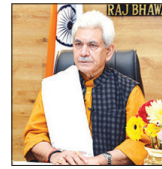


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir
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In the past 55 days, 1,036 FIRs have been registered, 1,128 drug smugglers have been arrested, more than 100 properties of smugglers have been attached, nearly 700 driving licenses have been cancelled, and recommendations have been made to cancel passports of 130 drug smugglers: Lieutenant Governor

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Mehbooba Mufti's AIIMS Visit Triggers Political Tussle In J&K



TABIYA ASLAM

SRINAGAR: A visit by PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti to the under-construction AIIMS Awantipora on Friday sparked a political controversy in Jammu and Kashmir. Rival parties and government functionaries question the capacity in which she reviewed the project, while the PDP defended the visit as a legitimate effort to highlight public concerns.

During her visit to the AIIMS site in Awantipora, Mehbooba Mufti expressed satisfaction over the pace of construction and described the institution as the realization of a dream envisioned by her late father and former chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

"This was a dream of my father," Mehbooba told reporters, adding that despite delays, work on the project was now progressing steadily. She said she was prepared to extend support for the

project and, if required, raise issues concerning it with the Union Health Minister.

The visit, however, drew sharp criticism from Health Minister Sakina Itoo, who questioned the authority under which former rulers were conducting reviews of government projects.

In a post on X, Itoo said some political leaders appeared to be suffering from "political amnesia" and continued to behave as if they were still in power despite having left office years ago.

"The elected government today is led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. One wonders in what capacity former rulers are conducting reviews of the AIIMS Awantipora project and who is signalling them to undertake such exercises," she said.

The minister further alleged that those now seeking credit for the project were among those responsible for delays in its execution. She maintained that AIIMS Awantipora was

Historic Movement Against Narco-Terrorism Has Risen In J&K: LG Sinha

Joins Nasha-Mukt J&K Campaign In Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As 1,036 FIRs have been registered, 1,128 drug smugglers arrested and more than 100 properties of alleged smugglers attached during the ongoing anti-drug drive, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday highlighted the progress made under the campaign.

He said a historic movement against narco-terrorism has risen in the Union Territory and that authorities had launched a war against those seeking to destroy the future of the youth.

"Having now visited every district in Kashmir Valley & stood with each march, I can say that a historic movement against narco-terrorism has risen," the Lieutenant Governor said while joining 'Nasha-Mukt Jammu Kashmir Campaign' in Ganderbal. He also joined people from all walks of life in Padyatra and addressed a powerful crowd.

He said in the past 55 days,



1,036 FIRs have been registered, 1,128 drug smugglers have been arrested, more than 100 properties of smugglers have been attached, nearly 700 driving licenses have been cancelled, and recommendations have been made to cancel passports of 130 drug smugglers.

"Fifty-five days ago, from the soil of Jammu, I declared that enough is enough. What began as a war against drugs and narco-terrorism has now

ignited into a true people's movement, a movement born of courage, sustained by spirit, and driven by the collective will of ordinary citizens. Today, that resolve stands stronger than ever," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor assured proper rehabilitation of those who have fallen into drug addiction.

"With compassion and dignity, we will help them return to the mainstream" P-06

LG Inaugurates Yatri Bhawan At Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Friday inaugurated Yatri Bhawan at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, Tulmulla, Ganderbal. After dedicating the facilities to the public, the Lieutenant Governor said that the new Yatri Bhawan will substantially improve the pilgrimage experience at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple by providing safe, hygienic and comfortable accommodation facilities.

Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla is one of the most revered shrines in Jammu Kashmir. Located approximately 25 km from Srinagar and 5 km from Ganderbal town, the shrine attracts a large number of devotees throughout the year, particularly during the annual Mela Kheer Bhawani and Jyeshtha Ashtami, when thousands of pilgrims, including members of the Kashmiri

Srinagar Man's Body Recovered From Lidder River After 6 Days

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: The body of a Srinagar man, who was swept away while attempting to rescue his son in the Lidder River near Pahalgam, was retrieved from the Aishmuqam area on Friday, six days after the incident.

An official said that the body of Muhammad Ashraf Mir (42), a resident of Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, was recovered from the Amad, Aishmuqam area following an extensive search operation.

He said, Mir had gone missing on Sunday after entering the Lidder River near Langanbal, around eight kilometres downstream of Pahalgam, in an attempt to save his teenage son, Fahad, during a family outing.

The official said the boy survived the incident.

He said a massive search operation involving personnel from the SDRF, NDRF, Police, Army, Civil Defence volunteers and local residents was launched immediately after the incident.

"Search teams continued combing various stretches of the river downstream from the spot where Mir was



'Illegal Occupation' India Lodges Strong Protest With Pakistan Over 'General Elections' In PoK

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India on Friday said it lodged a strong protest with Pakistan over Islamabad's plans to hold general elections to the so-called Gilgit-Baltistan assembly, maintaining that the region is Indian territory that has been "illegally and forcibly" occupied.

New Delhi asserted that such endeavours by Pakistan cannot "mask" the underlying issues of "grave" human rights violations, political repression, economic exploitation and denial of freedom in the territories illegally occupied by Pakistan.

"The government of India lodged a strong protest with Pakistan regarding the latter's plans to hold 'general Elections' to the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly', in the Indian territories illegally and forcibly occupied by Pakistan, scheduled for June 7," the Ministry of



External Affairs (MEA) said. It said India reiterated its well-known position that the entire Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan' are integral and inalienable parts of India as a result of "complete, legal and irrevocable accession" of Jammu and Kashmir to India in 1947.

"The government of India further emphasised that such endeavours by Pakistan cannot mask the underlying issues of grave human rights" P-06

Mehbooba Goes Mum On 'J&K Unity' As Omar Pushes Collective Push

SUHAIL MIR

SRINAGAR: A fresh debate over political unity in Jammu and Kashmir emerged on Thursday after PDP president Mehbooba Mufti declined to give a direct answer on the proposed "joint effort" to seek restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional rights, as Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called for political parties to set aside differences and launch a collective movement on issues concerning the Union Territory.

The development comes days after Mehbooba wrote to political leaders across party lines, urging a joint outreach to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to seek dialogue and address issues affecting Jammu and Kashmir. In her appeal, she cited the example of Ladakh, where diverse political groups worked together



to engage with the Centre.

Mufti had urged political parties to rise above partisan interests and build a common platform to represent the aspirations and concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. She also called upon Omar Abdullah, as the elected head of the government, to facilitate such an initiative.

CS Calls For Ambitious Implementation Of Agri Credit Schemes Across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a review meeting of the Agriculture Production Department (APD) to assess the implementation and progress of various agricultural credit schemes being extended across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, APD, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Managing Director, HADP; Directors of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture and Fisheries from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, while Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

Reviewing the performance of different credit-linked schemes, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for giving a major push to agricultural financing, observing that accessible and affordable credit remains the most effective means of



unlocking the vast potential of the agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

He called upon the district administrations and banking institutions to pursue these schemes with greater ambition and commitment so that eligible farmers, entrepreneurs and producer groups are able to derive maximum benefit from them.

Highlighting the significance of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, Dulloo stressed the need

'Climate Change, Unsustainable Activities Threatening Kashmir's Fragile Ecosystem'

'Glacier Retreat, Water Insecurity Interconnected; Environmental Protection Now A Responsibility'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Environment Day, prominent environmental experts and academicians from Jammu and Kashmir stressed the urgent need to safeguard the region's fragile ecosystems, warning that climate change and unsustainable human activities are posing serious threats to the Himalayan environment and the livelihoods dependent upon it.

Professor Shakeel Ahmad Romshoo, distinguished Earth scientist, glaciologist and Vice-Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), said World Environment Day



serves as a reminder of the profound environmental challenges confronting the Indian Himalayan region, including Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the region is facing multiple interconnected challenges such as climate change, glacier retreat, water insecurity, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, all of which threaten environmental stability and sustainable development.

"World Environment Day reminds us of the profound environmental challenges confronting the Indian Himalaya, including Jammu and Kashmir. These challenges are deeply interconnected and require solutions that are rooted in science and guided by sustainability," he said.

Highlighting the significance of this year's World Environment Day themes, including Nature-based Solutions, climate resilience and the circular economy, Prof Romshoo said these approaches provide a practical framework for protecting the environment while simultaneously supporting economic growth and social well-being.

He said that

LG, CM Call For Collective Action On Environmental Protection

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called for collective efforts to protect the environment, saying it is vital for a healthier planet for future generations.

"On World Environment Day, let's rededicate ourselves to the conservation of Mother Earth and preservation of nature's delicate balance. Our collective efforts towards environmental protection are vital for the well-being of humanity and a healthier planet for future generations," Sinha said in his message on the World Environment Day.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in his message said his government is committed to environmental conservation, and called upon every citizen to join the collective mission.

"On World Environment Day, the chief minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development," the chief minister's office said in a post on X.

If Everyone Is Sincere, Let Us Suspend Parties To Launch Collective Movement: CM Omar

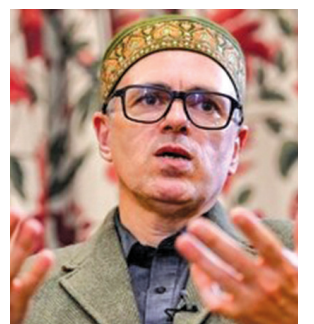
AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday proposed suspending party identities and launching a collective democratic movement for restoration of rights of the rights of people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking at The Hindu Huddle, CM Omar said, "If everyone is sincere, let us suspend political parties and stand together on one movement platform. We should fight democratically and peacefully until the constitutional rights and protections taken away in 2019 are restored."

The CM said he would be willing to make personal political sacrifices if such a united movement emerged.

"I will be the first one to resign. Let representatives come from a common movement platform," he said.



He stressed that any effort to regain rights must be consistent and not limited to symbolic gestures.

"People will call it a drama if there is no sincerity and continuity. It cannot be a one-off exercise. Continuous efforts are needed to build public trust," he said.

The CM said there were efforts in different parts of the country to radicalise youngsters on religious lines and warned that such trends could have

CPCO J&K, Ladakh visits Budgam

Chairs Review Meeting on ongoing Census Operations in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, along with Deputy Commissioner Budgam (Principal Census Officer Budgam), Athar Aamir Khan, chaired a review meeting at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Budgam, to assess the preparedness and progress of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) being conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026, as part of the Census exercise.

At the outset, the District Census Officer and Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Mehraj-Ud-Din Shah, briefed the chair on the district's geographical profile, preparedness for Census 2027, and the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the ongoing House Listing Operations. He also highlighted the training programmes being conducted for census personnel across the district and apprised the chair of the district administration's readiness for the Census exercise.

The Deputy Commissioner informed the meeting that all necessary administrative and logistical arrangements have been made to ensure the smooth conduct of Census-related activities across the



Review meeting on census operations in Budgam.

district. He emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders and reiterated the district administration's commitment to ensuring comprehensive coverage and high-quality data collection during the enumeration process. He also directed all field-level officers to extend full support to census personnel and take necessary measures to ensure strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on ensuring comprehensive coverage of all households, including migratory populations, and strengthening field-level census operations across the district.

Addressing the officers, Amit Sharma appreciated the dedicated efforts of the field staff and encouraged enumerators and supervisors to discharge their responsibilities with utmost commitment and professionalism.

with anyone in the name of Census.

He further clarified that the Census process is simple and transparent, and citizens are only required to answer the prescribed 33 Census questions during the enumeration process. He urged residents to cooperate with authorized Census personnel and provide accurate information to ensure the success of this important national exercise.

The meeting also reviewed field-level preparedness and discussed various operational aspects related to the Census exercise.

Amit Sharma reiterated that the Census is a crucial national exercise that serves as the foundation for evidence-based planning and development initiatives.

Joint Chief Principal Census Officer, Arun Kumar, also briefed the participants on the monitoring framework for field operations and stressed the importance of real-time tracking and supervision of data collection activities.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), all SDMs, Charge Officers, Assistant Chief Principal Census Officer, District Coordinator for Census 2027 Budgam, and other concerned officers and officials.

He emphasized the importance of effective coordination among census functionaries, quality and timely data collection, and strict adherence to census guidelines to ensure accuracy and completeness of the enumeration process. He directed all concerned officers to extend full support to census personnel and take necessary measures to facilitate the smooth conduct of House Listing and Housing Census activities throughout the district.

Amit Sharma informed that for any query or clarification related to Census 2027 in the district, citizens can contact the dedicated toll-free helpline number 1855.

He appealed to the public to remain vigilant against fraudulent calls, messages, or individuals claiming to be associated with the Census exercise and cautioned people against sharing personal, financial, banking, or OTP-related information

House Committee on Environment convenes meeting on World Environment Day

Environmental protection collective moral obligation, not just administrative duty: Tarigami

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commemorating the World Environment Day, the House Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Friday held its introductory meeting under the chairmanship of MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami at the Legislative Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by members including Professor Gharu Ram, Baldev Raj Sharma, Daleep Singh, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Javid Ahmad Mirchal, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Javid Reyaz (Bedar), Dr. Rameshwar Singh and Devyani Rana.

Tarigami expressed gratitude to all the members for becoming part of a committee entrusted with a matter of universal concern affecting the human beings, wildlife, flora and fauna and so the future generations. He stated that environmental protection is not merely an administrative responsibility but a collective moral obligation towards society and nature.



House Committee on Environment meeting.

The Chairman highlighted several pressing environmental concerns confronting Jammu and Kashmir, including increasing pollution in water bodies, unscientific waste dumping, deforestation, excessive use of plastic, degradation of wetlands and shrinking green cover. He expressed serious concern over the deteriorating condition of Anchar Lake and other water bodies of Kashmir, stating that continued pollution, encroachments and negligence pose a grave

threat to the ecological balance of the region.

Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami also stressed the urgent need for restoration and conservation of lakes, rivers and forests in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. He observed that unchecked urbanization, environmental degradation and climate change are adversely affecting the biodiversity, public health and the fragile ecology of the Union Territory.

All the members of the Committee gave their valuable suggestions and

unanimously resolved that the Committee holds immense significance in safeguarding the environmental future of Jammu and Kashmir. The members emphasized that the administration should extend full cooperation and necessary institutional support for effective implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

The Committee further proposed to undertake extensive visits across every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir to interact with the general public, assess environmental concerns at the grass-root level and create mass awareness regarding the urgent need for protection and preservation of the environment for present and future generations.

The members also called for strengthening the waste management systems, preventing illegal dumping of waste, protecting water bodies and wetlands, promoting afforestation drives and discouraging indiscriminate use of plastic through strict enforcement and public participation.

"Trash to Treasure" Exhibition organized at GCOE Sgr on World Environment Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Government College of Education, Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (GCOE-IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, organized a "Trash to Treasure" Exhibition on the occasion of World Environment Day 2026.

The event was jointly organized by the Department of Environmental Sciences (EVS) and the NSS Units of the college at the Front Park.

The exhibition featured innovative and creative items prepared by B.Ed. 1st Semester and UG 4th Semester students using waste and discarded materials. Through their exhibits, the students highlighted the importance of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and sustainable living practices.

Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Principal GCOE-IASE Srinagar, visited the exhibition stalls and interacted with the participating students. She highly appreciated their creativity, innovation, and commitment to environmental conservation. Emphasizing the

importance of sustainable living, she encouraged students to adopt eco-friendly practices in their daily lives and to become responsible ambassadors of environmental protection within their communities. She also commended the efforts of the Department of Environmental Studies and NSS Units for organizing the exhibition and providing students with a meaningful platform to showcase their talents while promoting environmental awareness.

The event aimed to promote environmental awareness and encourage eco-friendly practices among the college community. It also served as a platform for students to demonstrate how waste materials can be transformed into useful and artistic products, reinforcing the message of responsible resource management and sustainability.

The exhibition received an enthusiastic response from students and faculty members and successfully conveyed the significance of environmental stewardship, responsible waste management, and sustainable living.

Shopian Admin organises multifaceted awareness activities under 'NMJKA'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a major push to foster responsibility among the youth, a series of comprehensive, high-impact activities were organized across multiple educational campuses and public areas in District Shopian under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan (NMJKA).

The extensive campaign witnessed overwhelming, enthusiastic participation from students, faculty and the public across major focal points including GDC Shopian, GDC Zainapora and Government Polytechnic College Shopian.

At GDC Shopian, a vibrant multi-activity programme was held successfully aligning the fight against drug addiction with ecological responsibility. Organized under the supervision of the college Principal, Prof. Tariq Husain Mir, the institution conducted multiple events simultaneously.

Pledge Programme was organized where students and staff solemnly swore to keep their campus and society drug-free and essay writing competition giving a platform to creative and analytical student perspectives on tackling addiction.

Simultaneously, GDC Zainapora and Government Polytechnic College

Shopian served as another place for youth mobilization. Faculty members at these higher education institutions sensitized hundreds of young students on the socio-economic consequences of substance abuse.

Interactive seminars focused on recognizing the early signs of addiction, promoting mental wellness and reinforcing healthy peer networks. Students proactively pledged to act as community ambassadors of change to keep their environments clean and healthy.

Taking the anti-drug campaign directly to the grassroots level, a public outreach and mass sensitization drive was held at Bongam Shopian. Local shopkeepers, youth groups and community elders actively participated in localized awareness sessions. Informational materials detailing helpline numbers, rehabilitation options and counseling systems were distributed to ensure a robust community-driven defense framework against drug peddling and abuse.

Other departments including School Education, Ayush, Sports, Poshan Projects, etc also organised multifaceted awareness activities across the district.

Transport Commissioner reviews road safety measures on NH

Stresses safe Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, Technology-driven enforcement



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANIHAL: Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan Friday chaired a high-level review meeting here at the NHAI Meeting Hall to review and strengthen road safety measures on the National Highway in view of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

Officers from the Transport Department, Civil Administration, Police, Traffic Police, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Enforcement Wing attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on ensuring safer and smoother traffic operations, seamless movement of pilgrims during the Yatra, coordinated enforcement measures, strict action against over-speeding and overloading, deployment of modern enforcement technologies, and strengthening emergency response mechanisms along the highway.

Emphasizing the need for proactive road safety management, the Transport Commissioner stressed on regular road safety audit, timely identification and rectification of accident-prone locations and adoption of best practices aimed at minimizing road accidents and enhancing commuter safety.

The Transport Commissioner advised NHAI authorities to share CCTV footage and other relevant technical data available at highway monitoring and check-post locations with the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD). He said the integration of technology and real-time surveillance would facilitate effective enforcement against overloading of goods vehicles, over-speeding and other traffic violations, thereby contributing to safer highways and smoother traffic flow during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

Earlier, the Transport Commissioner interacted with Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan; SSP Arun Gupta and other officers. During the interaction, a wide range of transport-related issues were discussed, with special focus on traffic regulation, road safety, public transport services and effective management of vehicular movement during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026. The Transport Commissioner emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among all concerned agencies to ensure a safe, smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage while maintaining uninterrupted movement of essential services and regular traffic on the National Highway.

SWD Sgr organized Facilitation Camp on Financial Literacy under BBBP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In an effort to promote financial awareness and empower beneficiaries with essential financial knowledge, Social Welfare Department (SWD)-SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar organized a one-day Financial Literacy Facilitation Camp at Kawdara Srinagar under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

The camp witnessed active participation from beneficiaries of various social welfare schemes, women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and members of the general public. The programme aimed to educate participants about prudent financial management, savings, banking services, digital payment systems, government-sponsored financial inclusion initiatives, and protection against financial frauds.

During the camp, the staff of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar delivered informative sessions on financial planning, responsible borrowing, digital banking, cyber security, and

the benefits of various government welfare and insurance schemes. Participants were also provided guidance on opening bank accounts, accessing social security benefits, and utilizing digital financial services safely and effectively.

Speaking on the occasion, the staff of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar emphasized the importance of financial literacy in enhancing economic self-reliance and informed decision-making, highlighting that financial awareness plays a crucial role in ensuring that beneficiaries are able to effectively utilize welfare benefits and participate in the formal financial system.

The participants appreciated the initiative and clarified their queries related to banking, savings, investments, and government welfare schemes.

The District Social Welfare Office Srinagar reiterated its commitment to conducting such awareness programmes in the future to promote financial inclusion and strengthen the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable sections of the society.

DLSA Shopian organizes plantation drive on World Environmental Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: On the occasion of World Environment Day, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian, in collaboration with the Forest Department Shopian Friday organized a plantation drive at the District Court Complex, Shopian.

The drive was inaugurated by Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhury, Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Shopian in presence of Qamar Rashid Khan, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Shopian.

Judicial and administrative officers including Riyaz Ahmad Chowdhury,

Chief Judicial Magistrate/Sub-Judge, Shopian, Mohd Waseem Mirza, Judicial Magistrate 1st Class / Munsiff, Rameen Rashid Khan, Additional Mobile Magistrate, Shopian, Rafie Ahmad Ganie, Chief LADC, Shopian, all Lawyers (PLVs), LADCs, LADC staff and DLSA staff were also present, reflecting strong collective participation.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman DLSA Shopian stressed the importance of afforestation and a clean environment. He urged everyone to take responsibility for protecting nature, noting that a healthy environment is essential for a just and livable society.

HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG
 COLLEGE CAMPUS, DIALGAM ANANTNAG J&K-192210

Subject: Cancellation of selection of candidate for the post of Clinical Staff for Casualty Bed on academic arrangement basis under S.O.- 364, dated: 27.11.2020 and operation of waiting list thereof.

ORDER NO.: 416 GMCA of 2026
DATED: 05/06/2026

Whereas, pursuant to this office Notification vide endorsement No. GMCA/Estt./Rec./2026/4755-59, dated: 20.05.2026, the below mentioned candidate was selected against the post of Clinical Staff for Casualty Bed on Academic Arrangement basis under S.O-364 dated: 27.11.2020, vide Advertisement Notice No. 05 GMCA of 2026, dated: 09-03-2026.

S. No.	Name of the Candidate	Parentage	Address	Post Name	Category
1.	Jamsheeda Gul	Gulam Mohamad Dar	Narbal Budgam	Clinical Staff for Casualty Bed	OM

Whereas, the aforesaid candidate failed to report in GMC Anantnag within stipulated time (05 days), notified vide notification No. GMCA/Estt./Rec./2026/4755-59, dated: 20.05.2026.

In view of above, the selection of afore-mentioned candidate is cancelled ab-initio and following candidate falling in the wait list issued vide Notification No. GMCA/Estt./Rec./2026/4755-59, dated: 20.05.2026 is hereby selected for the post of Clinical Staff for Casualty Bed on academic arrangement basis under S.O 364, dated: 27.11.2020.

S. No.	Name of the Candidate	Parentage	Address	Post Name	Category
1.	Muhammad Aarif Bhat	Gh Muhammad Bhat	Herpora Paniwah Kulgam	Clinical Staff for Casualty Bed	OM

The selected candidate is directed to report to the office of Principal, GMC Anantnag at Main Campus Dialgam within 05 days from the issuance of this order for document submission/scrutinitization and for processing the verification of his Character and Antecedents (CID) through online mode falling which his selection shall be deemed to have cancelled.

No. GMCA/Estt./Rec./2026/5073-78
 Dated: 05/06/2026

DIPK-1859-26
 DT: 05/06/2026

Principal/Dean
 Govt Medical College, Anantnag

LG Inaugurates District Emergency Operations Centre, Amarnath Yatra Control Room in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday inaugurated District Emergency Operations Centre and Shri Amarnathji Yatra Control Room at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Ganderbal. The Lieutenant Governor said that these facilities will ensure a smooth and seamless pilgrimage experience for the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra.



real-time monitoring at a single centralized location.

Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the key features of the new facility.

The centre pools CCTV feeds from across Ganderbal district installed by District Administration, Police and other Security forces, for

In order to ensure a safe and seamless pilgrimage, the Emergency Operations Centre also integrates CCTV Feeds from Baltal Base Camp, approach roads leading upto Baltal Base Camp,

Parking Areas in Baltal Base Camp, Sonamarg and Manigam Transit Camp. It will be instrumental in planning and decision-making during the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

CM Omar plants sapling at J&K House, New Delhi on World Environment Day

Reaffirms commitment to greener, cleaner, climate-resilient J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah planted a sapling at Jammu & Kashmir House, New Delhi, marking the Government's continued commitment to environmental sustainability and green development.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that every tree planted today is an investment in cleaner air, healthier communities, and a more resilient tomorrow. He emphasized that such efforts, though symbolic, carry long-term significance in addressing the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment on World Environment Day,



the Chief Minister highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable development as key priorities of

governance. He called upon all citizens to actively participate in the collective mission of preserving natural

heritage and building a greener, cleaner, healthier, and more climate-resilient Jammu and Kashmir for future generations.

Dr. Jitendra convenes public outreach camp in Malhori; reviews development works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister for State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Friday convened a public outreach camp at Malhori, Kalotha in Doda district.



The Union MoS held an extensive interaction with the public representatives, district officers and local residents to review the developmental issues and address the public grievances.

The camp was attended by MLA Doda west Shakti Raj Parihar, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Krishan Lal, concerned officials, Ex-PRI members and others.

of welfare schemes. The deputations sought immediate intervention for resolution of long-pending public issues and requested inclusion of additional developmental projects to improve the quality of life in the region.

A large gathering of people from Malhori, Kalotha and adjoining areas participated in the camp, making it a significant public outreach programme aimed at strengthening the citizen-government engagement.

The Union Minister assured the deputations that their genuine demands would be examined and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner through the concerned departments.

During the event, several deputations representing different villages, youth groups, women's organizations, farmers, traders and social activists met the Union Minister and projected their demands and grievances.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the government's commitment towards holistic development of remote and rural areas. He emphasized that the aspirations of the people must be addressed through responsive governance and effective implementation of developmental programmes.

The deputations highlighted issues pertaining to upgradation of roads, augmentation of drinking water schemes, improvement of healthcare and educational facilities, strengthening of power infrastructure, expansion of mobile and internet connectivity, promotion of tourism potential, employment generation and timely implementation

The Minister directed the concerned departments to ensure time-bound execution of ongoing projects, speedy redressal of public grievances and better coordination among the departments for improving service delivery. He stressed the need for strengthening

healthcare and educational infrastructure, improving road connectivity, ensuring uninterrupted power and water supply and accelerating the developmental works in underserved areas.

He also instructed the officers to maintain regular public contact, conduct field visits, monitor progress of projects on a routine basis and ensure that benefits of the government schemes reach every eligible beneficiary without delay.

The Union Minister reviewed the status of key development projects and sought updates from the district administration and departmental officers regarding their implementation.

Senior officers from various departments, including Police, Revenue, Rural Development, Health, Education, Forest, Jal Shakti, PWD, Power Development, Irrigation, PMGSY, NHIDCL and other line departments, attended the outreach programme and provided feedback on departmental initiatives and ongoing works.

The Union Minister assured the people that all their genuine issues highlighted during the camp would be taken up for redress on priority.

CS reviews preparations for NEET (UG) re-examination

Directs foolproof arrangements across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review and finalize foolproof arrangements for the smooth, secure and transparent conduct of the NEET (UG) re-examination scheduled to be held on June 21, 2026, across Jammu and Kashmir.



The meeting was attended by Director General, National Testing Agency (NTA); Principal Secretary, Home; ADGP, Law & Order; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir, besides other senior officers.

Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police from all districts participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for meticulous planning and seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments to ensure the examination is conducted in a fair, transparent and secure manner.

He directed the concerned authorities to prepare a comprehensive checklist of all arrangements and activities required for the successful conduct of the examination.

Emphasising accountability at the district

level, Dulloo instructed the Deputy Commissioners to personally supervise the preparations in their respective districts in close coordination with the Police Department and the NTA-designated City Coordinators. He stressed that examination centres should, as far as possible, be established in government educational institutions and be thoroughly inspected well in advance of the examination date.

The Chief Secretary further directed the district administrations to ensure the availability and functionality of CCTV surveillance systems, mobile jammers, uninterrupted power supply with backup arrangements, drinking water facilities and other essential amenities at every examination centre.

He also reviewed district-wise preparedness and sought detailed inputs from the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners regarding the number of examination centres, candidates appearing and the arrangements being put in place within their jurisdictions.

Earlier, Director General, NTA, Abhishek Singh, briefed the meeting about the comprehensive and technology-driven measures being adopted to ensure the conduct of the examination in an exceptionally fair, transparent and efficient manner.

He stressed the need to effectively curb rumour-mongering on social media and other platforms, directing the concerned authorities to take proactive measures against the dissemination of any misleading or unverified information that could adversely impact the interests and morale of the aspirants.

The DG further informed that the inspection of all examination centres is scheduled to be completed by June 14. He also highlighted the constitution of State Level Coordination Committees (SLCCs) headed by senior officers and District Level Coordination Committees under the respective District Magistrates for effective monitoring and coordination.

Singh also revealed that question papers would be airlifted to the designated examination cities and answer sheets transported after the examination with the support of the Indian Air Force to maintain the highest standards of security and confidentiality. He added that mock drills would be conducted on June 20, a day before the examination, to assess preparedness and ensure smooth conduct of the examination.

Govt. focused on identifying offbeat destinations to diversify tourism landscape: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK



KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the tourism potential of the picturesque Panchanpatri area in Kulgam district.

During the meeting, the Minister took detailed assessment of various measures to be taken for bringing the Panchanpatri area of Kulgam on tourism map of Jammu and Kashmir. She directed the officers to establish all kind basic amenities in this picturesque area so that maximum visitors are attracted towards it.

The Minister directed the Tourism department to assess the scope for strengthening tourism infrastructure in the area for visitors. "Panchanpatri possesses immense natural beauty and holds tremendous potential to emerge as a major attraction for nature lovers, trekkers and adventure tourists", she stated.

Sakeena Itoo highlighted that the Government is

focused on identifying and developing offbeat destinations to diversify the tourism landscape of Jammu and Kashmir and generate new livelihood opportunities for local communities. "Promotion of unexplored tourist spots not only enhances visitor experiences but also contributes significantly to rural economic growth through employment generation and entrepreneurship", she stated.

Reaffirming the Government's vision for inclusive tourism development, Sakeena Itoo said that emerging destinations like Panchanpatri will play a vital role in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's position as a premier tourist destination and creating long-term economic benefits for local residents.

During the meeting, Joint Director Tourism Kashmir briefed the Minister about ongoing and proposed tourism initiatives in the Panchanpatri.

The meeting, among others, was attended by Joint Director Tourism Kashmir; senior officers of Tourism and other concerned departments.

Agri Min calls for collective efforts to protect environment on World Environment Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Friday extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of World Environment Day.

He emphasized the need for collective efforts to protect and preserve the environment for future generations.

The Minister said that World Environment Day serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility towards safeguarding the natural resources and maintaining ecological balance. He stressed that environmental conservation is

not only essential for sustainable development but is also crucial for ensuring food security, agricultural productivity and the well-being of communities.

Javid Ahmad Dar highlighted the importance of adopting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, promoting afforestation, conserving water resources and reducing pollution. He urged the farmers, youth, educational institutions and civil society organizations to actively participate in environmental protection initiatives and contribute towards building a greener and healthier future.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to promote the sustainable agriculture,

climate-resilient farming practices and environmental conservation across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that various initiatives are being undertaken to enhance the green cover, encourage efficient use of natural resources and strengthen awareness regarding environmental protection.

"Let us pledge to work together for preservation of our environment and ensure that future generations inherit a cleaner, greener and more sustainable world," the Minister said.

He called upon all stakeholders to make environmental consciousness a way of life and contribute towards the collective goal of ecological sustainability and climate resilience.

Govt Reaffirms Citizen-Centric Governance as CM's Advisor Meets Public Delegations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In line with the government's commitment to responsive, transparent, and people-first governance, a number of public delegations Friday visited the Chief Minister's Public Services and Outreach Office (Raabita) to present their concerns.

The delegations met with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, who interacted with the representatives to understand and solve their issues and grievances.

Among the prominent groups that called on the Advisor today were the Crusher Owners Association, the Jhelum Riverside House Rehabilitation Union, the Radio Taxi Drivers Association, delega-



tions of young students, and various employee groups, alongside other civil society members.

The visiting delegations apprised the Advisor of their respective issues, seeking institutional intervention for timely redressal.

The Advisor to Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations, noting down the spe-

cific issues and assuring timely resolution of the concerns raised during the interactions.

He reassured them that the Chief Minister led government is working to ensure equitable development, smooth delivery of public services and effective resolution of any issues that may arise for the common man.

CM Omar meets Karnataka CM in Bengaluru, congratulates him on assuming office

GMK NEWS NETWORK



BENGALURU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday met Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on the sidelines of an event in Bengaluru and congratulated him on assuming office as the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

The two leaders met during The Hindu Huddle, where Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also participated in a discussion session.

Congratulating Chief Minister Shivakumar on his elevation, Omar Abdullah wished him a successful and impactful

tenure in service of the people of Karnataka. He expressed confidence that Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka would continue to strengthen cooperation and exchange best practices in governance, public welfare and inclusive development.

"It was a pleasure to meet and be able to congratulate my friend D.K. Shivakumar in person on the sidelines of The Hindu Huddle. I'm sure his term in office will be hugely beneficial to the people of Karnataka," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said after the meeting.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

The Fight Must Reach Every Home

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's participation in the "Drug-Free J&K" march in Ganderbal sends a strong message that the battle against drug abuse and narco-terrorism remains a top priority for the administration. His claim that a people's movement has emerged across Kashmir is encouraging, particularly at a time when drug addiction is increasingly threatening the social fabric of the region.

The statistics shared by the administration are significant. More than 1,000 FIRs registered, over 1,100 drug smugglers arrested, attachment of properties, cancellation of driving licences and recommendations for passport cancellations demonstrate an aggressive crackdown on those involved in the narcotics trade. Such action is necessary because drug peddlers are not merely breaking the law; they are destroying families, robbing young people of their future and undermining society from within.

Yet the challenge before Jammu and Kashmir is much larger than law enforcement alone. Every arrest reflects a wider problem that has taken root in communities across the region. Drug addiction is no longer confined to isolated pockets. It has become a worrying reality affecting households, educational institutions and entire neighbourhoods.

A lasting solution requires a balanced approach. While drug smugglers must face the full force of the law, equal attention must be given to rehabilitation, counselling and awareness. Young people trapped in addiction need opportunities to rebuild their lives. Families struggling with the consequences of substance abuse need support rather than stigma.

The growing public participation in anti-drug campaigns is a positive sign. When citizens, teachers, parents, religious leaders and community organisations join hands, the fight against drugs becomes stronger and more effective. A truly drug-free Jammu and Kashmir can only be achieved when society treats the issue as a collective responsibility rather than solely a government concern.

The campaign has generated momentum, but the real test lies ahead. Success will not be measured only by the number of arrests or properties attached. It will be measured by the number of young lives saved, the number of families restored and the confidence people gain that their future is free from the menace of drugs. The fight against narco-terrorism is ultimately a fight for Kashmir's future. It is a battle that must continue with determination, compassion and the active involvement of every section of society.

Make Big Tobacco Pay

Why The Tobacco Industry Must Finally Be Held Financially Liable



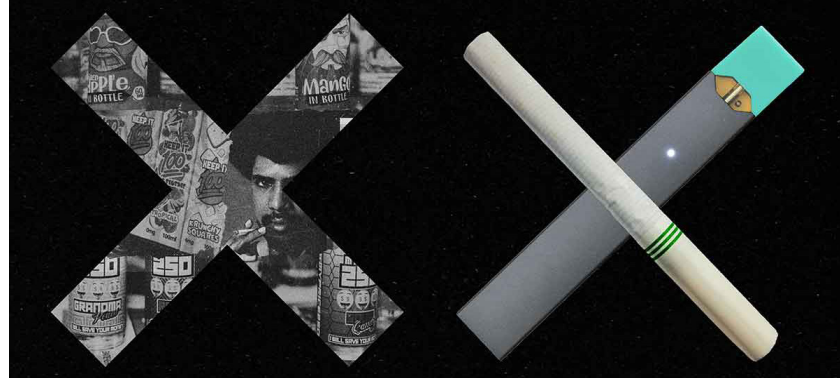
SHOBHA SHUKLA

How can we allow the tobacco industry to fill its coffers while we the people have to empty our pockets to fend for and suffer all the harms tobacco industry has caused? It is high time to shift the financial burden from people and communities to the tobacco industry for ALL the harms caused by its businesses," said Shobha Shukla while opening the launch of the historic Global Week of Action to Make Big Tobacco Pay.

"No matter where we live or what we look like, everyone deserves to lead a healthy life. But the tobacco industry sells dangerous and deadly products at huge profits. Meanwhile, we all pay - with our lives, our taxes, and our environment," said Daniel Dorado, tobacco campaign director at Corporate Accountability and organiser of the Make Big Tobacco Pay coalition (and a winner of this year's prestigious World Health Organization (WHO)'s World No Tobacco Day Award).

Many people know that tobacco use kills approximately 8 million people each year worldwide and is a risk factor for many life-altering diseases including heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and TB. Every disease and untimely death caused by tobacco and nicotine products could have been prevented. Even one tobacco death is a death too many. But few people realise that the tobacco industry also costs society over USD \$1.4 trillion every year to treat these preventable diseases and to clean up the industry's toxic pollution. Cigarette butts, which are made of plastic, are the most littered item in the world; e-cigarette waste continues to grow; and both products leach toxic chemicals into our water and soil.

Meanwhile, tobacco corporations bring in nearly USD \$1 trillion in revenue from addicting people to products they know are dangerous and deadly. That's more than Google, Meta, and Apple combined. "If we only clean 'downstream', the indus-



try gets profit and communities get all the pollution, clean-up costs, and health harms. This is not an accident; it is a business model - one that privatizes the profits and socialises the harm," said Willow Najjar Anderson, Senior Staff Attorney at the Public Health Law Center.

"Tobacco corporations cheat us financially - whether we use their products or not. The industry can only be profitable because it has foisted the costs of its business onto the people and our governments," said Jaime Arcila, senior researcher at Corporate Accountability. "Fortunately, we have a powerful tool to make Big Tobacco pay for its harms: the global tobacco treaty," he added.

183 nations worldwide have ratified the legally-binding World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). Signatories are committed to holding the tobacco industry legally and financially liable for its harms (Article 19) and preventing industry interference in health policymaking (Article 5.3). Advocates emphasised that Article 19 provides many ways to achieve liability beyond large-scale litigation, as many countries lack judicial systems that are adequate to hold transnational corporations liable.

"We have made a lot of progress on WHO FCTC Article 19 on liability at the last two global tobacco treaty meetings (COPs) and this Global Week of Action is so important in keeping the momentum going before the next one," said Kelsey Romeo-Stuppy, Managing Attorney, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH).

"The Brazilian government is trying to implement the FCTC Article 19 through a lawsuit against the two largest cigarette

manufacturers in the country and in the world and their national partners. This action was proposed in 2019 by the Attorney General's Office and it aims to reimburse the public health system for the expenses of the treatment of 27 diseases related to smoking. It is a very important lawsuit not only for us in Brazil, but for the world - as the final decision will positively or negatively impact other countries," said Mariana Pinho, Tobacco Control Coordinator at ACT Promoção da Saúde (ACT Health Promotion), Brazil.

"We need to make Big Tobacco pay through any and all means necessary - litigation, regulation, sanctions, and anything else we can do to build a healthier community where people come first," said Akinbode Oluwafemi, Executive Director of Corporate Accountability & Public Participation Africa (CAPPA).

During the Week of Action, advocates will be calling on their governments to advance liability measures at both the national and international level. The week kicks off with an online launch on June 1 followed by in-person and virtual actions in Mexico, Brazil, the United States, the Philippines, Nigeria, and Ghana. Partner organisations are also circulating a petition to Make Big Tobacco Pay, which already has nearly 40,000 signatures worldwide.

"Finding the tobacco industry at fault means very little if the penalties amount to peanuts compared to the scale of harms caused by its businesses. Our goal should always be clear: that we want to make the tobacco industry pay for the full costs of its products, both on health and the environment. We shouldn't stop at exposing the

industry's wrongdoing; we must make sure there is compensation and remediation," said Debby Sy, Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control (GGTC).

"There are many ways to hold the tobacco industry accountable. We have been in countries exploring environmental law, which is cutting-edge and has a lot of potential in countries with judiciaries that are not particularly strong to make Big Tobacco pay for its actions" said Patricia Sosa, Regional Advocacy Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

Corporate Accountability also announced the creation of the Yul Dorado Make Big Tobacco Pay Award to recognise visionary leadership in advancing health justice and tobacco industry accountability. Beginning next year, the award will honour outstanding efforts by governments, civil society, and advocates who are helping advance the global movement to make Big Tobacco pay for the harms it causes.

It is time for accountability and make the tobacco industry, that is the Big Tobacco pay for ALL the harms they have caused to human life and our planet. Make Big Tobacco Pay is a campaign led by Corporate Accountability, in coalition with civil society and NGO groups from around the world, including Network for Accountability of Tobacco Transnationals (NATT), CNS, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control (GGTC), European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP), Coalición América Saludable (CLAS), ACT Promoção da Saúde (ACT), Salud Justa MX Mexico, Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA), Health Justice Philippines, African Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA), Vision for Accelerated Sustainable Development (VAST) Ghana, Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA), and Global Alliance for Tobacco Control (GATC).

Let us hope that Global Week of Action to make Big Tobacco Pay results in urgent action by the governments at domestic level as well as with stronger progress on Article 19 of FCTC.

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The Cases For Ecological Humility

DR. RAM SHEPHERD
DR. SRINIVAS KATHERASALA

For decades, anthropogenic efforts to remediate degraded ecosystems have proceeded from a fundamentally mechanistic premise: that nature is a broken machine, and humanity its most qualified engineer. Bulldozers reconfigure arid topographies. Monoculture plantations blanket denuded hillsides. Canals impose hydraulic order upon drought-prone landscapes. Governments channel billions into grand interventions - desert greening schemes, afforestation drives, mega dams - all unveiled with considerable fanfare. For a fleeting interval, these projects appear to yield progress.

Then the non-native trees perish. The topsoil disperses on the wind. The desert inexorably reclaims its territory. The uncomfortable truth, now corroborated by empirical studies across four continents, is this: ecosystems do not require human engineering. They require flora and fauna functioning as autonomous agents. When we protect keystone species - or reintroduce those we have extirpated - nature initiates self-repair with a speed, economy, and efficacy that no technological intervention can match. Biodiversity, not human ingenuity, remains the most reliable and parsimonious ecosystem engineer.

The Epistemological Failure of Mechanical Fixes

China's protracted campaign against desertification illustrates this principle with painful clarity. In Inner Mongolia, state-directed bulldozers carved irrigation networks, and millions of saplings were planted in systematic rows. For a brief interval, the desert appeared to retreat. But the plantations were monocultures - genetically homogenous, densely planted, and profoundly vulnerable. They depleted groundwater reserves, attracted specialist pests, and collapsed within years. The soil, stripped of native vegetation, could no longer retain moisture or resist erosion. The desert advanced once more.

This pattern recurs across con-

tinents. From the failed greening initiatives of the Sahel to the collapsed exotic plantations of the Brazilian Cerrado, human interventions have consistently faltered because they treat ecosystems as assemblages to be fabricated rather than living networks of interdependent species. Mechanical fixes systematically ignore the subtle, slow, and exquisitely complex relationships that actually stabilise a landscape.

Przewalski's Horses: A Quiet Triumph of Reintroduction

China eventually adopted a radically different approach. Over four decades, the nation reintroduced Przewalski's horses - the last extant wild equine species on Earth - into desert reserves in Xinjiang and Gansu. Once extinct in their native habitat, the population has now surpassed nine hundred, with nearly four hundred roaming freely in Xinjiang's Kalamaili Nature Reserve.

Unlike bulldozers, the horses delivered diffuse ecological services. Their grazing pressure selectively suppressed shrub encroachment. Their dung fertilised nutrient-poor soils. Their hooves bioturbated compacted ground, enhancing water infiltration. Their movement patterns dispersed seeds across heterogeneous microsites.

Within five years, vegetation covers increased, soil stabilised, and small vertebrate populations returned. What decades of mechanical engineering failed to accomplish, a herd of equids achieved through ordinary behavioural routines. The lesson is deceptively simple: reintroduce a keystone species, then exercise restraint.

Yellowstone's Wolves: The Trophic Cascade Revisited

The restoration of Yellowstone National Park has attained canonical status in conservation biology, and deservedly so. For most of the twentieth century, wolves were absent from the park. In the absence of apex predation, elk populations irrupted. They consumed every aspen and willow sapling below browse height. Stream banks destabilised. Beavers, deprived of construction material, disappeared entirely. Without beaver ponds to slow hydrology and retain sediment, fish and



avian populations collapsed. The entire ecosystem was unravelling through a cascade of trophic overshoot.

Hunting quotas failed to restore balance. Culling elk proved unpopular and ecologically insufficient. Then, in 1995, wildlife managers reintroduced wolves. The effect was dramatic and transformative. Wolves altered elk behaviour and reduced their numbers. Aspen and willow regenerated along riparian corridors. Beavers returned, constructing ponds that attenuated flow regimes and created heterogeneous aquatic habitat for fish, amphibians, and waterfowl. A single species - *Canis lupus* - triggered a trophic cascade that three decades of human management could not approximate.

Africa's Elephants: Ecosystem Engineers Misunderstood

Across African savannas and forests, elephants have long suffered from a reputation as destructive pests. They topple trees and damage crops, inviting conflict with human communities. Yet ecologists now recognise them as quintessential ecosystem engineers. When elephants traverse dense forest, they create clearings that allow grassland regeneration. Their dung constitutes a mobile fertiliser factory, transporting nutrients and dispersing seeds across vast distances. The waterholes they excavate during dry seasons become critical refugia for countless other species.

A recent study from Camer-

oon provides quantitative rigour to this qualitative understanding. Where forest elephants have been extirpated, young ebony saplings - among the most ecologically and economically valuable species - declined by nearly seventy percent. Without the protective matrix of elephant dung, seeds were eight times more likely to be consumed by rodents before germination. No mechanical intervention can replicate this suite of services. Controlled burns and mechanical clearing are costly, labour-intensive, and ecologically reductive.

India's Aravalli Hills: Assisted Regeneration Over Imposed Planting

India's Aravalli Hills offer a parallel lesson. For years, afforestation programmes prioritised exotic species. Survival rates proved abysmal - between ten and twenty percent. The non-native trees required continuous watering and maintenance. Most died despite these inputs. Conversely, in plots where authorities simply excluded disturbances and allowed native shrubs and grasses to regenerate spontaneously, remarkable transformations occurred. Groundwater levels improved. Soil organic matter increased. Indigenous tree species returned without a single seedling being planted. In 2023, India launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project. Notably, the new paradigm emphasises assisted natural regeneration over aggressive planting -

Conclusion

The billions expended on mechanical fixes have not arrested desertification or biodiversity loss. Meanwhile, a herd of equids in Central Asia, a pack of canids in the Rocky Mountains, and a population of proboscideans in Central Africa have quietly accomplished what our engineering could not.

The time has come for epistemic humility. Protect keystone species. Cease the propagation of exotic monocultures. Invest in community based conservation. Recognise that four billion years of evolutionary refinement have produced solutions we cannot improve upon. Let us step back, safeguard what remains, and permit nature the dignity of its own recovery. It has been healing itself for aeons. It requires no assistance from us - only our restraint.

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■ Beyond Discomfort

Why Constipation Deserves More Attention

DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

Constipation is one of the most common digestive problems affecting people of all ages worldwide. It refers to a condition in which a person experiences infrequent bowel movements or difficulty in passing stool. In medical terms, constipation is defined as having fewer than three bowel movements per week. However, the frequency may vary from person to person depending on diet, lifestyle, age, and health conditions. The stool in constipation tends to be hard, dry, and difficult to expel, often accompanied by pain, bloating, or discomfort in the abdomen. While occasional constipation is generally harmless, chronic or long-term constipation can cause complications and significantly affect a person's physical and emotional well-being.

Understanding its causes, symptoms, and impacts helps in prevention and effective management. However, it is a widespread yet often neglected digestive issue that affects millions globally. While occasional constipation is usually harmless, chronic constipation can lead to serious physical, psychological, and social complications. A balanced diet rich in fiber, adequate hydration, regular exercise, and timely medical consultation are key to preventing and managing the condition. Understanding its causes, symptoms, and impacts is essential not only for treatment but also for maintaining overall digestive and mental health. Addressing constipation early can enhance comfort, energy, and quality of life, ensuring smooth and healthy functioning of the body's most vital systems.

Causes of constipation

Constipation is not a disease but a symptom of an underlying issue and can result from multiple factors related to diet, lifestyle, medication, or medical conditions. The following are the most common causes: a. Low-Fiber Diet: A diet low in dietary fiber is one of the leading causes of constipation. Fiber adds bulk and softness to the stool, making it easier to pass through the intestines. People who consume



large amounts of processed foods, meat, and dairy but fewer fruits, vegetables, and whole grains often suffer from constipation. b. Inadequate Water Intake: Dehydration causes the colon to absorb more water from waste material, making stool dry and hard. When the body lacks sufficient fluids, stool movement slows down, leading to constipation. c. Lack of Physical Activity: Sedentary lifestyles slow down metabolism and intestinal movement.

Elderly people or those confined to bed after surgery are more prone to constipation due to lack of physical movement. d. Ignoring the Urge to Defecate: Suppressing the natural urge to pass stool can desensitize bowel nerves over time. Habitual delay in responding to the urge can make the colon absorb more water, resulting in hard stool. e. Hormonal Changes: Hormonal changes during pregnancy, menstruation, or menopause can affect bowel movements. Conditions like hypothyroidism, diabetes, and hypercalcemia can also lead to constipation by slowing metabolism or fluid regulation. f. Psychological Factors: Stress, anxiety, and depression can interfere with digestive function and bowel regularity. Emotional distress often affects the gut-brain connection, slowing intestinal movement. g. Old Age: Aging reduces digestive efficiency and physical activity, causing slower bowel movements. Older adults may

also consume fewer fluids and fibers due to dental or appetite issues.

Symptoms and management

Constipation symptoms may vary depending on its severity and duration. The most common signs are physical, while some are related to emotional discomfort and reduced quality of life. a. Infrequent Bowel Movements: Having fewer than three bowel movements per week is a primary indicator. Some individuals may even go several days without passing stool. b. Hard, Dry, or Lumpy Stool: Stools appear hard, compact, or pellet-like, making evacuation painful or incomplete. c. Feeling of Incomplete Evacuation: Even after passing stool, the person feels that the bowel has not been completely emptied. d. Abdominal Discomfort or Pain: Cramps, bloating, and heaviness in the abdomen are common sensations caused by trapped gas or stool. e. Loss of Appetite: Constipation can reduce hunger due to stomach f. Nausea and Bad Breath: Accumulated waste in the intestines produces toxins and gases that cause nausea or foul breath.

Fatigue and Weakness: Persistent constipation can lead to a general feeling of tiredness due to slow metabolism and toxin build-up. h. Psychological Symptoms: Irritability, restlessness, and anxiety are common emotional symptoms due to chronic discomfort. Though the main focus is

While occasional constipation is usually harmless, chronic constipation can lead to serious physical, psychological, and social complications. A balanced diet rich in fiber, adequate hydration, regular exercise, and timely medical consultation are key to preventing and managing the condition.

on causes, symptoms, and impacts, it is useful to mention some preventive measures for better understanding. a. Include Fiber-Rich Foods: Eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, legumes, and whole grains. Aim for at least 25-35 grams of fiber per day. b. Drink Adequate Water: Consume 2-3 liters of water daily to keep the stool soft and easy to pass. c. Regular Exercise: Engage in walking, yoga, or light exercise to improve intestinal movement. d. Maintain Regular Bowel Habits: Respond promptly to the natural urge to pass stool. Set a fixed time daily for bowel movement, preferably after meals. e. Avoid Overuse of Laxatives: Use natural remedies like prunes, figs, or warm water with lemon instead of frequent laxative use.

Impacts-physical, psychological and social

Constipation has multiple effects on the body and mind. It can range from mild inconvenience to serious complications if left untreated. Its

impacts can be divided into physical, psychological, and social dimensions. 1. Physical Impacts: a. Hemorrhoids (Piles): Repeated straining during defecation puts pressure on rectal veins, causing them to swell and form painful hemorrhoids. Bleeding, itching, and discomfort while sitting are common symptoms. b. Anal Fissures: Hard stool can tear the lining of the anus, resulting in fissures that cause pain and bleeding. Chronic fissures may lead to infection or abscess formation. c. Fecal Impaction: Long-term constipation can cause stool to harden and become stuck in the colon or rectum. This condition leads to blockage and may need manual or medical removal.

Abdominal Distension and Gas: Accumulated stool increases gas formation and distends the abdomen, leading to discomfort and bloating. 2. Psychological Impacts: a. Stress and Anxiety: Persistent constipation causes frustration and worry about bowel movements. Anxiety may worsen the condition by further slowing digestion. b. Poor Sleep Quality: Abdominal discomfort often disrupts sleep, leading to irritability and fatigue. c. Decreased Confidence and Self-Esteem: Embarrassment about digestive issues can affect social and professional interactions. Fear of odor, bloating, or discomfort limits social participation. d. Depression: Chronic constipation can reduce mood and energy levels due to ongoing discomfort and toxin build-up in the body. 3. Social and Lifestyle Impact: a. Reduced Productivity: Constant abdominal discomfort and fatigue affect work concentration and performance. b. Dependency on Laxatives: Overuse of laxatives for quick relief may cause dependency and worsen the problem in the long run. c. Disturbed Routine: Individuals may spend a lot of time trying to pass stool or avoid social activities due to discomfort. d. Economic Burden: Chronic constipation requires medical consultations, medications, and dietary management, adding to healthcare expenses.

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■ Delhi Fire Tragedy

Another Tragedy, Or A Turning Point For Fire Safety?

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

A massive fire broke out in a hotel in Malviya Nagar, Delhi, on June 3, 2026, shocking the entire nation. The tragic incident, which claimed the lives of twenty-one people and injured many more, stunned not only the capital but the entire nation. People were seen jumping from high-rise buildings to escape the flames. The scenes broadcast on social media and the news media were deeply traumatic for any sensitive individual. This was not just an accident; it was a horrific testament to the failure of the system designed to ensure the safety of citizens.

Every major accident is followed by a few days of mourning, condolences, investigations, and announcements of compensation. Then, the matter gradually fades from public memory. But the Malviya Nagar tragedy is not something to be simply condoled and forgotten. It points to deep structural flaws that have become more dangerous with the rapid urbanization of India's metropolitan cities. This accident forces us to ask—are our buildings truly safe? Are fire safety regulations limited to paper only? And is the role of the administration limited to distributing relief after an accident?

In the event of a fire in any multi-story building, the most important elements are safe exits, firefighting equipment, and timely rescue. If people inside a building have to jump from windows and balconies to save their lives, it indicates a complete failure of the security system. Fire not only destroys the building, it also exposes the reality of safety claims and administrative preparedness. This is what happened in the Malviya Nagar incident.

According to preliminary information, several foreign nationals were also staying at the hotel. This fact makes the tragedy even more serious. India's capital welcomes tourists, businessmen, and investors from around the world. If security standards in the capital are so poor that even foreign nationals feel unsafe, it not only rep-

Then, the matter gradually fades from public memory. But the Malviya Nagar tragedy is not something to be simply condoled and forgotten. It points to deep structural flaws that have become more dangerous with the rapid urbanization of India's metropolitan cities.

resents a failure of the local administration but also a question mark on the country's international image. A modern metropolis is not defined solely by tall buildings and glitzy hotels, but by the security and disaster management systems in place.

Following the incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta expressed condolences and announced financial assistance for the deceased and injured. Such condolences are necessary, and the families of the victims deserve support in this time of crisis. But it is equally true that compensation cannot bring back a lost life. Financial assistance cannot lessen the intensity of grief. A family member, a child's father, a parent's child, or a person's spouse cannot be replaced by a single sum of money. Therefore, the real question is not one of compensation, but of prevention.

The Delhi Police filing an FIR against the hotel owner under sections related to culpable homicide not amounting to murder indicates that investigating agencies are not treating this incident as a mere accident. If safety regulations were ignored, fire safety standards were not followed, or building construction rules were violated, this is not merely an adminis-



trative error but criminal negligence. Fixing responsibility in such cases is crucial, as in the absence of accountability, rules become mere formalities.

But the fault can't lie solely with the building owner. We also need to examine where the inspection officials were. Were fire safety certificates renewed in a timely manner? Did any inspections uncover deficiencies? If so, why wasn't action taken? If not, were the inspections conducted properly? Answers to these questions are essential not only for this case, but for understanding the functioning of the entire city administration.

Most of India's metropolitan cities today grapple with the problem of haphazard urbanization. Narrow streets, illegal construction, overcrowding, parking chaos, and disregard for safety standards have become common sights in almost every city. These shortcomings go unnoticed as long as everything remains normal. But as soon as a disaster strikes, these shortcomings prove fatal. The difficulties faced by fire engines in navigating the narrow streets of Malviya Nagar once again highlighted the serious lack of coordination between urban planning and disaster management.

Delhi is not alone. Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and other metropolitan cities face similar challenges. Many buildings either lack

fire extinguishers or have not been inspected for years. Emergency exits are often blocked. Many commercial establishments compromise safety standards to maximize profits. Sadly, even the administration often remains indifferent to these violations.

Fire safety isn't just a technical matter of building construction; it's fundamental to protecting civilian life. In developed countries, violating fire safety regulations is considered a serious offense. Regular inspections, mandatory mock drills, and strict penalties are enforced. India also has regulations, but the problem lies in their effective implementation. Unless there's prompt and strict action against violations, paper provisions cannot translate into actual safety.

This tragedy raises another important question—are ordinary citizens sufficiently aware of fire safety? Most people don't know what to do and what not to do in case of a fire. Panic, rumors, and misjudgment often exacerbate the loss of life and property. Regular fire safety training and mock drills should be made mandatory in schools, colleges, offices, hotels, and residential complexes. Safety isn't just the government's responsibility; it's also society's collective responsibility.

It is essential that this incident is not simply a news story. Special

safety audits should be conducted on all high-rise hotels, guest houses, and commercial establishments. Buildings found to be in violation of regulations should be immediately closed. The fire department should be provided with modern technology, adequate resources, and trained manpower. Local bodies and town planning agencies must also fulfill their responsibilities to ensure that emergency vehicles are given access in the future.

Governments must understand that development and security are not contradictory, but complementary. Development is not simply about building new buildings. Building safe buildings is true development. Simply promoting tourism is not enough; ensuring the safety of tourists is equally essential. Attracting investment is not the only important thing; protecting the lives of citizens and visitors is even more crucial.

The Malviya Nagar fire is a warning. This warning is not just for Delhi, but for the entire country. If we don't wake up today, a similar tragedy could be repeated tomorrow in another city, another hotel, hospital, school, or residential building. Then there will be the same condolence messages, the same compensation announcements, and the same questions will remain unanswered.

The dead cannot be brought back. The pain suffered by their families cannot be fully assuaged. But if we learn from this incident and make real improvements to safety, punish those responsible, and make fire safety a national priority, many lives can be saved in the future. This will be our true tribute to this tragedy.

The Malviya Nagar fire didn't just burn a building; it exposed the weaknesses of our urban system, administrative accountability, and safety culture. Now is not the time to simply mourn, but to take concrete action. Because the biggest question after every tragedy is: have we learned anything? If the answer is 'no' this time, the next tragedy may just be waiting in the wings.

(Dr. Satyavan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

■ One Year Imprisonment

Court Convicts Baramulla Man In Cheque Bounce Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: A court in Sumbal here in North Kashmir's Bandipora district has convicted a Baramulla resident in a cheque dishonour case involving 7 lakh and sentenced him to one year of simple imprisonment besides directing him to pay 10 lakh as compensa-

tion to the complainant. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Sumbal Rahila Rashid delivered the judgment in a complaint filed by Haji Asadullah Dar of Shahgund, Hajin, under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. According to the complaint, Abdul Ahad Lone of Zangum Pattan owed the complainant 7 lakh

arising from fruit business transactions and had issued two cheques of 4 lakh and 3 lakh towards repayment of the liability. The complainant alleged that both cheques were dishonoured by the bank due to insufficient funds, prompting initiation of legal proceedings. During the trial, the complainant produced docu-

mentary evidence and examined several witnesses, including bank officials and individuals associated with the business dealings, to establish the outstanding liability. The accused admitted his signatures on the cheques but contended that the signed cheques had been lost and were subsequently misused. After examining the evi-

dence and hearing both sides, the court found the defence unsupported by convincing material and held that the accused had failed to rebut the statutory presumption available in favour of the complainant. In the judgment, Judicial Magistrate Rahila Rashid observed that the complainant had successfully established the exis-

tence of a legally enforceable debt and proved that the cheques were issued towards discharge of that liability. The court further held that the accused had failed to substantiate his claim that the cheques had been lost or misused. Accordingly, the court convicted Abdul Ahad Lone under Section 138 of

the Negotiable Instruments Act, sentenced him to one year of simple imprisonment and directed him to pay 10 lakh as compensation to the complainant. Reacting to the verdict, Haji Asadullah Dar welcomed the judgment and said the decision had reinforced his faith in the judicial system after a legal battle that lasted nearly a decade. [KNT]

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Mehbooba Mufti's

progressing due to the focused efforts and monitoring of the present government.

The controversy intensified after Peoples Conference president and Handwara MLA Sajad Lone termed the episode a "constitutional crisis" and questioned the legal and administrative basis of Mehbooba Mufti chairing what he described as a review meeting.

In a strongly-worded statement, Lone said constitutional powers vested in the elected government belonged to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and could not be bypassed. He sought clarification on whether any special government notification or authorization existed permitting a former chief minister to preside over such a meeting.

"Constitutionally, a former chief minister cannot chair review meetings of departments functioning under the elected government, let alone institutions that fall under the Central Government," Lone said.

He also questioned whether similar arrangements would be permitted in other states and warned of the possible emergence of a "third power centre" in Jammu and Kashmir.

The PDP, however, pushed back against the criticism. Party leader and MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para accused the government of focusing on political optics rather than healthcare delivery.

In a statement on social media, Para said Jammu and Kashmir was facing a health crisis, with cancer patients continuing to suffer while AIIMS Awantipora was yet to become fully operational.

"Those in power seem more concerned about who visits AIIMS than why it is still not fully functional," Para said.

He alleged that officials of the institution were being summoned over Mehbooba Mufti's visit instead of being asked to explain delays in the project's completion. Para argued that a government backed by a legislative majority should not feel threatened by a site visit by opposition leaders and should instead prioritize making the healthcare facility functional for the public.

Historic Movement

of society. Through treatment, counseling, and new employment opportunities, we are opening new doors. People must remember that this is not simply a government programme, but it is a social revolution. Together, we will ensure that no drug smugglers or peddlers ever find a place in Jammu Kashmir.

Fifty-five days ago, I stood on Jammu's soil and declared that we would free our children from the poison of drugs, protect our families from being torn apart by drug addiction, and refuse to let our people become hostages to narco-terrorists who profit from suffering and funding terrorism with their black money. We have launched a war against narco-terrorists, who seek to destroy the future of our youth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that in every march across Jammu Kashmir, he spoke about how drugs are destroying the future of people, robbing them of their ability, their dreams, and their dignity and how the proceeds from drug smuggling is used in buying weapons, and spreading terrorism in Jammu Kashmir.

"This is not simply a matter of ordinary crime but it is also a question of national security and a direct threat to the very survival of our society. The narco-terrorists, whether sitting in neighbouring countries or operating inside Jammu Kashmir, are enemies of our people. They are enemies of our children. They are enemies of our progress. Let me make this clear that narco-terrorists operating in Jammu Kashmir will have to pay a heavy price," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further observed that the administration will ensure that those who have harmed our youth face justice so severe that the world will remember their punishment.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon mothers, sisters, and daughters to rise as protectors of our villages, cities and neighbourhoods. He also called upon youth of Jammu Kashmir to stand as guardians of their schools and colleges.

"I promise to the people that narco-terrorists will no longer find refuge. We will hunt them down. Narco-Terrorists days are numbered. Their networks will be dismantled, one by one. This is my oath, my solemn promise that every narco-terrorist will answer for their crimes and their sins," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor launched Sindh Samvad, a podcast series and also felicitated the winners of various competitions organised under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.

LG Inaugurates Yatri

Pandit community, visit the temple. In 2023, several delegations met the Lieutenant Governor to request a Yatri Bhawan. Subsequently, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj through Rural Engineering Wing (REW) designed the plan and the Lieutenant Governor laid the foundation stone in 2024.

"With Mata Kheer Bhawani's blessing, I had laid the foundation stone on Jyeshtha Ashtami in 2024. The project will enhance the capacity of the shrine to host pilgrims visiting from India and abroad. My goal has been to provide the Kashmiri Pandit community visiting the shrine with excellent facilities and a serene spiritual experience," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The facility constructed within the temple premises at a cost of Rs.3.85 Crore comprises a G+II RCC framed structure with a plinth area of 3,885 sq. ft. and is designed to accommodate approximately 800-900 pilgrims through floor bedding arrangements.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor paid obeisance at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple and prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of all.

Srinagar Man's

last seen before his body was finally traced and recovered on Friday," the official said.

Meanwhile, officials said investigation has been taken up and the body will be handed over to the family after completion of necessary legal formalities—(KNO)

India Lodges Strong Protest

violations, political repression, economic exploitation and denial of freedom in territories illegally occupied by Pakistan," it said in a statement.

"The government of India categorically rejects any attempts by Pakistan to bring material change to areas under Pakistan's illegal occupation, and underlines that such actions cannot hide the fact that Pakistan illegally remains in possession of Indian territories, which it must vacate," it said.

CS Calls For Ambitious

for saturation of KCC coverage, timely renewal of existing accounts and prompt disbursement of repayment incentives to eligible farmers in accordance with the scheme guidelines.

He directed the concerned departments and banks to undertake extensive awareness campaigns regarding the incentives available under the scheme and the conditions required for availing them, enabling farmers to fully leverage the benefits of this credit scheme.

The Chief Secretary also called for expediting onboarding under the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) in areas where digitization of land records has been completed. He further directed the concerned authorities to ensure that these records remain updated in tandem with the ongoing generation of Farmer IDs across the districts.

Emphasizing the role of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in strengthening rural economies, Dulloo underscored the need for systematic capacity building of FPOs to make them credit-worthy and financially sustainable. He asked the department to designate mentors from among its trainers for handholding and guiding FPOs in enhancing their productivity and institutional capacities in line with banking requirements and credit norms.

The Chief Secretary reviewed district-wise and scheme-wise performance and urged districts to identify areas where progress remained below expectations and undertake focused interventions to improve outcomes and emerge as leading performers.

The meeting also reviewed the performance of Agricultural Term Loans and the activities generating the highest demand among applicants. The Chief Secretary directed banks to provide granular activity-wise data regarding the sectors attracting maximum credit demand and explore the possibility of incorporating such activities under the Mission YUVA framework as well.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary, APD, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma presented a comprehensive overview of the agricultural credit ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the uptake of various schemes among eligible beneficiaries, discussed the challenges being faced and outlined the roadmap for achieving the desired outcomes.

During the meeting, it was informed that Jammu and Kashmir presently has around 11.57 lakh active KCC account holders, of whom nearly 3.5 lakh farmers availed the prompt repayment incentive during the previous financial year. It was further revealed that 7.99 lakh beneficiaries have been provided smart cards, while 41 per cent coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was achieved during the Kharif season.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of major schemes including the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), HADP Credit, JKCIP Credit, National Livestock Mission (NLM) and PM-KISAN.

It was informed that under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, loans amounting to 680 Cr have been sanctioned, while 431 Cr has been disbursed among 392 beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir.

Similarly, under PMFME, 545 cases involving disbursement of 22 Cr were reported during 2024-25. Under HADP Credit, loans worth 302.78 Cr have been sanctioned, of which 172.69 Cr have been disbursed up to May 2026.

Regarding the National Livestock Mission, the meeting was apprised that 132 applications had been received, out of which 65 cases are presently under processing by banks, while 27 cases involving financial assistance of 12.23 Cr have been approved by the Central Executive Committee (CEC).

The review further revealed that under FPO financing, credit amounting to 604 Cr has been sanctioned in favour of 67 FPOs, of which 425 Cr has been disbursed among 54 FPOs across the Union Territory.

With regard to the flagship PM-KISAN scheme, the meeting was informed that Jammu and Kashmir currently has around 9.16 lakh active beneficiaries. It was further noted that land seeding has been completed in a substantial number of cases, while NPCI and e-KYC pendencies have been reduced considerably and are being addressed on priority.

The meeting was also informed that the forthcoming "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" would be extensively utilized as a platform to reach every village of the Union Territory and generate awareness among farmers regarding the benefits of various agricultural credit schemes, alongside dissemination of the campaign's broader objectives aimed at strengthening the agriculture sector.

'Climate Change,

advances in science and technology have significantly enhanced the understanding of environmental changes taking place across the Himalayan region. Scientific monitoring, environmental assessment and knowledge generation have enabled researchers and policymakers to make informed decisions regarding conservation and climate adaptation, he added.

The noted scientist said that through the application of science and technology, we have strengthened our ability to monitor environmental changes and generate scientific evidence that informs policy and decision-making. However, while scientific progress is important, we must also recognise the intrinsic value of nature and promote a harmonious coexistence between people and the ecosystems upon which their well-being depends, he said.

Calling for collective responsibility, Prof Romshoo urged governments, institutions and citizens to work together to protect mountain ecosystems, restore degraded wetlands, secure water resources and adopt climate-resilient development pathways.

"On this World Environment Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to protecting our fragile mountain ecosystems, restoring wetlands, safeguarding water resources and pursuing environmentally sustainable development for present and future generations," he added.

Echoing similar concerns, environmentalist and former academician Dr M.R.D. Kundangar stressed the need to conserve the region's natural assets before irreversible damage occurs.

"Our natural resources, including lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams, are under immense pressure due to misuse and neglect. Climate change is increasingly threatening glaciers and other critical ecosystems. These resources are our heritage and must be preserved at all costs for future generations," he said.

Dr Kundangar warned that continued degradation of water bodies and ecological systems could have far-reaching consequences for water security, biodiversity and public welfare across the region.

Dr Aamir Hussain Bhat, Manager SECAP (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan), said environmental protection should be viewed not merely as an option but as a collective responsibility.

"Environmental protection is no longer a choice; it is a responsibility. The true measure of development lies not in what we build today, but in what we preserve for tomorrow," he said.

Dr Bhat said that World Environment Day serves as a powerful reminder that safeguarding natural resources is a duty owed to future generations. He pointed out that climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution continue to emerge as major challenges to sustainable development worldwide.

He stressed that governments, educational institutions, local communities and individuals must work collectively to promote environmentally responsible practices and reduce ecological footprints.

"Every tree planted, every water source protected and every sustainable choice made today contributes to a healthier, more resilient and environmentally secure future," he said.

According to experts, preserving Kashmir's glaciers, wetlands, forests and water bodies is crucial not only for ecological balance but also for ensuring long-term economic and social sustainability. They called upon citizens to adopt environmentally conscious lifestyles and support conservation initiatives aimed at protecting the Valley's unique natural heritage—(KNO)

If Everyone Is Sincere,

wider consequences. "When you see an effort to radicalise youngsters, particularly in the north of the country, on religious lines, at the behest of our ruling party, you cannot expect there will be no knock-on effect elsewhere," he said.

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Satish Sharma hails Jammu RMC inauguration as major boost to weather forecasting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Friday described the inauguration of the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Jammu as a landmark achievement that will significantly strengthen the weather forecasting capabilities, disaster preparedness, scientific research and public safety across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Minister congratulated the Ministry for Earth Sciences, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and all stakeholders involved in establishing the Centre. He termed the elevation of the Meteorological Office Jammu into a full-fledged Regional Meteorological Centre as a recognition of the unique geographical and climatic challenges faced by the Himalayan region.

"Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are among the most climatically sensitive and meteorologically complex regions in the world. The establishment of this Centre marks a transformative step towards providing accurate, localized and timely weather services that are crucial for safeguarding lives, supporting

livelihoods and strengthening disaster management systems," the Minister said. Highlighting the importance of scientific infrastructure in a region prone to avalanches, flash floods, cloudbursts and extreme weather events, Satish Sharma said that the Centre would provide dedicated expertise in mountain meteorology, cryosphere studies, avalanche forecasting and high-altitude weather services. He said the benefits of the Centre would extend to the farmers, security forces, tourists, researchers and disaster response agencies alike.

The Minister emphasized that improved forecasting and early warning systems would contribute significantly towards minimizing losses arising from natural calamities while enhancing resilience among the communities living in vulnerable areas. Referring to the growing role of science and technology in governance, Satish Sharma stated that the Jammu and Kashmir government remains committed towards strengthening the scientific institutions and fostering innovation-driven development. He underscored the importance of integrating advanced technologies, data analytics and digital platforms to improve weather forecasting and public service delivery.

"The future belongs to knowledge, innovation and scientific excellence. Institutions such as the Regional Meteorological Centre will not only strengthen weather services but also inspire research, innovation and technological advancement among our youth," he remarked.

The Minister further assured full support from the Jammu and Kashmir administration in ensuring the successful functioning and expansion of the Centre. He reiterated the administration's commitment towards providing

all necessary assistance in terms of infrastructure, coordination and institutional support to help the Centre realize its full potential.

Addressing the young scientists, meteorologists and researchers associated with the Centre, Satish Sharma encouraged them to pursue excellence in their work and remain dedicated to serving society through science. He observed that the data collected, forecasts generated and warnings issued by them would play a critical role in protecting lives and supporting sustainable development across the region.

The Minister also lauded the contributions of Union Minister for Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh and the leadership of the Ministry for Earth Sciences for facilitating the establishment of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Jammu.

Describing the inauguration as a significant milestone in the scientific and developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir, Satish Sharma expressed confidence that the Centre would emerge as a premier institution for meteorological research, forecasting and climate services in the Himalayan region, contributing substantially to public welfare, economic growth and environmental resilience.

During the occasion, Satish Sharma also strongly reiterated the long-pending aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir for the restoration of full statehood. He emphasized that granting statehood would further strengthen democratic institutions, enhance administrative efficiency and empower the people to participate more effectively in the developmental journey of the region.

The Minister stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have consistently demonstrated their faith in democratic processes and deserve the restoration of statehood at the earliest. He expressed confidence that the Union Government would take a positive decision in this regard, fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Highlighting the need for improved transportation infrastructure, Satish Sharma also demanded expedited progress on railway connectivity projects in the Jammu region, particularly the proposed Jammu-Akhnoor-Khour belt and the Kaleeth-Dori Dager railway links. He said that extending rail connectivity to these strategically and economically important areas would boost tourism, facilitate trade and commerce, improve mobility for local residents and create new avenues for socio-economic development.

World Environment Day

DLSA Budgam conducts series of Awareness Programmes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: As per plan of action for the month of June 2026 issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority Budgam in coordination with Vitasta Law College, Nowgam Srinagar organized series of awareness programmes on World Environment Day.



The programme was conducted under the guidance of O.P. Baghat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Budgam and under the supervision of Tabassum Qadir Parray, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

In further observance of World Environment Day, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam in collaboration with Vitasta Law College Nowgam, Srinagar organized an awareness programme in the conference hall of Vitasta College.

At the outset of the conclusion of the programme plantation drive also took place in which number of plant saplings were planted at various spots of college ground. The saplings were planted by Secretary DLSA Budgam followed by the staff and Défense Counsel along with the pro-bono lawyer of DLSA Srinagar. The students, faculty members, and legal professionals participated in the programme enthusiastically.

The programme highlighted the significance of environmental preservation and the collective responsibility of citizens

in safeguarding natural resources for future generations.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary DLSA Budgam highlighted the importance of celebration of World Environmental Day. In her speech she further emphasized upon the attendees to consider prime responsibility for the planting plant saplings for the safeguarding of the environment.

The other speakers along with the Deputy LADC Srinagar and pro-bono lawyer of DLSA Srinagar also spoke of the occasion and briefed the audience about the disadvantages of land degradation and soil erosion.

Simultaneously, a programme was also conducted at ADR Centre Budgam wherein in Chief LADC, DLSA Budgam spoke on the occasion.

It is worth to mention here that Chairpersons Tehsil Legal Services

Committees Budgam organized various legal awareness programme on the occasion and conducted plantation drives in their respective jurisdictions as well. The events witnessed active participation from members of the legal fraternity, students, community representatives, PLVs and general public.

The programme was also carried out by the Legal Aid Clinics and Legal Literacy Clubs of DLSA Budgam.

During the programmes, resource persons emphasized the importance of environmental sustainability, waste management, afforestation, and the need for collective action to address contemporary environmental challenges. Participants were sensitized about various legal provisions relating to environmental protection and the role of citizens in ensuring a clean and healthy environment.

ADC Budgam chairs District Level Telecom Committee Meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, chaired the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) meeting to review the progress of key telecom infrastructure projects and address issues affecting digital connectivity across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the 4G Saturation Project was conducted, with discussions focusing on the identification of additional unserved and underserved locations. The ADC directed the concerned officers to expedite the process to ensure improved mobile connectivity in all eligible areas.

The committee also discussed site-specific issues, including those related to the Zinpanchal site, and directed the concerned revenue authorities to take necessary steps for their early resolution. The status of 4G towers established on land already transferred for telecom purposes across 23 locations in the district was also reviewed.

Progress under the BharatNet Project was

assessed, with officials apprising the chair about ongoing works aimed at strengthening broadband connectivity in rural areas. The meeting further reviewed the status of 5G Street Furniture infrastructure, and the ADC told the Chief Planning Officer to verify the constitution of field-level teams for mapping and verification of potential sites.

Emphasizing the importance of robust telecom infrastructure for governance, public service delivery, education, and economic development, the ADC called for close coordination among all departments and telecom service providers to remove bottlenecks and ensure timely completion of projects.

The ADC directed all concerned departments and agencies to accelerate ongoing telecom initiatives so that the benefits of improved digital connectivity reach every corner of the district.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director Planning Budgam, Executive Engineer KPDC Budgam, Rage Officer Budgam, AGM BSNL Srinagar, Tehsildar Charshareef, DIO NIC, and other concerned.

JKAACL organises Punjabi Kavi Darbar in Beerwah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Friday organised a Punjabi Kavi Darbar at Attina, Beerwah, Budgam, with the active participation of local literary enthusiasts and members of the younger generation.

The programme was attended by Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, S. Prehlad Singh, Master T.P. Singh, and other distinguished guests. A large number of Punjabi-speaking residents of the area also participated in the event.

Welcoming the gathering, S. Prehlad Singh, a prominent social and literary figure, appreciated JKAACL for organising a literary programme in the rural area of Attina. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives



in promoting Punjabi language, literature, and cultural heritage among the younger generation.

In his address, Popinder Singh Paras highlighted the Academy's sustained efforts to promote Punjabi literature and culture across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the remote areas of the Kashmir Division. He stated that the Academy is committed to organising literary and cultural programmes in

regions with a significant Punjabi-speaking population in order to encourage literary activities and strengthen cultural bonds.

On the occasion, noted poets and literary figures including Popinder Singh Vaid, Nanak Singh, Manjit Singh Raina, Kulwant Singh Vicky, Harpreet Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Kripal Singh, Suraj Singh, and others recited their Punjabi poems and received appreciation from the audience.

Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign

DC Sgr leads plantation drive at GHS Khonmoh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To mark the World Environment Day, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday led a plantation drive at Government Higher Secondary (GHS) School Khonmoh as a part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The plantation drive was organized by the District Administration Srinagar in collaboration with Axis Bank and GHS Khonmoh on the eve of World Environment day-2026 promoting environmental sustainability and encouraging community participation in creating a greener and healthier environment and also signifying a collective responsibility towards a shared commitment to achieving the objectives of a drug-free society.

The event witnessed the participation of Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Edu-



cation Officer, Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din, Principal GHS School Khonmoh, Nahid Shah, Cluster Head Axis Bank, Shiekh Gowhar, other Offices as well as enthusiastic, Staff and school Students who actively participated in the programme and planted a variety of saplings within the school premises.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner planted a deodar sapling and highlighted the importance of such initiatives in increasing green cover,

mitigating the effects of climate change and fostering environmental awareness among citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and called upon the students to play a proactive role in protecting surrounding environment. He said that plantation drives not only contribute to ecological balance but also help instill a sense of responsibility and environmental awareness among citizens.

CORRECTION

This is to inform the general public that my name is recorded incorrectly in the official records of Vishwa Bharti Degree College, Rainawari. I, Eshan Fayaz, am a student of the 8th semester at the above-mentioned college. My registration number is 9364-VB-2022. At the time of admission, an error occurred due to which my name has been wrongly printed as "Eshan Fayaz Malik" on my roll number slip and other related documents, whereas my correct name is "Eshan Fayaz". I hereby request the college and university authorities to kindly correct my name in their records at the earliest. Any objections or claims regarding this correction should be brought to my notice or to the college office within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Eshan Fayaz
Registration No.: 9364-VB-2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public I Shahid Hussain intend to correct the parentage of my ward namely Afsheen Shahid Shah in her school records studying in class 8th in GD Goenka Public School under admission No. 0818 from Shahid Hussain Shah to Shahid Hussain as per her passport and father's Aadhar card. In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with Principal GD Goenka School Lal Bazar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR
NEAR PETROL PUMP BAGHI ALI MARDAN KHAN, SRINAGAR - 190011

PUBLIC NOTICE

Apropos the captioned subject, it is to submit that the unit of M/s Arcade Aluminium Industries I/E Khunmoh Srinagar formally registered under No. 01/003/09502/PMT/MSME dated. 30-06-2022 for the activity of "Manufacturing of aluminium utensils" as partnership concern of 1. Mr. Shafiq Ahmad Khan S/o Abdul Rashid Khan R/o Tengpora Nawakadal 2. Asiya Sheikh W/o Sheikh Mohammad Irshad R/o Dangerpora Nawakadal, Srinagar.

Now the promoter of the unit has approached this office for transfer of lease hold rights to 1. Mr. Liyaqat Mehraj S/o Mehraj-ud-din Ganie R/o Shahi Mohalla Awanta Bhawan Soura Nowshera 2. Mr. Talib Mehraj S/o Mehraj-ud-din Ganie R/o Shahi Mohalla Awanta Bhawan Soura Nowshera and 3. Mehraj-ud-din Ganie S/o Abdul Rehman Ganie R/o 054, Shahi Mohalla Awanta Bhawan Srinagar, The Incoming promoter intends to establish a new unit for the activity "Manufacturing of Disposal items viz paper cups, glasses, plates and packings of Dry Fruits items, consumer goods and provisional and food items" under new name and style M/s Tulip Global Port at I/E Khunmoh as well as de-registration of existing unit M/s Arcade Aluminium Industries I/E Khunmoh Srinagar

Any person having any objection to the proposed transfer may submit the same in writing to the office of General Manager DIC Srinagar within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice

DIPK-1873-26
DT: 05/06/2026

General Manager
District Industries Centre
Srinagar

World Environment Day Floriculture Deptt launches Valley-Wide Plantation Drives across Gardens, Parks

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In observance of World Environment Day, the Directorate of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Kashmir Division Friday organised extensive plantation drives simultaneously across all gardens, public parks and recreational green spaces under its jurisdiction throughout the Kashmir Valley.

The plantation drives were carried out in unison across the Directorate's establishments, including the Mughal Gardens, Polo ground park, Emporium Garden and scores of public parks spread

across Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Pulwama and other districts of the Kashmir Division.

Officers and staff of the Directorate participated in the drives, planting indigenous flowering species, ornamental trees, and native shrubs with the dual purpose of enhancing visual aesthetics and ecological resilience.

The Directorate of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Kashmir Division, reiterates that plantation and green cover enhancement is not a one-day activity but a year-round priority embedded in its operational mandate.

Grand comeback: Praggnanandhaa beats Keymar to win Norway Chess, first Indian to do so



SIANS

STAVANGER (NORWAY): Grandmaster (GM) Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu on Friday night, scripting the greatest ever comeback in a Super Tournament to become the first Indian to win the title in the Norway Chess championship, beating Germany's Vincent Keymer in the 10th and final round of the classical chess event.

With this win, the 20-year-old from Chennai made history, not only claiming the prestigious title but also the top prize of \$100,000. In the third game in this round, in the 10th and final round of the event played on Friday, Prag beat Keymar, Wesley So drew with Alireza Firouzja, and World No.1 Magnus Carlsen defeated reigning World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju to end his home tournament with a win.

Playing with white pieces, Prag capitalised on some mistakes by Keymar in the middle-game to win on the 45th move and finished the tournament with 18 points from five wins,

two losses, and two draws, both of which he won in the Armageddon game.

The former World No.4 finished a point ahead of overnight leader Wesley So of the United States, who, after his final round draw with Firouzja, ended with 17 points from two wins and eight draws, winning six of them in Armageddon. Wesley So bagged 1.5 points to one by Firouzja in the 10th round.

Firouzja, the French player of Iranian origin, ended third with 15.5 points in this event with a special scoring format in which a win fetches a player three points. At the same time, a draw gets each player one point, with an option of bagging a bonus point by winning the Armageddon game. World No.1 Magnus Carlsen, who lost twice to Praggnanandhaa in this event, ended with 13 points from three wins, four losses, and three draws -- two Armageddon wins.

Keymar ended fifth with 11 points while reigning Classical World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju of India came sixth and last with eight points from one

win, five defeats, and four draws -- with two Armageddon wins.

The focus on the final was on Prag as he was trailing half a point behind overnight leader Wesley So. He jumped into the lead once Wesley So agreed to an early draw with Firouzja. He went on to convert the advantage he gained in the middle game into a clinical win over Keymar, who played some questionable moves, and won the title outright.

Prag, who had slipped to No. 16 in the World Rankings in the last list released on June 1, came up with a brilliant performance in Norway Chess as he stormed back from the brink to win the prestigious title.

He was sixth and last in the standings after the sixth round but won four games in a row, including his second win over Carlsen and a penultimate round victory, and compatriot Gukesh, which propelled him into contention for the title. This was the first such winning streak in the event since Carlsen's in 2021.

MP League T20 Scindia Cup: Chambal Ghariyals continue to shine; Gwalior Shernis clinch crucial win in nail-biter

SIANS

INDORE: Chambal Ghariyals continued their winning run in the women's competition of the Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) T20 Scindia Cup 2026 after defeating Royal Nimar Eagles by 9 wickets in a rain-curtailed fixture, which was reduced to seven-overs-per-side at the Daly College in Indore.

After winning the toss, Chambal Ghariyals opted to bowl first and made an early impact, reducing the Eagles to 26/2 within the first three overs. With the team under pressure, Kalyani Jadhav and Soniya Singh steadied the innings and accelerated at the right time. The duo added a valuable 26-run partnership in just three overs, helping Royal Nimar Eagles regain momentum.

Kalyani played a brisk knock of 23 off 15 balls before being caught by Pooja Vastrakar, who has played for India at the international level, off the bowling of Vaishnavi Singh. Soniya remained unbeaten at 14 off 11 deliveries as the Eagles finished with a competitive total of 62/3 in their allotted seven overs. Anamika Raghuvanshi was the pick of the bowlers who scalped one wicket for 11 runs in two overs.

Later, Chambal Ghariyals got off to a flying start after Kanishka Thakur collected 16 runs in the very first over. However, they suffered a setback when Jincy George was stumped off Vaishnavi Sharma after



scoring just 2 off 2 balls.

The wicket did little to slow down the Ghariyals' momentum as Kanishka continued her aggressive approach, taking on the bowlers and finding boundaries with ease. The left-handed batter looked in complete control throughout the chase and remained unbeaten on 46, continuing her excellent form in the tournament. Captain Pooja Vastrakar provided valuable support at the other end with an unbeaten 15 off 14 balls as the Ghariyals comfortably chased down the target in 5.4 overs.

Bhopal Wolves lose to Gwalior Shernis

Gwalior Shernis clinched a much-needed win by two runs against Bhopal Wolves in a match that went down to the wire at Daly College, Indore. Gwalior Shernis produced a strong batting performance, led by captain

Nuzhat Parween and Sonam Yadav, to post a competitive 134/3 in 20 overs.

Parween and Aashna Patidar gave the team a steady start, adding 31 runs for the opening wicket before Aashna was dismissed for a brisk 18 off 13 balls.

The Shernis then took control through a superb partnership between Parween and Sonam Yadav. The duo dominated the bowlers and stitched together a crucial 70-run stand, putting the innings firmly in Gwalior's favour.

Parween anchored the innings beautifully, scoring 50 in 48 deliveries, while Sonam played an equally impressive knock, narrowly missing out on a fifty by just one run. Soumya Tiwari provided the finishing touches with an unbeaten 12 off 10 balls as the Shernis finished strongly.

India Beats Pakistan 5-3 in Thrilling Semi-final

AGENCIES

KAKAMIGAHARA (JAPAN): The Indian hockey team showed incredible character to defeat arch-rivals Pakistan 5-3 in a high-voltage semi-final match of the U18 Men's Asia Cup here on Friday.

Trailing 2-3 until the final quarter, India produced an outstanding attacking display in the final minutes to secure their place in the summit clash.

The match began with a quiet and tense opening, as both teams fought hard for control in the midfield. India found their rhythm in the 12th minute when a brilliant run from their own half forced a defensive error from Pakistan, earning India a penalty stroke.

Forward Ashish Tani Purti (12') stepped up and calmly converted it to give India an early 1-0 lead, which they maintained until the end of the first quarter.

Pakistan came out playing aggressively in the second quarter and won their first penalty corner in the 16th minute. Indian goalkeeper Ayush Rajak and defender Ansh Bahutra com-



binated perfectly to save a powerful drag-flick from Ahmad Uzair.

Pakistan kept pressing and found their equaliser in the 27th minute when Adeel intercepted a pass, broke through the defence, and scored a field goal to make it 1-1 at half time.

The third quarter saw intense action from both sides. India reclaimed the lead in the 35th minute when Shahrulkh Ali (35') capitalised on quick passing and

smashed the ball into the net.

However, the joy was short-lived as Pakistan responded just two minutes later through a field goal by Muhammad Farhan Aslam in the 37th minute. Pakistan then took the lead for the first time in the 42nd minute when Uzair Ahmad Qureshi converted a penalty corner with a precise drag-flick, leaving India trailing 2-3 at the end of the third quarter.

With their campaign on the line, India launched a furious attack in the final quarter. The pressure forced a green card for Pakistan's Muzammil Saeed in the 46th minute, and India immediately won consecutive penalty corners. Ashish Tani Purti (49') fired home a superb drag-flick from the second penalty corner to level the score at 3-3.

India completely dominated the following minutes, earning a series of penalty corners. Though Pakistan's defence blocked a few attempts, they could not stop the Indian frontline for long.

In the 53rd minute, Ashish scored another brilliant penalty corner to complete his hat-trick and put India ahead 4-3.

With just four minutes left on the clock, India won another penalty corner, and Ashish (56') hit the back of the net once again to score his fourth goal of the match, extending the lead to 5-3.

The Indian boys held their composure in the dying minutes of the game to defend their lead successfully and book their place in the final.

India will take on Japan in the final on Saturday.

French Open: Zverev downs Mensik to storm into final

SIANS

PARIS: Alexander Zverev is now one step away from his first Grand Slam title after he defeated rising Czech star Jakub Mensik in the French Open final, winning in four sets on Friday. The score was 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, and the match lasted three hours and one minute on Court Philippe-Chatrier in Paris.

With this win, Zverev secured his spot in his second French Open final and the fourth major final of his career.

After coming close to winning the trophy in Paris last year, Zverev gets another chance to end his wait for Grand Slam success in Sunday's championship match. "He started playing amazingly in the third set," Zverev said of Mensik after his victory. "He really stepped up to another level. But this is a Grand Slam; it's best-of-five set matches. Opponents are going to play better. You



have to deal with it. I did, and I hope to play another great match on Sunday."

With early exits for top players like Jannik Sinner and Novak Djokovic, Zverev has taken full advantage of his opportunity. He has lost only two sets in the tournament and has now become just the fifth active men's player to reach multiple Roland Garros finals.

At 29 years old, Zverev has an impressive record in major tournaments. He finished as the runner-up at the US Open in 2020, lost the Australian Open final last

year, and famously came one set away from winning the French Open title in 2024. Sunday's final against either Flavio Cobolli or Matteo Arnaldi offers him another chance to secure the one major title missing from his résumé.

This victory also puts Zverev on the same level as Stan Wawrinka, matching his tally of four Grand Slam finals, the fifth-highest among active men's players.

Mensik entered the semi-final with strong momentum and hopes of being the youngest Roland

Garros finalist since Rafael Nadal in 2006. However, he struggled to impose his attacking style against Zverev's consistency and tactical discipline.

The match ignited in the first set when Mensik earned the first break points with a stunning sliding backhand winner. Zverev, showing his experience, saved all three break points. He then broke serve at 5-5 to take the opening set.

The second set tilted firmly in Zverev's favour. Mensik tried to play more aggressively, but Zverev consistently countered with precise passing shots and superior control from the baseline. This dominant performance gave him a two-set lead and put him on the brink of the final.

Despite this, Mensik did not back down. After a medical timeout early in the third set, he returned with renewed energy. His mix of drop shots and variation disrupted Zverev's rhythm, leading to him

winning the third set and briefly sparking hopes for a comeback.

However, Zverev quickly squashed those hopes. He regrouped well at the start of the fourth set, taking a 3-0 lead and never allowing Mensik back into the match. His experience and calmness were crucial as he closed out the victory, improving his head-to-head record against Mensik to 2-0 after also defeating him in Madrid earlier this year.

Even with the loss, Mensik's impressive run in Paris will boost him 11 spots to No. 16 in the ATP Live Rankings. This highlights his status as one of the sport's brightest young talents.

Zverev recognised the challenge Mensik presented throughout the tournament. "It's amazing the way he played these past two weeks," he said. "I knew it was going to be the toughest challenge I had so far. I managed. I won. So I'm happy."

Movies Watchlist

Saturday, 6th June

- PEDDI (HINDI) (U/A16+)**
 01:20 PM, 06:30 PM
- HAI JAWANI TOH ISHQ HONA HAI (HINDI ATMOS) (UA16+)**
 11:00 AM, 01:50 PM, 04:40 PM, 07:30 PM
 HINDI - 10:00 AM
- OBSESSION (ENGLISH) (A)**
 05:00 PM
- BANDAR (HINDI)(A)**
 12:50 PM, 07:20 PM
- HE-MAN THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE (ENG WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE) (UA16+)**
 03:40 PM
 HINDI - 10:30 AM

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