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16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION HEADLINES TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



P.3

Speaker holds public outreach camp at Kanidajan; assures accelerated development, protection of rights under Forest Rights Act

Nation's Progress Depends on Youth Power : PM Modi

Vivekananda's ideals remain guiding force for building a developed India



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

MYSURU, AUG 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called upon the country's youth to dedicate themselves to nation-building through innovation, discipline and selfless service, asserting that fulfilling Swami Vivekananda's vision of a strong and developed India is the responsibility of the present generation. He said India's rapid economic and technological rise reflects the strength of its young population and urged them to become agents of national transformation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called upon India's youth to dedicate themselves to nation-building through service, innovation, education and discipline, saying fulfilling Swami Vivekananda's vision of India was the responsibility of the present generation.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Youth Centre (Viveka Smaraka) at the Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama here, Modi said the memorial should nurture young people who place the nation above self and draw inspiration from Vivekananda's ideals of service and sacrifice. This Centre marks a new expansion of Ramakrishna Mission's work.

Highlighting India's transformation, he said the country's youth, once constrained under colonial rule, were today driving global development.

"Today, India is the world's fastest-growing major economy. Who has made this possible. The capability of India's youth. Youth of India are giving impetus to the development of the world," Modi underlined.

SEE ON P-2

PM to Launch 100-Week Nationwide Anti-Drug Campaign

'Nasha Mukta Yuva' initiative aims to build a drug-free India through public participation

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, AUG 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a 100-week nationwide campaign against drug and substance abuse on Sunday, seeking to mobilise youth and communities across the country in a sustained movement to create a drug-free India through awareness, public participation and behavioural change.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday will launch a 100-week pan-India campaign against drug and substance use.

The 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' initiative aims to inspire youth to stay away from substance abuse and encourages them to become ambassadors of positive social change in their communities.

The launch will mark the beginning of a 100-week nationwide 'Jan Bhagidari' campaign against substance abuse, an official statement said on Saturday.

Under the campaign, weekly activities will be

SEE ON P-2

Kulgam Attack Is an Assault on Humanity : LoP Sunil Sharma

BJP leader says terrorists behind the killings will be brought to justice



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 1: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Saturday condemned the killing of two non-local labourers in Kulgam as an attack on humanity, asserting that the terrorists responsible, along with those supporting them, would soon be brought to justice through decisive action by the security forces.

Deluge Unleashes Chaos Across J&K and Ladakh

Cloudbursts trigger floods, highway closures and school shutdowns as rescue teams race to restore normalcy

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 1: Heavy rains and cloudbursts battered several parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Saturday, causing widespread flooding in Shopian, extensive damage in Kishtwar's Chatroo area and flash floods in Minamarg. The extreme weather forced the closure of NH-244 and disrupted traffic on the Srinagar-Drass highway, while schools in Ramban and Kishtwar remained shut as authorities launched rescue and restoration operations amid fresh

SEE ON P-2

"No Religion Permits Killing Innocents": Tanvir Sadiq Condemns Kulgam Terror Attack, Demands Swift Justice

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 1: National Conference chief spokesperson and Zaidi MLAs Tanvir Sadiq on Saturday strongly condemned the killing of two migrant labourers in the Kulgam terror attack, describing the targeting of innocent civilians as a "cowardly act" that has no place in any religion or civilised society. Addressing reporters in Srinagar, Sadiq said the attack had caused deep anguish and deserved the strongest possible condemnation. He stressed that



SEE ON P-2

LG Orders Intensified Anti-Terror Operations After Kulgam Attack

Directs enhanced security for non-local workers and stronger counter-terror measures

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUG 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday directed security agencies to intensify precise anti-terror operations across Jammu and Kashmir while ordering a comprehensive review of safety measures for non-local labourers following the killing of two workers in Kulgam. He also reviewed the security arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday chaired a high-level security review meeting to assess the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, with a special focus on counter-terror operations,



safety of non-local labourers, security arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra, and strengthening the overall security grid across the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor directed all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) to undertake a comprehensive review of the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) established for the protection of labourers from outside Jammu

and Kashmir.

He further instructed that employers must ensure all workers from other states and Union Territories are covered under insurance schemes and that their complete details are properly registered with the local police and district administration to enhance their safety and security. Emphasising the need for a robust response to terrorism, the Lieutenant Governor called

SEE ON P-2

Omar Announces ₹10 Lakh Relief for Families of Kulgam Victims

CM condemns terror attack, assures full government support

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Aug 1: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday announced an ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the families of the two non-local labourers killed in the Kulgam terror attack, condemning the incident as a brutal act and assuring the bereaved families of the government's full support.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday condemned the killing of two labourers in Kulgam district



and announced an ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for their next of kin.

SEE ON P-2

Srinagar Police Crack Blind Murder Case in Six Hours

Mother-son duo arrested after allegedly killing man over financial dispute and dumping body in canal



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUG 1: Demonstrating swift investigative work, Srinagar Police on Saturday solved a blind murder case within six hours of recovering an unidentified body from the Babademb Canal, arresting a mother-son duo who allegedly killed a man over a financial dispute and dumped his body to destroy evidence. In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),

underscores the force's commitment to ensuring speedy justice in serious criminal cases.

Srinagar Police on Saturday said it solved a blind murder case within six hours of recovering the unidentified body from the Babademb Canal, arresting a mother-son duo who allegedly killed a man over a financial dispute and dumped his body to destroy evidence. In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),

SEE ON P-2

نَبِّكَ اَللّٰهُمَّ نَبِّكَ
LABBAIK ALLAHUMMA LABBAIK

AL MURAD

HAJJ AND UMRAH

— SAFAR-E-IBAADAT, SUKON KE SAATH —

Haji aur Umrah ka Mukammal aur Behtareen Intizam

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Aapki Ibaadat ko Asaan Banana

Aapka Bharosa
Hamari Zimmedari

AL MURAD
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Speaker holds public outreach camp at Kanidajan; assures accelerated development, protection of rights under Forest Rights Act

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, AUGUST 01: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today visited village Kanidajan in the Charar-i-Sharief Constituency, where he held a public outreach camp to listen to the grievances of the people, review the developmental needs of the area and assess the overall progress of various public welfare initiatives.

During the public interaction, the people apprised the Speaker of several issues concerning the area and projected their developmental aspirations while expressing appreciation for his continued outreach and accessibility.

A major concern raised by the villagers pertained to the alleged harassment caused by issuance of eviction notices by the Forest Department and the reported obstruction of agricultural activities on lands which, they said, have been under their possession and cultivation for generations.

The residents informed the Speaker that a large number of families are solely dependent on the produce from these lands for their livelihood and urged the government to safeguard their legitimate



rights.

Addressing the gathering, the Speaker categorically stated that no one would be allowed to act in violation of the provisions of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. He asserted that the rights of all eligible beneficiaries under the Act would be protected in letter and spirit adding that no undue harassment of villagers would be tolerated.

The Speaker said that officers and officials of the Forest Department are expected to be fully conversant with the provisions of the law and must discharge their

responsibilities in strict conformity with the legal framework.

He said that the government has recently issued comprehensive guidelines clearly explaining implementation of the relevant provisions of the Forest Rights Act. He cautioned that no individual should attempt to misuse the Act as a pretext for fresh encroachments on forest land or government property, emphasizing that the law must be implemented fairly and transparently while safeguarding the rights of genuine beneficiaries.

The villagers also highlighted several

long-pending developmental requirements, including improvement of road connectivity, augmentation of drinking water supply, strengthening of electricity infrastructure, upgradation of the local High School to Higher Secondary level, enhancement of healthcare facilities and establishment of veterinary centres in the area.

Responding to the demands, the Speaker assured the gathering that the government remains fully committed to the welfare and inclusive development of the people. He said that all genuine issues projected by the residents would be taken up with the concerned departments and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

The Speaker also gave a detailed account of the developmental initiatives undertaken by the present government during the last one-and-a-half years in the Charar-i-Sharief Constituency. He informed the gathering that macadamisation works on several important roads, including Dardpora-Kanidajan Road, Hayatpora-Wanpora via Kazipora Road, Tujan-Tilsara Road, Charaipora-Karpura-Tujan Road, Dardpora-Chrawani-Charar-i-Sharief Road besides other key road projects have been completed.

J&K Judicial Academy conducts day-44 of Induction Training for newly appointed Civil Judges

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, AUGUST 1: Under the patronage of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Sanjeev Kumar and the guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Chairman, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy conducted the proceedings of Day-44 of the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme (Batch-2026) for the newly appointed Civil Judges (Junior Division) at its Mominabad, Srinagar campus.

The forenoon sessions were conducted by Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Member, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, on "Criminal Proceedings: From Registration of FIR to Cognizance" and "Commencement of Trial and Judicial Management of Criminal Cases."

Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani highlighted the importance of induction training as a bridge between the academic learning and practical judicial functioning.

Emphasizing the crucial role of Judicial Magistrates in the criminal justice system, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani sensitized the trainee officers to various stages of criminal proceedings, including investigation, cognizance, framing of charges, recording of evidence and judicial management of criminal trials.

He also emphasized the need for careful exercise of judicial discretion, adherence to procedural safeguards and maintenance of judicial independence, integrity and ethical standards.

The afternoon session featured an inspiring address by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Member, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy.

Addressing the trainee Civil Judges, Justice Rahul Bharti said that the officers had now stepped from the world of academic aspirations into the realities of judicial service, where every decision carries lasting consequences.

Emphasizing that judicial office demands seriousness, dedication and maturity, Justice Rahul Bharti encouraged the trainees to embrace every challenge as an opportunity to learn and evolve. He impressed upon them that while promotions may come with length of service, true professional achievement lies in acquiring knowledge, developing competence and earning respect through integrity, hard work and excellence in judicial performance.

Justice Rahul Bharti also urged the officers to cultivate the habit of continuous learning, remain humble throughout their careers and discharge their judicial responsibilities with compassion, confidence and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Director, Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar, highlighted the rich judicial experience and expertise of the Resource Persons and interacted with the trainee officers throughout the programme.

DLSA Srinagar organizes Special Lok Adalat for Matrimonial Cases

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01: In compliance to the directions of NALSA & JK Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat for Matrimonial Cases.

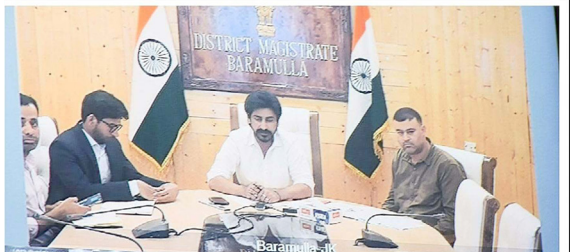
The Special Lok Adalat, aimed at amicably resolving Cases, was held under the guidance of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar. To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, two benches were constituted for the Special Lok Adalat. The 1st bench was presided over by Mehreen Mushtaq, Principal Judge Family Court, Srinagar, and Masarat Jabeen, PT&E Magistrate, Srinagar as Member, and the 2nd bench was presided over by Preet Simran Kaur, 4th Additional Sessions Judge, Srinagar and Fida Hussain Nayak, Municipal Magistrate, Srinagar as member. 85 cases were taken up by these benches for amicable settlement, out of which 14 cases were settled. To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, two benches were constituted for the Special Lok Adalat. The 1st bench was presided over by Mehreen Mushtaq, Principal Judge Family Court, Srinagar, and Masarat Jabeen, PT&E Magistrate, Srinagar as Member.

Div Com Kashmir reviews progress on Compassionate Appointment Cases, SVAMITA, AgriStack

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to review the progress of compassionate appointment cases, pending SVAMITA matters under MAPS 1.0, implementation of AgriStack, and the locking of Jamabandies across the Kashmir Division.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner conducted a district-wise review of the progress achieved under each initiative and emphasized the need for timely completion of all pending tasks. He directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that the prescribed targets are achieved within the stipu-



lated timelines through close monitoring and coordinated

efforts. Reviewing the status of compassionate appoint-

ment cases, the Divisional Commissioner instructed the DCs to expedite the disposal of all pending cases in accordance with the established norms and procedures.

The Divisional Commissioner also directed the Deputy Commissioners to furnish details of encroachments on public land and public spaces by religious structures within the next two days to facilitate further action.

To prevent the dissemination of misinformation and fake news on social media platforms, the Divisional Commissioner instructed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure strict adherence by media channels & users to the advisories issued by the Information Department and take punitive action in case of noncompliance.

FDA issues Public Health Advisory against Unsafe "New Fast Tea";

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has issued a public health advisory advising consumers not to purchase or consume "Dust Tea (Premium Instant Mix Tea)" marketed under the brand "New Fast Tea", Batch No. 10, packed by M/s INAAM Tea Agency, Thane, Maharashtra, after the product was declared Unsafe by the National Food Laboratory (NFL), Ghaziabad.

The sample was lifted by the Food Safety Officer, Trial, on 27.06.2026 during routine enforcement activities and forwarded to the National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad, for analysis.

As per Food Analyst's Report, the sample was found to contain the prohibited synthetic food colours,

Tartrazine and Sunset Yellow, rendering the product Unsafe under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made thereunder.

Based on the laboratory findings, the Designated Officer (Assistant Commissioner), Pulwama, has issued a Prohibition Order under Section 36(3)(b) read with Section 18(1)(f) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, prohibiting the sale and distribution of the affected batch within District Pulwama. Further regulatory proceedings under the Act have also been initiated.

Consumers in possession of the batch are advised not to consume the product. Any instance of its sale or distribution may be reported immediately to the concerned Designated Officer or the Food & Drugs Administration.

Mother, Son Arrested as Srinagar Police Solve Blind Murder Case Within Hours

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, August 1, KNT: Srinagar Police on Saturday claimed to have solved a blind murder case within six hours of the recovery of an unidentified body, arresting a mother-son duo allegedly involved in the crime.

According to police, an unidentified body wrapped in gunny bags was recovered on July 30 from the Babademb Canal beneath Baba Dawood Khakhi Bridge in the Khanyar area. Following the recovery, Police Station Khanyar registered FIR No. 49/2026 under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and launched an investigation.

Given the seriousness of the case, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted under the supervision of senior officers. During the investigation, police identified the accused as Haleema Bano and her son, Moomin



Ahmad, originally from Machil in Kupwara district and presently residing as tenants at Mughal Mohalla, Rainawari.

Police said the accused fled Srinagar after the incident in an attempt to evade arrest. However, acting on multiple leads, the investigating team traced and apprehended both accused from the Lolab area of Kupwara within hours of the body's recovery.

During the investigation, the deceased was identified as Nazir Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, a resident of Kalantpora, Hawal. Police said preliminary investigation revealed that the victim was allegedly

murdered inside the rented accommodation of the accused following a financial dispute.

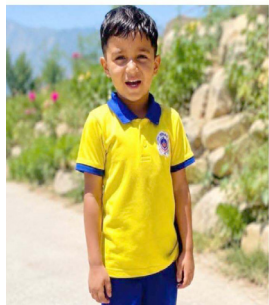
According to police, the accused subsequently wrapped the body in gunny bags and dumped it into the Babademb Canal in an alleged attempt to conceal the crime and destroy evidence.

Police said several articles believed to be connected with the commission of the offence have been recovered during the investigation. Further investigation is underway to ascertain whether any other person was involved and to complete the legal formalities. [KNT]

Mawer School Landslide Tragedy: PSA Mourns Heartbreaking Loss of Seven-Year-Old Frontline Model School Student Rehan Dar

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, 01 Aug, 2026: The Private Schools Association (PSA) has expressed profound grief and heartfelt condolences over the tragic demise of seven-year-old Rehan Ahmad Dar, a Class-Ist student of Frontline Model School, Mawer, Handwara, who lost his life in a tragic landslide incident on the school premises. In a joint statement issued by the Private Schools Association (PSA) through its Director of Media & Communications, Dr. Owais Mattoo, the Association's leadership expressed profound grief and heartfelt condolences over the tragic demise of little Rehan Ahmad Dar. PSA State President Bilal Ahmad Bhat, along with the members of the State Executive Body, PSA Kupwara District President Tanveer Ahmad Lone, District Vice President Altaf



Ahmad Shah, members of the District Executive Committee and all Zonal office bearers, described the incident as an irreparable tragedy that has plunged the entire educational fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir into deep shock and mourning. They said the untimely loss of an innocent child is heartbreaking and has left the entire school community grief-stricken. The Association also extended its heartfelt sympathies to North Kashmir Member Parliament (MP) & Chairman of Frontline Model School Er. Abdul

Rashid, MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshid Ahmad and especially to the bereaved parents, family members, teachers, students and staff of the school. Expressing sorrow over the tragic incident, PSA State President Bilal Ahmad Bhat said "The untimely and heartbreaking loss of little Rehan Ahmad Dar has left the entire Private Schools fraternity devastated. No words can ease the pain of parents who have lost their beloved child. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the bereaved family in this hour of immense grief and pray that Almighty Allah grants the departed child the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and blesses the family with strength, patience and courage to bear this irreparable loss."

Bhat also appreciated the prompt efforts made by the school administration, teachers and emergency responders.

MLA Bandipora reviews Development Works, stresses timely Public Service Delivery

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 01: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Bandipora Constituency, Nizamuddin Bhat, on Saturday chaired a departmental review meeting at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora to assess the progress of developmental works and public welfare initiatives in the constituency.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora; Chief Education Officer Bandipora; Chief Medical Officer Bandipora; District Social Welfare Officer Bandipora; MS DH Bandipora; Executive Engineers; Tehsildar Bandipora, besides other concerned officers.

The MLA reviewed the department-wise progress of ICDS, Revenue, Health, Education, Social Welfare, Power Development Department (PDD), Sports Council, Youth Services & Sports, National Health Mission (NHM), AYUSH and other line departments.

The MLA reviewed the status of ongoing development projects, Constituency Development Fund (CDF) works, Tribal sector projects and the CAPEX Budget 2026-27, and sought status from the concerned departments regarding implementation of various schemes and projects.

Chief Planning Officer, Bandipora, delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the progress of schemes and projects under different sectors.

During the meeting, the MLA directed the Programme Officer, ICDS Bandipora, to ensure that the vacant posts of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers are advertised and filled up



at the earliest. He also directed that all essential facilities be ensured at Anganwadi Centres and that benefits under various welfare schemes reach

the deserving beneficiaries effectively.

Reviewing the Health Department, the MLA directed that a special audit

of District Hospital Bandipora and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) be conducted, including the National Health Mission (NHM) manpower engaged and the utilisation of funds under different components in District Hospital Bandipora.

The MLA urged the Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora to ensure prompt public service delivery, particularly the issuance of Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates to eligible applicants within the stipulated timeframe.

The MLA also urged the Power Development Department to take necessary measures to reduce power curtailments and improve electricity supply for the convenience of the general public.

He directed the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Bandipora to obtain approval for the proposals related to the distribution of assistance under individual beneficiary

schemes from the MLA.

The MLA directed the Youth Services & Sports Department and the Sports Council to take up the matter of the unsafe building at SK Sports Stadium with the R&B Department. The Executive Engineer, R&B Bandipora, was asked to furnish the necessary report for further process.

The MLA urged all departments to furnish details of pending issues and projects requiring intervention at the level of the Heads of Departments, Administrative Departments, or the Government so that the same could be taken up with the concerned authorities.

The MLA emphasised coordinated efforts among all departments for timely completion of ongoing works, effective implementation of Government schemes and improved public service delivery, ensuring that the benefits of development reach every section of society.

DC Shopian releases District Statistical Handbook 2024-25 Reinforces Data-Driven Governance

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today released the District Statistical Handbook Shopian 2024-25 at a function held here at Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

The Handbook was released in presence of ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, DSEO, Bilkees Zahoor and other concerned officers and officials.

Prepared by the District Statistics & Evaluation Office, Shopian, the Handbook is a comprehensive annual publication containing authentic and updated statistical information on the district's key socio-economic sectors, including population, agriculture, horticulture, education, health, infrastructure, economy, financial inclusion, employment, social welfare and other developmental indicators. The publication is expected to serve as a vital reference document for evidence-based planning, policy formulation, monitoring, evaluation and research.



Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Shishir Gupta informed that the Handbook has been aligned with the District Good Governance Index (DGGI) framework and incorporates the latest available statistical data across major developmental sectors. She expressed gratitude to the District Administration and all stakeholder departments for their support in the successful compilation of the publication.

The District Statistical Handbook 2024-25 is expected to benefit government departments, policymakers, researchers, academicians, students, development professionals and other stakeholders by providing a reliable and comprehensive statistical profile of the district.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, Shabir Ahmad Hakak, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Kupwara, Ab Rashid Sheikh, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kupwara, Ab Rashid Ganaie, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers, Consultants of the Directorate and other concerned officers.

The review focused on the status of rural sanitation assets, door-to-door waste collection services, tendering of sanitation infrastructure,

operation and maintenance of existing assets, and other SBM(G)-related works being implemented across the district.

During the meeting, the Director General conducted a block-wise review of ongoing projects and directed all Block Development Officers to accelerate the pace of implementation.

She emphasized that Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) should remain a priority and instructed the officers to ensure timely execution of all sanctioned works.

Stressing the importance of efficient service delivery, the Director General Rural Sanitation called for the time-bound completion of all ongoing sanitation projects and directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Kupwara, to closely monitor progress and ensure that all works are completed within the stipulated timelines.

DG Rural Sanitation reviews SBM (G) progress in Kupwara

Calls for Time-Bound completion of Sanitation Works

HT News Network

KUPWARA, AUGUST 01: Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting in Kupwara to assess the progress of key Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) initiatives across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Kashmir, Shabir Ahmad Hakak, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Kupwara, Ab Rashid Sheikh, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kupwara, Ab Rashid Ganaie, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers, Consultants of the Directorate and other concerned officers.

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Director Sainik Welfare conducts Interactive Outreach Session for Ex-Servicemen in Gurez

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 01

The Director, Sainik Welfare

agriculture and tourism sectors with significant growth potential in the Gurez region.



Department, J&K, conducted an Ex-Servicemen (ESM) Outreach Programme on Saturday at the remote border area of Gurez in Bandipora district.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from Ex-Servicemen and widows of Ex-Servicemen.

Addressing the gathering, the Director highlighted the Department's three key focus areas viz. healthcare and medical initiatives for Ex-Servicemen, employment and self-employment opportunities for Ex-Servicemen and their wards, and educational incentives for the children of Ex-Servicemen.

He urged eligible Ex-Servicemen aspiring to secure Government jobs under the 6% reservation quota for Ex-Servicemen in Jammu & Kashmir to prepare themselves adequately and obtain the required qualifying marks to improve their chances of selection. Encouraging entrepreneurship, the Director advised Ex-Servicemen interested in self-employment to approach the Department for guidance on various Government schemes and skill development programmes. He particularly encouraged them to explore opportunities in

The Director informed the participants that the Department will be proposing several new welfare initiatives during the forthcoming meeting of the State Managing Committee on the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. The proposed initiatives are aimed at strengthening medical assistance, re-employment support, self-employment promotion, and educational incentives for the Ex-Servicemen community and their dependents.

He also apprised the gathering that the Department is actively pursuing the establishment of a Zila Sainik Welfare Office (ZSWO) at Bandipora to improve accessibility of welfare services for Ex-Servicemen residing in the district. During the interaction, the Director patiently listened to the issues and suggestions raised by the participants and assured them that the Department would examine their concerns and take appropriate action wherever feasible. Highlighting the Department's efforts to improve outreach, the Director announced the launch of an E-Outreach Initiative to complement the existing physical outreach programmes conducted by Zila Sainik Welfare Offices.

DLSA Ganderbal conducts Special Lok Adalat on Matrimonial Cases

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 01: In compliance with the directions issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, successfully conducted a Special Lok Adalat on Matrimonial Cases today, in the District.

The Special Lok Adalat was organized under the direction and supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of Matrimonial disputes, two benches were constituted. The first bench was presided over by Mahoor, Munsiff/JMIC, Ganderbal, with Shaheena Ali, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel as Bench Member, held at District Court Complex Ganderbal. The second bench was presided over by Moonis Wahid, Munsiff/JMIC, Kangan, with Advocate Tariq Ahmad Raina, Panel Lawyer, as Bench Member, held at the Munsiff Court Complex, Kangan.

CMO Doda conducts surprise inspection of PHC Assar

HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 01: Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr. Vinod Sharma today conducted a surprise inspection of Primary Health Centre Assar to review the functioning of the health institution and assess the quality of healthcare services being provided to the public.

During the visit, the CMO inspected various sections of the health facility, including the OPD, pharmacy, laboratory and other service delivery areas. He reviewed the availability of essential medicines, medical equipment, cleanliness, record maintenance and the attendance of staff, while interacting with healthcare personnel regarding the effective implementation of various National Health Programmes.

DC Rajouri reviews progress of Heritage Conservation Projects; Stresses timely completion

HT News Network

RAJOURI, AUGUST 01: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works being executed under the Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Heritage Sites and Monuments across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed project-wise review of all ongoing heritage conservation works and took stock of their physical progress. He sought updates from the



concerned officers on each project and reviewed the status of works to ensure their timely execution.

Emphasising timely completion of all heritage conservation projects, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that no unnecessary delays occur in the execution of works. He instructed them to monitor the progress of each project on a daily basis and take prompt measures to resolve any issues so that all works are completed within the stipulated timelines while maintaining the prescribed conservation standards.

The project aims to evaluate crop performance, energy efficiency, economic viability and farmer adoption of agrivoltaics under Kashmir's unique agro-climatic conditions.

The announcement was made by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai during the workshop "Building the Agrivoltaics Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir", jointly organised by CSTEP and SKUAST-K.

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01: In a major step towards integrating clean energy with agriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has announced the establishment of a 50-kW agrivoltaics (AgriPV) research pilot at its Shalimar Campus in collaboration with the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP).

The project aims to evaluate crop performance, energy efficiency, economic viability and farmer adoption of agrivoltaics under Kashmir's unique agro-climatic conditions.

The announcement was made by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai during the workshop "Building the Agrivoltaics Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir", jointly organised by CSTEP and SKUAST-K.



The workshop, aligned with the upcoming PM-KUSUM 2.0 scheme, brought together policymakers, scientists, industry representatives, financial institutions and

farmers to explore pathways for scaling agrivoltaics across the Union Territory.

"This workshop is only the beginning of a long-term collaborative journey

towards a resilient, climate-smart and energy-secure future for our farming communities," Prof. Ganai said.

The proposed research facility will serve as a demonstration and innovation platform to generate scientific evidence on dual land use, where crops and solar energy are produced simultaneously. Researchers will study suitable cropping systems, energy generation, farm economics and adoption models to

support future policy and large-scale deployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at the event, Saptak Ghosh, Sector Head, Renewables and Energy Conservation at CSTEP, said Kashmir has remained underserved in agricultural and energy innovation despite being a major contributor of hydropower. He said agrivoltaics provides an opportunity to combine the Valley's horticultural strengths with renewable energy.

Book Release Function of Dr. Samina Wani's Kashmiri Publication "Sahibo Az Walo Son Ye" Held in Srinagar

Jointly Organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh

■ **Jameel Ansari**

Srinagar, August 1: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh, today organised a grand book release function at the school's auditorium in Srinagar. During the event, the Kashmiri publication "Sahibo Az Walo Son Ye", based on folk poetry and authored by Dr. Samina Wani, Principal of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh, was formally released. The function was presided over by noted educationist and scholar Professor Shah Ramzan, while Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, attended as the Chief Guest. Eminent writer Professor Bashir Bashir was the Guest of Honour.

Among those present on the dais were Professor Naseem Shafae, Rukhsana Jabeen, Dr. Samina Wani, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi, Chief Education Officer Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, and JKAACL Editor (Kashmiri) Javed Iqbal Khan. In his presidential address, Professor Shah Ramzan congratulated Dr. Samina Wani on her literary achievement and remarked that writing and publishing books is a



priceless contribution to society. He said that books preserve knowledge, safeguard cultural identity, and serve as a lasting source of guidance for future generations. Stressing the importance of literary pursuits alongside academic responsibilities, he appreciated the joint initiative of JKAACL and Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh, for providing a meaningful platform to promote creative expression and intellectual discourse. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Naseer Ahmad Wani lauded Dr. Samina Wani's literary contribution and observed that the role of educational institutions extends beyond classroom teaching. He

said that schools must also nurture creativity, encourage reading habits, and cultivate literary appreciation among students. He added that teachers and educational leaders who actively contribute to literature inspire students and help strengthen a culture of reading, writing, and critical thinking. He also reaffirmed the School Education Department's commitment to promoting literary and cultural activities in educational institutions.

On the occasion, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi, Mohammad Amin Bhat, Professor Naseem Shafae, Rukhsana Jabeen, and Chief Education Officer Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Bhat also addressed the gathering and

highlighted the literary significance of the publication and Dr. Samina Wani's contribution to Kashmiri literature.

Scholars Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather and Yasmeen Shadab presented critical papers on the book, discussing its literary value, thematic richness, intellectual depth, and Dr. Samina Wani's contemporary literary contributions in detail.

Students of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh, presented colourful cultural performances reflecting the rich heritage of Kashmir, which were warmly appreciated by the audience.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Shaista Bukhari.

The function concluded with a vote of thanks presented by JKAACL Editor (Kashmiri) Javed Iqbal Khan, who expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests, speakers, participants, the School Education Department, and all those who contributed to the successful organisation of the event. He reiterated JKAACL's commitment to organising more collaborative literary and cultural programmes aimed at promoting the region's languages, literature, and cultural heritage.

Javid Dar reviews Rural Development initiatives in Jammu Division Calls for transparency, timely execution

■ **HT News Network**

JAMMU, AUGUST 01: Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of various rural development initiatives and flagship programmes being implemented across the Jammu Division. The meeting reviewed the progress and implementation of major schemes and programmes, including G-RAM-G, PMAY-G, SBM-G, RGSA, IWMP, NRLM besides other centrally sponsored and departmental initiatives aimed at strengthening the rural infrastructure, improving livelihood opportunities and enhancing the delivery of basic services in rural areas. During the review, the Minister stressed the need for proper transparency, accountability and timely execution of all developmental works. He directed the officers to ensure that the projects are completed within the



stipulated timelines without compromising on quality. Javid Dar emphasized that rural development must remain firmly focused on improving the quality of life of people in villages. He called for strengthening the grassroots institutions and ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach the eligible beneficiaries in a transparent and time-bound manner.

The Minister identified the water conservation, livelihood enhancement, rural infrastructure, employment generation and effective implementation of welfare schemes as key priority areas. He called for close coordination among different departments and field functionaries to achieve the prescribed targets and

address implementation-related challenges promptly.

He underscored the importance of active community participation in rural development programmes. He stated that greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, local communities and beneficiaries is essential for ensuring sustainable outcomes, efficient utilisation of public resources and accountable service delivery.

The Minister directed the officers to undertake regular field inspections, closely monitor the progress of ongoing works and ensure that developmental initiatives are aligned with the actual needs and aspirations of rural communities. Highlighting the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led government towards inclusive rural development, Javid Ahmad Dar said that concerted efforts are being made to empower the rural communities by improving access to essential services, promoting local entrepreneurship,

One-Day National Workshop Highlights the Significance of Statistics in the Digital Era held at S.P. College, Srinagar

■ **HT News Network**

Srinagar, AUG 01: A One-Day National Workshop-cum-Outreach Programme on "Significance of Statistics in Present Digital Era" was organized today at the Conference Hall of S.P. College, Srinagar, to commemorate the 133rd birth anniversary of Prof. (Dr.) P.C. Mahalanobis, popularly known as the father of modern statistics in India. The programme was jointly organized by the Division of Social and Basic Sciences, Faculty of Forestry, SKUAST-Kashmir, the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), and S.P. College, Srinagar.

The workshop was held under the patronage of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, and Prof. (Dr.) Arshad Hussain Mughal, Dean, Faculty of Forestry. The event commenced with a welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) S.N.Z. Geelani, Head, Division of Social and Basic Sciences and Convener of the programme, who warmly welcomed the distinguished guests, participants, faculty members, and students. Prof. (Dr.) Bilal Ahmad Bhat, the organizer of the event, introduced the dignitaries and speakers, highlighted the objectives of the workshop, and emphasized the growing importance of statistical science in



addressing contemporary challenges. The organiser at the outset thanked University administration, Commissioner secretary, The Department of Science & Technology, UT of J&K and Principal S.P. College Srinagar for their support.

The programme was graced by eminent academicians and scientists, including Prof. Aquil Ahmed, Head, Department of Statistics and Operations Research, Aligarh Muslim University; Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector, Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu; Dr. Bilal Ahmad, Joint Director, JKSTIC; Dr. G.A. Qureshi, Former Deputy Director General; Prof. Haris Izhar, Principal, S.P. College, Srinagar. In their addresses, the dignitaries highlighted the transformative role of statistics, artificial intelligence, and big data in advancing agriculture, forestry, climate science, economics, resource optimization, and sustainable food security. Conveying her message to the gathering, Commissioner Secretary Babila Rakwal (JKAS) said that while

disseminating the scientific and research acumen, such engaging programmes act as guiding light for the students in deciding their career options and that JKSTIC is open to collaborating and organizing such programs for the blooming buds of the Valley.

A major attraction of the workshop was the enthusiastic participation of more than 20 research scholars and over 150 students from universities, degree colleges, higher secondary schools, and middle schools besides NGO as well as govt officials from various departments, who showcased their scientific understanding through oral and poster presentations.

The programme also paid rich tributes to Prof. (Dr.) P.C. Mahalanobis, acknowledging his pioneering contributions to Indian statistics, national planning, sample survey methodology, and institution building, which continue to shape evidence-based policymaking in the country.

Youth Services and Sports Department and Soft Tennis Khelo Centre Jammu, J&K Sports Council. The tournament was organized as per SGFI guidelines and featured competitions in Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories for both boys and girls. The event witnessed intense matches and spirited performances throughout the four days. In the Under-19 Boys category, Madhavendra

Singh Sambyal clinched the gold medal with an impressive display of skill and temperament. In the Under-17 Boys category, Aditya Dutt Sharma emerged as the gold medalist while Harikesh Dutt Sharma secured the silver medal and Ayansh Khajuria bagged the bronze medal. In the girls' section, Abhiyana Khajuria won the gold medal in the Under-19 category, showcasing excellent control.

CCRUM Organises 'Uttar Samvad-2026' Official Language Conference-cum-Workshop at Srinagar

■ **HT News Network**

Srinagar, August 1, 2026: The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, organised the second Official Language Conference-cum-Workshop, "Uttar Samvad-2026," in hybrid mode at the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Srinagar, today. The programme was organised to promote the progressive use of Hindi in official work and to strengthen awareness of the Official Language Policy among officers and employees.

The inaugural session was graced by Shri Sagar Hanuman Singh, IPos, Chief Postmaster General, Jammu & Kashmir Circle, and Chairman, Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samiti (NARAKAS), as the Chief Guest. Dr. Younis Iftikhar Munshi, Deputy Director General, CCRUM, attended as the Guest of Honour, while Dr. N. Zaheer Ahmed, Director General, CCRUM,



presided over the programme virtually.

Welcoming the participants, Shri Mayank Tiwari, Administrative Officer and Programme Coordinator, highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the Council Headquarters to promote the use of Hindi in official correspondence and administration.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sagar Hanuman Singh described Hindi as a unifying force that connects India administratively, culturally and emotionally. He emphasised that language is an integral part of national identity and called for collective efforts to

further strengthen the use of Hindi in official functioning while preserving India's rich linguistic diversity. In his virtual address, Dr. N. Zaheer Ahmed said that following the successful organisation of Dakshin Samvad-2025 in Chennai, the Council was pleased to host Uttar Samvad-2026 in Srinagar. He expressed satisfaction over the progress made in implementing the Official Language Policy across CCRUM institutions and reaffirmed the Council's commitment to achieving its Official Language targets in accordance with the guidelines of the Department of Official Language, Ministry of

Home Affairs.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Younis Iftikhar Munshi highlighted the constitutional significance of Hindi as the Official Language and stressed the need to promote Hindi alongside other Indian languages in day-to-day government functioning. He called upon officers and employees to increase the use of Hindi in official correspondence and administrative work. The workshop featured technical sessions by experts on the Official Language Policy, implementation of Hindi in government offices, parliamentary inspection procedures, and practical aspects of official communication. Participants also attended motivational lectures, a poetry recital and a cultural programme presented by students of the institute. At the valedictory session, certificates were distributed to employees who had successfully qualified the Prabodh Examination in recognition of their efforts to strengthen their proficiency in Hindi.

VC SKUAST-K chairs 14th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of KVK Shopian

■ **HT News Network**

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 01: The 14th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting of KVK Shopian and the 20th SAC Meeting of KVK Kulgam were held today at the Conference Hall of KVK Shopian under the chairmanship of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir. Adv. Shabir Ahmad Kullay, MLA, Shopian, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, was the Guest of Honour.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Najeeb-ur-Rehman Sofi, Associate Director Research, MRCFC Khudwani; Head, Research Station Salar; Programme Coordinators of KVKs of the Kashmir Division; officers from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Sheep Husbandry Departments; scientists from KVK Shopian, KVK Kulgam, and AARC Pahnoo; along with progressive and champion farmers from the



districts of Shopian and Kulgam. Addressing the gathering, Adv. Shabir Ahmad Kullay commended the farmer-centric initiatives of both KVKs and assured continued support for agricultural development.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai lauded the outstanding work of KVK Shopian and KVK Kulgam in improving farmers' livelihoods and emphasized the promotion of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), value addition, agri-entrepreneurship, and market-oriented farming for sustainable agricultural growth.

At the outset, Welcoming the participants, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth highlighted the importance of SAC meetings in strengthening research-extension-farmer linkages.

JKPSC Submits 67th Annual Report to LG Manoj Sinha; 1152 Selections Made in 2025-26

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01: In compliance with Article 323(2) of the Constitution of India, Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) today submitted its 67th Annual Report for the year 2025-26 to the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, at Lok Bhavan Srinagar. The delegation of the Members of the Commission - Dr. Rajiv Singh and Shri Asaf Mehmood Sagar; Secretary, Shri Bashir Ahmad Dar, was led by Chairman JKPSC, Shri Arun Kumar Choudhary.

The comprehensive report highlights a year marked by significant administrative reforms, accelerated selection timelines, and robust recruitment drives across key administrative and judicial cadres in the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the JKPSC's commitment to fairness and speed, while upholding meritocracy and



integrity throughout the recruitment drive.

Shri Arun Kumar Choudhary, Chairman JKPSC briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the structural and technological interventions aimed at enhancing efficiency and transparency.

The report outlines the achievement of the Commission, constitutional provisions, selections made, Departmental Promotion Committee meetings held, promotions effected and the recruitment rules of the departments approved.

In 2025-26, the Public Service Commission has made (1152) selections against (1263) posts referred to it. The selec-

tions include the selection for Jammu Kashmir Administrative Service, Jammu Kashmir Police Service and Jammu Kashmir Account Service among others. The Commission also made the selections against (39) posts of Junior Judge in the Subordinate Judiciary. In addition, the faculty posts in the various Medical Colleges, Degree Colleges and other Gazetted level posts of various departments were filled up. Similarly, the Commission held (29) Departmental Promotion Committee meetings and cleared (508) officers for the promotion. In the field of rule making, the Commission gave its assent to the recruitment rules of (02) departments.

HT EDITORIAL

Powering Kashmir:
Reliable Electricity
Must Match the
Promise of Reform

Electricity has become the lifeline of modern society, and nowhere is its importance felt more acutely than in Kashmir, where every season brings its own set of challenges. From households and hospitals to educational institutions, businesses and government offices, uninterrupted power has become indispensable. In an increasingly digital world, electricity is no longer simply a public utility; it is the foundation upon which economic activity, education, healthcare and governance depend.

Over the past few years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed substantial investment in its power sector. Transmission infrastructure has been strengthened, distribution networks upgraded and smart meters introduced across large parts of the Valley. These reforms have been projected as milestones towards building a modern, efficient and financially sustainable power sector. Consumers, too, have largely responded positively by accepting metering, paying electricity bills more regularly and cooperating with initiatives aimed at reducing transmission and distribution losses.

Yet, despite these significant investments, the daily experience of many consumers across Kashmir tells a different story.

Frequent and unscheduled power outages continue to disrupt normal life in both urban and rural areas. While weather-related disruptions and technical faults cannot always be avoided, recurring electricity cuts without prior notice have become a source of growing public frustration. Whether during peak business hours or late evenings, prolonged outages leave people uncertain about when supply will be restored, affecting every aspect of daily life.

For students, particularly those preparing for competitive examinations, unpredictable electricity supply interrupts valuable study time. Small businesses, traders and service providers suffer financial losses when work comes to a standstill. In hospitals and healthcare facilities, uninterrupted electricity is essential for lifesaving equipment, while households increasingly depend on power for communication, water supply, heating and digital connectivity.

The consequences extend beyond convenience. Kashmir's economy is steadily embracing technology, digital governance and online services. Banking transactions, virtual classrooms, government services, e-commerce and remote work all rely on dependable electricity. Every unexpected outage not only disrupts these activities but also undermines public confidence in the region's growing digital ecosystem.

Equally concerning is the lack of timely communication during power interruptions. Planned maintenance and unavoidable shutdowns may be necessary, but consumers deserve advance information through official channels, local media and digital platforms. Transparent communication allows people to make alternative arrangements and reduces public resentment. Silence, on the other hand, often creates confusion, rumours and unnecessary inconvenience.

The Power Development Department has undoubtedly undertaken ambitious reforms, but infrastructure alone cannot define success. The true measure of progress lies in consistent service delivery, faster fault restoration, effective complaint redressal and transparent engagement with consumers. Modern equipment must be complemented by modern governance.

There is also a need to strengthen preventive maintenance before faults occur rather than relying primarily on emergency repairs. Regular inspections of transformers, feeders and distribution lines, particularly ahead of winter and peak demand seasons, can significantly reduce unexpected breakdowns. Investing in reliability is often more cost-effective than repeatedly responding to avoidable failures.

Public cooperation remains equally important. Consumers must continue to use electricity responsibly, discourage power theft and ensure timely payment of bills. Sustainable reforms require shared responsibility between the authorities and the public. However, this partnership can only flourish when citizens see tangible improvements in return for their cooperation.

Kashmir today stands at a crucial stage of development, with increasing investments in tourism, education, healthcare and digital infrastructure. Reliable electricity is not merely one component of this progress—it is the backbone that supports every other sector. Without dependable power, the benefits of development remain incomplete.

The government has demonstrated its commitment to modernising the power sector. The next challenge is to ensure that these investments translate into uninterrupted and predictable electricity at the consumer's doorstep. Every household, every business and every institution deserves a power supply that reflects the aspirations of a developing and digitally connected Kashmir.

Ultimately, electricity is more than wires, transformers and substations. It represents efficiency, accountability and public trust. Keeping the lights on consistently is not only about delivering power, it is about delivering confidence in governance itself.

Forests need special
attention from the society.



By Sahil Manzoor

Our society is quite vigilant and have great potential to bring revolution in every field like in environment, sports, agriculture, horticulture, science and technology but some fields are necessary and we cannot live without their existence and some have options so it is our duty to keep our surroundings neat and clean and every bit related to environment never be ignored at any level. Today we are facing environmental threats like flash floods during the month of July, Jammu and Kashmir lost hundreds of lives due to flash floods, and we know flash floods cause floods and disturb our environment.

Nature has bestowed humanity with a great and luxurious carpet-like environment, and we humans are utterly selfish, and we have no idea where we are going. We are heading towards environmental destruction, like we are harming our environment. We are bad and selfish; we have polluted our environment, and still we have no idea. This is not fortuitous for our future that we selfish people drink alcohol in the lap of nature. Nature is not happy with us that we are making our environment polluted, and we have no regret about what we have done and what we are giving to nature.

Recently I saw a post on Facebook where some selfish goons drank and the residue was thrown in the environment. This is never the best and most best option for the environment.

The forests of Kashmir are among the Valley's greatest natural treasures. They enhance its breathtaking beauty, regulate the climate, protect water resources, prevent soil erosion, and provide habitat for countless endemic and endangered species. Forests are not merely collections of trees; they are living ecosystems that sustain biodiversity and human life by absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen, conserving water, and maintaining ecological balance. They are nature's lifeline, supporting every form of life that depends upon them.

Kashmir is blessed with magnificent forests dominated by majestic coniferous trees such as deodar, kail, fir, spruce, and pine. These forests shelter diverse wildlife, including the endangered Hangul, Himalayan black bear, leopard, musk deer, red fox, Himalayan monal, koklass pheasant, and numerous other birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects. Every tree, stream, and meadow forms part of a delicate ecological network that has evolved over thousands of years. Disturbing this balance can have consequences far beyond what is immediately visible.

Recently, a worrying trend has emerged

across several forested areas of Kashmir. Many meadows and forest clearings have gradually been converted into informal cricket grounds, especially during weekends and holidays. While wholeheartedly support

Wildlife suffers equally from such disturbances. Forest animals rely on peace and undisturbed habitats for feeding, breeding, and raising their young. Constant human presence, shouting, whistles, and

that support rural livelihoods. They sustain pollinators essential for agriculture and contribute significantly to tourism, one of Kashmir's most important economic sectors. Healthy forests are therefore essential not only for wildlife but also for human prosperity and well-being.

Climate change has already made mountain ecosystems increasingly vulnerable. Rising temperatures, irregular snowfall, prolonged dry spells, and extreme weather events are placing additional pressure on Kashmir's forests. Under such circumstances, every effort should focus on protecting natural habitats rather than increasing human disturbance. Conservation today is an investment in the safety, health, and prosperity of future generations.

Therefore, I believe that organized cricket and similar recreational activities should not be promoted in ecologically sensitive forest areas. The Forest Department, local administration, educational institutions, environmental organizations, and civil society should work together to protect these fragile ecosystems. Sensitive locations such as Hajjian, Palmaidan, Sotchalpathri, and other forest meadows deserve careful monitoring and conservation. Wherever environmental laws are violated, appropriate legal action should be taken to discourage activities that threaten biodiversity.

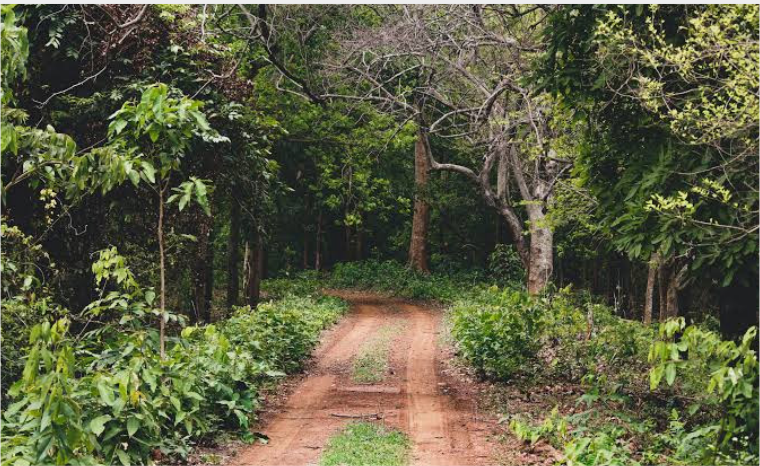
Public awareness is equally important. Schools, colleges, community organizations, and the media should educate people about responsible behaviour in forests. Visitors should carry reusable water bottles, avoid single-use plastics, dispose of waste responsibly, respect wildlife, and stay on designated paths. Recreational activities should be planned in locations specifically developed for sports rather than inside protected natural habitats.

Social media influencers and content creators also have an important responsibility. Their photographs and videos often inspire thousands of people to visit the same places. Instead of promoting cricket matches and other sporting activities inside forests, they should encourage environmental awareness, responsible tourism, tree plantation, cleanliness drives, and respect for nature. Positive influence can become a powerful tool for conservation.

We have a moral responsibility to preserve our forests for future generations. Once damaged, these ecosystems take decades, and sometimes even centuries, to recover. No cricket match, picnic, or recreational activity is more valuable than the survival of Kashmir's unique natural heritage. Sports can be played almost anywhere, but ancient forests cannot simply be recreated once they are destroyed.

Let us enjoy nature without destroying it. Let us ensure that our forests remain peaceful homes for wildlife rather than becoming sports stadiums. Protecting forests today means protecting clean air, clean water, biodiversity, climate stability, and the future of Kashmir itself.

Save Forests. Save Biodiversity. Save Kashmir's Natural Heritage.



cricket and all other sports, I strongly believe that forests are not the appropriate places for such activities. Sports are essential for a healthy society, but they should While sports are essential for a healthy society, they should take place in designated playgrounds and sports complexes instead of ecologically sensitive habitats. In designated playgrounds and sports complexes rather than in ecologically sensitive habitats.

Sports play a vital role in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, teamwork, discipline, and protecting our youth from drug abuse and other social evils. The government has invested significantly in developing sports infrastructure, and these efforts deserve appreciation. However, encouraging sports should never come at the cost of environmental degradation. Instead of allowing forests to become recreational playgrounds, authorities should continue establishing and improving sports facilities in towns, villages, and educational institutions where such activities can be conducted safely and sustainably.

On 4 July, while visiting Hajjian Branwar on a local picnic, I witnessed a large number of people playing cricket inside a forest area. The surroundings were littered with plastic bottles, disposable cups, snack wrappers, and other waste. Wooden stumps had been hammered into the ground, repeated trampling had damaged vegetation, and loud cheering echoed through the peaceful forest. What should have been a tranquil natural landscape had begun to resemble an open sports stadium. The sight raised serious concerns about the long-term impact of such activities on this fragile ecosystem.

The environmental damage caused by repeated sporting activities is often underestimated. Continuous foot traffic compacts the soil, reducing its ability to absorb rainwater and affecting the growth of grasses, herbs, and young plants. Delicate wildflowers are crushed before they can bloom, while seedlings fail to regenerate naturally. Over time, the vegetation cover becomes sparse, leaving the soil exposed to erosion during heavy rainfall and snowfall.

loud music force animals and birds to abandon their natural habitats in search of quieter places where food and shelter may be limited. Ground-nesting birds are particularly vulnerable because their nests and eggs are easily destroyed by people walking or running across meadows. Many animals alter their movement patterns to avoid human activity, increasing stress and reducing their chances of survival.

Another serious concern is littering. Plastic bottles, food packaging, disposable plates, and other non-biodegradable waste remain in forests for years. Such waste pollutes streams, contaminates soil, harms wildlife that accidentally consumes it, and destroys the pristine beauty that attracts tourists in the first place. Responsible tourism means leaving no trace behind except footprints, yet many visitors leave behind piles of garbage that become a burden for nature.

Many of Kashmir's meadows also serve as traditional grazing grounds for shepherds and tribal communities, including the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, whose livelihoods have depended on these landscapes for generations. These communities move seasonally with their livestock and have historically maintained a close relationship with nature. Their rights, livelihoods, and traditional grazing routes should not be compromised by unregulated recreational activities. Sustainable forest management must respect both biodiversity and the people who have responsibly lived alongside these ecosystems for centuries.

Forests provide countless benefits to society that are often taken for granted. They prevent soil erosion, reduce the risk of flash floods and landslides, regulate the water cycle, recharge groundwater, improve air quality, absorb greenhouse gases, moderate local temperatures, and help combat climate change. Forests also provide medicinal plants, fuelwood, fodder, timber, and numerous non-timber forest products

Reservation as
Social Justice :
Priority on
Economic Criteria



Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

Reservation is one of the most significant instruments of social justice in independent India. It was introduced by the framers of the Constitution to address centuries of social discrimination, untouchability, and denial of educational and employment opportunities to historically marginalized communities. The primary objective was never permanent preference but the creation of equal opportunities so that historically disadvantaged communities could compete on an equal footing. Reservation was conceived as an instrument of affirmative action rather than an end in itself. The policy sought to create a more equitable society by providing representation and opportunities to those who had long remained excluded from the mainstream. More than seven decades after Independence, however, the reservation debate has become increasingly complex. India has undergone

remarkable economic, educational, and social transformation. Millions of people from reserved categories have entered the middle class and have benefited from education, government employment, and political representation. Simultaneously, many economically poor families belonging to non-reserved communities continue to face severe hardship without receiving similar assistance. This changing social landscape has led many scholars, policymakers, and citizens to argue that reservation should increasingly be based on economic criteria rather than caste alone.

The issue is not whether social justice is necessary—it undoubtedly is—but whether the existing framework should evolve to ensure that government support reaches those who are genuinely disadvantaged in contemporary India. Reservation has been one of the most debated public policy issues in India, intended to ensure social justice, equality, and representation for historically disadvantaged communities. In Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the reservation policy has acquired additional complexity because of its unique historical background, geographical diversity, ethnic composition, political changes, and constitutional developments following the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. While reservation aims to empower marginalized groups, its implementation in Jammu and Kashmir has generated controversies over fairness, regional imbalance, merit, and political representation.

To examine the evolution of reservation in Jammu and Kashmir, the major challenges associated with the present system, and possible solutions that may create a more balanced and equitable framework are to be discussed. The reservation system in Jammu and Kashmir predates the constitutional changes of 2019. Even under the former State Constitution, reservations existed for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), residents of backward areas, Actual Line of Control (ALC) areas, and other socially and educationally backward classes. Following the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory in 2019, the reservation

policy underwent several modifications to align more closely with national legislation while also accommodating local socio-economic realities. Various amendments have expanded reservation categories and altered eligibility criteria. These changes have significantly influenced admissions to educational institutions, government employment, and political representation.

One of the principal criticisms concerns the perceived imbalance between different regions. Jammu and Kashmir consists of geographically distinct areas with varying levels of development. People from some regions argue that reservation benefits have disproportionately favored certain districts while neglecting others. Mountinous and remote regions often seek greater recognition of their unique developmental challenges. Secondly, over time, reservation categories have increased considerably. Besides SCs and STs, reservations are available for several other categories such as socially and educationally backward classes, economically weaker sections (EWS), residents of backward areas, and others specified groups. The expansion has resulted in concerns that the proportion of open merit seats has decreased substantially, leading to dissatisfaction among general-category candidates.

Thirdly, the debate between merit and affirmative action remains central. Many students and job aspirants believe that excessive reservation reduces opportunities for candidates selected purely on academic performance. Conversely, supporters argue that historical discrimination and unequal access to education justify affirmative action. Balancing these competing principles continues to be a difficult policy challenge. Fourthly, not all individuals within reserved communities experience similar levels of disadvantage. Relatively affluent families within reserved categories may repeatedly secure benefits, while poorer members remain underrepresented. This phenomenon has led to calls for more refined socio-economic targeting.

Why Shelley Loved the Sea: Analysing His Poems



Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822) occupies a unique position among the English Romantic poets for his profound engagement with the natural world. Among all the elements of nature that inspired his imagination, none fascinated him more deeply than the sea. Mountains, clouds, forests, rivers, and the wind appear throughout his poetry, yet the sea possesses a distinctive symbolic richness. It is at once a physical reality and a metaphysical presence, representing freedom, revolution, infinity, creative imagination, destruction, regeneration, and the mysterious relationship between life and death. Shelley's poetry repeatedly returns to the sea because it embodied the boundless energy that he sought in both nature and the human spirit. His love for the sea was not merely aesthetic; it was philosophical, political, and deeply personal.

Shelley's attachment to the sea was rooted in his own life. During his years in Italy between 1818 and 1822, he lived near the Mediterranean coast at Livorno, Pisa, and Lerici. He frequently sailed upon the sea, finding in its changing moods a reflection of his own restless imagination. His final journey tragically strengthened the symbolic association between Shelley and the sea. On 8 July 1822, while returning from Livorno to Lerici in his small schooner Don Juan, he was caught in a violent storm in the Gulf of Spezia. His body was recovered several days later from the sea, and according to Edward Trelawny, Shelley's remains were cremated on the beach near Viareggio. Thus, the sea that had nourished his poetic imagination ultimately became his final resting place. Richard Holmes aptly observes in Shelley: The Pursuit that Shelley regarded the sea "not merely as scenery but as a living force with which the imagination could communicate."

The sea occupied a privileged place in Romantic aesthetics because it represented what Edmund Burke called the "sublime." In A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful (1757), Burke argues that vastness, obscurity, power, and infinity evoke awe mixed with terror. Shelley

transforms these characteristics into poetic symbols. Unlike the calm pastoral landscapes often favoured by eighteenth-century poets, Shelley's sea is dynamic, untamed, and spiritually liberating. It is a manifestation of the infinite power that transcends political tyranny, religious orthodoxy, and intellectual limitations. The finest expression of Shelley's fascination with marine imagery appears in Ode to the West Wind (1819). Although the poem is primarily addressed to the wind, the sea occupies an equally significant position. In the third canto, Shelley imagines the Mediterranean sleeping peacefully beneath the summer sky: "Thou who didst waken from his summer dreams/The blue Mediterranean, where he lay, / Lulled by the coil of his crystalline streams."



These lines present one of the most celebrated personifications of the sea in English poetry. The Mediterranean is imagined as a sleeping giant whose dreams are interrupted by the revolutionary force of the West Wind. The image is remarkable because Shelley fuses geological observation with mythological imagination. The sea appears both tranquil and powerful, passive and potentially dynamic. The adjective "blue" emphasizes beauty and serenity, while the verb "waken" introduces movement,

transformation, and awakening. The sea in this poem functions as more than a picturesque landscape. It becomes a metaphor for political revolution. Written in the aftermath of the French Revolution and during an era of European conservatism, the poem expresses Shelley's longing for social renewal. Just as the wind awakens the sleeping Mediterranean, revolutionary ideas can awaken oppressed societies. M.H. Abrams, in Natural Supernaturalism, argues that Romantic poets frequently reinterpret natural processes as symbols of historical transformation. Shelley's sea perfectly illustrates this tendency. The poem also introduces marine imagery through references to the Atlantic Ocean: "The Atlantic's level powers/ Cleave themselves into chasms." The ocean responds to the

revolutionary energy. Lines Written among the Euganean Hills offers a more contemplative vision. Written after Shelley visited the hills near Venice in 1818, the poem describes the landscape stretching toward the Adriatic Sea. Shelley surveys the immense panorama from an elevated perspective until earth and sea merge into one harmonious whole. The horizon becomes an image of infinity where finite human existence dissolves into universal nature. Throughout the poem, the sea symbolizes liberation from political oppression and spiritual confinement. Venice itself had once represented republican freedom but had declined into political subjugation. Against this historical background, the sea remains free, limitless, and unconquered. Shelley contrasts the corruption of human institutions with the eternal purity of nature. The sea therefore embodies moral as well as physical freedom. The poem repeatedly expands visual perspective from local scenery toward cosmic vastness. Such expansion reflects what Harold Bloom describes as Shelley's "myth of the liberated imagination." The poet seeks to transcend ordinary perception through imaginative union with nature. The sea becomes the visible manifestation of that infinite consciousness toward which the imagination continually aspires. A similar symbolism appears in Julian and Maddalo, Shelley's philosophical conversation poem set in Venice. The opening movement places the two protagonists sailing across the Venetian lagoon. The sea here performs several functions simultaneously. It provides geographical realism, psychological atmosphere, and philosophical symbolism. The constantly changing surface of the water mirrors the shifting intellectual debate between Julian and Maddalo. Julian represents Shelley's idealistic optimism, whereas Maddalo, based upon Lord Byron, expresses scepticism and melancholy. Their conversation unfolds against the fluid background of the sea, suggesting that truth itself is dynamic rather than fixed. Shelley writes of the "ever-changing sea," whose endless movement resists intellectual certainty. The marine landscape therefore reflects Romantic epistemology. Human knowledge, like the sea, remains fluid and incomplete. Stuart Curran remarks that Shelley's Italian poems repeatedly employ landscape "as an externalization of philosophical consciousness." The sea in Julian and Maddalo becomes precisely such a philosophical landscape. The relationship between the sea and imagination becomes even more profound in Alastor; or, The Spirit of Solitude (1816). Although the poem is primarily concerned with rivers and solitary voyages, water imagery gradually acquires oceanic dimensions. The poet undertakes a symbolic journey in search of ultimate beauty and intellectual fulfillment. His voyage across mysterious waters represents humanity's endless quest for transcendental knowledge. Unlike Wordsworth, whose rivers often guide the individual toward moral stability, Shelley's waters lead toward

uncertainty and infinity. The sea is associated with mystery rather than domestic security. It represents what the German Romantic philosophers called the Infinite (das Unendliche). The voyager seeks absolute truth, yet every discovery reveals further horizons. Consequently, the sea functions as an image of inexhaustible desire. Harold Bloom interprets Alastor as the drama of the Romantic imagination pursuing an impossible ideal. The sea participates in this symbolism because it continually withdraws before the traveller, inviting perpetual exploration without final arrival. Thus Shelley's fascination with the sea reflects his broader philosophical commitment to endless intellectual aspiration.

Marine imagery also appears significantly in Prometheus Unbound, Shelley's lyrical drama celebrating the liberation of humanity from tyranny. Throughout the work, the sea participates in the cosmic transformation accompanying Prometheus' emancipation. Oceanic imagery merges with light, wind, clouds, and celestial music to create a universe undergoing spiritual regeneration. In Act IV, Shelley imagines the entire cosmos singing in harmony. The sea becomes part of a universal orchestra in which every natural element contributes to the music of liberation. This conception reflects the Neoplatonic philosophy that deeply influenced Shelley. Nature is understood as an interconnected spiritual unity rather than a collection of isolated objects. The sea therefore symbolizes the infinite circulation of creative energy throughout the universe. Kelvin Everest argues that Prometheus Unbound represents Shelley's highest achievement in synthesizing political idealism with cosmic symbolism. Within this visionary framework, the sea becomes one of the principal emblems of universal freedom because its boundlessness resists every form of limitation. Another important dimension of Shelley's marine imagination is his treatment of beauty. Unlike the picturesque landscapes admired by many eighteenth-century poets, Shelley's sea possesses an ever-changing aesthetic. Its colours, sounds, rhythms, and movements continually transform. This perpetual change fascinated Shelley because beauty itself was, for him, dynamic rather than static. Beauty existed in motion, process, and becoming. This idea finds philosophical expression in his celebrated essay A Defence of Poetry (1821), where Shelley argues that poetry "lifts the veil from the hidden beauty of the world." The sea exemplifies precisely this hidden beauty because no two moments upon its surface are identical. Its changing forms reveal the infinite creativity of nature itself. The sea also stimulated Shelley's extraordinary musical imagination. His descriptions frequently imitate the rhythm of waves through flowing syntax, liquid consonants, and long vowel sounds. The movement of language becomes analogous to the movement of water.

Continued

Beyond Childhood The Lasting Effects of Parental Disputes



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

In an era marked by rapid social change, increasing economic pressures, and the growing influence of technology on family life, childhood itself is undergoing a transformation. While modern society has provided children with unprecedented access to education, healthcare, and opportunities, it has also exposed them to challenges that previous generations experienced less intensely. Among these, one of the most overlooked crises is the growing number of children being raised amid parental disputes.

The image of the traditional family has changed considerably over the past two decades. Dual-income households, demanding careers, rising living costs, social media influences, and the constant pressure to maintain a certain lifestyle have significantly altered family dynamics. According to mental health experts, these factors have contributed to an increase in stress within households, often leading to frequent disagreements between parents. While conflict itself is not uncommon in any relationship, it becomes deeply concerning when children are repeatedly exposed to hostility, emotional distance, and instability within their homes.

Today, children are not merely witnessing arguments in living rooms; they are experiencing conflict in new and more pervasive forms. They observe parents communicating through silence, exchanging harsh messages on smartphones, and carrying emotional tensions that linger long after disagreements have ended. In many households, technology has become both a connector and a divider. The same devices that keep families connected often become instruments of distraction, reducing meaningful conversations and increasing misunderstandings.

The consequences of parental disputes have become increasingly visible in schools and communities.

Educators across the country have reported a noticeable rise in behavioral and emotional concerns among students. Anxiety, declining concentration, irritability, and social withdrawal are no longer isolated issues but recurring patterns observed among children navigating stressful home environments.

For younger children, parental conflict disrupts their fundamental sense of safety. Childhood is built upon predictability—the reassurance that home is a place of security and affection. When that environment is replaced by uncertainty, children begin to internalize fear and confusion. They may struggle to understand why their parents are upset and, in many cases, mistakenly assume responsibility for the tension surrounding them.

Adolescents face a different challenge. At a stage when they are already navigating questions of identity and belonging, parental disputes often intensify feelings of isolation and emotional instability. Many teenagers withdraw into digital spaces, spending excessive hours online as a means of escaping household tensions. Others exhibit signs of frustration through declining academic performance, strained friendships, or increased behavioral problems.

The current generation of children is also growing up in a world where mental health conversations have become more prominent than ever before. Yet, despite greater awareness, many families continue to underestimate the impact of conflict on young minds. Mental health professionals emphasize that children do not simply forget what they witness at home. Experiences accumulated during formative years frequently influence emotional development, relationship patterns, and coping mechanisms throughout adulthood.

Research in child psychology consistently demonstrates that prolonged exposure to parental disputes can alter a child's perception of relationships. Children raised in high-conflict households often develop heightened sensitivity to tension. They become adept at reading facial expressions, anticipating arguments, and adjusting their behavior to avoid triggering disagreements. While such adaptability may appear to be maturity, it is often a response to chronic stress.

This emotional burden can have lasting consequences. Young adults who grew up amid parental disputes frequently report difficulties in establishing trust, maintaining healthy relationships, and expressing



emotions. Some become reluctant to commit to long-term partnerships, fearing they may recreate the conflicts they witnessed during childhood. Others struggle with anxiety and self-doubt, carrying emotional scars that remain long after they have left their family homes.

Economic realities have further complicated the issue. Inflation, employment uncertainties, and increasing financial responsibilities have placed immense pressure on families worldwide. Financial disagreements remain among the leading causes of marital conflict, and children are often unintended witnesses to conversations surrounding debt, expenses, and future insecurities. In many cases, these discussions contribute to an atmosphere of persistent tension that becomes a defining feature of daily life.

The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to influence family dynamics as well. Extended periods of confinement during lockdowns exposed many children to heightened levels of domestic conflict. Although societies have largely returned to normalcy, the psychological effects remain evident. Counsellors and educators continue to encounter children who developed anxiety-related symptoms during those years and continue to struggle with emotional regulation.

Social media has introduced another dimension to parental disputes. Unlike previous generations, today's children can observe conflicts extending beyond the confines of the home. Public disagreements, indirect online remarks, and digital confrontations have blurred

the boundaries between private and public life. The permanence of online interactions means that family tensions can follow children into spaces that were once considered escapes from domestic concerns.

Moreover, the increasing rate of separation and divorce has reshaped conversations surrounding parental conflict. While separation may, in some circumstances, provide a healthier alternative to prolonged hostility, experts stress that the manner in which parents manage such transitions significantly affects children's well-being. Children benefit most when parents prioritize cooperation and emotional support, even in the absence of a shared household.

Educational institutions have become critical support systems in addressing this issue. Schools are increasingly investing in counselling services, emotional wellness programs, and initiatives designed to promote resilience among students. Teachers often serve as the first observers of emotional distress, recognizing subtle changes in behavior that may indicate challenges at home. However, schools alone cannot bear the responsibility of addressing a problem rooted in family environments.

Communities must also play an active role. Greater accessibility to family counselling, affordable mental health services, and awareness campaigns can help parents better understand the impact of unresolved disputes. Parenting workshops and support groups have proven effective in encouraging healthier communication practices and reducing conflict within

households.

Importantly, conversations surrounding parental disputes should not focus solely on assigning blame. Parenting is an inherently demanding responsibility, and every family encounters moments of stress and disagreement. The challenge lies not in avoiding conflict altogether but in managing it in ways that preserve a child's emotional security. Children benefit from witnessing respectful disagreement and constructive problem-solving just as much as they suffer from repeated hostility and emotional neglect.

The current generation has often been described as the most connected in history, yet many children continue to feel profoundly alone within their own homes. They possess access to information at their fingertips but struggle to find reassurance where it matters most. Their emotional needs cannot be met by technology, academic success, or material comforts alone. They require stability, understanding, and the confidence that the adults in their lives can provide a safe environment in which to grow.

As nations continue investing in education and youth development, equal attention must be given to the environments that shape children long before they enter classrooms. The future of society depends not only on the knowledge children acquire but also on the emotional foundations upon which their lives are built.

Children should never become casualties of conflicts they neither created nor understand. Their childhoods should be defined by curiosity, learning, and hope rather than tension and uncertainty. Addressing the impact of parental disputes is therefore not simply a matter of family welfare—it is an investment in the emotional health of future generations.

In the end, the measure of a society is reflected not only in its economic progress or technological achievements but also in the care it extends to its children. Every child deserves a home where disagreements do not overshadow affection, where conversations replace confrontations, and where peace is not an exception but a daily reality. For countless children growing up between battles, that reality remains a distant dream—one that society can no longer afford to ignore.

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MY Bharat organises district-level "Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat" competitions at Kathua

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, AUGUST 01: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Kathua, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India today organised the district-level competitions under the "Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat" campaign in collaboration with Government Degree College (Women), Kathua.

The programme aimed at generating awareness against drug abuse while encouraging youth to channelise their talent and creativity towards the vision of a healthy, progressive and drug-free India. Around 200 students from various educational institutions across the district participated in eight competitions, while nearly 290 students, faculty members and guests attended the programme.

The competitions included dance, music, nukkad natak, painting, debate/ elocution, short film/reel making, slam poetry and slogan writing.

The winners included Team B, Government Degree College (Women), Kathua in the Dance, Music and Nukkad Natak competitions; Tamanna of Government Degree College (Women), Kathua in Painting; Hetal Malhotra of Government Degree College (Boys), Kathua in Debate/Elocution; Shivani Sharma in Short Film/Reel Making; Abhishek of Government Degree



College (Boys), Kathua in Slam Poetry; and Kashish Bharti in Slogan Writing. The

winners will represent Kathua district at the State-level competitions.

Principal, Government Degree College (Women), Kathua, Dr. Jaipal Singh was the chief guest on the occasion.

Addressing the participants, the Principal highlighted the significance of the "Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat" campaign and exhorted the youth to remain away from all forms of addiction and adopt a disciplined and healthy lifestyle. He urged students to channel their energy towards sports, education, knowledge, patriotism and excellence, stating that these values contribute to individual growth as well as nation-building.

He appreciated MY Bharat Kathua for organising the programme and providing a meaningful platform for youth to express their creativity while spreading awareness against drug abuse.

Deputy Director, MY Bharat Kathua, Jigmat Spaldon expressed gratitude to the Principal, faculty members, organising committee, judges, volunteers and participants for their support in the successful conduct of the event and reiterated its commitment to organising such awareness programmes for empowering youth and promoting the vision of a Nasha Mukta Bharat and Viksit Bharat.

The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates among the winners and participants.

World Breastfeeding Week observed at AH GMC Doda

■ HT News Network



DODA, AUGUST 01: On the directions of the Mission Director NHM J&K Akriti Sagar and Director Health Services Jammu Dr Poonam Sethi and under the guidance of Principal Government Medical College Doda Dr. Dev Raj Dogra and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma, the World Breastfeeding Week was observed today with an awareness programme at AH GMC Doda.

The programme was organised by the District Health Society Doda and witnessed the participation of Dr. Narinder Singh, Dr. Niraj Kumar and Dr. R.S. Manhas from the Department of Paediatrics, GMC Doda, BMO Ghat, Dr. Abdul Gafoor, Dy Medical Superintendent, AH GMC Doda, Dr. Irfan Tasaduq Kelam, healthcare staff, nursing students and lactating mothers.

During the programme, senior faculty members from the Department of Paediatrics, including Dr. Niraj Kumar, Dr. R.S. Manhas and Dr. Narinder Singh delivered informative lectures highlighting the significance of early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months and continued breastfeeding along with complementary feeding for optimal child growth, development and disease prevention.

CMO and Dy. Medical Superintendent, AH GMC emphasised the importance of observing World Breastfeeding Week and urged mothers and families to adopt optimal breastfeeding practices for ensuring a healthy start to every child's life.

The programme also featured speeches by nursing students of GMC Doda, who highlighted the health, nutritional and emotional benefits of breastfeeding for both infants and mothers.

The programme concluded with a pledge by the participants to promote, protect and support breastfeeding practices, reinforcing the commitment of the Health Department towards improving maternal and child health across the district.

DLSA Jammu organises Special Lok Adalat for Matrimonial Cases

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 01: A Special Lok Adalat for Matrimonial Cases was organized today by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Jammu under the guidance of Ravinder Nath Watal, Principal District & Sessions Judge/Chairman, DLSA Jammu and under the supervision of Maleeka Sharma, Civil Judge Sr. Division/Secretary DLSA Jammu..

20 benches were constituted to take up matters related to matrimonial disputes.

A total of 155 cases were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which 34 cases were amicably settled through conciliation and mediation. The objective of the Special Lok Adalat was to provide speedy and cost-effective resolution to matrimonial disputes and to promote social harmony by encouraging parties to resolve their differences mutually.

Similar Special Lok Adalats were held at TLSC Bishnah, RS Pura and Akhnour.

NABL Assessment Team visits FQCL Jammu for surveillance assessment

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 01: A two-day assessment by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) commenced today at the Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratory (FQCL), Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo Jammu to evaluate the laboratory's compliance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standards for testing laboratories.

The opening meeting was attended by Lead Assessor Shiva Kant Dwivedi and Technical Assessor Mohan Lal Dotaniya. Also present were, Agriculture Chemist Jammu Roshan Lal Bhagat; Assistant Biochemist (FQCL) Deepak Singh; Technical Manager/Analyst Pradeep Bhatia; Analysts Pooja Koul, Aparna Ganjoo and Babbar Preet Singh. Dr. Anshuman, Assistant Director, NABL joined the meeting through virtual mode.

Welcoming the assessment team, Roshan Lal Bhagat highlighted the role of the Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratory (FQCL), Jammu in ensuring the quality of fertilizers under the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. He said the laboratory is equipped with modern analytical instruments and qualified.

MLA Bhaderwah, ADC attend public grievance redressal camp at Panchayat Sangoi

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, AUGUST 01: A public grievance redressal camp was organized today at the Sangoi Panchayat, Village Himote, Bhaderwah to provide a platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public, facilitating the prompt redressal of public issues. The camp was attended by the Member of Legislative Assembly Bhaderwah Daleep Singh Parihar and Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal. Executive Engineers, CDPO, BMO, AEEs, Ex BDC Chairman, officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Social Welfare, Forest and various Sub District Officers and senior citizens were also present. A large number of public representatives and locals from Bhalla Block Kari Chhatra Pan-

chayat, Chirala Panchayat Bilara and Gudaka Panchayat highlighted demands related to road connectivity, power supply, Iron poles instead of wooden poles, demand of a wider Bus Stand, drinking water, healthcare facilities, Ration Depot, Animal Sub-Center, Internet Facility and other urgent developmental concerns.

The MLA emphasized the importance of sustained public outreach programmes in ensuring people-centric governance. He reiterated his commitment to addressing public concerns and ensuring that the developmental aspirations of the people are fulfilled in a timely manner. He stressed that coordinated efforts between public representatives and the administration are essential for accelerating developmental works and improving public service delivery.

Indian Red Cross Society organises drug de-addiction awareness programme at GDC Ramnagar

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 01: The Indian Red Cross Society J&K, in collaboration with the District Red Cross Society Udhampur and Government Degree College Ramnagar today organised a drug de-addiction awareness programme under the theme Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Life at GDC Ramnagar.

Principal of the College, Dr D.S. Manhas was the chief guest, while Secretary District Red Cross Society



Udhampur presided over the programme. The programme was attended by S.L. Bhardwaj, Secretary,

District Red Cross Society Udhampur; Ashok Chandel from the Indian Red Cross Society, J&K, tehsil-level.

MLA Thanamandi, DC Rajouri inspect flood-affected areas, Direct immediate restoration, protection measures

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, AUGUST 1: Member of Legislative Assembly Thanamandi Muzaffar Iqbal Khan accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today visited the flood-affected Galhuti-Shadra Sharief road and adjoining areas to assess the damage caused by the recent flash floods and review the restoration works being undertaken.

During the inspection of the Galhuti-Shadra Sharief road, it was found that a portion of the road became non-motorable due to flood damage. The Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Rajouri was directed



to immediately restore the damaged stretch and ensure that the road is made motorable at the earliest for the

convenience of the public.

The I&FC Department was directed to identify all flood-damaged spots, prepare detailed estimates and submit them at the earliest to ensure the timely execution of restoration and flood protection works. It was emphasized that vulnerable locations should be taken up on priority to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and ensure public safety.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to the speedy restoration of public infrastructure, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and complete the restoration works on priority.

JMC launches Coconut Shredding Unit to prevent drain blockages, promote sustainable waste management

■ HT News Network

AMMU, AUGUST 01: As part of its continued efforts under the Swachh Bharat Mission to strengthen scientific waste management and keep the city clean, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today launched a Coconut Shredding Unit at Bhagwati Nagar. The unit was inaugurated by Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The initiative has been introduced to address a major challenge during the monsoon season, when discarded coconut shells often choke drains and sewer networks, resulting in waterlogging and the overflow of



wastewater onto roads. After consuming coconut water, empty shells are frequently discarded on streets, in garbage bins, or directly into drains, creating sanitation and environmental concerns.

Under the new initiative, the JMC will collect discarded coconut shells directly from vendors across Jammu city and

transport them to the Coconut Shredding Unit at Bhagwati Nagar. The shells will be scientifically processed into co-peat, an eco-friendly growing medium widely used in horticulture, landscaping and composting.

Dr. Devansh Yadav said that all coconut vendors will be provided with special JMC identification

stickers. These stickers will help municipal collection vehicles easily identify registered vendors and ensure the regular collection of discarded coconut shells. He said the initiative will not only prevent drain blockages and reduce waterlogging during the rainy season but also convert waste into a valuable resource, reinforcing JMC's commitment to sustainable and circular waste management.

The Commissioner also urged citizens and vendors to actively support the initiative by disposing of coconut shells responsibly and cooperating with the municipal collection system to help keep Jammu clean and free from drainage obstructions.

Special Lok-Adalat for Matrimonial cases held at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 01: A Special Lok Adalat for Matrimonial Cases was held today across district Udhampur under the chairmanship of Kalpana Revu, Principal District & Sessions Judge/Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Udhampur.

The Special Lok Adalat was organized with the objective of facilitating the amicable settlement of matrimonial disputes through mutual consent and conciliation, thereby reducing the burden of prolonged litigation and promoting speedy, cost-effective justice.

A total of Nine (09) benches, comprising Judicial Officers, Senior Advocates and Panel Lawyers were constituted across district Udhampur to hear and resolve cases through compromise and settlement. The benches made concerted efforts to encourage dialogue between the parties and achieve mutually acceptable resolutions.

During the proceedings, 54 matrimonial cases were taken up, out of which 09 cases were successfully settled.

In addition to the District Headquarters, similar Special Lok Adalats were also conducted at the Tehsil Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) of Ramnagar, Majalta and Chenani, ensuring wider access to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and extending the benefits of speedy and amicable justice to litigants across different parts of the district.

31st consecutive Medical Camp-cum-Nikshay Shivar organised at Central Jail Dhangri Rajouri

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, AUGUST 01: As part of the ongoing TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the 31st consecutive Medical Camp-cum-Nikshay Shivar, being conducted continuously since 01 July 2026 was successfully organised, the other day at Central Jail Dhangri Rajouri in collaboration with the Medical Superintendent Central Jail Dhangri Rajinder Singh Chib.

The camp was organised under the guidance and directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Poonam Sethi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kalakote, Dr. Mohammad Tanwir and Chief Medical Officer Rajouri Dr. Manohar Rana.

Speaking on the occasion, Block Medical Officer Kalakote Dr. Iqbal Malik said that tuberculosis (TB) screening was conducted using a handheld X-ray machine, facilitating the early detection of suspected TB cases. Comprehensive awareness sessions were also organised to educate inmates and jail staff about TB prevention, early diagnosis and the importance of timely treatment and adherence to therapy.

Besides TB screening, the medical team provided free medical consultations, essential medicines, various laboratory investigations and other healthcare services to the inmates, ensuring comprehensive healthcare delivery within the correctional facility.

The beneficiaries expressed sincere gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for his visionary leadership and continuous support in strengthening public health initiatives. They also appreciated the guidance of the senior health authorities and the dedicated efforts of the Health Team Block Kalakote for organising the camp and ensuring quality healthcare services reached the inmates.



Awareness session on POSH Act held at Jammu

■ HT News Network



JAMMU, AUGUST 01: An awareness session on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) was held today at the District Headquarters, Jammu, in which officials of Jammu district were apprised about the provisions of the Act.

The session was chaired by Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal, who said that the Act provides safeguards against harassment, particularly sexual harassment, of women, whether working at or visiting a workplace for availing services. She called upon all female employees across the government and private sectors to discharge their duties with a sense of security and protection under the Act.

The ADM further informed that SHe-Box, an online portal (shebox.wcg.gov.in or at the Mission Shakti app) already exists for filing such complaints and that Internal Committees have been constituted in all offices for their redressal. She added that the complaint redressal follows a transparent mechanism and ensures that everyone irrespective of the gender is treated fairly.

Posters promoting the SHe-Box portal were also displayed prominently at the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, for the awareness of all visitors.

A brief presentation on the provisions of the Act and the rights of women thereunder was given by Advocate Dr Ifra Nasir.

District Social Welfare Officer, Preeti Sharma; Assistant Commissioner General Sania Haq Khan, District Coordinator, Mission Shakti, Shagun Manchanda besides other officials participated in the session.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name SONAULLAH GANIE. Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005042 wants to be registered on my name GH MOHD GANIE S/O GH RASOOL GANIE. 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...GH RASOOL GANIE
S/O...GH MOHD GANIE
R/O...BANDIPAYEEN
BLOCK...WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Nissar Ahmad Bukhari father of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari resident of Kreeri District Baramulla want to inform the general public through this notice that my name and my wards name has been mistakenly mentioned in the school records Syed Ayaan Nissar son of Syed Nissar Ahmad Bukhsri instead of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari son of Nissar Ahmad Bukhari, Now I want to correct it, In this regard if anybody has any objection they may contact the Principal SRM Welkin Educational Trust Sopore with in seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Nissar Ahmad Bukhari
Father of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari
R/O:- Kreeri District Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my No Plate of vehicle CREATA bearing Registration No J K01AK-4270 from LAWAIPORA TO NORBAL. Now I have applied for its Duplicate.

If any body have any objection regarding this He/She can contact RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Samba Police Arrest Two Women with 100 Grams of Heroin-Like Substance

■ HT News Network

Samba, Aug 1: Continuing its intensified drive against drug trafficking, Samba Police achieved a major success by arresting two women drug peddlers and recovering approximately 100 grams of heroin-like substance (commonly known as chitta) from their possession in the Vijaypur area.

Acting on specific information, a police team from Police Station Vijaypur launched a swift operation on Tarapur Road and intercepted two women who were moving suspiciously towards Vijaypur. During their search, police recovered around 100 grams of heroin-like substance from their possession.

The accused have been identified as Noora Jan and Noor Jahan, both presently residing at Rahya in Vijaypur tehsil of Samba district. They were arrested on the spot and the contraband was seized.

Police have registered a case under FIR No. 133/2026 under Sections 8, 21, 22 and 29 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Vijaypur, and further investigation is underway to trace both the supply source and the distribution network.

During investigation, police found that Mohammad Yaqoob alias Yooqa, husband of both accused women, is a notorious drug peddler allegedly involved in 17 cases under the NDPS Act and other criminal offences registered in Jammu, Samba and Reasi districts. His role and links with the narcotics network are also being investigated.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, reaffirmed the district police's commitment to its sustained campaign against drug trafficking, stating that stringent action will continue against drug peddlers and no person involved in the narcotics trade will be spared.

SS Condemns Kulgam Killings, Urges Firm Response to Pakistan

■ HT News Network

Jammu, August 1: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu & Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni strongly condemned the killing of migrant Hindu labourers in Kulgam, describing the incident as a "heinous crime against humanity" and calling for a firm response to what he alleged was Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism.

In a statement issued from the party's state headquarters, Sahni said the targeted killing had revived memories of the Pahalgam terror attack and raised fresh concerns over the security situation in the Kashmir Valley. Alleging that Pakistan continues to pursue a policy of proxy warfare against India, Sahni claimed the neighbouring country was attempting to divert international attention from its internal political and economic challenges, as well as unrest in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK), by encouraging cross-border terrorism. He noted that the Kulgam incident was the second targeted killing reported in the Valley within nine days. Sahni also referred to continuing infiltration attempts along the Line of Control and the interception of Pakistani drones by Indian security forces.

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 has submitted case file pertaining to Death of HANIFA BEGUM W/O AB HAMID WANI R/O. FREESTAR 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.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
KREERI.

After years of delays, SMC to build J&K's first modern mechanised abattoir in Srinagar

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 1 (KDC): After years of administrative delays and repeated changes in the executing agency, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has finally taken over the construction of Jammu and Kashmir's first modern mechanised sheep and goat abattoir at Allochi Bagh, paving the way for the long-pending project to be completed within the next two years. SMC Commissioner, Fazlul Haseeb told news agency Kashmir Dot Com, that the civic body has floated the project on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode for the establishment of the "Modern Mechanized Sheep & Goat Abattoir in Srinagar City", a facility designed to process 5,000 sheep and goats daily, making it one of the largest such facilities in the Jammu and Kashmir. Haseeb said that the project aims to modernise Srinagar's meat processing infrastructure by replacing conventional slaughtering practices with a hygienic, scientific and environmentally sustainable system conforming to national standards and international best practices. The project has witnessed multiple setbacks since its inception. Initially, its execution was entrusted to the Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC), which had even begun preliminary civil works several years ago. In March 2022, JKPCC had reported that the foundation work for the slaughter hall was in progress and was directed to expedite execution. However, following the financial closure and cessation of JKPCC's operations in August 2023, the project came to a standstill. Although its execution was later transferred to the R&B, officials said the project witnessed negligible physical progress.

The prolonged delay had also attracted public attention. Earlier reports highlighted that the proposed modern abattoir had remained incomplete for years despite repeated assurances, leaving Srinagar without a modern slaughtering facility. Work on the project also came under judicial monitoring in a Public Interest Litigation relating to slaughterhouses in Jammu and Kashmir. Following a comprehensive review, SMC decided to execute the project directly through its own Works Division under the EPC mode, ensuring single-point responsibility for design, procurement, construction, installation, testing and commissioning. SMC said a revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) was subsequently prepared after incorporating modern technologies and additional infrastructure required to meet contemporary standards of food safety, environmental protection and operational efficiency. The Government accorded administrative approval to the revised project in March 2025. The proposed facility will include fully mechanised slaughtering and meat processing lines, scientifically designed lairage areas, mechanised slaughter halls, carcass dressing units, chilling and cold storage facilities, by-product processing units and supporting utility infrastructure.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Department of Information

Office of the District Information Officer, Budgam

Phone No/Fax:-01951-255213

Quotation

On behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor J&K UT, Sealed quotations are invited from event management companies of J&K UT for supply of advanced and well-equipped Sound System (DJ) with high audio speakers, 8 cordless mics and 4 collar mics with professional operators on the full-dress rehearsal (13th Aug.) and on Independence Day (15th Aug) Celebrations 2026 at Sports Stadium Budgam.

The quotations shall reach the office of the undersigned by or before 7th of August 2026 up to 02:00 P.M.

Terms & Conditions

- The price quoted shall be inclusive of GST.
- The bid shall be opened on 8th of Aug. 2026 at 12:00 pm.
- The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the quotation without assigning any person thereof.

More information can be obtained from the Office of District Information Officer, Budgam during office hours.

DIPK -4008/26

Send Date: Aug 1 2026

Sd/-

District Information Officer
Budgam

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal-Shakti (I & F.C.) Division, Baramulla

Fresh e-NIT No. 05-IFCD.Bla. Of 2026-27 Dated: 29/07/2026

To

e-NIT No. 04-IFCD.Bla. Of 2026-27 Dated: 16/07/2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K, e-tenders on percentage basis (in Single Cover System) are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Government, for the following nature of works as shown hereunder: -

S. No.	Name of the work	Advertised Cost (In Lacs)	Earnest Money CDR (In Rs.)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs)	M.H. of Account	Tender ID
1.	Fabrication of Aluminum Cabins (04 No.) for Staff at Divisional Office, Baramulla	4.02	8040/-	15 Days	DEE	500/-	2711-M&R	2026_IFC_318537_1

Position of fund :

Budgetary Provision under M&R Budget for the year 2026-27.

Position of A.A.A :

Accorded vide Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle District Baramulla H.Q. Sopore's Order No. 07-SE-/HYD/DB of 2026-27 Dated: 13-07-2026.

Position of T.S :

Sanctioned vide Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle District Baramulla H.Q. Sopore's Order No. 01-SE-/HYD/DB of 2026-27 Dated: 14-07-2026.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of terms and condition of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.

1.	Date of Publishing	29-07-2026 from 1800 Hours.
2.	Start of downloading	29-07-2026 from 1800 Hours.
3.	Bid submission start date	29-07-2026 from 1800 Hours.
4.	Bid Submission end date	12-08-2026 upto 1800 Hours.
5.	Date of opening of Tender	13-08-2026 at 1400 Hours.

No: I&FCDB/CS-30/2951-70

DIPK-3990/26

Send Date: Aug 01, 2026

Executive Engineer

Irrigation & FC Division

Baramulla

Cabinet approves extension of PM-KISAN scheme till 2030-31 with Rs 3.15 lakh cr outlay

Rs 5,070 cr for PMSSY scheme for floating solar projects

■ HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, Aug 01: The Government on Friday extended the PM-KISAN scheme for the next five years till 2030-31 with a total outlay of over Rs 3.15 lakh crore, a decision aimed at providing financial support to farmers.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, launched in February 2019, eligible landholding farmer families get financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per year. The amount is transferred directly into their bank accounts in three equal instalments. Nearly 4.5 lakh crore have been disbursed so far under this scheme.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved continuation of the PM-KISAN scheme from 2026-27 to 2030-31, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters here.

A total financial outlay of Rs 3,15,614 crore has been approved for the Scheme during this period, he added.

"The approval reiterates the Gov-

ernment's commitment that the prosperity of farmers forms the foundation of the nation's prosperity," the Government said in a statement.

The extension of the scheme will enhance farmers' capacity to invest in agriculture, improve productivity, help reduce agricultural risks and strengthen the rural economy, it added. Through this scheme, timely and transparent income support is being provided to eligible farmer families through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. Talking about the successful implementation of this programme, the Government said it has so far disbursed more than Rs 4.47 lakh crore directly into farmers' bank accounts through 23 instalments under the scheme.

Under the 23rd instalment, more than 9.49 crore farmers benefited, with over Rs 18,984 crore released. "Women farmers have received more than Rs 1.06 lakh crore under PM-KISAN, and nearly one out of every four beneficiaries is a woman farmer," the statement said.

The Government also approved



Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) for development of floating solar photovoltaic projects with energy storage systems with a total outlay of Rs 5,070 crore, an official statement said.

The scheme envisages the development of 5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects with co-located Energy Storage Systems having a minimum storage capacity of two hours, i.e., 10,000 MWh, the statement said.

The projects will be sanctioned during FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, with disbursement of financial support continuing up to FY 2032-

33.

"The Union Cabinet today approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)', a Scheme for the development of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) Projects with Energy Storage Systems (ESS) with a total outlay of Rs.5,070 crore," the official statement said. The approval follows the recent assessment undertaken by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), which has estimated a floating solar potential of approximately 102.18 GW across reservoirs and other suitable inland water bodies in the country.

Under the scheme, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of Rs 1 crore per MW will be provided for eligible Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects after successful commissioning. In addition, CFA of up to Rs 50 lakh per project will be available for undertaking feasibility studies, including bathymetry and hydrography assessments, environmental studies, and other preparatory activities required for de-risking the project development.

NSA Doval Played Key Role In Strengthening India's Foreign Policy: Amit Shah

■ HT News Network/UNI



Pune, Aug 1: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has played a great role in strengthening India's foreign policy and has had a 'role and advice' in the background of every decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for national security. Addressing a programme after presenting the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 to NSA Doval here, Shah said India has embarked on the path of cultural nationalism envisioned by Tilak, and asserted that there would be no reversal from that course. Shah said the first selection PM Modi did after assuming office in 2014 was to appoint Ajit Doval as NSA.

"NSA Ajit Doval has played a great role in strengthening India's foreign policy. In every decision of PM Modi for nation-

al security, Doval has had a 'role and advice' in the background," Shah said.

He hailed Doval's long career in the Intelligence Bureau and said India has become strong and confident under Modi's leadership, with Doval playing a major role in that transformation. Shah said much of Doval's work can never be fully revealed because of the nature of intelligence operations. "After becoming NSA in 2014, Doval helped implement many strategic ideas on the ground and played a major role in modernising India's armed forces, strengthening technology, enhancing operational capability and

improving the country's defence preparedness," the Union Home Minister said.

He said the Modi government has fundamentally transformed both the defensive and offensive capabilities of India's armed forces over the past 12 years, with Doval making a significant contribution.

He hailed Tilak's unparalleled contribution, saying his immortal slogan, "Swarajya is my birthright, and I shall have it," gave a new direction to India's freedom struggle and inspired generations of freedom fighters.

Shah said the slogan made people realise that self-rule was their right and not a favour from anyone.

He said Tilak's life and teachings continue to inspire the country's youth and remain relevant in nation-building. "Tilak united people and connected them with the freedom movement through the public Ganesh festival.

NSA Doval Urges Youth To Rise Above Personal Gains And Dedicate Themselves To National Interest

■ HT News Network/UNI

Pune, Aug 1: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval on Saturday called upon the country's youth to dedicate themselves fully to national interest and rise above personal gains, urging them to make the most of the "window of opportunity" before India builds a stronger nation. Geographic Reference

Addressing a gathering after receiving the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 here, Doval said the younger generation should resolve to work only in the interest of the nation and



ignore narrow and short-term interests. Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the award, instituted by Tilak Smarak Trust, to Doval here.

"Today's youth should commit themselves completely and think that they will work only for the national interest. They

should be willing to sacrifice small personal interests, and even if such considerations arise, they should ignore them," he said. Doval said India was passing through a crucial phase in its history and should not allow the present opportunity to slip away.

"There is a window of opportunity in the history of our country. We cannot afford to lose it. Right now, our priority is to build the nation," he said. Expressing confidence in India's future, the NSA said the country should succeed in its mission and create a new chapter in its history.

"I am confident that we

will succeed in this endeavour and create a new history," Doval added.

He said the country was fortunate to have leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Shah. Hailing Lokmanya Tilak, Doval said he was not only a freedom fighter, but also a social reformer and a philosopher.

He said when plague hit Pune and claimed the life of his 21-year-old son, Tilak did not leave the city but stayed back instead.

"The youth probably thinks that India was always like this. Youth probably thinks freedom is doing whatever it feels.

Mediation key to accessible, dignified justice: CJI Surya Kant

■ HT News Network/UNI

JAIPUR, Aug 1: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday made a strong case for mediation as an integral part of the justice delivery system, saying the rule of law seeks to ensure timely, accessible and dignified justice rather than adjudication of every dispute.

Addressing the Commonwealth Peace Mediation Conference, the CJI said the justice system must prioritise outcomes that are efficient, humane and accessible to all.

"The Rule of Law does not demand that every grievance be adjudicated; it demands only that every citizen enjoy timely, accessible, and dignified recourse to justice," he said.



Highlighting the advantages of mediation over adversarial processes, he emphasised the autonomy it gives to disputing parties in crafting their own solutions.

"Mediation alone permits the parties themselves to author their own

resolution, addressing the true sources of conflict at a pace and cost proportionate to the dispute," the CJI said.

He noted that mediation enables a shift away from rigid legal positions towards a more meaningful resolution of disputes, especially in situations where preserving relationships is important. Kant also underscored the broader philosophical and practical relevance of mediation, suggesting that such approaches align with both modern needs and longstanding traditions of dispute resolution.

He expressed confidence that mediation would continue to grow in importance as legal systems evolve to handle increasing caseloads and complex disputes.

Chhattisgarh govt declares Rs 20 lakh aid for kin of two workers killed in Kulgam terrorist attack

■ HT News Network/UNI

Raipur, Aug 1: The Chhattisgarh government on Saturday announced an ex gratia of Rs 20 lakh each for the families of two migrant workers from the state killed in a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said. History

Deepak Ratte, a resident of Sakti district, and Bhupendra Bhaina from Sarangarh-Bilaigarh district, both in their 20s, were gunned down at the brick kiln where they were employed in the Kelam area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district late on Friday evening.

Condemning the attack, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said targeting innocent civilians is a crime against humanity and such acts of terror have no place in a civilised society.

"The Chhattisgarh government stands firmly with the bereaved families in this



hour of grief," he said while announcing the financial assistance of Rs 20 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased workers.

Sai said he has directed senior state officials to coordinate with their counterparts in Jammu and Kashmir immediately after receiving information about the incident to ensure necessary assistance.

He said a nodal officer will be appointed by the Chhattisgarh government to coordinate with the Jammu and Kashmir administration and oversee the process of extending all possible support to the affected families.

Foreign Citizen Cannot Be Deported Unless Home Country Confirms Nationality: Centre To SC

■ HT News Network/UNI

New Delhi, Aug 1: A foreign national, whose nationality is unverified, cannot be deported unless his home country confirms the nationality and agrees to accept him, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

The submission was made in an affidavit filed before the top court by the Ministry of Home Affairs in a plea challenging the indefinite detention of persons declared foreigners in Assam without prospects of deportation.

"A foreign national whose nationality is



unknown/unverified can be deported to their home country only upon confirmation of their nationality/possession of a valid travel document/acceptance by the home country concerned. The deportation procedure cannot be initiated without nationality verification," the Centre

said in the submission.

According to the Centre, a foreign national can be deported by the concerned state, Union Territory, or the Foreigners Regional Registration Office, after completion of the sentence or court proceedings, provided the individual possesses a valid travel document or passport and no other criminal case is pending against them.

"It is necessary to obtain the requisite travel document from the Embassy/High Commission of the country concerned through the process of nationality verification before he/she can be deported," it said.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Rs 5,000 cr Bhogapuram Airport in Andhra Pradesh

■ HT News Network/UNI



VISAKHAPATNAM, Aug 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport here at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district.

The Andhra Pradesh government views the nearly Rs 5,000 crore Bhogapuram Airport, developed by GMR Group, not merely as an infrastructure project, but as a transformational asset for the entire North Andhra region.

It was conceived as a catalyst for industrial growth, employment generation, exports, skill development and research.

Designed to handle six million passengers annually in the first phase, the airport also has a master plan to expand the capacity to 40 million passengers annually.

Commercial operations of the airport would begin from August 17.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu highlighted the salient features of the airport to the PM. Later in the day, PM Modi would lay the foundation for and inaugurate projects worth nearly Rs 18,000 crore in the southern state Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu highlighted the salient features of the airport to the PM. Later in the day, PM Modi would lay the foundation for and inaugurate projects worth nearly Rs 18,000 crore in the southern state.

Don't mislead the youth: Kangana Ranaut responds to trolls using her film clips

■ HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, Aug 1: Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut slammed online users for using clips from her films against her and said such actions mislead the youth.

The actor has been in the lime-light over the last few days after her comments against those who took part in the Cockroach Janata Party-led protests surfaced, in which she called Gen Z "generation gutter" and their videos from the agitation "puke-inducing".

In response, several users have been sharing clips of the actor from her films and other events, criticising her for the comments.

Ranaut shared a note on her Instagram story on Friday along with a video clip. "You want to use my movie character clips I get paid millions to play, high-profile show business events where I am surrounded by my own entourage and event planners, security forces, you want to use these to convince vulnerable teenagers that she can do the same on the road or in school functions or in



dingy clubs? Is it the same thing," she wrote.

"Don't mislead the youth, it's

not the same thing. Today you mislead others children tomorrow it will be yours," she added.

In an earlier post on Instagram, the BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi described videos of protestors at Jantar Mantar as a display of "filth, garbage and ugliness". "So much ugliness in one place, these reels from Gen Z protests are puke-inducing, the way they speak and the kind of language they are using, never in my life I have seen everything in each and every frame so jarring and so crass all at once, ewwww

who is birthing and raising them?" Ranaut said.

Ranaut's statements went viral on social media with many criticising the actor for her "crass comments". In an earlier post on Instagram, the BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi described videos of protestors at Jantar Mantar as a display of "filth, garbage and ugliness". "So much ugliness in one place, these reels from Gen Z protests are puke-inducing, the way they speak and the kind of language they are using, never in my life I have seen.

A new sort of Alzheimer’s drug shows glimmers of promise

LONDON — An experimental drug can sweep tangles of tau from the brain, raising hopes that the treatment could help Alzheimer’s disease patients, according to clinical trial data released July 14.

The compound, called diranersen and developed by pharma giant Biogen, reduced tau levels in patients’ cerebrospinal fluid by between 50 and 65 percent as compared with the start of the trial. The drug also seemed to slightly slow people’s cognitive decline compared with those given a placebo.

But it’s unclear whether a change of this size will help patients. And the results raised a puzzling conundrum: Contrary to expectations, the patients who had the biggest reductions in their levels of tau didn’t benefit the most in cognitive testing.

This story has been almost a decade in the telling,” said neurologist Catherine Mummery, who presented data on the drug to a packed conference room at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference. Mummery, head of novel therapeutics at the University College London Dementia Research Center, began the first diranersen trial in October 2017.

“This story has been almost a decade in the telling,” said neurologist Catherine Mummery, who presented data on the drug to a packed conference room at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference. Mummery, head of novel therapeutics at the University College London Dementia Research Center, began the first diranersen trial in October 2017.

The results are a “significant step forward,” says molecular neuroscientist Heather Snyder of the Chicago-based Alzheimer’s Association. Over seven million people ages 65 and older in the United States have Alzheimer’s, and treatments to slow its progression, much less cure it, have been hard to come by.

Diranersen is what’s called an antisense oligonucleotide — a synthetic chunk of DNA that silences genes. It binds to the MAPT gene, which produces tau, a protein that’s been implicated in Alzheimer’s disease. In the condition, tau goes haywire, forming

into tangles which damage nerve cells.

The Phase II trial, which aimed to determine the drug’s effectiveness and safety, recruited 416 participants with mild cognitive impairment or early-stage Alzheimer’s disease. Researchers believe that intervening before the disease advances will give therapies the best chance of success.

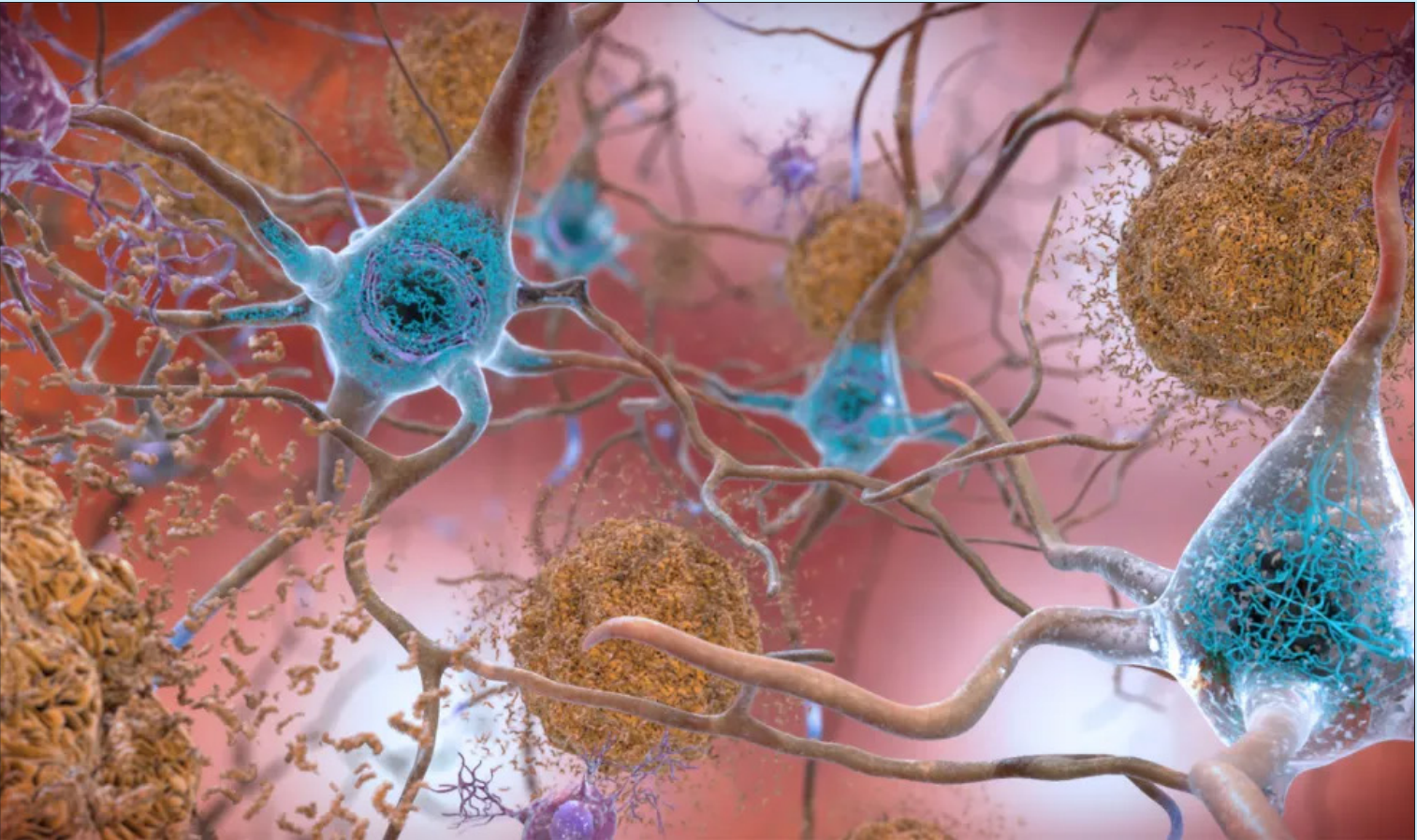
Trial scientists split their cohort into three groups that received the drug: one received a 60-milligram dose of diranersen every 24 weeks, while the other groups received a higher 115 mg dose either every 12 or 24 weeks. The drug was injected directly into patients’ spinal cords. A fourth group received a placebo. The trial lasted 76 weeks in total.

The team assessed patients using a battery of cognitive tests that measured such things as their memory, problem-solving ability and ability to keep track of time and location.

Rob Howard, a psychiatrist at University College London who wasn’t involved in the study. Howard says that the size of the change in cognitive scores was “pretty tiny,” and it remained to be seen what it would mean for patients in the real world. “It’s the age-old question, are these clinically meaningful differences?” he adds.

Biogen plans to move the drug into Phase III trials, testing it in a larger group. Howard says that strategy was the right one. “There’s some efficacy signal here,” he says. If that study goes as planned, and the compound gets U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval, it would be the first tau-targeting drug to alter memory in Alzheimer’s disease.

In 2023 and 2024, the FDA approved lecanemab and donanemab, the first new drugs for Alzheimer’s disease in nearly two decades. They target a different protein called amyloid beta,



Scientists expected the drug to affect patients’ scores in a dose-responsive way, meaning that those assigned to get the highest dose of diranersen would get the greatest benefit. But the data didn’t show this. Instead, all intervention groups declined at a slower rate than the placebo group.

But there was a twist. While all the participants’ cognitive scores got worse as their Alzheimer’s progressed, the people in the lowest, 60 mg–dose group seemed to show the slowest decline. Their scores dropped 26 percent less than those in the placebo group — who not surprisingly fared the worst — compared with 9 percent for the highest dose. And yet, they also showed less reduction in their tau levels as compared with these high-dose groups.

In theory, diranersen should proportionally reduce the impact of Alzheimer’s disease on the brain by reducing tau levels, but the trial data didn’t support this. This could be due to the small number of people enrolled in the trial, or the drug’s small effect sizes, says

which forms into sticky plaques in the brain. But tau has attracted interest because while amyloid plaques appear first in Alzheimer’s disease, tau changes have a much stronger link to cognitive decline.

The trial data suggested that diranersen improved cognition by roughly the same amount as the amyloid drugs. But diranersen didn’t share these compounds’ damaging side effects, which can cause tiny brain bleeds. Some patients had side effects related to the lumbar punctures used to inject the drug, while others experienced confusion, but this appeared to be temporary, Mummery said.

It’s still unclear whether diranersen could be used alongside, or in sequence with, amyloid-targeting drugs, although Snyder says it’s feasible. Other clinical trials are already testing the combination of tau- and amyloid-targeting drugs in patients with rare, inherited forms of Alzheimer’s, she says. “We are seeing the entire movement of thinking about these different targets and how can we start putting tau together with amyloid.” (sciencenews.in)

Inside the fight against the parasite Cyclospora

By Fечи Inyama

Intense abdominal pain. Extreme fatigue. Explosive diarrhea.

These are just some of the symptoms of cyclosporiasis, a foodborne parasitic infection that has sickened thousands and hospitalized more than 100 people in the United States since May 1. Although public health officials may have finally identified one culprit — shredded lettuce distributed to Taco Bells in some states — the outbreak of the parasite Cyclospora cayetanensis shows no sign of letting up. Researchers are racing to track down what’s driving the surge in cases, but the parasite’s wiliness plus cuts to federal funding for public health presents a unique challenge.

“In terms of this year’s outbreak, we haven’t seen such large, common source outbreaks identified in the past few years,” says epidemiologist Craig Hedberg of the University of Minnesota’s School of Public Health in Minneapolis.

Of 34 states reporting illness, Michigan has been hardest hit. As of July 17, the state has reported 5,002 cases and 102 hospitalizations — the most of any of the affected states. New York has the second highest case load: 510 as of early July. It is unclear whether the chasm reflects a true difference in infection rates or

more awareness among Michigan residents prompting more testing.

The influx is putting a strain on Michigan’s public health infrastructure. The state’s 45 local health districts are responsible for identifying potential cases, collecting human fecal samples and conducting patient interviews. Samples then go to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for processing and analysis.

Typically, Michigan logs fewer than 50 cases per year, says MDHHS genomic epidemiologist Heather Blankenship, who is based in Lansing. The deluge of clinical samples has prompted the agency to lean on the state’s Emergency Preparedness Group and the Michigan Department of Agriculture for help. It takes a minimum of three days to process a sample, and with the sheer volume of cases, it is taking the MDHHS much longer, Blankenship says. This backlog delays the work needed to find the outbreak’s origins.

Early results from MDHHS’ investigation point to lettuce and salad greens as potential suspects. On July 16, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced that they linked some cases in Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia to shredded iceberg lettuce served at Taco Bell. The restaurant chain has voluntarily removed lettuce from its menus in the affected states. And Taylor Farms, the company that supplied the lettuce, announced a recall on July 17.

Tracking Cyclospora is tricky

Once a person ingests contaminated food, it can take up to two weeks for symptoms to appear, Hedberg says. Compared with common foodborne illnesses that take just hours or days to develop, the extended timeframe can confound efforts to trace Cyclospora to its source. Public health officials often find that patients have difficulty recalling the food they ate so far in the past.

The parasite’s biology also conspires against finding quick

answers.

It can’t be grown in the lab like other foodborne pathogens can, which means more samples from infected people are needed to collect enough parasite DNA to nab its identity. Blankenship and colleagues rely on eight of the parasite’s genes to confirm cases, but that isn’t enough to determine how cases might be related. Sequencing Cyclospora’s entire genome would help, but its relatively large size (it’s about nine times as large as E. coli’s) makes that exceedingly difficult, Blankenship says.

“There’s a lot of unknowns with the investigation,” Blankenship says. “Doing [genetic] characterization is going to help us better understand what is happening.”

The Cyclospora outbreak exposes cracks in food safety

Clinical microbiologist Kimberly McCullor, also of MDHHS, says staff are trained to assist in almost all aspects of an investigation. “We’re always kind of looking for the next potential pop-up outbreak,” McCullor says. “We try to limit the surprise, right? We’re able to pivot — we use that word a lot.”

This reliance on pivoting isn’t unique to Michigan and highlights a much larger issue facing the country: The chronic underfunding of public health services. Funding for food safety in particular has been stagnant for years, says epidemiologist Barbara Kowalczyk of George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Funding pinches are partly behind the CDC’s move in 2025 to reduce its surveillance for Cyclospora along with the foodborne pathogens Campylobacter, Listeria, Shigella, Vibrio and Yersinia. While the move shouldn’t impact the response to the current cyclosporiasis outbreak, it could hamstring responses to future ones, Dan Jernigan, former director of the CDC’s Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, told the Washington Post.

Data show that investing in surveillance at the local, state and federal levels leads “to a decrease in the amount of time it takes to identify an outbreak and consequently the number of cases associated with an outbreak,” Kowalczyk says. (sciencenews.in)

Para shot-putters Rana, Juyal overcome life-changing setbacks to script F57 history in CWG

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 1 :A mine blast changed one life. A road accident changed another. In Glasgow, Subedar Soman Rana and Shubham Juyal turned those tragedies into a golden chapter for Indian para sport.

Long before he became India's first Commonwealth Games champion in the men's F57 shot put, Soman Rana was known for throwing punches instead of iron balls.

The 43-year-old from Bihar was among India's promising boxers, representing the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) in the middleweight division at the 2005 Senior National Boxing Championships. At that stage, few could have imagined that boxing would not define his sporting career.

Everything changed on December 1, 2006, during his posting in 2/8 Gorkha



Rifles, serving in the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir. Rana lost his right leg in a mine blast.

The injury ended his boxing career overnight and forced him into a long period of rehabilitation.

At the Army Rehabilitation Centre in Pune, he learnt to walk again with

a prosthetic leg, but returning to competitive sport seemed like a distant dream. Years later, he chose to begin again. In 2017, Rana took up para shot-put in the F57 category for athletes who compete from a seated position because of lower-limb impairment. Starting from scratch in an entirely

different discipline, he spent years mastering the technical demands of the event. The perseverance finally paid off in 2025 when he won his first global medal, claiming bronze at the World Para Athletics Championships.

On Saturday in Glasgow, Rana climbed an even higher peak.

Producing a season-best throw of 13.40m, he became the first Indian to win Commonwealth Games gold in the men's F57 shot put, completing one of the most remarkable second acts in Indian sport.

Standing beside him on the podium was another athlete whose sporting journey had also been rewritten by tragedy. For Shubham Juyal, joining the Indian Army had always been the dream. Born in Roorkee to a retired Naib Subedar, he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and wear the uniform himself.

Shiv Neel, Rehan Khan Rasheed dazzle, Aaruthran Prabhu, Armaan Dhawan notch up wins

United News Of India

CHENNAI, AUG 1 :Little Shiv Neel from Coimbatore showcased his racing pedigree with a brilliant performance to dominate the Mini class in the third round of the IAME India Series karting organised by the Madras Motor Sports Club (MMSC) at the Madras International Karting Arena (MIKA), at Sriperumbudur, about 40 km from here, on Saturday.

Representing the NKRA with KKM team, Shiv Neel, son of India's first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan, won both the championship points scoring races, the Super Heat and Finals, in the Mini to underline his talent and controlled aggression as he literally muscled his way to victories. Similarly, Aaruthran Prabhu (Kartkrew Motorsports) from Kumbharapuram, the gold medalist at the FIA Asia-Pacific Championship in Sri Lanka last year, won both the Super Heat

and Finals in the Mini Under-10 segment that was run concurrently with the Mini class.

Equally impressive was Chennai's Rehan Khan Rasheed (Momentum Motorsports) who took the honours in the Junior Finals with a near-flawless drive. Rehan Khan, starting the Finals from P2, blasted off the line and opened a huge lead which kept increasing with each lap as he completed a commanding win. He thus made up for his defeat in the Super Heat earlier in the afternoon when he conceded the lead to Abhishikt Barse in the very last lap. But Rehan was not to be denied in the Finals which he dominated to win from Abhishikt Barse and Adithya Pratap. In the Senior category, Delhi's Armaan Dhawan (Leap Frog Racing) and local challenger Kairav Roberson (MSPORT) battled their way to a win apiece. Dhawan held off Roberson in the Finals in a tight finish to reverse the Super Heat result earlier in the day.

India's pre-Test warm-up in Sri Lanka shortened by a day: Report



United News Of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 1 :India's preparations for the upcoming two-Test series against Sri Lanka have been slightly altered as the scheduled warm-up match against a Sri Lanka XI was reduced from four days to three.

According to Cricbuzz, the practice fixture, which was originally slated to run from August 7 to 10, will now begin on August 7 and conclude on August 9 at the NCC Ground in Colombo, located close to the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Stadium.

When announcing the squad, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had stated that the team would play a four-day practice match before the series. However, according to the report, it has now emerged that the match has been shortened by a day, with all stakeholders, including the BCCI and the Indian team management, informed of the revised schedule.

The reason behind the decision has not been officially disclosed, although multiple sources within the BCCI and the Indian team management confirmed the change.

The warm-up fixture remains an important part of India's build-up to the series, especially with the team having not played a Test since June. Led by Shubman Gill, India will be looking to fine-tune their preparations before the opening Test of the World Test Championship cycle.

The Indian squad is scheduled to leave for Colombo on August 4. Following the three-day warm-up game, the team will travel to Galle for the first Test, which begins on August 15. The second Test will be played at the SSC in Colombo from August 23.

Fitness update: Washington Sundar, Sai Sudharsan and Jasprit Bumrah

India have received encouraging news on the fitness front ahead of the tour.

District Road & MTB Cycling Championships to be Held in Anantnag and Baramulla

HT News Service

Srinagar :The Cycling Association of Jammu & Kashmir (CAJK), in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, is organizing the District Road and MTB Cycling Championships 2026 in Anantnag and Baramulla districts.

District Anantnag Championship
Date: 7 August 2026 (Friday)
Time: 10:00 AM

Route: Larkipora Bridge to Shehlipora
Closing Ceremony: Government Middle School, Shehlipora, District Baramulla Championship, Date: 12 August 2026 Venue: Near Railway Station, Sopore (Baramulla)

The championships will be conducted in the following categories:
Under-14, Sub-Junior, Junior, Elite, MTB (Mountain Bike) All interested cyclists are invited to participate. Participants must report with the following original documents:

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd position holders in the Junior and Elite categories will be selected to represent their respective districts in the UT Cycling Championship, District Anantnag

Sahil Muzaffar (Coordinator): 6006324701
Mushtaq Bhat (Vice President, CAJK): 990648002
Akbar Khan (Joint Secretary, CAJK): 9419009437
District Baramulla (Sopore)

Adil Taili (NIS Qualified Coach): 7886304454
The Cycling Association of Jammu & Kashmir appeals to all cycling enthusiasts to participate in large numbers and make the championships a grand success.

Leadership shift for Netherlands as Edwards steps down



United News Of India

AMSTERDAM, AUG 1 :Scott Edwards has stepped down as the skipper of the Netherlands, as confirmed by the KNCB (the Royal Dutch Cricket Association) through a video released on social media.

All-rounder Bas de Leede will take over as the new captain for the remainder of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 games.

"I'm actually stepping down from the captaincy from here," Edwards told the team in the video following their game against Namibia on Friday.

"I think it's something Cookie (Ryan Cook) and I have been speaking about, and I've sort of been speaking to a few different people about it, and this is sort of the time that feels right for me, I think. I feel like I've got so much more to offer as a player and obviously that's my goal

sort of going forward with all you boys." I think this is such a special group. And yeah, I think the world's our oyster and I'm really looking forward to what's to come."

The keeper-batter's captaincy stint began in June 2022 and he led the team in 56 ODIs and 50 T20Is, according to ICC. Victories over South Africa and Bangladesh at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 were some of the prominent wins during Edwards' tenure. The Dutch, under Edwards, also got the better of Zimbabwe and South Africa at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, thereby eliminating the Proteas from the tournament. De Leede, who will now lead the unit for the final set of Cricket World Cup League 2 matches against Oman and the UAE, responded in the same video to Edwards, "I think if I can speak on behalf of the players, you've led us into some really cool battles over the years.

MARUTI SUZUKI

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