunday night after reports of visible cracks triggered safety concerns.

Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department, Anil Mehra, said a preliminary inspection found that the markings on the bridge were not structural cracks but were likely the result of concrete overlap at shuttering joints during construction.

"As a precautionary measure, the bridge was closed for vehicular movement. Our initial assessment indicates that these are not structural cracks," Mehra said.

He added that an expert team from the Design Inspection and Quality Control wing has been called to conduct an independent assessment to ensure the bridge is structurally sound.

"The bridge will be reopened only after it is certified safe," Mehra said, adding that traffic has been diverted through the alternate Ganpat Bridge and any defects, if detected during the inspection, will be rectified before traffic is restored.

The precautionary closure of the bridge and the continued restoration efforts on the national highway come amid persistent monsoon-related disruptions, with authorities maintaining heightened vigilance to ensure the safety of commuters and pilgrims.

Lay Out.....

The direction came during the introductory meeting of the newly constituted Governing Board, chaired by the Lieutenant Governor at Lok Bhavan, where members discussed a range of academic and administrative issues aimed at improving the overall functioning of the college.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar; Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Commissioner/Secretary, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi; Director Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) S. Ajaz Bashir; President of the Hindu Education Society Kashmir, Prof. B. L. Zutshi; members of the Governing Board, senior officials, representatives from the University of Kashmir, and Principal of Gandhi Memorial College, Prof. Masood Ahmad Malik.

The Board deliberated on several key matters, including the adoption of the Rules of Business for the Governing Board, grant-in-aid for G.M. College of Education, Bantalab, Jammu, measures to streamline the recruitment process, pension benefits for serving and retired employees with effect from 2002, and the expansion of campus infrastructure.

Members also reviewed proposals for revising the existing curriculum and introducing new academic programmes aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) to enhance the quality and relevance of higher education.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the importance of transparent administration, stronger institutional governance and modern academic practices to ensure the sustained growth and development of the college. He said the proposed policy framework would help improve administrative efficiency while supporting quality education and better opportunities for students and faculty alike.

LG Addresses.....

the unique harmony between nature and culture. "Tourism in Jammu Kashmir must be seen as a celebration of this heritage, and ethical tourism must be the guiding principle for its future," he stated.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the remarkable progress achieved in the tourism sector.

"Tourist arrivals have reached record levels, confidence among domestic and international travellers has been restored, investments have increased, and employment opportunities have expanded. However, the true success lies not in numbers alone but in ensuring that prosperity reaches local communities and contributes to social inclusion," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that "Responsible Tourism" must ensure that every visitor departs with cherished memories while natural resources should also thrive. He called for heightened sensitivity towards forests, lakes, and rivers, and reiterated that development must proceed in balance with conservation.

He emphasized the importance of inclusivity, stating that boatmen of Dal Lake, pony owners serving mountain trails, artisans engaged in crafts such as pashmina and papier-mache, and families running homestays in Gurez and Bangus must be equal stakeholders in the tourism journey.

"Profits should not remain confined to large enterprises. Tourism must provide dignified incomes, training, and opportunities to all stakeholders to ensure sustainability. Together, let us ensure that prosperity reaches to the last village, the last family, and the last citizen in the queue," he said.

Highlighting the dimension of "Beneficial to All," the Lieutenant Governor stated that the success

of tourism can be achieved when lives of artisans and small entrepreneurs are transformed and the sector provides fair value for local labour and creates dignified livelihood opportunities for youth and women.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that sustainable tourism is an approach where nature and progress are partners. He urged that infrastructure such as roads, hotels, and facilities must be developed with zero ecological impact. He called for eco-friendly tourism to become a mass movement, encouraging tourists and stakeholders to adopt practices such as avoiding single-use plastics, proper waste management, prudent use of water and energy, and respect for wildlife.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all stakeholders to translate discussions at the conclave into concrete action plans with clear goals, timelines, and evaluation mechanisms. He proposed certification standards for eco-friendly homestays and hotels to encourage healthy competition, comprehensive training programmes for youth to become protectors of nature and guardians of culture, and use of digital platforms to connect tourists directly with local communities.

"If local communities and youth combine innovation with sensitivity, link technology with culture, and development with environmental conservation, then I am confident that Jammu Kashmir can emerge as a model of sustainable tourism for the entire nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Zahoor Ahmed Karnai, Chairman, Tourist Trade Interest Guild; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir; Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Rajiv Pandey, DIG CKR; Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; industry leaders, heads of various business organizations, members of Tourist Trade Interest Guild, and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present.

Only PM.....

such matters," Abdullah said, adding that Sharma might one day wake up to find newspaper headlines announcing the restoration of statehood.

The Chief Minister later visited the Halmulla cricket bat manufacturing hub in Anantnag along with Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary and Forest Minister Javed Rana, where he interacted with representatives of the bat manufacturers' association.

Abdullah said the association had raised three key issues, the most pressing being the shortage of willow wood, the primary raw material used in cricket bat manufacturing. He noted that while large-scale felling of willow trees had taken place around Wullar Lake in the past, fresh plantations remain restricted due to a High Court order, affecting the long-term availability of raw material.

He assured the manufacturers that the government would work to address all their concerns, including ensuring a steady supply of raw material and uninterrupted electricity to industrial units, with the aim of strengthening one of the region's most important traditional industries.

Govt Committed.....

focused on a broad spectrum of issues, including public welfare, economic growth, trade and commerce, industrial development, innovation and skill enhancement.

Former MLA Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat met the Chief Minister and highlighted developmental issues concerning his constituency. Omar Abdullah assured him that the government would continue addressing public concerns through sustained engagement and responsive governance.

In a separate meeting, Shradha Sharma, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of YourStory and The Bharat Project, discussed the growth of Jammu and Kashmir's startup ecosystem. The deliberations centred on fostering innovation, encouraging entrepreneurship and creating opportunities for young entrepreneurs through supportive government initiatives.

The Chief Minister also met Arun Gupta, President of the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who raised issues relating to trade, commerce and industrial development. The discussion focused on measures to improve the business environment and strengthen economic activity across the Union Territory.

Saiyed Owais Ahmad, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Infinitech Services and Solutions, presented proposals for industry-led skill development and higher education programmes in collaboration with leading global technology companies. The proposal aims to enhance the employability of young people by equipping them with industry-relevant skills.

Reiterating his government's vision, Omar Abdullah said the administration remains committed to promoting entrepreneurship, supporting industry, expanding trade and commerce, and creating greater employment and skill development opportunities through collaborative partnerships with stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. The meetings formed part of the government's continued outreach efforts to engage with citizens, industry leaders and entrepreneurs while shaping policies aimed at accelerating economic growth and improving public welfare in Jammu and Kashmir.

Concrete steps.....

responsibility to ensure the traditional sector not only survives but flourishes for generations to come.

Interacting with members of the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association at the Hallamulla Sangam Industrial Estate here, the Chief Minister said the government would take all necessary steps to

address the concerns of manufacturers, particularly regarding the sustainable availability of willow wood, uninterrupted power supply, infrastructure support and ease of doing business.

Responding to the concerns raised by the association, the Chief Minister said that immediate steps were necessary to safeguard the cricket bat industry, adding that preserving traditional industries was as important as attracting new ones.

Describing the cricket bat industry as one of Jammu and Kashmir's unique strengths, Omar Abdullah said it is backed by locally available raw material, skilled craftsmen and a well-established market across the country and abroad.

The Chief Minister said that the industry possessed all the strengths needed to succeed, including locally available raw material, skilled workers and a ready market, and that the government was committed to ensuring its continued growth.

Addressing the key concern of shrinking willow resources, the Chief Minister observed that the demand for scientific willow plantation was reasonable and that continuous harvesting without replantation posed a serious threat to the industry's future.

Drawing examples from international best practices, he said the government would promote systematic replantation of willow trees to ensure a continuous and sustainable supply of raw material.

He added that the government would ensure systematic replantation of willow trees and examine improved varieties to secure a sustainable supply of raw material.

The Chief Minister also assured the manufacturers that the government would take effective measures to curb illegal movement of willow clefts by strengthening monitoring mechanisms and checkpoints.

Responding to demands for better infrastructure, Omar Abdullah said a proposal for improving electricity supply to the industrial estate would be prepared and taken up with the Power Development Department for approval.

He further assured that workers employed in the industrial estate would be provided better medical support in case of accidents and that the demand for a fire and emergency unit would also be addressed.

On the proposal for revival of Common Treatment Facility Centre in the vicinity, the Chief Minister asked the Industries Department and the local MLA to jointly examine the requirement and identify a suitable location for the facility.

He also directed the Industries Department to simplify procedural requirements and remove unnecessary bottlenecks to facilitate the smooth functioning and expansion of the cricket bat industry.

He said that the government's objective was to ensure the sustained growth of the cricket bat industry and reaffirmed its full support for the sector.

Later, the Chief Minister visited a cricket bat manufacturing unit in the industrial estate, where he observed the intricate process of cricket bat production from willow clefts to finished bats. He interacted with workers and artisans engaged in various stages of manufacturing, appreciating their craftsmanship and contribution to preserving Kashmir's globally acclaimed cricket bat industry. The Chief Minister also enquired about their working conditions and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening the sector through sustained policy support and improved infrastructure.

Earlier, members of the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association highlighted several issues before the Chief Minister, including sustainable willow plantation and availability of raw material, allocation of compartments for willow harvesting, uninterrupted 24x7 power supply with an essential feeder to the industrial estate, establishment of a permanent Fire and Emergency Services unit, medical facilities for workers in case of accidents and measures to check illegal movement of willow clefts.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment Javed Ahmed Rana, MLA Bijbehara-Srigufwara Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Director Industries Kashmir, Chief Executive Officer JKBOCVWB, Director Rakhs and Farms, Director Handloom and Handicrafts, representatives of the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Crime Branch.....

The chargesheet was presented before the Court of the Special Mobile Magistrate, Jammu, against Ghulam Rasool Wani, a resident of Parisabad Pora, Budgam, in connection with a case registered under the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

According to the Crime Branch, the case was registered following a complaint by Sandeep Kumar, who alleged that the accused had promised him a position as a Banking Attendant in J&K Bank in 2019. Trusting the assurance, the complainant and another victim allegedly paid a total of Rs. 2 lakh, including Rs. 1 lakh in cash and Rs. 1 lakh through cheque, while also submitting their educational and personal documents.

Investigators said the accused later provided photocopies of purported J&K Bank appointment orders and a selection list, which were subsequently found to be forged during the investigation.

The Crime Branch further stated that the investigation established the transfer of the money into the accused's bank account, strengthening the evidence against him.

Officials also revealed that the accused is allegedly involved in several other recruitment fraud and forgery cases registered with the Crime Branch Jammu, Crime Branch Kashmir and Cyber Police Kashmir, indicating a pattern of similar offences.

Based on oral, documentary, electronic and circumstantial evidence collected during the in-

vestigation, the Crime Branch has submitted the final report before the court for judicial determination.

Advising the public to remain cautious, the Crime Branch urged citizens not to fall prey to fraudulent job offers and to verify recruitment claims through official channels. It also appealed to victims of similar frauds to report such incidents to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Jammu, or through the agency's official helpline and email.

Dr Jitendra.....

years. They are aimed at ensuring greater accountability, strengthening deterrence against such offences and safeguarding the integrity of public examinations.

The Bill proposes to enhance the punishment for persons resorting to unfair means by increasing the term of imprisonment to not less than five years, extendable up to ten years, as against the existing provision of imprisonment for a term of not less than three years, extendable up to five years. The maximum fine is also proposed to be enhanced from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh.

For service providers found involved in offences under the Act, the Bill proposes to increase the maximum fine from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore and extend the period of debarment from conducting any public examination from four years to eight years.

The Bill also proposes enhanced punishment for managerial personnel of service providers by providing for imprisonment for a term of not less than five years, extendable up to ten years, along with enhancement of the maximum fine from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore.

To deal more effectively with organised examination-related crimes, the Amendment Bill proposes to increase the minimum term of imprisonment from five years to seven years, extendable up to ten years, while enhancing the maximum fine from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 10 crore.

The Bill further empowers the Central Government to refer the investigation of offences under the Act to a Special Task Force constituted for this purpose.

To ensure expeditious investigation and trial, the Bill proposes insertion of a new Section 12A providing for completion of investigation within two months, designation of Courts of Session as Special Fast Track Courts for day-to-day trial of offences under the Act, completion of trial within three months from the date of filing of the charge sheet, and appointment of Special Public Prosecutors for every Special Fast Track Court.

The Bill also proposes insertion of a new Section 12B providing that appeals against any judgment, order or sentence of a Special Fast Track Court may be preferred before the High Court within a period of thirty days and, as far as possible, shall be disposed of within a period of three months.

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, enacted on 12 February 2024 and brought into force with effect from 21 June 2024, provides a comprehensive national legal framework to prevent unfair means in public examinations. The Act applies to examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), National Testing Agency (NTA), Ministries and Departments of the Central Government and their attached and subordinate offices for recruitment, as well as such other authorities as may be notified by the Central Government. All offences under the Act are cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable, with stringent provisions relating to imprisonment, fine and attachment of property.

The proposed amendments are expected to further strengthen the legal framework for preventing examination-related malpractices, including question paper leakages, impersonation and organised cheating, while ensuring swift investigation, speedy trial and timely disposal of appeals. By strengthening deterrence against such offences and ensuring prompt delivery of justice, the Amendment Bill seeks to uphold the integrity, fairness and transparency of public examinations, protect the interests of deserving and meritorious candidates, and reinforce public confidence in the integrity, fairness and transparency of the country's public examination system.

These Public.....

The newly established libraries have been equipped with heating systems suitable for Ladakh's extreme weather, computers, well-stocked bookshelves and dedicated reading spaces to provide students and young aspirants with modern educational facilities within their own communities.

Addressing the gathering, LG Saxena said the inauguration represented more than the opening of new buildings and marked the beginning of a movement towards a more knowledgeable and progressive Ladakh. He observed that while roads, bridges and other physical infrastructure remain essential for development, institutions that foster knowledge, creativity and character are equally important in shaping the future of society.

Describing the project as a successful example of coordinated efforts across government

departments, the Lieutenant Governor said the initiative reflected a long-term investment in Ladakh's human capital. He expressed confidence that the libraries would emerge as centres of innovation, research, community engagement and lifelong learning.

"These public libraries are an investment in the future of Ladakh. They will provide our youth with access to knowledge, modern learning facilities and opportunities to prepare for competitive examinations and higher education," he said, adding that the facilities would help young people realise their full potential.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon parents, teachers, Village Education Committees, civil society organisations and local residents to actively support the libraries by organising reading circles, literary events, career guidance sessions and community learning programmes throughout the year.

He also urged students to make the libraries their second home, encouraging them to read beyond textbooks, develop critical thinking and creativity, and prepare themselves to compete confidently at the national level.

Delhi Police.....

are also examining the IP addresses associated with these accounts to determine their origin and involvement in the dissemination of misinformation.

Police said dedicated teams are conducting a detailed review of posts, videos and comments shared across various social media platforms to identify material that may violate provisions of the Information Technology Act and other applicable laws or pose a threat to public order.

Officials said the notices require users to delete content found to contain abusive language, fabricated information or AI-generated deepfakes. Social media platforms are also being approached to take appropriate action in accordance with legal provisions.

The Delhi Police's Social Media Monitoring Team has been maintaining round-the-clock surveillance of online activity linked to the protest, with officials stating that the exercise will continue as investigators analyse digital evidence and identify additional accounts involved in spreading unlawful or misleading content.

In a related development, Delhi Police dismissed a viral video claiming that Deputy Commissioner of Police Sumit Jha had resigned over the student protests, describing it as AI-generated and completely fake. The police also released the officer's authentic video to counter the false claim. (Agencies)

CS reviews.....

should be expedited in all healthcare institutions, with primary focus on public health facilities, so that every patient interaction contributes towards building comprehensive digital health records.

He further directed that the number of ABHA IDs created should progressively be brought at par with the number of Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards issued in the Union Territory, with targets fixed and closely monitored as important milestones towards achieving universal digital health coverage.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the need to maximise utilisation of citizen-centric services available through the JK Sehat App. He called upon the department to promote greater public uptake of home healthcare services, online doctor appointment booking, tele-consultation facilities and doorstep delivery of medicines through local pharmacies, observing that these services have immense potential to improve accessibility, convenience and quality of healthcare delivery for the people.

Appreciating the JK Sehat App as a comprehensive digital healthcare platform, the Chief Secretary observed that the Department has developed an excellent online product catering to the needs of citizens as well as healthcare professionals.

He directed that the application should be further strengthened by enriching its knowledge repository with additional academic resources, digital library content and medical courses for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students, thereby transforming it into a robust learning and knowledge-sharing platform alongside its healthcare service delivery functions.

The Chief Secretary further instructed the department to undertake a comprehensive assessment of operational bottlenecks affecting implementation of various digital health initiatives and resolve them in close coordination with all stakeholders, including healthcare institutions, technical agencies and implementing partners, so as to ensure seamless delivery of services and achievement of the Mission objectives within the prescribed timelines.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M.Rajuremarked that Jammu and Kashmir has made significant strides in implementing the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and has emerged as one of the leading performers in the country.

He apprised that the Union Territory was recently conferred the National Award by the Health Authority for achieving the highest Health Record Linking per lakh population among medium-sized States and Union Territories. Earlier this year, J&K was also recognised for its best-performing model healthcare facilities under the Mission.



DC Srinagar, SSP review intensified anti-drugs enforcement measures in district

Srinagar cracks down on drugs; 238 held, Rs 103 crore assets attached

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR JULY 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday chaired a comprehensive meeting of the District-Level NCORD Committee here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office to review the progress of the intensified anti-drug enforcement drive launched under the 100-Day Jammu & Kashmir Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in the District.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. Sundeep Chakravarthy, also attended the meeting, which assessed the impact of coordinated enforcement measures against drug trafficking and substance abuse.

The meeting was attended by Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Qazi Irfan, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi-Din, DSWO, Moham-



mad Yousuf and Officers from Excise, Drug Control Organisation, DYS&S, heads of ATFs and Officers of other concerned departments.

At the outset, the meeting undertook a comprehensive assessment of the District's anti-drug strategy, focusing on enforcement measures, preventive interventions, rehabilitation measures and the outcomes of

the recently concluded 100-day Jammu and Kashmir Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

During the meeting, it was informed that the intensified enforcement operations, coupled with coordinated efforts by the Police, Civil Administration, and other stakeholder departments, have yielded significant outcomes across

Srinagar district.

The multi-pronged action has focused on dismantling drug trafficking networks, disrupting the financial ecosystem supporting illicit activities, and ensuring strict legal action against those involved in the illegal trade of narcotics.

The NCORD Committee was informed that the ongoing crackdown

has resulted in the registration of 169 FIRs and the arrest of 238 alleged drug peddlers. In addition, illegal movable and immovable properties worth about Rs 103 crore linked to drug traffickers have been attached, while 89 bank accounts have been frozen as part of financial investigations.

The Committee was further informed that 101 driving licences, 59 vehicle registration certificates (RCs) and 70 chemist licences have been suspended for violations related to narcotics. The enforcement agencies also reviewed action taken to dismantle drug supply networks through coordinated legal, financial and administrative measures.

Further more, authorities have recommended suspension of passport and Aadhaar numbers of various accused under relevant laws.

Reviewing the progress of the campaign, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP appreciated the coordinated efforts of the Civil Administration, Police and allied Departments and stressed the need for sustained, intelligence-driven en-

forcement to eliminate the drug menace and ensure lasting outcomes under the ongoing campaign.

On the occasion, the DC directed all concerned departments to further strengthen inter-departmental coordination and intensify action against drug peddlers and trafficking networks to ensure a drug-free and safer environment in the District. He emphasized renewed focus and coordinated efforts to curb drug abuse and dismantle the ecosystem supporting narcotics trafficking in Srinagar District.

The DC further stressed the importance of a multi-pronged strategy combining strict law enforcement with awareness generation, counselling and rehabilitation measures to effectively tackle the menace of drug abuse, particularly among youth.

The SSP reiterated the commitment of the Police in collaboration with civil authorities towards sustained action against narcotics-related activities and called for active support from the public in identifying and reporting drug-related offences.

Joint Rescue Operation Ends in Tragedy as Handwara Boy Found Dead

12-Year-Old Boy Drowns While Bathing in Handwara Pond

HT NEWS NETWORK

HANDWARA, JULY 27: A wave of grief swept through Bomdagar village in the Magam area of Handwara after a 12-year-old boy lost his life in a tragic drowning incident while bathing in a local pond on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Aayan Tantary, son of Abdul Qayoom Tantary, a resident of Magam Bomdagar.

According to officials and eyewitnesses, the minor had gone to the pond to bathe when he accidentally slipped into deep water and drowned.



Soon after the incident was reported, a massive rescue operation was launched involving the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) Unit Kupwara, Handwara Police led by SDPO Handwara Faisal Rouf, Tehsildar Handwara Zeeshan Khan, personnel of Handwara and Kupwara Police, the Indian Army, and local volunteers.

Rescue teams carried out an intensive search operation for several hours before successfully retrieving the body from the pond. The body was shifted for completion of legal and medico-legal formalities and was later handed over to the bereaved family for the last rites.

The tragic incident has left the entire village in mourning, with hundreds of residents gathering to offer condolences to the family. Locals described Aayan as a cheerful and innocent child whose untimely demise has deeply shocked the community. Meanwhile, former DDC Chairman Kupwara Irfan Sultan Pandithpori and MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshid expressed profound grief over the incident and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Both prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear the irreparable loss.

The incident has once again highlighted the risks associated with bathing in unattended ponds, rivers, and other water bodies, particularly during the prevailing heatwave. The district administration has repeatedly appealed to parents and the general public to discourage children from entering unsafe water bodies and to strictly adhere to safety advisories issued by the authorities. As temperatures continue to soar across Kashmir, officials have urged citizens to remain vigilant and ensure proper supervision of children to prevent such heartbreaking tragedies in the future.

KU begins workshop on rehabilitation of alpine grasslands in the Western Himalaya

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR JULY 27: The Centre for Biodiversity & Taxonomy, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir (KU), commenced a three-day workshop on 'Rehabilitating Alpine Grasslands of the Western Himalaya: Connecting Science, Policy and Communities' at the Main Campus.

The workshop is being organised in collaboration with the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, University of Ladakh and HNB Garhwal University. It is sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS).

The workshop aims to facilitate discussions on the conservation and restoration of alpine grasslands in the Western Himalaya by bringing together scientists, policymakers, forest managers and local stakeholders. It seeks to promote evidence-based strategies for biodiversity conservation, sustainable ecosystem management and community participation in the restoration of fragile mountain landscapes.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that the conservation of Himalayan ecosystems requires sustained collaboration between academic institutions, government agencies and local communities.

"Universities have an important role in generating scientific knowledge that supports informed environmental policies and sustainable



resource management. Collaborative initiatives strengthen research and encourage practical solutions to ecological challenges," she said.

Mr. Tawheed Ahmad Deva (IFS), Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, highlighted the importance of protecting alpine ecosystems in view of increasing environmental pressures and emphasised that community involvement is essential for the long-term conservation of Himalayan biodiversity.

Dean Research KU, Prof. Bashir Ahmad Ganaie, and Head, Department of Botany, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Wani, in their remarks, noted the importance of interdisciplinary research in addressing ecological challenges.

Earlier, Prof. Anzar Ahmad Khuroo, Organising Secretary of the workshop, in his welcome address,

said the workshop has been designed to facilitate discussions on the ecological significance of alpine grasslands, emerging conservation challenges and practical approaches to their rehabilitation through scientific research and stakeholder engagement.

The three-day workshop features expert lectures, training sessions, technical presentations, interactive discussions and field-oriented deliberations on biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration and sustainable management of alpine grasslands in the Western Himalaya.

The proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Prof. Anzar Ahmad Khuroo, while the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Aijaz Hassan Ganie, Co-Principal Investigator and faculty member, Dept of Botany, North Campus KU.

90 BN CRPF Marks 88th Raising Day with Patriotic Zeal at Bijbehara

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JULY 27: The 90 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated the 88th Raising Day of the CRPF with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at its Battalion Headquarters in Uranhall, Bijbehara, on Monday.

The event was graced by Shri Ashish Bharti, IPS, Deputy Inspector General (Operations), CRPF, Range Anantnag, as the Chief Guest. He was received by Shri Kamendra Pratap Singh, Commandant, 90 Battalion CRPF.

The celebrations commenced with the laying of a wreath and floral tributes to the brave martyrs who laid down their lives in the service of the nation. This was followed by a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Quarter Guard, which was received by the Chief Guest, who also inspected the contingent. Addressing officers and personnel on the occasion, DIG Ashish Bharti congratulated all ranks and lauded the force for its unwavering dedication, courage, and professionalism in safeguarding the nation's security and maintaining peace. He urged personnel to continue serving the country with commitment, discipline, and integrity while upholding the proud traditions of the CRPF.

Commandant Shri Kamendra Pratap Singh also extended his heartfelt greetings to all officers and jawans, acknowledging their tireless efforts, dedication, and sacrifices in the discharge of their duties. He reaffirmed the battalion's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of operational excellence and public service.

The programme concluded with renewed enthusiasm and a collective pledge by all ranks to continue serving the nation with courage, dedication, and professionalism while preserving the rich legacy and core values of the Central Reserve Police Force.

SKUAST-K, IIM Calcutta Innovation Park host 'Spark Social' to ignite social entrepreneurship in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, through its Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIIE), joined hands with the IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP) to organise 'Spark Social', a high-impact outreach seminar under the 14th Tata Social Enterprise Challenge (TSEC) 2026.

The event, held at SKUAST-K Shalimar campus, aimed to inspire and guide students, researchers, and early-stage innovators towards building scalable, impact-



driven social enterprises.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the chief guest at the occasion, emphasised that innovation and entrepreneurship are now essential pillars of higher education. He called on young innovators to leverage their creative potential to address real-world

societal problems while driving socio-economic growth across Jammu & Kashmir. He reaffirmed the university's dedication to supporting startups through robust incubation, expert mentorship, and strategic industry linkages.

During the event, Assistant Vice President of Incubation at

IIMCIP, Soujit Das, delivered a detailed overview of the Tata Social Enterprise Challenge—India's premier platform for social impact ventures. He briefed participants about the application process, detailing available incubation support, mentorship, investor connections, and funding channels.

The seminar also featured insightful technical sessions, including a presentation on sustainable, impact-led business models by Social Entrepreneur and CEO of Pietbillo Solutions Pvt Ltd, Dr. Shuvendu Prasad Roy.

Earlier, CEO, SKIIE, Naveed Hamid, while delivering the

welcome address, underscored SKUAST-K's vision of nurturing an innovation-driven ecosystem to transform young minds from job seekers into job creators.

The event capped off with an interactive Pitching Session, where aspiring entrepreneurs presented their business ideas directly to an expert panel from IIMCIP and SKIIE, receiving hands-on feedback and mentorship to refine their business concepts. The enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and local founders reaffirmed SKUAST-K's growing status as a powerhouse for youth-led social innovation.

Javid Dar chairs 45th AGM of JKHPMC; reviews Corporation's performance, future roadmap

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired the 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce, Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) at the Civil Secretariat, here.

The Annual General Meeting unanimously adopted the audited accounts of the Corporation for the financial years 2019-20 to 2023-24.

Addressing the meeting, the Minister underscored the pivotal role of JKHPMC in strengthening the horticulture value chain and creating better marketing opportunities for the growers. He directed the Managing Director to institutionalize biannual review meetings to regularly assess the Corporation's performance, monitor implementation of decisions and formulate a forward-looking strategy for sustainable growth.

Javid Dar stressed the need to identify new areas of expansion and innovation in agricultural marketing, processing and value addition so that the farmers receive better returns for their produce. He called upon the Corporation to adopt a result-oriented approach and



align its activities with the evolving needs of the farming community.

The Minister directed the officers to undertake a comprehensive assessment of all Corporation assets and ensure their proper maintenance, effective monitoring and optimum

utilisation. He said that efficient asset management and timely execution of development projects would significantly enhance the Corporation's operational capacity and financial sustainability.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to the

holistic development of the agriculture and horticulture sectors, the Minister said that JKHPMC has a vital role in promoting post-harvest management, value addition, market linkages and processing infrastructure. This would immensely contribute towards

higher farm incomes and sustainable rural economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Managing Director, JKHPMC, Mohammad Farooq Dar; Shareholders of the Corporation; members of the Board of Directors and senior officers of JKHPMC.

Earlier, the Managing Director made a detailed presentation highlighting the Corporation's performance, achievements, financial position and key initiatives undertaken during the review meeting.

He also apprised the meeting of the status of statutory audits, progress made in clearing the backlog of audited accounts and the roadmap for completing the remaining audit process within the stipulated timeline.

The meeting held comprehensive deliberations on a wide range of issues, including the Corporation's financial management, operational performance, implementation of projects under CAPEX and NABARD, infrastructure development, marketing initiatives and strategies to strengthen the Corporation's role in supporting the horticulture sector across Jammu and Kashmir.

Preparations for Independence Day Celebrations 2026 reviewed at Sumbal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JULY 27: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, on Monday chaired a meeting of officers to review preparations for the smooth and successful celebration of the forthcoming Independence Day 2026 across the Sub-Division.

The meeting held a comprehensive review of the arrangements to be put in place for the national event. Detailed discussions were held regarding the venue, seating arrangements, invitation of dignitaries,

flag hoisting ceremony, participation of contingents, band performances, cultural programmes, illumination of government buildings, medical facilities, fire and emergency services, floral decorations, sanitation, drinking water supply, Electricity supply and transportation facilities.



The SDM directed the concerned departments to ensure that all arrangements are completed well in advance and in a coordinated manner. He stressed the importance of maintaining the dignity and solemnity of the national celebrations while ensuring the convenience and safety of participants and the general public.

Regarding cultural programmes, the SDM instructed the concerned committee to closely monitor rehearsals and ensure quality performances reflecting the spirit of patriotism and national integration.

He also directed the Education Department and other concerned agencies to introduce more students in contingents, bands and cultural items so as to encourage wider participation of youth in the celebrations.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for parade contingents and directed the concerned departments to ensure timely rehearsals and proper coordination among all participating teams.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildar Sumbal, Syed Shabbar Sarwar; Block Development Officers, Executive Engineers, officers of various line departments, who briefed the chair regarding the status of preparations and assured timely completion of all assigned responsibilities.

DC Ganderbal chairs District Level NCORD Committee Meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JULY 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to review the district's efforts towards curbing drug abuse and strengthening enforcement, treatment, rehabilitation and awareness measures under the ongoing Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the actions taken by various departments in tackling substance abuse was held, with focus on enforcement, rehabilitation, awareness generation, treatment facilities and inter-departmental coordination.

Reviewing the enforcement measures, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Police, Excise and Drug Control Departments to intensify enforcement against drug peddlers and persons involved in narcotics-related offences. He instructed the Police Department to increase crackdowns on drug trafficking networks and strengthen surveillance to dismantle the supply chain of narcotic substances across the district.

The DC also directed the Drug Control Department to undertake extensive inspections of medical shops and ensure strict monitoring of the sale of psychotropic medicines. He instructed the department to take stringent action against any violation of the prescribed norms and continue regular sampling and inspection drives to prevent misuse of pharmaceutical drugs.

Reviewing the healthcare response, the DC directed the Health Department to strengthen the In-Patient Department (IPD) facility at the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), District Hospital Ganderbal to ensure uninterrupted treatment and care for individuals undergoing de-addiction. He further instructed the department to strengthen follow-up mechanisms through regular counselling and monitoring of recovering patients to facilitate their complete rehabilitation and minimise relapse. Emphasising the importance of rehabilitation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Assistant Director Employment to identify rehabilitated and recovering youth and facilitate their rehabilitation through Mission YUVA by connecting them with suitable skill development, employment.

PM SHRI GBHSS Humhama organizes Drug De-Addiction Awareness Programme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: PM SHRI Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Humhama, Budgam organized a Drug De-Addiction Awareness Programme under the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan to create awareness among students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The programme was graced by Bashir Ahmed Ganie, Chief Education Officer, Budgam, as the Chief Guest. In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized the vital role of educational institutions in protecting the younger generation from the menace of drug addiction. He urged students to stay away from drugs, remain focused on their studies, and become responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.

A special highlight of the programme was an insightful lecture by senior lecturer and Nodal Officer, 100 Days Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhi-



yan, Dr. Samreen Qureshi, who delivered an impressive and thought-provoking session on the objectives and significance of the campaign. She sensitized students about the harmful physical, psychological, and social consequences of substance

abuse and inspired them to adopt a healthy, disciplined, and drug-free lifestyle.

The programme also featured awareness speeches and student presentations conveying the powerful message, "Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Life."

The programme concluded with the administration of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Pledge, reaffirming the commitment of all participants to contribute towards building a drug-free society and strengthening the vision of a Nasha Mukti Bharat.

Meanwhile, another significant highlight of the event was the felicitation of Milad Yousuf, a NEET 2026 qualifier and an alumnus of PM SHRI Government Boys Higher Secondary School Humhama. The Chief Guest congratulated him on his outstanding achievement and presented him with a memento as a token of appreciation. His remarkable success was applauded by all present and served as a source of inspiration for the students.

Free health check-up and screening camp organised in Doda villages

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JULY 27: A free health check-up-cum-screening camp was organised under the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) initiative at villages Sharni and Panchayee in Medical Block Thathri, District Doda today.

Organised under the supervision of Block Medical Officer

Thathri Dr Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo, the camp aimed to bring quality healthcare services to the doorsteps of the rural population, facilitate early detection of diseases and promote awareness of preventive healthcare.

A comprehensive range of services, including general health check-ups, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) screening, labo-



ratory investigations and medical consultations, was provided to the people of the area. More than 140 patients availed the free services.

The medical team was led by Dr Mansoor Ganai and assisted by the local health staff along with the MMU team from the CMO Office, Doda.

The health team distributed

free medicines and provided counselling on healthy lifestyle practices, disease prevention and the importance of regular health check-ups.

Local residents appreciated the Health Department for organising the camp and bringing essential services closer to the community, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

Copper Wires of AC Units Stolen from Five Shops at Dogra Chowk, Traders Panic

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 27: Unidentified thieves targeted five shops at Dogra Chowk in Jammu during the night and stole copper wires and pipes of air conditioner units installed outside the establishments, triggering panic among local traders.

The incident came to light when shopkeepers arrived to open their shops in the morning and found that the AC components had been removed. The affected traders suffered financial losses due to the theft.

The spot where the theft took place is located close to

the Press Club, a police naka and a police station, raising concerns among shopkeepers over security arrangements in the area. Traders said this was the fourth such theft incident reported in the locality in the past four months, with thieves repeatedly targeting copper wires of AC units.

This time, five shops were targeted in a single night. Shopkeepers said repairing a damaged AC unit costs around Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000, causing additional financial burden on small traders.

Expressing concern over the repeated incidents, local busi-

nessmen urged police authorities to increase night patrolling in the area and ensure early identification and arrest of those involved through CCTV footage.

Police have started an investigation into the matter and are examining available evidence to trace the culprits.

I want to ask Mehbooba Ji one question. How do you justify the statement you made in Delhi, where you compared the protesters there with the people and youth of Kashmir? Have you forgotten what the people of Kashmir have gone through? Do you

remember 2016, when pellet guns were used? The young men and women who were protesting then, were they carrying guns? Were they armed? Were they trying to kill anyone? They were civilians, yet many lost their eyesight and many lives were permanently changed. How could you say that what happened in Delhi is something you were seeing for the first time, while in Kashmir you had seen such scenes because there was militancy? What exactly are you calling militancy? Are you trying to label every protest and every young person as a militant? How

many faces does your politics have? I know Waheed Para Ji and other PDP leaders will come forward to defend your statement. But people no longer want justifications. They have already seen the real face of your politics. They know what happened during your government and how the people of Kashmir were treated. The political situation we see today, including the rise of the BJP and other parties in Jammu and Kashmir, is also a result of the politics practised by traditional ruling parties. Dynastic politics has failed the people. If it had been your own

brother, your own son or your own daughter who had suffered in Kashmir, if they had lost their eyesight because of pellet guns you would have understood the pain of ordinary Kashmiris. But your children had the opportunity to study abroad, in prestigious foreign universities. They did not have to go through what the children of poor families in Kashmir went through. How would you know the pain of a poor father whose son was blinded? How would you know the suffering of a poor mother whose daughter lost her eyesight? How would you understand the lifelong

trauma of those families whose children became victims of pellet guns? These are not just political issues.

They are painful memories that thousands of Kashmiri families continue to live with every single day. I am truly astonished by politicians like you. I am astonished by leaders who speak with such double standards. And I am equally surprised by those who continue to defend and support you, no matter what. A leader should stand by truth and the people, not change colours whenever it suits their political interests.



Ghulam Qadir 'Shad': The Poet Who Wove Harmony Through His Words

A Life Dedicated to Literature and Interfaith Brotherhood

■ **BISMA ASHRAF LONE**
HT CULTURAL DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: In the quiet hamlet Dardpora near the historical town of Kreeri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district lives a man whose poetry has become a symbol of peace, mutual respect and communal harmony. At a time when divisions often dominate public discourse, Ghulam Qadir Hajam, affectionately known by his pen name "Shad", continues to inspire people through verses that celebrate humanity above all else.

For more than five decades, the retired educator has used poetry not merely as an artistic expression but as a means to build bridges between communities. His writings reflect the timeless ideals of compassion, tolerance and coexistence that have long defined Kashmir's cultural ethos.

Among his most acclaimed works is the Urdu poem "Us Hasti Ka Nanak Naam Logo," a heartfelt tribute to Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of

Sikhism. The poem beautifully captures Guru Nanak's teachings of equality, humility and selfless service while narrating the historic episode of Sacha Sauda, which laid the foundation of the Sikh tradition of langar—the community kitchen where everyone is served without discrimination.

For many in the Sikh community of Dardpora Kreeri, the poem represents much more than literary excellence. It is seen as a sincere expression of interfaith respect from a Muslim poet who chose to honour a spiritual leader belonging to another faith.

Local Sikh residents have often expressed their admiration for Shad's work, describing it as a reflection of the true spirit of Guru Nanak and a powerful reminder that faith should unite rather than divide.

The poet's admiration for Sikh traditions deepened after the devastating floods that struck Kashmir in September 2014. During the humanitarian crisis, Sikh organisations and volunteers from Punjab and Delhi established com-



munity kitchens across the Valley, providing food and relief to thousands of flood victims irrespective of religion or social background. The selfless service left an indelible impression on Shad and further strengthened his belief in humanity's shared values.

Born on October 10, 1948, Ghulam Qadir Shad devoted 42 years of his life to the Education Department. After completing his Bachelor of Education from Government B.Ed College Srinagar and earning an Honours degree in Kashmiri from the University of Kashmir, he embarked on

a teaching career that eventually saw him rise from teacher to master and later to confirmed headmaster.

He retired in 2006 from High School Wailo, Pattan, leaving behind a distinguished record of dedication, discipline and academic excellence.

His outstanding contribution to education earned him the Best District Teacher Award. He also qualified for a prestigious State Award in 1996. However, due to technical attendance-related issues, the award could not be formally conferred upon him—a missed recognition that many believe

deserves correction even today. Teaching, Shad says, shaped both his personality and literary vision. The classroom taught him patience, humility and the importance of choosing words carefully—qualities that later became defining features of his poetry.

Following retirement, he devoted himself entirely to literature. His creative works span ghazals, nazms, hamd, naat, short stories, stage plays and humorous writings. Over the decades, his literary voice has reached audiences through Radio Kashmir, Doordarshan and several national broadcasting platforms, where he has been a familiar figure since the early 1980s.

An active member of the Kruhen Cultural Forum, Kreeri, since the 1970s, Shad has consistently contributed to the promotion of literature and cultural activities across the region. He has organised numerous literary gatherings and mushairas while also serving on the Information Department's panel of artists.

His commitment to com-

munal harmony extends beyond poetry. Every year on the occasion of Baisakhi, he sends greetings and messages of goodwill to the local Gurdwara, reaffirming his belief that mutual respect among faiths strengthens the social fabric.

"I honour the Sikh faith from the core of my heart," he says—a simple statement that reflects the philosophy underpinning much of his literary work.

Another defining chapter of his life came in 2007, when he performed Hajj, an experience he describes as spiritually transformative and one that deepened his commitment to humility, compassion and public service.

Even at 87 years of age, Shad continues to astonish those around him with his extraordinary memory and intellectual sharpness. Friends, former colleagues and students often marvel at his ability to explain complex concepts in science and mathematics with remarkable clarity, reflecting the enduring passion of a lifelong

teacher.

Today, his life stands as a testament to the enduring power of education, literature and dialogue. In an era increasingly marked by polarisation, Ghulam Qadir "Shad" Hajam represents the quieter yet more enduring tradition of Kashmir—one where poetry nurtures understanding, faith inspires compassion and culture becomes a bridge between communities.

His verses may celebrate Guru Nanak, but their message transcends religion. They remind readers that humanity flourishes where respect replaces prejudice and where words become instruments of peace.

For the people of Dardpora in particular and that of Alaqa Kreeri and countless admirers beyond, Ghulam Qadir "Shad" Hajam remains not only an accomplished poet and respected educator but also a living symbol of Kashmir's inclusive cultural legacy—a legacy that continues to inspire hope, harmony and shared humanity.

Feroz Cultural Forum Stages Acclaimed Skit 'Hawa Nawa' at Chinar Book Festival

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

SRINAGAR, JULY 28: Feroz Cultural Forum, Bandipora-Chadoora, Budgam, presented its acclaimed skit "Hawa Nawa" at the ongoing Chinar



Book Festival being held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The skit captivated the audience with its compelling theme and impressive stage presentation. The performance was warmly received, with the audience applauding the artists for their realistic acting and powerful portrayal of the characters.

Written and directed by noted theatre artist Rafiq Ahmad Dar, the production highlighted the Forum's continued commitment to promoting theatre and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

The cast included Rafiq Ahmad Dar, Shabir Ahmad Yatoo, Nisar Ahmad Rather, Gulzar Nazki, Farooq Ahmad Magray and Mohd. Shafi Dar, all of whom were widely appreciated for their remarkable performances. The costume design for the production was managed by Manzoor Ahmad Dar.

Speaking on the occasion, Shabir Ahmad Yatoo (Shahid Shabir), President of Feroz Cultural Forum, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the organizers of the Chinar Book Festival for providing an excellent platform to local theatre groups. They also congratulated the writer, director and the entire team of artists for the successful staging of the skit and appreciated their dedication towards the promotion of Kashmiri theatre and culture.

The Forum reaffirmed its commitment to presenting meaningful theatrical productions that reflect contemporary social concerns while strengthening the region's vibrant cultural and literary traditions.

Govt approves Rs 16.36 crore for Jamia Masjid, Chaumanda Mandir restoration

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has approved two major heritage conservation projects worth Rs. 16.36 crore for the restoration of the historic Jamia Masjid Sharief in Shopian and the Sarvadhara Chaumanda Mata Mandir in Ramban.

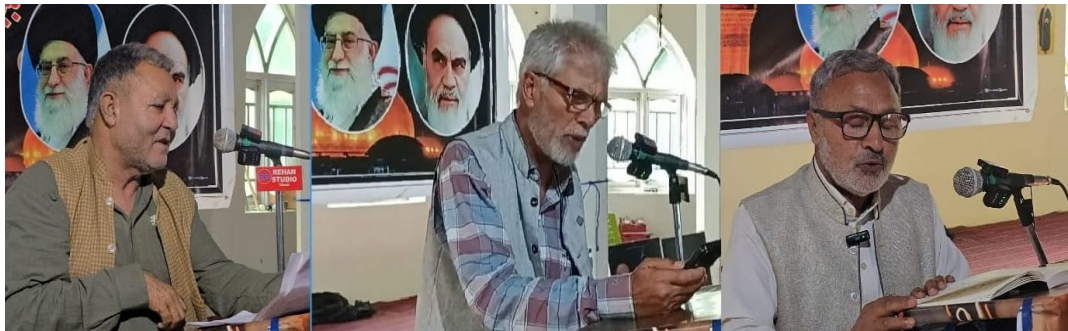
The Government has sanctioned Rs. 6.05 crore for the restoration of Jamia Masjid Sharief to preserve its architectural character and cultural heritage. It has also approved Rs. 10.31 crore for the restoration of the Sarvadhara Chaumanda Mata Mandir, aimed at conserving its historic, religious and architectural significance.

Grand Hussaini Mushaira Held at Imam Bargah Zainabia Haygam Sopore

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

SOPORE, JULY 27: A grand Hussaini Mushaira was organised at Imam Bargah Zainabia Hygam, Sopore under the auspices of the Master G.M. Mir Memorial Foundation drawing a large gathering of scholars, literary personalities, poets, writers, and devotees.

The literary event was presided over by noted writer and poet Fayaz Tilgami while Syed Abbas Johar and Syed Abbas Rizvi graced the presidential panel. More than two dozen prominent poets from different parts of the Valley participated in the Mushaira and presented



heartfelt poetic tributes to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala. Through their moving verses, the poets highlighted various dimensions of the historic tragedy of Karbala, emphasizing the timeless values of truth, justice, sacrifice,

courage, and unwavering faith demonstrated by Imam Hussain (AS) and his devoted companions. Addressing the gathering, the speakers described the Battle of Karbala as an eternal symbol of humanity's struggle against oppression and injustice.

They said that the unparalleled sacrifices of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions continue to inspire people across generations to uphold righteousness, patience, compassion, and moral integrity. The speakers stressed that introducing the

younger generation to the universal message of Karbala is essential for promoting justice, equality, human dignity, peaceful coexistence, and ethical values in society. They observed that the ideals of Karbala remain as relevant today as ever and serve as a guiding light for humanity.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the organisers, who reaffirmed their commitment to organising similar literary and cultural events in the future to preserve and promote the enduring legacy and teachings of Imam Hussain (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala.

4.22 lakh pilgrims complete Amarnath Yatra; Pahalgam track under repair

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: The annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has crossed the significant milestone of 4.22 lakh pilgrims performing darshan, with the Baltal route currently operational while repair work continues on the Pahalgam track, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg said on Monday.

Speaking to reporters, Garg said the pilgrimage is being conducted strictly in accordance with the detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. He stressed that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) weather advisories and the condition of the pilgrimage tracks remain the primary factors in deciding the movement of yatris.

He said that adverse weather conditions over the past few days had necessitated the temporary suspension of the yatra. Following a detailed reconnaissance of the routes, authorities found that certain stretches of the Pahalgam route required repair and restoration work, which is currently being undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

The Divisional Commissioner informed that the Baltal route remains fully op-



erational, and pilgrims are continuing their journey through that route without interruption.

Highlighting the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage, Garg said that over the last two days the yatra has progressed without any major difficulties. "As of 1 pm today, around 4.22 lakh pilgrims have performed darshan at the holy cave shrine," he said.

He further stated that Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs), health teams, sanitation staff, camp commanders, and the district administration are maintaining round-the-clock supervision and coordination to ensure the safety, convenience, and smooth movement of pilgrims throughout the yatra. The administration, he added, continues to closely monitor weather conditions and track status to facilitate the safe and successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage. (KNC)

MeT Predicts Heavy Rain, Flash Flood Risk In J&K From July 28-31

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

SRINAGAR, JUL 27: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast a fresh spell of rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir from July 28, with possibility of heavy to very heavy rain and flash floods in vulnerable areas.

An official of MeT said that on July 27, a spell of rain/thundershower at many places towards late afternoon till evening, with improvement thereafter.

From July 28-31 in Kashmir Division, few spells of light to moderate rain/thundershower at most places, with possibility of brief intense heavy showers in a few districts, generally during early morning and late afternoon/evening hours.

In Jammu Division, few spells of light to moderate rain/thundershower at most places. Heavy rain, torrential rain and brief intense heavy showers are likely at a few districts, with heavy to very heavy rain expected over Udhampur and adjoining areas during late night/morning and afternoon/evening hours. Peak activity is expected during July 30-31.

From Aug 1-2, one or two spells of rain/thundershower at many places with brief intense showers.

From Aug 3-4, One or two spells of



rain/thundershower at many places, with possibility of heavy rain, brief intense heavy showers and torrential rain over a few districts of Jammu Division. The MeT has warned of heavy rain and brief intense heavy showers at a few districts of Jammu Division during July 28-31.

"Torrential rain/brief intense heavy showers may generate flash floods, landslides and mudslides at many vulnerable places during July 28-31" the advisory said. Peak activity with heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely over Udhampur and adjoining areas on July 30. Jammu Business Directory The department has advised the general public, tourists, travellers and transporters to follow advisories issued by the administration and avoid vulnerable areas. (GNS)

DMRR&R frames five-pronged roadmap for strengthening Disaster Management across J&K

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: Chief Secretary, Atal Dooloo, today assessed the progress achieved by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR) on the implementation of its comprehensive five-pronged roadmap for strengthening the disaster management framework across the districts of J&K.

The meeting besides ACSPWD; Principal Secretary, Home; and Commandant, SDRF was attend-

ed by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Divisional Commissioners; Secretary, RDD; Commissioner, JMC/SMC; Director, IMD; Chief Engineer, I&FC; Representatives from BRO, NHAI, NHIDCL and other concerned officers. Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary conducted a comprehensive review of the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken during the previous review meetings and assessed the progress achieved by various depart-

ments in implementing key disaster risk reduction initiatives.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that investments made in disaster risk reduction today would significantly reduce future economic losses, safeguard critical infrastructure and save precious human lives. He called upon all departments to adopt a whole-of-government approach in implementing the roadmap and work to build a safer, more resilient and disaster-ready Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasising the urgent need for strengthening disaster resilience

in Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary observed that the Union Territory remains highly vulnerable to a wide spectrum of natural hazards including earthquakes, floods, landslides, cloudbursts, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), avalanches and forest fires. He said that our strategic geographical location demands a proactive, scientific and future-oriented disaster management framework capable of reducing risks before disasters occur.

While speaking the Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker

Bharti stated that substantial progress has been made on several priority initiatives, including formulation of Standard Operating Procedures under the Disaster Management Act, preparation of Detailed Project Reports for landslide mitigation measures in vulnerable districts.

Additionally he revealed that a Memorandum of Understanding is being finalised with the Geological Survey of India for establishment of a comprehensive landslide forecasting system across Jammu and Kashmir.



HT EDITORIAL

Beyond Roads, Beyond Promises : Securing Kashmir's Lifeline

For the people of Jammu and Kashmir, National Highway-44 is far more than a ribbon of asphalt winding through the mountains. It is the Valley's lifeline—the only dependable road artery that keeps the region connected with the rest of the country. Every truck carrying food, fuel, medicines and essential supplies, every vehicle transporting apple growers' produce to markets, every student, patient, trader and traveller depends on this highway. When it remains open, life moves normally. When it closes, the Valley feels the consequences almost immediately.

The latest landslide that once again blocked traffic and stranded nearly 1,700 trucks serves as a stark reminder that despite years of investment and engineering advancements, this vital corridor remains vulnerable to the forces of nature. The recent spell of relentless rainfall, cloudbursts and landslides across the mountainous terrain has once again exposed the fragility of Kashmir's only road lifeline. Such disruptions are no longer isolated incidents but recurring challenges that demand long-term solutions rather than temporary relief measures.

Against this backdrop, the inauguration of the Ramscoo Viaduct and the AT-03 Tunnel deserves appreciation. These projects are important additions to the ongoing effort to make National Highway-44 safer, faster and more resilient. By bypassing one of the most landslide-prone stretches of the highway, they significantly reduce risk, improve traffic movement and enhance the reliability of this critical transport corridor.

The Government deserves credit for pursuing infrastructure development with renewed determination. Over the past few years, several tunnels, bridges, viaducts and road improvement projects have transformed sections of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway that were once notorious for accidents and frequent closures. These engineering achievements reflect a clear commitment to modernising infrastructure in one of the world's most challenging mountain regions.

Constructing roads through the fragile Himalayas is no ordinary engineering exercise. Every tunnel excavated, every bridge erected and every slope stabilised requires advanced technology, careful geological assessment and uncompromising safety standards. Delays are often unavoidable in such terrain, where unpredictable weather and unstable mountain formations frequently alter construction plans. While timely completion should always remain the objective, building durable infrastructure that will serve generations is ultimately far more important than meeting arbitrary deadlines.

Yet, while these achievements deserve recognition, they should not create a false sense of satisfaction. The latest landslide is proof that much remains to be done. Large stretches of National Highway-44 continue to remain susceptible to landslides, sinking zones, flash floods and shooting stones. Climate change has further intensified extreme weather events, making the challenge even greater than before.

The Government's vision must therefore move beyond isolated projects towards creating a fully resilient transport corridor. Every vulnerable stretch should be scientifically assessed and permanently secured through modern slope stabilisation techniques, improved drainage systems, protective galleries, retaining structures and continuous geological monitoring. Maintenance must receive the same priority as construction, because even the finest infrastructure deteriorates without regular upkeep.

A reliable National Highway is not simply an infrastructure asset; it is the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy. It supports horticulture, tourism, trade, healthcare, education and countless businesses that depend upon uninterrupted connectivity. Every prolonged closure results in delayed supplies, rising transportation costs, financial losses and avoidable hardship for ordinary citizens.

The recent weather-related disruptions should therefore be viewed not merely as natural calamities but as urgent reminders of the work that still lies ahead. Every landslide that halts traffic underscores the need to accelerate the completion of remaining tunnel projects, strengthen vulnerable slopes and adopt engineering solutions capable of withstanding increasingly severe weather conditions.

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Nature in Mourning:
The Cost of Our Silence



■ SHAHID QADRI

There was a time when the arrival of rain was greeted with prayers, gratitude and celebration. Today, the same rain can arrive like an uninvited catastrophe—washing away homes, livelihoods, dreams and, sometimes, entire families. Forests that once echoed with birdsong now crackle beneath raging flames. Rivers that nourished generations suddenly become torrents of destruction. Summers grow harsher, winters increasingly unpredictable, and seasons that once followed nature's rhythm seem to have lost their way.

The Earth is speaking to us—not in whispers, but through storms, wildfires, floods, cloudbursts and scorching heat.

The question is: Are we listening? Climate change is no longer a distant scientific warning meant for some uncertain future. It has entered our homes, farms, markets, hospitals and daily lives. Every cloudburst that buries a village, every wildfire that blackens a mountainside, every heatwave that claims innocent lives, and every flood that leaves behind tears instead of harvests is a reminder that nature is demanding accountability.

Yet, after every disaster, we instinctively search for someone to blame. We blame the rain for flooding our cities, the rivers for overflowing, the forests for burning and, sometimes, fate for our suffering. Rarely do we stop and ask a more uncomfortable question: Have we ourselves helped create the conditions for this destruction?

For decades, forests have been sacrificed in the name of unchecked

development. Wetlands have disappeared beneath concrete. Rivers have been narrowed, mountains recklessly excavated, natural drainage systems obstructed, and urban planning too often divorced from environmental realities.

Economic growth is essential. Development is necessary. But development that destroys the ecosystems upon which life itself depends cannot truly be called progress.

It is merely borrowing comfort from the future and leaving the next generation to repay the debt.

And at the heart of this crisis lies governance.

Climate resilience cannot be built through speeches delivered after disasters, nor through compensation announced after lives have already been lost. Good governance means anticipating danger before it becomes tragedy. It means planning before the flood, strengthening infrastructure before the storm, protecting forests before the fire and establishing warning systems before the skies turn violent.

We need scientific urban planning, rigorous environmental scrutiny, strict enforcement of environmental laws, transparent decision-making and sustained investment in resilient infrastructure. Early warning systems, sustainable water management, forest conservation, watershed protection and climate-smart agriculture are no longer optional policy choices. They are necessities for survival. Public policy must rise above paperwork and political cycles. It must become people-centric, science-driven and future-oriented.

Every major infrastructure project should be subjected to meaningful environmental scrutiny. Every district should have credible disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. Schools should teach children not merely about climate change, but about their relationship with the natural world. Communities should be empowered to participate in local environmental protection.

Most importantly, citizens must understand that environmental protection is not somebody else's responsibility. It is a shared civic duty.

Governments, however, cannot win this battle alone. Industries must embrace cleaner technologies and responsible production. Businesses must understand that sustainability is not merely a corporate slogan but an economic imperative. Educational institutions must cultivate environmentally conscious citizens. Religious leaders, community organisations, media and civil society can play an enormous role in transforming public behaviour.

And ordinary citizens, too, have a role. A tree planted and protected. A plastic bag refused. A drop of water conserved. A wasteful habit abandoned. An unnecessary emission avoided. These may appear like small acts. But history is often shaped by millions of small decisions made by ordinary people.

The tragedy of climate change is that its consequences do not respect the boundaries we have created. Nature does not distinguish between borders, religions, languages, political ideologies or economic classes. A changing climate eventually reaches everyone.

The poorest, however, often suffer first and suffer most. A farmer whose crop is destroyed by an unseasonal storm cannot simply rebuild a livelihood overnight. A family whose home is swept away by a flash flood cannot replace years of memories with compensation. A labourer exposed to extreme heat cannot always afford the luxury of staying indoors. A mountain community facing landslides cannot simply relocate its history, culture and ancestral memories.

Climate change is therefore not only an environmental crisis. It is a crisis of justice, livelihood, public health and human dignity. History will not ultimately judge our generation by the number of skyscrapers we built, highways we widened or wealth we accumulated. It will judge us by what we chose to protect. Did we protect the forests that gave us oxygen? Did we protect the rivers that quenched our thirst?

Did we protect the mountains that sheltered our communities? Did we protect the wetlands that absorbed our floods? Did we protect the climate that made human civilisation possible? These are not questions for some distant generation. They are questions for us.

The next wildfire may already be waiting for a spark. The next cloudburst may already be gathering somewhere beyond the horizon. The next heatwave may already be forming in a warming atmosphere. So the real question is not simply, "What next?" The real question is whether we possess the wisdom to learn, the courage to change and the collective will to act—before disaster once again forces us to mourn what could have been prevented.

We cannot command the clouds. We cannot silence every storm. We cannot prevent every natural disaster. But we can decide where we build. We can decide what we protect. We can decide how we govern. We can decide whether development destroys nature—or learns to live with it. Perhaps the Earth does not need another promise from humanity. Perhaps it needs a change in our behaviour. Because when nature cries, it is not merely asking to be heard. It is warning us. And if we continue to remain silent, one day the question will no longer be whether humanity listened to nature. It will be whether humanity listened too late.

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Environment Should Be a Priority



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Education means every literate person should be capable of protecting the environment, be concerned about societal issues, and never support anyone who destroys nature or makes others suffer. Education should be reflected through our deeds and practical actions. An educated individual has no need to advertise what they have done or which degrees they possess. Today's fast-paced digital world needs no explanation regarding truly great work. I am worried that today we have great scholars in every field, such as science and technology, politics, agriculture, and many others. Then why are we still being surrounded by catastrophes and natural hazards?

Why have we destroyed our natural resources in the name of development? Development is never true development if it leaves future generations at risk. Even though we know that our region is flood-prone, why are we encroaching upon flood channels? Why are we constructing buildings on riverbanks? Why are such permissions being granted? These are serious matters of concern, but they do have solutions. First of all, we have to make proper plans to safeguard both our present and future in every sector, whether it is agriculture, science and technology, or, most importantly, the environment. The environment should be the top priority.

World Environment Day is celebrated with enthusiasm and fervour across the globe every year on 5th June. Various stakeholders and educational institutions organize rallies and awareness programmes to encourage people not to pollute natural resources. Citizens are urged to keep their surroundings clean and to act responsibly towards the environment.

Planting Trees Can Beautify the Heart of Srinagar Development is essential for every country.

Today, only a few countries in the world are economically strong and capable of generating a large number of employment opportunities through beneficial schemes. These countries have well-developed sectors that provide rewarding careers for their educated and skilled youth. It is expected that many more nations will join the ranks of developed countries in the future.

In the modern era, we have effective communication tools that facilitate the exchange of business ideas from one corner of the world to another. Most trade-related activities are now conducted through virtual platforms such as email, WhatsApp, and video conferencing. For the progress of any country, development is crucial and plays a significant role in strengthening the economy. The development of roads, transport systems, trade and commerce, and the proper management of cities, while keeping environmental concerns in mind, are all essential aspects of sustainable development.

The government has established various departments to address environmental issues and issue guidelines from time to time to safeguard the environment. Development does not merely mean the construction of tunnels, large buildings, railway tracks, wide roads, or dams. It must go hand in hand with environmental protection. The development of any country requires proper planning, effective management, and coordination among different agencies while keeping environmental concerns at the forefront.

In this article, I would like to highlight the importance of planting trees in cities and major business hubs where there is heavy traffic movement. Day by day, our needs are increasing, and the rising volume of traffic contributes significantly to environmental pollution. Factories and industries also release pollutants into the air, water, and soil. Such activities cannot be stopped overnight; therefore, the most practical solution is to minimize environmental damage through active participation in conservation efforts and sustainable practices.

The environment plays a vital role in our lives. It includes plants, water bodies, animals, birds, air, soil, and other natural elements. While development in the form of roads, bridges, buildings, railway

tracks, airports, factories, industries, and hydro-electric projects is necessary, it can also negatively affect the environment if not managed responsibly.

One major cause of environmental degradation is the cutting down of trees during road widening and railway construction projects. This leads to soil erosion—the removal of the fertile top layer of soil. Soil erosion reduces soil fertility and increases the risk of flash floods, landslides, and other environmental hazards.

How to Maintain Temperature in Cities
Cities are important economic and commercial hubs that contribute significantly to the development of a country, state, union territory, or district. However, temperatures in cities often rise due to emissions from vehicles and industries. Greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere contribute to global warming and increase temperatures, especially in areas with heavy traffic movement.

Effective city management is therefore essential. While planning urban development, authorities must prioritize environmental protection, water conservation, improved air quality, and efficient drainage systems. These factors should be carefully considered during road widening, sewage installation, and waste management projects. Planting more trees can significantly help lower urban temperatures, improve air quality, and enhance the beauty of cities. Trees act as natural air purifiers and provide shade, reducing the urban heat island effect. In addition, eco-friendly transportation options should be promoted. The use of e-rickshaws, electric vehicles, and public transport can further reduce pollution and support sustainable urban development.

Conclusion
Planting trees is one of the most effective and sustainable ways to beautify the heart of Srinagar while protecting the environment. Trees improve air quality, reduce temperatures, prevent soil erosion, and create healthier living spaces for future generations. It is the shared responsibility of both the government and citizens to ensure that development is balanced with environmental conservation. Only through collective efforts can we achieve sustainable growth and leave behind a greener, cleaner, and more prosperous world.

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When Nature Tests Us: A Message of Unity, Responsibility, and Hope for Kashmir



■ ALTAF HUSSAIN PEERZADA

The recent floods in Kashmir have left behind more than submerged roads and damaged homes, they have left countless hearts heavy with pain. Families have watched helplessly as water entered their homes, shopkeepers have seen years of hard work washed away, farmers have feared for their crops, and many people have spent sleepless nights praying for the safety of their loved ones. In these moments, we are reminded that when nature unleashes its force, it recognizes no boundaries of wealth, status, religion, or region. It affects everyone alike.

Nature is both beautiful and powerful. The same rivers that nourish our fields can overflow within hours after relentless rainfall. The same mountains that adorn our valley can witness storms beyond imagination. Despite modern science, sophisticated weather forecasting, and advanced technology, no nation on earth can claim complete control over nature. Unexpected floods, earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes, and cloudbursts continue to challenge even the world's most developed countries. Such events are a reminder that human beings can prepare for nature, but they cannot command it.

In times like these, blaming one another serves no purpose. Every disaster should unite us rather than divide us. Our first responsibility is to protect lives, support those who have suffered, and cooperate with the authorities working tire-



lessly to restore normalcy.

Behind every rescue operation are countless individuals who leave the safety of their own families to save others. Government officials, district administration, SDRF, NDRF, police personnel, healthcare workers, municipal staff, fire-fighters, and volunteers work day and night in difficult conditions. They rescue stranded families, clear blocked roads, restore electricity and communication, provide food and medical aid, and help communities recover. Their efforts deserve our pa-

tience, cooperation, and heartfelt gratitude.

However, while we cannot stop torrential rain, we can certainly prevent our own actions from making disasters even worse. One painful reality is the careless disposal of waste. Every plastic bottle thrown into a stream, every shopping bag dumped into a drain, every disposable diaper left on a roadside, and every pile of garbage discarded carelessly contributes to blocked drainage systems. When drains and waterways are clogged, rainwater has nowhere to flow, increasing waterlogging

and worsening the impact of floods.

Let us ask ourselves an honest question: If we expect clean roads, clear drains, and a healthy environment, are we fulfilling our own responsibilities as citizens? Keeping Kashmir clean is not only the duty of government departments; it is a shared responsibility that begins with every home, every family, every shop-keeper, every student, and every citizen. A cleaner environment today can mean fewer hardships tomorrow.

Yet, amid every tragedy, Kashmir has

always shown the world its greatest strength, its humanity. During these floods, people opened the doors of their homes to strangers, young volunteers carried children and elderly people to safety, neighbours shared food and blankets, and countless individuals worked selflessly without expecting recognition. These acts of kindness remind us that even in the darkest hours, compassion shines brighter than fear.

As we move forward, let these floods not only be remembered for the destruction they caused but also for the lessons they taught us. Let us respect nature instead of taking it for granted. Let us protect our rivers instead of polluting them. Let us dispose of waste responsibly instead of leaving it for someone else to clean. Let us support the government and disaster-response agencies by following advisories, maintaining cleanliness, and encouraging environmental awareness in our communities.

A resilient Kashmir is not built by governments alone, nor by citizens alone, it is built when both work hand in hand. Progress begins with cooperation, responsibility, and a shared commitment to the welfare of our society.

May these difficult days strengthen our resolve to care for our environment, support one another in times of need, and value the blessings we often overlook. The floodwaters will eventually recede, roads will be rebuilt, homes will be repaired, and life will move forward. But let us ensure that the lessons learned remain with us forever.

When nature tests us, let our response be stronger than the storm, through unity, compassion, responsibility, and hope. Together, we can protect the paradise we proudly call Kashmir.

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A Drizzle Becomes a Flood: The Cost of Choked Waterways



■ JAVAID BHAT

In recent years, a disturbing trend has emerged across many towns and villages: a slight spell of rain is enough to flood roads, inundate markets, waterlog residential areas, and disrupt daily life. What was once considered normal rainfall is now increasingly being viewed as a threat. While climate change and changing weather patterns may be contributing factors, the primary cause lies much closer to home, our own neglect of rivers, streams, canals, and natural drainage channels.

For generations, these rivers, streams, canals, springs, and wetlands were the lifelines of our communities. Long before the advent of piped water supply schemes, these water bodies were the primary sources of drinking water for people and livestock. Their crystal clear waters sustained households, irrigated fields, and supported a rich diversity of aquatic life. Elders still recall a time when people drank directly from streams without fear of contamination. Today, that memory stands in stark contrast to reality.

Many of these once-pristine water bodies have now been transformed into dumping yards. Instead of clean flowing water, one finds heaps of household waste, plastic bags, food wrappers, disposable diapers, sanitary pads, empty bottles, polythene packets, broken household items, discarded clothing, and construction debris. What were once sources of life and nourishment have become channels of pollution and disease.

The growing presence of non-biodegradable waste is particularly alarming.

Diapers, plastic wrappers, packaging materials, and single-use plastics remain in the environment for decades. During rainfall, these materials are washed into drains, streams, and canals, where they become trapped among vegetation and sediment, obstructing the natural flow of water. As a result, even a brief shower can lead to overflowing drains, flooded roads, submerged fields, and waterlogged residential areas.

The shrinking of rivers and canals due to encroachments and unchecked dumping has further worsened the situation. In many places, natural waterways have lost a substantial portion of their original width. Channels that once carried large volumes of water now struggle to accommodate even moderate rainfall. Consequently, rainwater has no free passage and spills over into surrounding areas, causing avoidable flooding and damage.

The environmental consequences are equally severe. Polluted waterways contaminate groundwater, threaten aquatic ecosystems, and pose serious public health risks. Stagnant pools created by blocked channels become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects. The contamination of water bodies that once provided safe drinking water represents not only an environmental tragedy but also the loss of an invaluable natural heritage.

Perhaps the greatest irony is that the very streams and canals our ancestors protected as precious sources of drinking water are today being treated as convenient dumping sites. Household refuse that should be properly managed is routinely thrown into these water bodies, reflecting a growing disconnect between society and the environment upon which it depends.

Addressing this crisis requires urgent and coordinated action. Restoring waterways to their original dimensions, and strictly enforce environmental regulations. Equally important is the need for wide-



spread public awareness. Every citizen must understand that dumping waste into streams and canals ultimately harms the entire community.

The responsibility, however, does not rest solely with government agencies. Households must adopt proper waste disposal practices, reduce dependence on single use plastics, and recognize the value of preserving natural water re-

sources. Community participation in cleaning and protecting local water bodies can play a crucial role in reversing the damage already done.

Nature has provided us with an efficient system for managing rainwater and sustaining life. It is human negligence that has obstructed and polluted these natural channels. Unless immediate corrective measures are taken, floods, waterlogging,

pollution, and environmental degradation will continue to intensify.

The choice before us is clear; continue allowing our rivers, streams, and canals to become dumping grounds, or restore them to their rightful place as clean, flowing lifelines for future generations. The health, safety, and environmental well-being of our communities depend on the path we choose today.

When tables turn:

Doctors narrate their experiences of being the patient

It is often said doctors make the worst patients. What happens when a doctor becomes a patient? In 2008, Columbia University Medical Center psychiatrist Dr. Robert Klitzman explored the question 'if becoming a patient made someone a better doctor,' in his book, 'When Doctors Become Patients.'

In the book, he speaks about his own illness; how depression impacted him after his sister, who worked on the 105th floor of the World Trade Center died on September 11, 2001. Despite being a psychiatrist, he could not bring himself to admit that he was depressed. But once he acknowledged it, he realised what the challenges on the other side looked like as he gained new insight into his own patients' suffering from depression. Klitzman was able to get the physicians to talk bluntly about their experiences, how those experiences changed them, and how they tried to doctor differently as a result.

While doctors spoke about their feelings of kindness and empathy, they also spoke about their frustrations, selfishness, resentment, and anger.

According to a paper published in PubMed by students Mariko Morishita and Hiroshi Nishigori from Kyoto University, a doctor's experiences with his/her illnesses can deeply influence not only their perceptions of illness and roles but also their medical practice.

THE WEEK asked three doctors from different specialties to narrate their own experiences of what it is like to be sitting on the other side of the fence. What is it like to observe the changing dynamics between one's peers and oneself, how difficult is it for one to accept that one has indeed become a patient, what does time on the bed inside the hospital teach doctors about life as a patient and how does the experience of having an illness change how doctors treat patients going forward.

Dr Dhiraj Bhattad, Consultant Internal Medicine,

Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital

An ancient Chinese proverb goes: "No one can be a good doctor without first having been ill themselves." True. But like anybody else, even a doctor would dread falling sick. Unfortunately, if the healer himself or herself needs medical care, things are bound to be different. You are treated as a VIP. You can just call up your colleagues and enter their OPD chambers without any formal appointment. You can later on call or message too without turning up physically, unlike other patients when follow-up is needed.

What happens if a doctor needs to be admitted for any illness? On the professional front, if it is an unexpected illness, your whole appointment schedule goes for a toss. If a surgery is needed, you get priority again. With the help of hospital staff who you already know, the admission process is brisk and easy. You may still grouse that so much paperwork and formalities are there!

All your colleagues, residents, nurses and management staff, attend you with love and affection, and sometimes out of fear too. If your illness is not bad, you may enjoy the little break you have got from your hectic schedule and the princely treatment you receive. Even the morning sponging then seems like a spa treatment! Nurses are your 'messiah' in this arduous journey. One gets awed by their dedication, much more than that of doctors, with sadly monetary compensation in peanuts.

You also realise the harsh reality of how the resident doctor is 'just doing his or her job' and clocking the fixed duty hours without any empathy. If you are a physician like me and know most of the pharmacology, you will start fretting if some medicine is unnecessary or doses are not appropriate. If you repeatedly point out the same, the team may get piqued and hence you end up keeping quiet.

Also, as a doctor, you will experience 'defensive medicine'. You may have extra investigations to be



[According to a paper published in PubMed by students Mariko Morishita and Hiroshi Nishigori from Kyoto University, a doctor's experiences with his/her illnesses can deeply influence not only their perceptions of illness and roles but also their medical practice.](#)

absolutely sure of your diagnosis. It is like doing DNA test just to make sure that the animal which you are seeing is surely an elephant and nothing else. Extra opinions (or references) are taken just to make sure nothing is going wrong.

You understand what the patients may be undergoing in their illnesses, making you more humane and empathetic.

As a doctor, there are other advantages too, like visit charges not billed by your doctor colleagues, discounts on medicines or the final bill and easy discharge formalities. To summarize, the perk of being a doctor is definitely an advantage when one turns up being a patient. Even research has proven

that doctors have better outcomes of their illnesses.

Dr. Balkishan Gupta, Director, Minimal Invasive Bariatric GI and HPB Surgery, Marengo QRG Hospital Faridabad

Last year, I had undergone a critical neck operation in Jaipur. In December 2020, I felt a shoulder pain due to performing excessive laparoscopic surgeries daily a basis. Sometimes the patient load would so severe that I had to forego my lunch and keep on performing surgeries without giving ample rest to my body. I got an MRI done to detect this health issue. Next day, my friend radiologist told me that Parapharyngeal tumor-skull base tumor (3 centimetre in size) had been detected in my neck. I went to Jaipur to consult Dr. Satish Jain, a renowned skull base surgeon. As advised by Dr. Jain, I decided to undergo the surgery there. I was rushed to the OT at 12 Noon and my surgery took place at 3 PM. Dr. Satish operated quickly owing to his expertise in this field. I was discharged the very next day. I had to face a lot of pain while recuperating from the surgery. I had even lost my voice temporarily. I stayed positive and returned to my home. Upon reaching Faridabad where I work, I went to perform an emergency operation in the hospital for 7-8 hours.

On day-4 of my surgery, I underwent frequent speech therapy sessions. I responded well and I obtained my lost voice back. I believe that we should keep ourselves motivated and physically active post surgery. The SOPs mentioned in our medical books say if the patient has a positive attitude and is physically active, positive hormones are secreted, boosting immunity, and I was doing that.

It is advisable to avoid prolonged bed rest as the patient would feel bored. Follow the precautions recommended by the doctor and keep doing their daily routine with a positive attitude. Patients usually tend to delay the diagnosis, which could lead to worsening of the disease. **Courtesy Healthline**

Can't go back to sleep after waking up in the middle of the night? Follow these tips



Do you have those annoying episodes where you wake up at night and then just can't go back to sleep? The most common causes of waking up in the middle of the night include an urgent need to pass urine, which can be a result of diabetes in middle-aged and elderly people and prostate in males. Sleep apnea, which involves the repetitive interruption of breathing, can also be a major reason for people jerking awake at night, says Dr Prashant Chhajed, head of department of respiratory medicine, Fortis Hiranandani Hospital.

To avoid such moments, where you drift awake from sleep, Dr Chhajed advises getting diabetes under control and sleep apnea treated. Preventive measures aside, what is the cure if one does wakes up in the middle of the night and can't

ease back into sleep again?

Turn out the bright lights
Bright and loud lights reduce the melatonin levels, which controls the sleep cycle, in the body. Keeping dim lights can make you drowsy, says Dr Rajesh Chawla, senior consultant, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals.
Night time is not snack time
Activities like reading, eating a snack or cooking if you get up in the middle of the night are discouraged. Eating late into the night increases your blood sugar and while you're sleeping, the body goes into a light fast that can lead to a crash in the sugar levels. When this happens, the cortisol levels rise and the melatonin levels diminish.

Keep away from cell phones

Most people tend to get on social media or entertain themselves with some TV time if they can't fall asleep. Dr Chhajed strictly advises against it. The cell phones emit out blue light, which is known to reduce the melatonin levels in the body that in turn, make it harder to fall asleep.

Meditation
Dr Chhajed says that medication and relaxation exercises can calm you down to go back to sleep. According to a study by Harvard, mindfulness meditation can help you sleep better as it involves focusing on your breathing and then bringing your mind's attention to the present without drifting into concerns about the past or future.

Courtesy Healthline

One in ten Indian females affected by TB related ailment

NEW DELHI: With over 20 lakh cases of Tuberculosis worldwide, India is the second leading country to contribute to the related mortality rate.

Usually the TB bacteria affects the lungs, and if left unnoticed, it can also spread throughout the body and cause secondary infection affecting the kidneys, abdomen, brain, uterus and even the fallopian tubes. Genital TB can be a great cause of concern for both the partners if they are trying to conceive.

"Though the symptoms may not be so evident enough but the effects can be seen if timely diagnosis is not done. The infections can spread to the uterus and cause thinning of the endometrium, thereby creating a barrier in development of the fetus. TB in females is a chronic disease with low grade symptoms. Tubal factor infertility along with the involvement of the endometrium is the major cause of infertility. Women are more often affected than males that cause irregular menses, vaginal discharge with blood stains or excessive pain during intercourse and sudden pelvic pain. The condition can even mimic other gynecological conditions like ovarian cysts, PID, ectopic pregnancy or even genital cancer," said Dr Arifa Adil, IVF expert, Indira IVF Hospital, New Delhi.

As per the latest study done by the ICMR, over 50% of female patients coming for IVF procedure have been reported to have genital TB. In over 95% of the cases, the infection was found to affect the fallopian tube, 50% endometrium and 30% ovaries.

Though it can occur in any age group (15-45 years) the average age was found to be 31 years. In most of the cases the disease was asymptomatic or present with very few symptoms. Incidents reported in the Delhi NCR region shows that one in every five women with TB were unable to conceive naturally which accounted for 40%.

"Even though it's difficult to diagnose the presence of TB in genital tract, there are certain ways to detect them, like a sample of tissue taken from a women suffering from TB of fallopian tubes, endometrial tissue is collected from uterus and sent to lab, where the bacteria are grown and later used for testing. The most trustworthy method of diagnosis is making a histological diagnosis of tubercles, which helps doctors on laparoscopy to confirm whether these suspicious lesions are due to tuberculosis or not. Hysterosalpingography (HSG) is also a very useful tool in visualizing the abnormalities in the uterus and the endometrium. And chronic infections can even lead to narrowing of the uterine cavity," said Dr Arvind Vaid, city based gynecologist. The effects can also be seen in post menopausal women where the condition may be prominent with symptoms of endometrial malignancy, post menopausal bleeding and persistent vaginal fluid discharge. This is also similar in case of affected males where reduction in sperm quality, concentration and motility are few traits.

Treating TB with medications can help women to conceive through ART, either IVF or IUI, where intervention can be done to repair the after effects. One can prevent themselves against TB by staying away from crowded areas, where you could come into regular contact with people who are infected, have access to a proper healthcare system and undergo physical exams on a regular basis, get vaccinated against the condition, if possible.

Courtesy EMJ



How to Cut Your Odds of a Stroke?

Stroke is not something that just pops up any day without any reason. There are 'n' numbers of factors that contribute in elevating the risk of stroke. While some of the factors like age, genes and family history of stroke are not under your control, there are many lifestyle choices you can make to reduce the risk of stroke.

To help you beat the high chances, we have listed out some of the ways that can assist you in cutting your odds of a stroke. So, read ahead and adopt them from today onwards!

Apples and Tomatoes: Take the healthy red hue of both apples and tomatoes to enrich your body with their goodness. While tomatoes will give you lycopene which is known to reduce the risk of ischemic stroke, apples are loaded with fiber and quercetin, an inflammation-fighting antioxidant which also cuts the risk of stroke. So, don't think much and have a healthy

diet rich in such fruits and veggies.

Lower the Blood Pressure: One of the best ways to cut your odds of a stroke is by keeping the blood pressure level in check. Normal blood pressure is usually more than 120 over 80 and less than 140 over 90. It is seen that people with high blood pressure are more likely to experience stroke. So, drop a few kilos, eat healthy and keep your blood pressure level in the normal range.

Sweat it Out: Stop being a couch potato and start working out. Regular exercising is known to cut your odds of a stroke. Dr. Manoj Khanal, Max Healthcare - best neurology hospital in Delhi, says exercising leads to weight loss and normalizes the blood pressure. Thus, it can stand as an effective way to reduce the risk of stroke.

Away from Anxiety and Depression: Maintain a distance from

anxiety and depression and you are likely to have less chances of getting a stroke. Various studies have shown that people who are depressed usually have bad lifestyle habits including alcohol abuse and less physical activity. All these significantly raise the risk of stroke.

Seek Peace of Mind: Anger is the greatest enemy of your brain. So, give some peaceful time to your body and it will heal itself. Internal healing will help in managing anger which eventually normalizes blood pressure and reduces your chances of getting a stroke. You can take up some meditation classes and start the spiritual journey towards a healthy body and mind.

Say "No" to Smoking: Drop that cigarette if you want to cut your chances of stroke. People who smoke are at a significantly higher risk of having an ischemic stroke. Smoking reduces

the oxygen in the blood which makes the formation of blood clots easier, thus leading to stroke. Moreover, the smoke affects the arteries and allows the formation of plaque that can choke the arteries and reduce the blood flow. To avoid such health complications, it is time that you say no to smoking. You should also try to avoid passive smoking as it is also quite harmful for your body.

Though you cannot predict a stroke, you can, in fact, prevent it by choosing such healthy habits. So, make the above-listed changes in your lifestyle and you may be able to avoid a stroke that could have affected you if you kept on going the same way. However, if you have already faced a mini-stroke, it is advisable that you must consult a neurologist from the best neurology hospital in India to get the proper treatment and advice. **Courtesy EMJ**



Public Notice

It is notified that applicant namely Syed Harris Qadri S/o Mohammed Shafi Quadri R/o Narbal Tehsil Narbal District Budgam has lost his pass port under registration number; 3883157 Dated; 08/12/2015 at narbal in the neighbourhood , now the applicant is applying for a duplicate pass port .

If anyone has objection regarding the same , he can approach pass port office srinagar within a period of seven days after the publication of this notice , no objection will be entertained after seven days .

Public Notice

I have changed my name from Yasir Javeed Qazi to new name Qazi Yasir. In future I will be known as Qazi Yasir (New name). If any body having any objection may file to RPO Srinagar within 07 days.

Qazi Yasir (new name)
R/o Near Astan Sharief, Brain, Srinagar, 191123.

Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public and the concerned authorities that I have passed both my Class 10 and Class 12 examinations under the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE).In my Class 10 Marks Sheet, my mother's name has been correctly recorded as Hajra Beagam. The same spelling is also correctly reflected in my Date of Birth Certificate.

However, due to an inadvertent clerical error, my mother's name has been printed as Hajra Begam in my Class 12 Marks Sheet instead of the correct name, Hajra Beagam. The only discrepancy is the omission of the letter "A" in the surname.Therefore, I request the competent authority of JKBOSE to kindly correct my mother's name from Hajra Begam to Hajra Beagam in my Class 12 Marks Sheet, in conformity with my Date of Birth Certificate and Class 10 Marks Sheet, and issue a corrected marks sheet at the earliest.

I shall remain grateful for your kind consideration and necessary action.

Name: Tanveer ahmad Palla, Father's Name:Gh. Mohd Palla, Mother's Name:Hajra Beagam
Class :12th, Roll No:329247
Registration No:03NKM3008117, Session/2006
Mobile No:7006329295
Address:Watergam, Wagoora

Public Notice

I, Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh, son of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, resident of Village Wagila, Wagoora, intend to apply for a D-Class Haqla Contractor Card.

If any person has any objection regarding my application for the said contractor card, they may submit their objection, along with valid documentary proof, within three (3) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained.

Name,Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh
R/o Village Wagila, Wagoora

Public Notice

In the Bank records bearing Account No 0131040800008614 My name spelling has been mentioned as Aabida Khaliq Whileas My correct name is Abida Bano I want to apply for the correction of the same in bank regards if any person has any objection in this regards he/she may contact Main Branch J&K bank office Handwara within seven days from the date of publication of this notice After seven days no objection shall be entertained .

Name,Abida Bano , D/O,Ab Khaliq Dar
R/O,Waskura Tehsil Handwara
District Kupwara

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my son DOB has been wrongly mentioned in school record as 10/11/2014 instead of DOB 10/10/2014 as for record now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of the 1 Aims public school Handwara 2 prime institute Kulangam 3 ascent school handwara / school closed within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

MOHAMMAD ZUHAIR , DOB 10/10/2014 S/O
NAIEEM AHMAD SHAH
R/O HANDWARA TEHSIL HANDWARA
DISTRICT KUPWARA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of KHATIJIA BEGUM W/O FATAH GANIE R/O. KAREWA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 17/08/1987 event has been shown to be occurred at this Home for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

I have lost my Numbers plate of my vehicle bearing No JK09 - 1566 at Gulmarg .Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of ARTO BARAMULLA/POLICE STATION GULMARG within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..ASIF AHMAD SHEIKH
S/O..GH MOHI UD DIN SHEIKH
R/O ...DANDMOHA, contact... 9682659227

HT - NEWS

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public and all concerned authorities that the name of the undersigned has been incorrectly recorded in the Aadhaar records.

Incorrect Name: Sobiya Ahad, Correct Name: Subia Ahad
The correct particulars are as follows:
Name: Subia Ahad
Father's Name: Abdul Ahad Rashie, Address: Kakothal
Aadhaar Number: XXXX XXXX 3736
The incorrect name "Sobiya Ahad" appearing in the Aadhaar record is due to an inadvertent error. The correct name is "Subia Ahad," and the same may kindly be treated as the valid and correct name for all official purposes.

This public notice is being issued in support of the application for correction of the name in the Aadhaar records. If any person has any objection regarding this correction, they may raise it before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Subia Ahad, D/o Abdul Ahad Rashie, R/o Kakothal

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father'sname GH NABI KHAN Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040002242 wants to be registered on my name MANZOOR AHMAD KHAN S/O GH NABI KHAN If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....MANZOOR AHMAD KHAN
S/O...GH NABI KHAN
R/O ... TANGWARI BALA
BLOCKWAGOORA

Public Notice

I, Gulzar Ahmad Wani, S/o Gh. Mohammad Wani, R/o Taper, Waripora, hereby have no objection to the transfer of the electricity connection having consumer ID 0213040022712, installed at my commercial shops, presently rented by Mr. Irfan Ahmad Khan, S/o Bashir Ahmad Khan, R/o Waripora Bala, Kreeri, from my name to his name.

Public Notice

I have lost my Numbers plate of my vehicle bearing No JK09 - 1566 at Gulmarg .Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of ARTO BARAMULLA/POLICE STATION GULMARG within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..ASIF AHMAD SHEIKH,
S/O..GH MOHI UD DIN SHEIKH ,
R/O ...DANDMOHA , contact... 9682659227

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of KHATIJIA BEGUM W/O FATAH GANIE R/O. KAREWA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 17/08/1987 event has been shown to be occurred at this Home for issuance of delay order .In this connection . If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

It is hearby informed that my Parrantage in school records is wrongly mentioned as Naseer Ahmad Allie Mothers Name Saleema instead of Nasir Ahmad Allie Mothers Name Saleema Bano .Now I want to correct it . If anyone having having any objection in this regard should contact the Contact Principal Alamar Mission Secondary School Manchow Budgam within 7 seven days following which no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Ronak Jam,
D/O: Nasir Ahmad Allie
Mothers Name Saleema Bano

OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE SHABIR AHMAD BHAT & ASSOCIATES LIC No. 535/13

In the case of:
Abdul Gani Ahnager
Abdul Razaq Ahanger
Both sons of Late Abdul Aziz Ahnager
Resident of: Handwara
Tehsil: Handwara
(Caveators)Versus Public at Large

In the Matter of:Caveat Petition under Section 148-A of the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC).The caveators have reason to believe and apprehend that a non-caveator may file a suit, appeal, or any other type of legal proceeding before the Hon'ble Court of the Additional District Judge, Handwara, or before the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar, based on frivolous grounds, distorted facts, or misrepresented facts. Such proceedings may result in obtaining an interim relief or order, causing irreparable loss to the caveators.Therefore, it is proper that the caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before any order is passed.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Death of HANIFA BEGUM W/O AB HAMID WANI R/O. FRESTARH Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 10/09/2024 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

It is here by notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my Bank Account as SHAOIB AHMAD BHAT bearing Account no 0139040100011913 while my correct name is SHOIB MOHMAD BHAT S/O GH MOHAMMAD BHAT which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in the office of J&K BANK KREERI authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..SHOIB MOHMAD BHAT
S/O ... GH MOHAMMAD BHAT , R/O ...TILAGAM
PATTAN , Account No...0139040100011913
Dist....BARAMULLA

Public Notice

Subject: Public Notice for Correction of Name and Date of Birth in Aadhaar Record

I, Muskan Nazir, Daughter of Nazir Ahmad Mir, Resident of Kreeri, Baramulla, hereby declare that my name and date of birth have been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar card.

The corrections required are as follows:

- Incorrect Name: Simran Nazir
- Correct Name: Muskan Nazir
- Incorrect Date of Birth: 14/04/2005
- Correct Date of Birth: 20/10/2005

This public notice is being issued for the purpose of correction of my Aadhaar details and for submission before the UDID Authority.

If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned corrections, they may submit the same, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the UDID Office within the prescribed time. If no objection is received, the concerned authority may proceed with the correction of my Aadhaar records accordingly.

I hereby declare that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Place: Kreeri, Baramulla,
Name: Muskan Nazir
D/o Nazir Ahmad Mir,
R/o kreeri

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS GANDERBAL, J&K.

Beehama Ganderbal 191201, Tel: 0194-2416443 Fax 0194-2416443.Email: dpoganderbal@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOKOUT NOTICE

As reported by IC Police Post Baltal that on 21.07.2026 Police Post Baltal received an information from Ms Rani Pandey D/O Rakesh Mukar R/O Shahnagar, post Lawani, Safipur, District Unnao, Utter Pradesh, to the effect that her uncle details mentioned below was came to perform Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, has been missing since 14.07.2026 from Brarimarg top while performing yatra via Phalgam route. Upon this information missing report has been diarized and search has been conducted. Despite best efforts, thorough searches, and local intelligence gathering, the missing person could not be traced or found in the area.

Description of missing person		
Particulars	Shri Ram Vilas S/O Shri Satti Prasad R/o village Shahamngar, Post Lawani, Safipur, District Unnao, Utter Pradesh.	
Age	About 64Years	
Height	5' 9"	

You are requested to circulate the same in your respective jurisdictions for Look out, if any information/clue comes to light, kindly inform on below mentioned phone numbers.

1. PCR Ganderbal: 01942416478, 9906668731
2. Police Post Baltal: : 7006017372, 9541786754.
CRB/L-01/2026/40214-39 | Dated: 25-07-2026

Sd/- Sr. Superintendent of Police Ganderbal

DIPK: 3779/26 | Dated: 27-07-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITAL DIVISION ANANTNAG

GIST of short term e-NIT No MHDA/TS/2026-27/33 of DATED: 25-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: -

S.no	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)
1	Face Lifting and Renovation of Various Control Rooms / Sub Offices of Mechanical and Hospital Sub Division 2nd Pulwama	7.76	500.00	15520.00	10

- Position of Administrative Approval: Accorded.
- Position of Technical Sanction: Accorded.
- Position of Funds: Available with intending department.

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www. jktenders.gov.in from 25-07-2026 (09:00 Hrs)

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 25-07-2026 (10:00 Hrs) to 31-07-2026 (14:00 Hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 01-08-2026 (14:00 Hrs) in Office of the undersigned.

No: MHDA/ TS-453/ 1324-25 | Dated: 25-07-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer
M&H Division Anantnag

DIPK: 3745/26 | Dated: 27-07-2026

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the electricity power connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0212040003622, registered in the name of Late Ab. Rahim Parray, S/o Subhan Parray, R/o Frasthar, Tilgam, falls under KPDCI Sub-Division Wagoora.

The registered consumer, Late Ab. Rahim Parray, has passed away. His wife, Mrs. Rafiq Begum, W/o Late Ab. Rahim Parray, has applied for the transfer of the said electricity connection into her name.

If any person has any objection or claim regarding the proposed transfer of this electricity connection, they are requested to submit their objection, along with supporting documents, to the KPDCI Sub-Division, Wagoora, within the prescribed period from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated time, the electricity connection shall be transferred in the name of Mrs. Rafiq Begum as per the applicable rules and regulations.

KPDCL Sub-Division, Wagoora



J&K hosts South Goa Zilla Panchayat delegation for Panchayati Raj knowledge exchange

Exposure visits foster mutual learning, stronger local governance: Director RDD

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: The Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Jammu & Kashmir, today hosted a high-level delegation from the South Goa Zilla Panchayat at Panchayat Bhawan, Budgam, as part of an inter-state knowledge exchange programme aimed at strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions through mutual learning and the sharing of best practices. The delegation was led by Siddharth Dessai, Chairperson, South Goa Zilla Panchayat, Vikas Kamble, Chief Executive Officer (CEO),

Agostinho Fernandes, Chief Accounts Officer, along with 19 elected members of the South Goa Zilla Panchayat.

The visiting delegation was welcomed by Director, Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj Riyaz Ahmad Wani, Joint Director (Administration) RDD Kashmir, Nasir Mahmood Khan along with senior officers of the department, members of the State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC), and representatives of award-winning Panchayats from Jammu & Kashmir.

The technical session commenced with a detailed presentation by experts from the



State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC), highlighting the structure, functioning, achievements, innovations and best practices of the Panchayati Raj system in Jammu & Kashmir. The presentation showcased the UT's initiatives in strengthening grassroots governance, improving rural service delivery, promoting transparency and encouraging community participation.

The programme also featured an inspiring experience-sharing session by award-winning Panchayat representatives who shared successful initiatives and innovative governance practices imple-

mented at the grassroots level. Members of the South Goa Zilla Panchayat delegation interacted with officers and Panchayat representatives during an open discussion, exchanging experiences, ideas and practical approaches to strengthening local self-governance. The interactive session provided a valuable platform for cross-learning and exploring opportunities for adopting best practices across states.

Addressing the gathering, Director RDD, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, emphasized the importance of collaborative learning among Panchayati Raj Institutions and underscored the role

of such exposure visits in enhancing governance, capacity building and rural development.

He highlighted Jammu & Kashmir's commitment to empowering Panchayats and promoting inclusive, participatory and transparent rural governance.

"The District Development Council has played a significant role in strengthening grassroots democracy. Although the elected bodies have recently completed their tenure and we are in the process of fresh elections, these institutions have contributed immensely to deepening democratic values, promoting transparency,

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana Briefs Home Minister Amit Shah on J&K Cloudburst Tragedy and Security Situation

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 27 : Rajya Sabha MP and Senior BJP Leader Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today met Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah in Parliament to brief him on the recent cloudburst disaster in Jammu and Kashmir, the tragic loss of lives in the Rajouri-Poonch region, and the prevailing security situation in the Union Territory. MP Khatana highlighted the extensive damage caused by the cloudbursts and urged the Centre to expedite relief, rehabilitation, and compensation for affected families.

He also expressed concern over the recent killing of Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel by militants, paying tribute to the martyred officers



and emphasizing the need for continued action against terrorism.

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah assured that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India is fully committed to supporting the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He stated that relief and rehabilitation efforts are being closely monitored and reiterated the Government's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism while reaffirming its commitment to peace, security, and development in the Union Territory.

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana appreciated the Modi Government's decisive leadership in disaster response, national security, and the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

DM Bandipora chairs District-Level NCORD Meeting, reviews NDPS cases and Anti-Drug Measures

HT NEWS NETWORK

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

During the meeting, the SSP Bandipora presented a police station-wise status of FIRs registered under the NDPS and PIT NDPS Acts, highlighting the action taken against drug peddlers, recoveries of narcotic substances, attachment of properties and other enforcement measures undertaken. The meeting also reviewed the action taken against drug traffickers and implementation of related enforcement measures. Reviewing enforcement measures, the DM directed the Assistant Regional Trans-

port Officer (ARTO) to ensure that vehicles whose Registration Certificates (RCs) are cancelled do not ply on roads and that all such cases are processed strictly in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

Deputy Director Prosecution apprised the meeting about the status of acquittals, bail cases and ongoing cases. The DM directed that officers from the Prosecution Department and Police be included in the forthcoming weekly Nun Chai Talks programmes to educate youth about the legal consequences of drug abuse and trafficking.

The Assistant Drug Controller briefed the meeting on inspections carried out by the department and enforcement measures taken against violations. The DM directed the department to further intensify inspections of courier service providers to prevent their misuse for transportation of narcotic substances.

Additional Deputy Commis-

sioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl presented the progress achieved under the 100-Day Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyan including awareness and outreach activities conducted across the district. Major initiatives included Maa Se Guft-a-Gu, Dosti Discussions, Nun Chai Talks, religious outreach programmes and NMBA wall paintings in schools and colleges.

Reviewing the awareness initiatives, the DM directed all schools to submit certificates confirming the completion of NMBA wall paintings in their institutions. She further directed that Dosti Discussion, Maa Se Guft-a-Gu and IEC campaigns should continue across educational institutions, Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies to sustain public awareness against drug abuse. The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 and the Juvenile Justice Act (JJA), 2015. The DM directed all concerned

departments, particularly the Child Welfare Committee, to submit impact assessment reports on the implementation of COTPA and ensure strict enforcement of the Act.

Reviewing the Rehbar initiative, the DM directed the concerned district officers to actively mentor the recovered youth assigned to them and facilitate their rehabilitation through continuous guidance and institutional support.

The Chief Medical Officer and Medical Officer, Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), apprised the meeting about the functioning of the ATF and the progress of rehabilitation services. The DM directed the Health Department to ensure that In-Patient Department (IPD) services at the ATF remain fully functional to strengthen treatment and rehabilitation facilities for substance abuse patients. Emphasising the importance of sustained and coordinated action, the DM called for continuous monitoring, ef-

fective inter-departmental coordination and sustained awareness and rehabilitation efforts to effectively curb drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the district.

It was informed that key systemic initiatives launched under the 100-Day Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyan in Bandipora district would continue beyond the campaign period to sustain anti-drug awareness, prevention and rehabilitation efforts across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Bandipora; Dy DEO Bandipora; Deputy Director Prosecution; Chief Medical Officer; Chief Education Officer; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Bandipora; Deputy Superintendent of Police (DAR); Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee; District Information Officer; District Youth Services.

SHAHEED SEPOY ARVIND KUMAR MEMORIAL CRICKET TOURNAMENT AT SINGPOR, KISHTWAR

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: 27 JULY : In a significant initiative aimed at promoting sportsmanship, youth engagement and strengthening the bond between the Defence Forces and the local population, Indian Army organised the Shaheed Sepoy Arvind Kumar Memorial Cricket Tournament at Singpor, District Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir from 16 July to 26 July 2026.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from 10 teams representing various villages and local communities of the region.

The event provided a vibrant platform for local youth to showcase their sporting talent, while encour-



aging discipline, teamwork, camaraderie and a healthy competitive spirit among the participants.

The tournament was conducted in a spirited and friendly atmosphere, with a large number of local residents and sports enthusiasts witnessing

the matches and encouraging the participating teams.

The initiative also served as a meaningful tribute to Shaheed Sepoy Arvind Kumar, while highlighting the enduring spirit of courage, dedication and service to the nation.

The conduct of the tournament reflects the commitment of Indian Army towards fostering meaningful engagement with the local population and providing constructive avenues for the youth. Such initiatives contribute significantly towards nurturing sporting talent, promoting a positive environment and further strengthening the bonds of trust and goodwill between the security forces and the people of Kishtwar."

"BJP committed to responsive, peoplecentric governance":

Rekha Mahajan

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 27 : BJP Jammu and Kashmir Vice President Rekha Mahajan and State Secretary Arun Sharma held a Public Darbar at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu as per party roster where they listened to the grievances of individuals.



The visiting delegations raised issues concerning irregular power and drinking-water supply, sanitation, roads, drainage, infrastructure development, revenue matters, administrative delays and other essential public services. The leaders interacted with the concerned officials and assured the delegations that genuine matters would be pursued with the appropriate government departments for early resolution.

Rekha Mahajan said the BJP's Public Darbar initiative provides citizens with direct access to the party leadership and strengthens accountable, people-centric governance.

"Public representatives must remain accessible and responsive. These interactions enable us to understand ground-level challenges and coordinate with the concerned departments for practical and timely solutions," she said. Arun Sharma said every grievance submitted during the programme was documented and would be forwarded to the relevant authorities for necessary action.

"The BJP believes in serving people at the grassroots. Regular interaction with citizens helps identify administrative gaps and enables the formulation of more effective solutions. Matters requiring immediate intervention will be taken up on priority," he said.

SKUAST-K, IIM Calcutta Innovation Park host 'Spark Social' to ignite social entrepreneurship in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 27: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, through its Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIIE), joined hands with the IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP) to organise 'Spark Social', a high-impact outreach seminar under the 14th Tata Social Enterprise Challenge (TSEC) 2026.

The event, held at SKUAST-K Shalimar campus, aimed to inspire and guide students, researchers, and early-stage innovators towards building scalable, impact-driven social enterprises.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the chief guest at the occasion, emphasised that innovation and entrepreneurship are now essential pillars of higher education. He called on young innova-



tors to leverage their creative potential to address real-world societal problems while driving socio-economic growth across Jammu & Kashmir. He reaffirmed the university's dedication to supporting startups through robust incubation, expert men-

torship, and strategic industry linkages.

During the event, Assistant Vice President of Incubation at IIMCIP, Soujit Das, delivered a detailed overview of the Tata Social Enterprise Challenge—India's premier platform for social

impact ventures. He briefed participants about the application process, detailing available incubation support, mentorship, investor connections, and funding channels.

The seminar also featured insightful technical sessions,

including a presentation on sustainable, impact-led business models by Social Entrepreneur and CEO of Pietbillo Solutions Pvt Ltd, Dr Shuvendu Prasad Roy.

Earlier, CEO, SKIIE, Naveed Hamid, while delivering the welcome address, underscored SKUAST-K's vision of nurturing an innovation-driven ecosystem to transform young minds from job seekers into job creators.

The event capped off with an interactive Pitching Session, where aspiring entrepreneurs presented their business ideas directly to an expert panel from IIMCIP and SKIIE, receiving hands-on feedback and mentorship to refine their business concepts. The enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and local founders reaffirmed SKUAST-K's growing status as a powerhouse for youth-led social innovation.

Tata Consumer Products' Q1 FY27 net profit rises by 27.8pc to Rs 427 cr

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JUL 27: Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company Tata Consumer Products has officially announced that it posted a 27.8pc increase in its net profit at Rs 427 crore in the first quarter of financial year 2027 (Q1 FY27), supported by steady growth across its branded businesses.

Revenue from operations increased 11.93pc year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 5,348.88 crore, while Profit After Tax (PAT) rose 28.41pc YoY to Rs 444.86 crore, despite a softer performance compared to the previous quarter.

"Capital Foods and Organic India delivered revenue growth of 40 and 27pc, respectively, for the quarter, while the health and wellness as well as convenience-focused launches continue to expand the addressable market and drive category growth," the company said in its earnings statement.



The company's international business witnessed steady growth and revenue grew 16 per cent, led by strong performance in the USA.

Tata Starbucks continued its momentum on same-store sales growth, with revenue for the quarter growing 11 per cent. Tata Starbucks ended the quarter with 498 stores in India.

"We delivered yet another quarter of double-digit topline

growth, backed by volume growth. Importantly, this translated to a consolidated net profit growth of 29 per cent," Tata Consumer Products MD & CEO Sunil D'Souza mentioned in the company statement.

"India branded business delivered robust underlying volume growth, reflecting continued focus on execution, category expansion and innovation. Our 'growth' businesses performed

very well and have scaled their overall contribution to the India business. Tata Sampann continued to record exceptional growth, driven by performance across multiple categories — dry fruits, cold-pressed oils as well as core pulses and spices. The ready-to-drink business delivered a strong quarter with strong performance across core brands as well as new launches," D'Souza said.

Net sales were up by 11.93pc compared to the same period last year at Rs 5,348.9 crore on the back of volume growth.

The company's business in the Indian market reported healthy underlying volume growth, with steady volume growth in tea and salt.

Revenue from salt grew 7pc on the back of steady volumes, while tea volumes in India were up by 2pc and the coffee business witnessed 24pc revenue growth, according to the company statement. UNI

Solugenix opens new Hyderabad facility, to accommodate over 500 employees

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JULY 27: Global technology services and business solutions company Solugenix on Friday announced the opening of its new office facility in Hyderabad, marking another step in its expansion and long-term investment in technology, talent and global delivery capabilities.

The new 40,000-square-foot facility, inaugurated by Solugenix Director and Senior Vice President – Corporate Affairs Chandra Sekhar Reddy Kothapu, is designed to accommodate more than 500 employees.

The Hyderabad centre will serve as a strategic hub supporting the company's capabilities in engineering, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, managed services, consulting and corporate operations, the company said in a release here.

Solugenix has established delivery and innovation centres across major technology hubs in India, including Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Indore, enabling closer collaboration with customers and access to diverse talent ecosystems.

The company said the investment

reflects its confidence in Hyderabad's technology and innovation ecosystem and growing demand for scalable, technology-driven business solutions.

The new office has been designed to promote collaboration, continuous learning, innovation and employee well-being while supporting the company's next phase of growth.

Commenting on the expansion, Solugenix President and CEO Shashi Jasthi said artificial intelligence represented one of the defining shifts of the current generation and the company viewed AI as an amplifier of human capability, creativity and innovation rather than a replacement for people.

He said the Hyderabad expansion reflected the company's commitment to building an organisation where innovation thrives, customers succeed and employees can develop meaningful careers.

Solugenix said it continues to focus on expanding its global talent base, developing scalable delivery models and investing in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, automation, cloud modernisation, cybersecurity and intelligent operations. UNI

VIYONA receives BBPS approval to offer bill payment services

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JULY 27: Hyderabad-based fintech infrastructure startup VIYONA on Friday said it has received approval from the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to operate as a Customer Operating Unit (COU), enabling it to provide BBPS-enabled bill payment services across multiple categories.

The certification allows the company to facilitate payments for electricity, water, gas, broadband, mobile recharges, DTH subscriptions, insurance premiums, loan EMIs, educational fees and other approved bill payments.

In a release, the company said the approval will also enable banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), fintech firms, enterprises and government organisations to integrate BBPS-based bill payment services through VIYONA's platform.

Commenting on the development, VIYONA Founder and CEO Ravindranath Yarlaga said the BBPS COU certification would strengthen the company's ability to help banks, fintechs, enterprises and billers deliver secure and seamless digital bill payment services at scale.

With the latest certification, VIYONA now holds National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) certifications for UPI Switch (Issuer and Acquirer), IMPS, Banking Connect, BOU, eKYC Setu and BBPS COU, expanding its capabilities as a payments technology provider for banks and financial institutions.

The company said it aims to further strengthen its digital financial infrastructure by connecting banks, businesses, merchants and agricultural stakeholders to expand access to digital financial services across the country. UNI

India retains competitive edge despite new US tariff: FIEO

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD, JULY 27: The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) on Friday said the additional 10 per cent Section 301 tariff imposed by the United States on imports from India would increase the landed cost of Indian products but was unlikely to significantly erode the country's competitiveness in the US market.

In a statement, FIEO President S.C. Ralhan said India had not been singled out under the new US measure and had been placed in the lower 10 per cent tariff category, while China, Vietnam,

Thailand, Türkiye, the UAE, Brazil and South Africa, were subjected to a higher 12.5 per cent tariff.

He said the lower tariff reflected the recognition of policy measures taken by the Government of India to strengthen its framework relating to forced labour, placing the country in a relatively favourable position compared to many of its global competitors.

Ralhan noted that several of India's key competitors in labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, garments, leather and footwear, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Malaysia, had also been



subjected to the same 10 per cent tariff, enabling Indian exporters to retain their relative competitiveness in these segments.

FIEO clarified that several key export categories, including steel,

aluminium, auto components, pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical ingredients and certain agricultural products already covered under Section 232 measures, remained exempt from the new tariff.

FIEO advised exporters to assess the impact of the tariff on a product-wise basis, taking into account applicable US duties, available exclusions and the tariff treatment of competing supplier countries, while continuing to focus on supply-chain compliance, productivity, quality, innovation and value addition.

Ralhan expressed confidence that despite the challenges posed by the new tariff, Indian exporters remained well positioned to sustain export growth in the US market with proactive industry response and continued government support. UNI

J.C. Flowers ARC commits scholarships for 30 ISB students over three years

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JULY 27: The Indian School of Business (ISB) on Friday announced a three-year scholarship commitment from J.C. Flowers Asset Reconstruction Private Limited (JCF ARC) to support 30 students enrolled in its Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) and Post Graduate Programme in Management for Young Leaders (PGP YL).

The J.C. Flowers ARC Scholarships, launched during the last academic

year through the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, will continue over the next two academic years, the school said in a release here.

Under the programme, five students each from the PGP and PGP YL will receive 100 per cent tuition fee waivers every year.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between JCF ARC Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Rahul Gupta and ISB Dean Prof. Madan Pillutla in the presence of senior officials from both

organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahul Gupta said the scholarship initiative reflected the company's commitment to supporting talented students with leadership potential by removing financial barriers to world-class management education.

Prof Madan thanked JCF ARC for its support and said the scholarships would enable deserving students from the PGP and PGP YL programmes to benefit from ISB's academic ecosystem without financial constraints. UNI

Laurus Labs Q1 net profit jumps 126 pc to Rs 368-Cr

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JULY 27: Laurus Labs Ltd on Friday reported a 126 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit at Rs. 368 crore for the first quarter of FY27, while revenue rose 29 per cent to a record Rs. 2,026 crore, driven by strong growth in its Contract Development and Manufacturing Organisation (CDMO) business and continued momentum in affordable medicines.

The company's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased 66 per cent to Rs. 644 crore, with EBITDA margin improving to 31.8 per cent from 24.8 per cent in the corresponding quarter last year.

Gross margin expanded to 62.7 per cent from 59.4 per cent while diluted earnings per share rose to Rs. 6.8 from Rs. 3.0, the Hyderabad based pharma company said in a release here.

Commenting on the performance, Founder and Chief Executive Officer Dr Satyanarayana Chava said the company delivered record quarterly revenue with expanded profitability, supported by growing commercial deliveries in the CDMO business and sustained strength in the affordable medicines portfolio.

He said Laurus also strengthened its integrated offerings, entered into agreements to in-license two antibody drug conjugate (ADC) assets and secured the final handover of a new land parcel to support its long-term growth strategy.

Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer V.V. Ravi Kumar said the company maintained strong operating performance despite macroeconomic volatility, with higher capacity utilisation and operating leverage supporting margin expansion.

He said Laurus would continue with its key capital expenditure programme to drive near and long-term growth.

During the quarter, CDMO revenue rose 67 per cent to Rs. 870 crore, while the affordable medicines business grew 10 per cent to Rs. 1,156 crore.

The company said it continued investing in manufacturing expansion, with planned capital expenditure across FY27 and FY28 focused on small molecules, fermentation, peptides, gene therapy and antibody drug conjugates.

Laurus said it also in-licensed two ADC assets from Aarvik Therapeutics for development and commercialisation in India, while continuing investments in advanced biologics infrastructure.

The company has completed 24 quality audits during the quarter without any critical findings and received approval from the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) for its near-term emissions reduction targets. UNI

Adani Energy bags Rs 8,500-crore Vizag Power Transmission Project

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JUL 27 : Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) officially announced here through a company statement on Friday that it has won a Rs 8,500-crore interstate Telangana-Andhra Pradesh electricity transmission project to supply power to green hydrogen and green ammonia projects in Visakhapatnam (Vizag), which is located in Andhra Pradesh.

After winning the project, AESL's transmission order book has increased by more than Rs 80,000 crore, strengthening its position as the country's largest private sector electricity transmission and distribution company.

According to the company statement, the project, which has been awarded under the central government's Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) framework, will support an estimated power demand of around 4,500 MW of electricity from proposed green molecule projects in Vizag.

It is expected to strengthen electricity grid capacity in the Pendurthi-Visakhapatnam corridor, where large-scale data centre and digital infrastructure investments are



being planned, according to the company statement. The interstate electricity transmission project will be developed through a special purpose vehicle company called Vizag Power Transmission Ltd.

The project includes the construction of two high-capacity substations at Pendurthi in Vizag and at Khammam-II.

Visakhapatnam (Vizag) is located in Andhra Pradesh,

while Khammam is located in the adjoining Telangana state.

The interstate Telangana-Andhra Pradesh electricity transmission project will add around 1,582 circuit kilometres of electricity transmission lines and 10,500 MVA of transformation capacity to AESL's portfolio, according to the company statement.

After the project is up and running, AESL's electricity

transmission network stands to expand to 29,531 circuit km, while transformation capacity will rise to around 1,33,675 MVA, the company statement mentioned.

Commenting on the development, Adani Energy Solutions Ltd CEO Kandarp Patel said, "The Vizag transmission project is an important step in building the energy backbone for India's next generation of industrial growth. It

will support the development of green hydrogen and green ammonia capacity in Andhra Pradesh, while also strengthening the grid for emerging digital infrastructure demand in the Pendurthi-Vizag region".

According to the company statement, the interstate Telangana-Andhra Pradesh electricity transmission project is expected to be completed within 30 months.

The project is expected to benefit Andhra Pradesh which is building a green energy ecosystem around Visakhapatnam (Vizag), leveraging its industrial base, port infrastructure and renewable energy potential.

Green hydrogen and green ammonia projects require large volumes of reliable renewable power, making high-capacity transmission infrastructure a critical component of the planned investments.

The Vizag region in Andhra Pradesh has been witnessing increased interest from digital infrastructure players, with planned investment in hyperscale data centres, AI infrastructure as well as subsea connectivity projects, which are all expected to drive additional electricity demand. UNI



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Root and Trescothick could sub in as England Test captain and coach

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MELBOURNE: Joe Root and Marcus Trescothick could be England's captain and coach on an interim basis for their Test series against Pakistan next month, though the ECB are yet to take a final decision on either position. Rob Key, England's managing director, is running the recruitment process for a new Test head coach along with an external headhunter, and has made contact with multiple potential candidates this week for preliminary conversations. Contenders for the role include Stephen Fleming, Jonathan Trott, Richard Dawson and Tom Moody.

Richard Gould, the ECB's chief executive, said when Brendon McCullum was removed from his role as Test coach that the vacancy would "ideally" be filled before the first Pakistan Test on August 19, but left open the possibility that an interim coach could fill the role. In that instance, Trescothick - previously McCullum's assistant - would likely deputise. Timelines will depend in part on whether the ECB's preferred candidate is already under contract elsewhere. Fleming and Trott are both free agents after leaving roles with Chennai Su-

per Kings and Afghanistan respectively, but Dawson is Glamorgan's head coach and Moody is employed by Lucknow Super Giants as their global director of cricket.

Andy Flower, who topped the ECB's initial shortlist, ruled himself out of contention for the vacancy last week, citing his desire to continue working for Royal Challengers Bengaluru and London Spirit in franchise cricket. The ECB are open to the idea of a potential job-share, though the practicalities would be far from straightforward.

England have made clear that their short-term priority is to beat Australia next summer. They will play 10 more Tests before the start of the Ashes: three against Pakistan at home (August-September), three in South Africa (December-January), two in Bangladesh (February), the 150th anniversary Test in Melbourne (March) and one at home to Bangladesh (May). Gould also said earlier this month that the identity of Ben Stokes' successor as captain would ultimately be a choice for the new coach, though hinted that there was an "obvious direction of travel" and that it would be "too much for [one] individual" to lead across formats.



Cape Verde's World Cup sensation Vozinha to join Chile club Colo Colo

■ AGENCIES

SANTIAGO: One of the breakout stars at the World Cup has a new home in Chile — Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha has signed a contract with Colo Colo, the South American country's biggest soccer team.

The 40-year-old Vozinha became one of the most talked-about players at the World Cup with a string of remarkable saves against top teams such as eventual champion Spain and defending champion Argentina.

"Welcome. We're waiting for you," the club wrote Friday on its social media pages in a post that quickly sparked excitement not only among Colo Colo supporters but across Chile, where the national team failed this year to qualify for a third consecutive World Cup. Anibal Mosa, president of Blanco y Negro, the company that manages the Chilean club, had confirmed shortly before that the goalkeeper, who had no contract with any team during the World Cup, will arrive in Chile soon.

Top-ranked Sinner, 24-time Grand Slam champ Djokovic withdraw from the National Bank Open

■ AGENCIES

MONTREAL: World No. 1 Jannik Sinner and 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic have withdrawn from the National Bank Open.

Tennis Canada announced Friday that neither will compete in Montreal after both players were included on the entry list for the ATP Masters 1000 tournament beginning Aug. 1. Seven-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz was not included on the player list as he continues to recover from a right wrist injury that forced him to miss the French Open and Wimbledon.

"After carefully considering all the factors together with my team, we have made the difficult

decision to withdraw from Montreal," said Sinner, who won at Wimbledon earlier this month.

"It is never easy to miss such an important event, but we believe this is the right decision to prioritize my health. I'm disappointed not to be there, but I look forward to returning to Montreal in the future."

French Open champion and Wimbledon runner-up Alexander Zverev will be the tournament's top seed. Montreal's Félix Auger-Aliassime will be seeded second, making him the highest-seeded Canadian in the tournament's history.

Sinner, Djokovic and Alcaraz — the three biggest draws in men's tennis — also missed last year's event in Toronto, when the 12-day tournament began



just two weeks after Wimbledon.

Tournament officials had expected fewer withdrawals this year, with the event starting three weeks after the Wimbledon finals, and expressed their frustration in a press release.

"We are obviously very disappointed that Jannik and Novak won't be joining us in Montréal this year, especially after they also withdrew from last year's tournament in Toronto. We respect their decisions and understand that, with such a demanding schedule, players' health must remain the priority," NBO tournament director Valérie Tétreault said in a statement. "That said, we believe the frequency of these last-minute withdrawals in the last few years raises a broader issue for our sport."

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