

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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

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Amarnath Yatra

CDS, Army Chief Review Frontline Security Preparedness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N.S. Raja Subramani began his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir since assuming office, reviewing the security situation along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu region.

The CDS visited the Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur and the XVI Corps headquarters in Nagrota before undertaking an aerial and ground review of forward areas in Rajouri and Poonch districts. He was briefed by senior Army commanders on the security scenario, anti-infiltration measures, counter-terrorism operations and preparations for the annual Amarnath Yatra beginning July 3.

The Kashmir visit follows General Subramani's maiden official tour of Jammu and Kashmir since taking over as CDS on May 31.

On Friday, he reviewed the security situation at the



Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur and the 16 Corps headquarters in Nagrota. Senior Army commanders briefed him on counter-terrorism operations, the security situation and measures to prevent infiltration along the LoC.

The CDS also reviewed preparations for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, which begins later this week. Officials briefed him on the deployment of security forces, inter-agency coordination and arrangements for the safe movement of pilgrims. ●P-06

Interfaith Dialogue

India's Strength Lies In Respecting Every Faith: LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Asserting that India's civilisational identity is rooted in inclusivity and respect for all faiths, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said the country has never imposed any religion on others or asked anyone to renounce their faith. Instead, he said, India has always welcomed people of different beliefs with the message: "Come with your faith and live with us."

Addressing the Interfaith Dialogue at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here, the Lieutenant Governor said the gathering reflected India's timeless traditions of wisdom, dialogue, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

"The world recognizes that Hinduism-Sanatana Dharma, the world's oldest living religion, never imposed itself. Instead, it embraced diversity and coexistence. Ancient India built a foundation of respect, giving Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Zoroastrianism freedom to flourish. In a world facing conflicts and intolerance, the core spirit of



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

The Lieutenant Governor said

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

In intellectual, spiritual, and cultural vocabulary I call this 'Indianness'- 'Bhartiyata', the ethos that offered the world the vision of equal respect for all religions, the pursuit of truth, unity in diversity, the idea of the world as one family (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam), and a shared cultural consciousness. Our ancient texts, the Vedas and Upanishads, symbols of a knowledge tradition older than five thousand years, have always taught harmonious living. They taught humanity that people of different faiths should live together while ●P-06

Earthquake Tremors Jolt Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A strong earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale jolted the Kashmir Valley on Saturday morning, triggering panic among residents, though there were no immediate reports of casualties or property damage, officials said.

According to the Meteorological Department, the earthquake struck at 7:04:51 am IST and was felt across Srinagar and several other districts of the Valley.

Officials said the epicentre of the earthquake was located in Afghanistan at a latitude 36.442 degrees North and longitude 70.67 degrees East, at a depth of 215 kilometres.

Residents in Jammu and Kashmir rushed out of their homes as the tremors struck.

No reports of any loss of life or damage to property were ●P-06

CIK Conducts Raids Across Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Saturday conducted searches at multiple locations across the Kashmir Valley in connection with an ongoing investigation, officials said.

Searches were carried out in Srinagar, Ganderbal and Anantnag districts as part of the operation, they said.

In Srinagar, a CIK team raided the residence of Riyaz Ahmad Beigh, son of Noor Mohammad Beigh, originally a resident of Dalal Mohalla, Maharaj Gunj, and presently living at Hokarsar in the Shalteng area. The search was underway when the



report was filed.

In Ganderbal district, another CIK team led by a deputy superintendent of police conducted searches at the residence of Syed Qalandar Shah in Choutwaliwar Lar, officials said, adding that the operation was also in progress.

In south Kashmir's Anantnag district, a CIK team, assisted by the local ●P-06

NIA Chargesheets Three J&K Residents In Red Fort Blast Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted three more accused, including an absconder, in connection with car bomb explosion that killed 11 persons near the Red Fort in the national capital of Delhi in November 2025, officials said on Saturday.

"NIA chargesheets three more accused, including absconding prime accused, in Red Fort blast case," they said.

An official spokesperson said in a press statement, "NIA, in its supplementary chargesheet in the case RC-21/2025/NIA/



DLI, has named Zameer Ahmad Ahanger, Tufail Ahmad Bhat and Muzafar Ahmad alias Faraz alias Zafar, all from Jammu and Kashmir, as accused. This takes the number of persons chargesheeted in the case to 13, including the prime accused Dr Umer Un Nabi (since deceased). Absconding accused Muzafar

Ahmed, a pediatrician (MBBS, MD), has been identified as the elder brother of co-accused Dr. Adeel Ahmed Rather and a founding member of "AGuH Interim" – an offshoot of the Al-Qaeda.

NIA investigation revealed Muzafar to be one of the prime architects, along with co accused Umer, Muzammil, Adeel, and Mufti Irfan, of the conspiracy that led to the deadly Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) blast on 10th November 2025.

One of the founding members of AGuH Interim, Muzafar had attended the ●P-06

Narco-Terror Case SIA Issues Proclamation Against Absconding Accused

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Saturday intensified its crackdown on cross-border narco-terror networks by executing court-ordered proclamation proceedings against an absconding accused from Kupwara, allegedly involved in a Pakistan-backed heroin smuggling and terror-financing racket.

According to an official statement, the proclamation proceedings were carried out at the residence of Bilal Shabir Awan, son of Shabir Ahmad Awan, a resident of Dildar, Karnah, in Kupwara district. The action was exe-

cuted in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses in compliance with the directions of the competent court. The case originates from

THE CASE
originates from January 2025, when security forces recovered a substantial quantity of heroin during a naka checking operation at Barthana in Srinagar.

January 2025, when security forces recovered a substantial quantity of heroin during a naka ●P-06

Ram Madhav Rejects Report Of India-Pakistan Track 2 Talks In Colombo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Senior BJP leader Ram Madhav on Saturday rejected a media report claiming he participated in fresh India-Pakistan Track 2 talks in Colombo, calling it a "complete spin to a non-story." City & Local Guides

Madhav said the event in question was the International Institute for Strategic Studies' (IISS) annual South Asia Dialogue, attended by participants from several countries and not a bilateral Track 2 engagement. Terming the reports, a "wrong portrayal" and a "non-story",



In a post on X, Madhav wrote:

"Totally wrong portrayal. It was not any track 2 dialogue. It was IISS annual South Asia Dialogue which was attended by scholars from India, Sri Lanka, US, UK, Afghanistan n Pakistan. Even officials attended this annual dialogue in d past. No track 2 is held with so many countries. I did not attend d 2-day dialogue. I was invited to speak at one session which I did n left. Complete spin to a non-story."

The clarification came after the Hindustan Times reported that Indian and Pakistani delegations comprising politicians, retired military officials and diplomats held ●P-06

J&K Pulled Up For Grid Strain Amid Silt Woes

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: With hydro generation impacted by silt, the Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) has pulled up Jammu & Kashmir for its tendency to over-draw from the grid when its own generation dips.

This caution comes as the committee noted that despite a strict deviation mechanism, these states continue to face challenges in managing low-voltage profiles.

NRPC has said that it has been experienced that states those have major share in hydro like Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh over draw from the grid during such conditions.

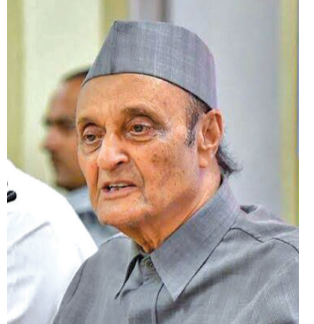
As deviation mechanism is also strict, the ●P-06

Kashmir Must Preserve Legacy Of Coexistence: Dr. Karan Singh

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: Former "Sadre-Riyasat" Dr Karan Singh on Saturday invoked Mahatma Gandhi's famous description of Kashmir as a "ray of hope" during the violence of Partition, saying the Valley must continue to uphold its centuries-old tradition of communal harmony, interfaith understanding and cultural pluralism that earned it that distinction.

Addressing an Interfaith Dialogue at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here, Dr Singh, congratulated the organisers for bringing



together discussions on interfaith dialogue, Urdu, Kashmiriyat and communal harmony under one platform, saying each of these themes was significant enough to merit separate deliberations

but collectively reflected the essence of Kashmir's civilisational legacy.

He advocated the promotion of Urdu and proposed the establishment of a permanent Interfaith Dialogue Centre in Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling Kashmir the "crown of India", Dr Singh recalled Mahatma Gandhi's remarks during the Partition period. "Gandhiji had said that if there was any ray of light and hope visible to him during those difficult times, it was in Kashmir," he said, attributing that distinction to the Valley's enduring tradition of communal harmony and coexistence. ●P-06

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

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

A major highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between JKEDI and the Institute of Technology, University of Kashmir, Zakura Campus. The MoU aims to strengthen institutional collabora-



tion in the areas of entrepreneurship development, innovation, startup incubation, capacity building, skill enhancement and mentoring support for students, innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs.

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

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

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

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

for startups and aspiring entrepreneurs across Jammu and Kashmir.

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

Dr. Mohammad Mutafer Zarger, while sharing his entrepreneurial insights, emphasized the importance of perseverance and reinvestment during the initial stages of a startup. He explained the concept of "burn" in the startup journey, wherein entrepreneurs reinvest available resources back

into the business instead of focusing only on immediate profits or losses. He also elaborated on the concept of "3-1-Q" — three years of research, one year of execution and quarterly quality checks, as a disciplined approach for building sustainable ventures.

He further observed that modern commerce has evolved into a "phygital" ecosystem, integrating physical and digital experiences. He advised startups to remain market-focused, adopt innovation-led business models and actively engage with venture capitalists, fund managers and other ecosystem stakeholders to scale their businesses.

Faisal Kawoosa highlighted the importance of data-driven decision-making and market intelligence in building successful enterprises. He emphasized that startups must clearly identify their unique selling propositions and use data insights to understand market trends, customer behaviour and organizational capabilities.

The session witnessed active participation from startups, aspiring entrepreneurs and students, who interacted with the speakers and sought guidance on innovation, market strategy, startup growth and institutional support.

Dir Agri conducts inspection of Pesticide Dealers in Shopian; seizes substandard Pesticides



GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

the use of quality plant protection chemicals in the farming sector.

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

The Director Agriculture Kashmir reiterated the department's commitment towards maintaining strict vigilance over the sale and distribution of agricultural inputs and warned dealers against indulging in the sale of

spurious, misbranded or unregistered pesticides. He emphasized that strict action shall be taken against violators under the relevant provisions of law.

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

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

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

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

Adding a powerful cultural dimension to the campaign, artists of the Dilkash Dramatic Club presented a thought-provoking thematic skit



depicting the devastating impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society. Blending entertainment with a strong social message, the performance effectively reinforced the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, inspiring students to stay away from drugs, adopt healthy lifestyles and become active ambassadors of a drug-free society.

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

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the School

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

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

Justice Moksha Khujuria Kazmi visits B'la, Sopore Court Complexes

Inaugurates Key Judicial Facilities, reviews Court functioning



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Justice Moksha Khujuria Kazmi, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for District Baramulla, paid an official visit to the District Court Complex Baramulla and Court Complex Sopore on Saturday to review the functioning of the district judiciary, assess judicial infrastructure, and interact with Judicial Officers and members of the Bar.

During her visit to the District Court Complex Baramulla, the Judge inaugurated the newly established Ladies Advocates' Bar Room, created to provide a dedicated workspace for women advocates and further enhance the professional working environment within the court complex. The inauguration was attended by the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Baramulla, Jawad Ahmad; Deputy Commissioner

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

Interacting with members of the Bar Association Baramulla, the Judge appreciated the vital role of advocates in the justice delivery system and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation and coordination between the Bench and the Bar to ensure the effective administration of justice.

The Judge also inspected the functioning of various courts at the District Headquarters and reviewed different aspects of judicial work. During her interaction with Judicial Officers, she encouraged them to continue discharging their duties with sincerity, dedication, and commitment, while stressing the need for timely disposal of cases and ensuring that

justice remains accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the people.

She also held a meeting with the district administration to discuss matters relating to judicial infrastructure and other requirements of the district judiciary.

Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, assured the Judge that all genuine infrastructure-related issues would be taken up on priority and addressed in a phased manner in coordination with the concerned departments.

Later, accompanied by the Principal District & Sessions Judge, the Judge visited the Court Complex Sopore, where she inaugurated the newly established e-Seva Kendra to provide litigants and advocates with improved access to digital court services.

During her visit to Sopore, the Judge also inspected the functioning of the courts and interacted with Judicial Officers and members of the Bar Association Sopore. She appreciated their collective efforts in ensuring the effective administration of justice and encouraged all stakeholders to continue working together to strengthen public confidence in the justice delivery system by ensuring efficient, transparent, and timely delivery of justice.

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



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, along with SSP Budgam, Hari Prasad KK, Saturday visited Magam and Beerwah areas to oversee the arrangements put in place for the observance of the 11th Muharram.

The officers also joined the Muharram procession in Magam.

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

and other concerned district officers.

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

The Duo also participated in serving water and refreshments to the mourners at various points enroute.

The DC expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, departments, community members, and volunteers to their active role in ensuring smooth and peaceful conduct of the 11th Muharram observances.

Director SEK conducts Virtual Inspection of Schools in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director School Education Kashmir (SEK), Naseer Ahmad Wani, continued his ongoing online academic and administrative monitoring by conducting a surprise virtual inspection of Government Middle School Doru in District Anantnag through the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), Doru, Naseer-ul-Haq.

During the inspection, the Director interacted with members of the teaching faculty as well as students and took a comprehensive review of the academic and co-curricular activities being carried out in the institution. He closely observed the teaching-learning process and assessed the performance of both teachers and students.

While interacting with students, the Director emphasized the importance of quality education and advised teachers to demonstrate greater dedication and commitment towards achieving academic excellence. He also issued necessary instructions to improve classroom engagement and learning outcomes.

The Director directed

the concerned ZEO to take immediate corrective measures to ensure optimal teaching standards and further instructed him to submit a detailed report regarding staff strength and student particulars. He also stressed the need for conducting regular inspections of all schools within the jurisdiction and maintaining continuous academic monitoring.

In addition, the Director held a virtual interaction with the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Srinagar, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, to review the ongoing monitoring of schools by various Zonal Education Officers. During the interaction, the Director sought updates on inspection activities and emphasized accountability at all levels.

The Director made it clear that explanations shall be sought from defaulting ZEOs who fail to conduct regular inspections and ensure proper academic supervision. He further instructed the CEO Srinagar to convene a virtual meeting with all ZEOs to strengthen the monitoring framework and ensure effective implementation of academic policies.

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

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner finalized the proposed sites for the establishment of a vending market and a public convenience (public toilet) at Laroo Adda.

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

ture for commuters, shopkeepers, and the general public.

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

Emphasis was laid on developing aesthetically designed pedestrian pathways, improving landscaping, installing street furniture, enhancing lighting, and creating clean, attractive, and pedestrian-friendly public spaces that reflect the town's heritage and identity.

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

The proposed parking arrangements are expected to

improve accessibility for patients, attendants, emergency services, and the general public while strengthening overall traffic management in the area.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the hospital premises and inspected the ongoing developmental works being executed within the campus. The progress and quality of the projects were reviewed in detail, and the concerned officers and executing agencies were directed to expedite the pace of work while strictly adhering to prescribed quality standards.

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

Budgam strengthens Community outreach under NMBA through Awareness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Budgam Saturday witnessed a series of impactful activities under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), with various departments joining hands to promote awareness against drug abuse and encourage active community participation in building a healthy and drug-free society.

An awareness programme was organized in collaboration with Urban Local Bodies (ULB) members, Self Help Group (SHG) members, and Fire & Emergency Services, who participated in a public outreach drive to educate citizens about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The campaign emphasized the importance of collective responsibility, healthy living and community involvement in preventing substance abuse, while reinforcing the message of a safe and addiction-free society.

Meanwhile, the Excise Department, Sub Range Budgam, intensified its awareness and preventive initiatives under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan by conducting awareness and survey programmes in different areas of the district. Through public interaction, distribution of awareness material and community outreach, local residents were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraged to actively support the campaign against illicit cultivation and substance abuse.

The day's activities reflected the growing momentum of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in Budgam, with coordinated efforts by government departments and active public participation contributing to the campaign's objectives.

The District Administration Budgam reiterated its commitment to sustaining awareness, outreach and preventive initiatives under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and urged citizens to continue supporting the collective mission of creating a healthier, safer and drug-free society.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DISTRICT INFORMATION CENTRE GANDERBAL
 Room No. 248, Mini Secretariat, Duderhama Ganderbal

"NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION"

Sealed quotations are invited from registered and reputed vendors for hiring of ponys/ Palkis/ Pithoos for the upcoming SANJY-2026 at Baltal. The quotations should be submitted by or before 02/07/2026 in sealed envelopes, super scribed with, "Quotation for Pony" addressed to District Information Centre, Ganderbal, and will be opened on 02-07-2026 at 2.00pm in presence of District Information Officer, Ganderbal. The interested party should quote their GST registration number.

No:- INF/DIC/GBL/2026-27/92
 Dated:- 25-06-2026

DIPK-2607-26
 DT: 27/06/2026

District Information Officer,
 Ganderbal

Amarnath Yatra

Sadhus arrive in Jammu; security grid completes extensive multi-tier exercise across UT

SAJID RAINA

JAMMU: Sadhus began arriving at the Shri Ram Mandir Amarnath Yatri Base Camp in Purani Mandi here on Saturday as security agencies completed an extensive multi-tier security exercise across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to commence on July 3.

According to the details available, the arrival of the first batch of seers coincided with intensified security checks, high-level reviews by senior police officers, anti-drone exercises and military preparedness assessments, with authorities deploying technology-driven surveillance under 'Project Hawk Eye' to ensure a safe and incident-free pilgrimage.

As part of the security preparations, Special Director General of Police (Coordination) S J M Gillani inspected the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Base Camp and the Tawi River Front, reviewing the overall security arrangements and logistical preparedness.

Officials said Gillani



directed officers to ensure effective inter-agency coordination and implementation of a multi-layered security grid for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Security was further strengthened across Jammu city, with police intensifying vehicle checking at Indra Chowk and other vulnerable locations to prevent any security breach ahead of the yatra.

In South Kashmir, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Awantipora chaired a high-level meeting of zonal and sector officers to review security arrangements. Officers

assessed deployment plans, communication systems, traffic regulation, access control and coordination mechanisms established for the Baltal route. He was briefed on the overall security architecture and advance preparations undertaken for the annual pilgrimage.

In another security exercise, Anantnag Police conducted an anti-drone drill to test operational readiness and response against aerial threats along the yatra route.

Kathua Police also carried out a mega security drill to review preparedness, strengthen response mechanisms and enhance coordination among different security agencies before the commencement of the pilgrimage.

Authorities said the security arrangements this year include enhanced deployment of police, Army and CAPFs, technology-enabled 360-degree surveillance under 'Project Hawk Eye', strengthened intelligence coordination and round-the-clock monitoring to ensure the annual pilgrimage passes off peacefully—(KNO)

D2CIA National Conclave

Satish Sharma calls for making J&K a national hub for D2C Innovation

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

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Film makers, entrepreneurs, startup founders, industry leaders and stakeholders were present on the occasion. The Minister said that the launch of the D2CIA J&K Chapter marks a significant milestone in the journey of building a robust innovation-driven economy and reflects the growing confidence of investors and entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

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



skill development initiatives are opening new avenues for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

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

Referring to the tourism sector, Satish Sharma said that Kashmir is steadily reclaiming its position as one of India's premier destinations, with record tourist footfalls, improved infrastructure and new tourism circuits creating unprec-

edented opportunities for local businesses and entrepreneurs. He said every visitor contributes to the local economy, strengthening the livelihoods and creating sustainable employment.

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

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

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

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

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

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



GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to people-centric governance and is making concerted efforts to fulfil the developmental aspirations of the people and ensure improved services at their doorsteps. She said that several projects of public importance have been initiated in recent months and healthcare facilities have been upgraded across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular focus on rural and far-flung areas.

The Minister also high-

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

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

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

Javid Dar launches development projects in Rafiabad

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for strengthening and upgradation of 6 kilometres of inner link roads in Ladoora to be raised with an estimated cost of ₹507.24 lakh. The



project would provide all-weather road connectivity and improve transportation facilities for the residents.

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

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

Later, the Minister chaired a public outreach programme at Dak Bungalow, Chijhama, where he interacted with local residents and gave a patient hearing to their grievances and developmental demands. He assured the people that all genuine issues raised

during the interaction would be examined and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

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

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

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

Speaker Rather visits Dreygam; reviews Dev works, assesses public grievances

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

During the visit, the Speaker listened to the



public demands and grievances and assured them that all their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority.

Informing the gathering about the developmental initiatives, the Speaker said that works around ₹40 lakh have already been approved for development and beautification of the revered Shrine. He stated that the

tenders have already been floated and the execution of these works will commence shortly.

The people also demanded construction of protection wall to protect the Shrine and connectivity between the Eidgah park and the Shrine for easy access to the people.

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

that the bridge would significantly enhance the connectivity, facilitate hassle free movement for the residents and benefit a large population living around and the adjoining areas.

The Speaker also visited Banderpora and Kremshore villages and interacted with the people there. He gave patient hearing to the delegations and assessed their problems. He assured them that their genuine griev-

ances will be redressed at the earliest.

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

The Speaker observed

13% women, 11.3% men in J&K have high blood sugar: NFHS-6

'Diabetes no longer confined to elderly, young adults increasingly affected'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Diabetes mellitus is emerging as one of the most pressing public health challenges in Jammu and Kashmir, with health experts warning that changing lifestyles, rising obesity, and lack of early diagnosis are driving a steady increase in the number of people affected by the disease.

According to data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6, 2023-24) and other studies, accessed, the prevalence of elevated blood sugar among adults in the Union Territory has increased significantly over the past few years. The latest NFHS-6 findings reveal that 13 per cent of women and 11.3 per cent of men aged 15 years and above in J&K have high blood sugar levels or are taking medication for diabetes, showing a noticeable increase compared to NFHS-5 (2019-21), when 8.7 per cent of women and 8 per cent of

men had elevated blood sugar.

Professor Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, told KNO that diabetes has become a growing epidemic that requires immediate public attention. "Diabetes is no longer confined to the elderly. Increasingly, younger adults are developing diabetes because of unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, obesity, and stress. Early detection and lifestyle modification can prevent serious complications and improve quality of life," he said.

Data indicate that the Jammu region is witnessing a particularly high burden of diabetes. The ICMR-INDIAB study estimates the overall prevalence at 18.9 per cent, with urban areas reporting 26.5 per cent prevalence compared to 14.5 per cent in rural areas. Around 10.8 per cent of the population is estimated to have prediabetes, while nearly 40 per cent of diabetes cases remain

undiagnosed.

Urban populations continue to be more affected than rural populations. Elevated blood sugar was reported among 17 per cent of urban women and 14.6 per cent of urban men, compared to 11.9 per cent of rural women and 10.3 per cent of rural men. Health experts believe the growing prevalence of overweight and obesity is one of the major reasons behind the rising diabetes burden. According to NFHS-6, 36.7 per cent of women and 27.1 per cent of men in the 15-49 age group are overweight or obese.

Doctors identify physical inactivity, unhealthy eating habits, obesity, family history, advancing age, hypertension, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, stress, and poor sleep as major contributors to diabetes. Common warning signs include excessive thirst, frequent urination, increased hunger, unexplained weight loss, fatigue, blurred vision, slow-healing wounds, recurrent infec-

tions, and tingling or numbness in the hands and feet. However, experts caution that many people experience no symptoms during the early stages, making regular screening essential.

Health professionals recommend annual diabetes screening for all adults aged 30 years and above, especially those who are overweight or have additional risk factors. Diagnosis is based on fasting blood glucose, HbA1c, and Oral Glucose Tolerance Test (OGTT). Community-level screening is available through NCD clinics, Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, and the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.

Medical experts said that most cases of Type-2 diabetes can be delayed or prevented through healthy lifestyle changes. People are advised to consume more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, pulses, and nuts while reducing refined carbohydrates, sugary drinks,

sweets, and processed foods. At least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity every week, maintaining a healthy body weight, managing stress, and ensuring adequate sleep are considered essential preventive measures.

Doctors further said that losing 5-10 per cent of body weight can significantly improve blood sugar control among overweight individuals. Uncontrolled diabetes can damage small and large blood vessels, leading to diabetic retinopathy, kidney disease, nerve damage, heart attacks, strokes, and peripheral vascular disease.

Health experts have urged people not to ignore routine health check-ups, stressing that prediabetes is reversible if detected early. "Know your numbers, get screened every year after the age of 30, stay physically active, and adopt a healthy lifestyle. Diabetes can be controlled effectively when diagnosed early," Dr Khan said—(KNO)

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

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

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

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

While expressing satisfaction over the progress achieved so far, Haseeb, emphasized that timely completion of the project must be ensured without compromising on quality. He instructed the concerned officers to maintain strict adherence to approved technical specifications, engineering standards, and quality control measures at every stage of construction.

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

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

When Trust Is Sold By The Kilogram

There is something deeply disturbing about being cheated by the very people who earn their living from the public's trust. Markets survive not only on buying and selling but on honesty. Once that honesty disappears, every transaction becomes an act of suspicion. A recent experience at Maharaja Bazaar is a painful reminder of this reality. A vegetable vendor who had earlier received immense public goodwill after a widely viewed video interaction—garnering nearly five lakh views—was embraced with affection and respect. That goodwill was genuine. Yet, the very next day, he charged 80 for half a kilogram of lemons, while another vendor just across the road sold the same quantity for 50. This is not about 30. It is about betrayal of trust. Such arbitrary pricing has become an unfortunate norm in many vegetable markets. Prices seem to change according to the customer standing in front of the stall rather than the actual market rate. Locals, tourists, office workers, and the elderly are often quoted different prices for the same produce. This is nothing short of daylight exploitation. These dishonest traders must understand that every act of overcharging damages the reputation of the entire market. Honest vendors suffer because customers begin to suspect everyone. A few greedy hands are tarnishing the image of hundreds who work sincerely. The authorities cannot remain silent spectators. Market committees, consumer affairs officials, and the Legal Metrology Department must conduct regular inspections, display daily price lists, and take strict action against vendors found indulging in unfair pricing. Consumers deserve transparency, not manipulation. Equally important, buyers must stop accepting inflated prices without question. Compare rates, ask neighbouring vendors, and report blatant overcharging. A vigilant customer is the strongest deterrent against dishonest trade. Respect is earned through integrity, not sympathy. Public affection cannot become a licence to exploit people. Those who misuse trust for quick profits should remember that goodwill, once lost, is far harder to regain than money. Markets flourish on fairness; when greed takes over, everyone pays the price.

Kashmir's Stray Dog Menace

How Many More Tragedies Before We Act?



DR. FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI

Another video has gone viral on social media. It is disturbing, heartbreaking and, in my view, entirely preventable. A young boy, desperately trying to escape an aggressive pack of stray dogs, runs onto a road. In panic and fear, he is struck by a moving vehicle and loses his life. As I watched the video, one thought kept troubling me: this was not merely a road accident. It was the tragic outcome of a problem that has been allowed to grow unchecked for years.

Those who believe stray dogs are not a serious concern should watch that video. Those who think the issue is exaggerated should imagine the pain of the grieving family. And those entrusted with public safety should ask themselves a simple question: how many more lives must be lost before meaningful action is taken? Sadly, this is not the first such tragedy. We still remember the heartbreaking case of a toddler who reportedly drowned in a drain while trying to escape stray dogs. Over the years, countless children, elderly citizens and pedestrians have been chased, bitten, injured and traumatized. Yet despite recurring incidents, the response has largely remained reactive and inadequate.

As a resident of Srinagar, I see the problem around me every day. In many localities, including my own area of Gulberg Colony in Hyderpora, packs of stray dogs roam streets and lanes freely. Similar reports emerge from numerous neighbourhoods across the city. Children use these roads to reach schools and dargahs. Elderly people walk to mosques for prayers. Women, workers and students begin their day on these same streets. Increasingly, many carry sticks or metal rods for protection. I often find myself anxious during my walks to the mosque for Fajr and Isha prayers. Such fear should not be part of daily life in a civilized society.

The problem extends beyond physical attacks. Throughout the night, incessant barking disrupts sleep. Patients, students preparing for examinations, senior citizens and working people are often deprived of much-needed rest. Sleep disturbance may appear a minor inconvenience, but it carries significant public health implications.

Compassion Must Include Human Safety I wish to make one point absolutely clear. This is not an argument against animal welfare.



Our faith and culture teach compassion towards all living beings. Islam places great emphasis on kindness to animals, and cruelty towards them is unacceptable. However, compassion for animals cannot come at the cost of public safety. Human welfare and animal welfare must coexist; one should not undermine the other. I am also concerned about practices that unintentionally worsen the problem. Many well-meaning individuals regularly leave food scraps and kitchen waste in public spaces. While motivated by kindness, such practices often encourage the formation of territorial dog packs in residential areas. The result is increased risk for children, women, elderly residents and pedestrians. Those who advocate for animal rights must also recognize the rights of ordinary citizens—the right of a child to walk safely to school, the right of an elderly person to reach a mosque without fear, the right of a patient to access healthcare facilities safely and the right of every citizen to move freely in public spaces.

The fear of dog bites is not irrational. While not every dog carries rabies, no one can identify with certainty which animal may be infected. Rabies remains one of the deadliest diseases known to humanity. Once symptoms appear, survival is exceedingly rare. Every dog bite therefore becomes a medical emergency, bringing anxiety, repeated hospital visits, treatment costs and psychological trauma. Healthcare institutions across Kashmir deal with thousands of dog-bite cases every year. Behind every statistic is a frightened child, a worried parent, an elderly victim or a family struggling with the emotional and financial consequences of an attack.

What concerns me most is the apparent gap between public concern and visible action. Committees are formed, discussions take place and statements are issued. Yet many citizens feel that

the situation on the ground continues to deteriorate. In my conversations with residents, I often hear deep frustration. Many believe their concerns are acknowledged but rarely addressed with the urgency they deserve. I believe the time has come for a comprehensive, scientific and transparent strategy. Authorities should undertake an honest assessment of the stray dog population and make the findings public. Areas reporting high numbers of dog-bite incidents must be identified and prioritized. Sterilization programmes need regular monitoring and evaluation to determine whether they are achieving their intended outcomes. Waste management systems require urgent strengthening, as open garbage remains a major source of food for stray animals.

Municipal bodies, veterinary services, public health authorities, urban planners and community organizations must work together under a clearly defined roadmap. Most importantly, accountability must accompany every intervention. Citizens deserve timelines, measurable targets and transparent reporting of progress.

The recent tragedy should not be dismissed as an isolated accident. It should be treated as a warning—a warning that the problem has crossed acceptable limits and that continued inaction carries real human consequences.

The people of Kashmir are compassionate. We care about animals. But we also care about our children, our parents, our patients and our neighbours. The balance between animal welfare and public safety is not impossible to achieve. Many societies around the world have demonstrated that humane and effective solutions are possible when there is political will, administrative commitment and community participation. The question before us is simple: will we act now, or wait for another tragedy to force us into action? How many more frightened children?

How many more injuries? How many more sleepless nights? How many more grieving families? In my opinion, the time for reports, excuses and passing responsibility has passed. The time for decisive action is now. Before another family pays the price.

Those who think the issue is exaggerated should imagine the pain of the grieving family. And those entrusted with public safety should ask themselves a simple question: how many more lives must be lost before meaningful action is taken? Sadly, this is not the first such tragedy.

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili is a distinguished clinical auditor and an expert in healthcare data analysis, with a prolific career spanning over two decades. He has served as the Director of Documentation and Research, contributing extensively to the development of evidence-based practices in healthcare. His insightful analyses and contributions to healthcare policy and practice make him a respected voice in the field.

Private University Bill

A New Dawn For Higher Education In Kashmir

HAROON RASHID BHAT

The passage of the Private Universities Bill by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in April 2026 marks a turning point in the region's educational journey. This landmark legislation opens new avenues for the establishment of private universities, reflecting a progressive and forward-looking approach to strengthening the higher education framework in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir has long been recognised as a historic seat of learning, attracting scholars and intellectuals from diverse regions. Ancient centres such as Sharada Peeth made it a renowned hub of Sanskrit scholarship and philosophy, including the development of Kashmiri Shaivism. Over time, the region also emerged as an important centre for Buddhist learning and later flourished under Islamic influence, with scholars like Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani promoting education, spirituality, and culture. Literary works such as Rajatarangini stand as enduring testimonies to its rich intellectual heritage. This legacy continues to inspire modern educational aspirations and cultural development in the region.

For many years, students in Kashmir have faced limited access to diverse and high-quality higher education institutions. While the University of Kashmir has played a commendable role in nurturing academic excellence, the growing demand for special-



ized courses, modern infrastructure, and global exposure has often compelled students to migrate to other states. This migration not only places a financial burden on families but also distances young learners from their cultural and social environment.

The introduction of private universities is expected to significantly reduce this trend. By creating opportunities for students to pursue higher education within the region, the policy promotes accessibility and inclusivity. Aspiring students will now be able to enroll in quality institutions closer to home, ensuring both academic advancement and social stability.

Beyond its educational impact, the reform carries substantial economic promise. The establishment of private universities will generate

employment opportunities at multiple levels, including academic roles such as professors and researchers, as well as administrative and support staff. Furthermore, the development of university campuses is likely to stimulate local economies by encouraging growth in sectors such as housing, transportation, and small-scale businesses.

However, as this wave of development unfolds, it is essential to proceed with caution and responsibility. Kashmir is globally renowned for its pristine natural beauty and ecologically sensitive environment. Any large-scale construction must be carefully planned to avoid disturbing the delicate ecological balance. Sustainable infrastructure, strict adherence to environmental regulations, and

thoughtful land-use planning must form the foundation of these initiatives.

Equally important is the preservation of Kashmir's rich cultural identity. The region's heritage should be thoughtfully reflected in the design and functioning of these new institutions. Universities must not only serve as centres of academic excellence but also as spaces that respect and promote local traditions, architecture, and values. A harmonious blend of modernity and tradition will ensure that progress does not come at the cost of cultural erosion.

The success of the Private Universities Bill will ultimately depend on the strength of its implementation. Robust regulatory mechanisms are necessary to ensure transparency, accountability, and academic

Over time, the region also emerged as an important centre for Buddhist learning and later flourished under Islamic influence, with scholars like Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani promoting education, spirituality, and culture.

quality. Authorities must ensure that these institutions uphold high standards and do not compromise on merit or integrity. Only then can the true objectives of the legislation be realised.

In essence, this reform represents more than just an educational policy—it is a step towards holistic development. By expanding access to education, generating employment, and fostering economic growth, it has the potential to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a thriving hub of learning and innovation. If implemented with foresight and sensitivity, the Private Universities Bill 2026 can become a cornerstone in shaping a brighter, more self-reliant future for the region—a thoughtful stride toward inclusive and sustainable progress.

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■ Wear What You Like

An Antidote To The Commodification Of Life

BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

“Why do you not dress like a teacher, lecturer, or professor?” asked a well-meaning, innocent colleague who liked to dress up properly for different occasions. She asserted herself further by saying, “Dressing does not reduce your commie praxis. Stop dressing like a drug addict”. The reply was simple: a teacher must dress like his students and the majority of staff members on campus. Any other form of dressing—beyond mere coverage of nudity and the representation of a professorial or organisational position—would become a marker of identity, signalling power and privilege in a space where most students struggle to pay their fees and staff struggle to meet their mortgages.

However, this is not a simple question of ‘dress and dressing’ within this context. It is also an obsession and a stimulant ritual of the gig economy of glamour, where desire overrides necessity, and dress and dressing become tools to domesticate individuals in the name of being ‘presentable’ or having an ‘acceptable dressing sense.’ People now have more clothes with price tags still on, stuffed into overflowing cupboards and boxes in home garages, than they could ever wear. This is a way of constructing material ‘self-expression’ based on the outer layers of the body—dress as an extension of personality.

What to wear? When to wear, and how to wear? What is a presentable form of dressing, and what is not? What is professional and what is unprofessional? What is smart dressing, and what is sexy dressing? What is beautiful? These are not merely simple questions. They are fundamental questions that shape our everyday behaviour and domesticate individuals in their daily lives—both in terms of their presentation of self to others and their physical representation across different spaces, times, and with different people in different situations.

From school uniforms to wedding and funeral attire, from dress for corporate board meetings to dress for the classroom, from graduation gowns to party wear, black-tie dinners to dinner dates, clubbing outfits, holiday clothes, sporting wear, nightwear, and even dress for the bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen—it goes on. In all aspects



of life, there is a dress code. Any deviation in dressing presents the individual in a different light and often gets them branded as deviant in life and society.

The idea of dress, dressing, and being fashionable appears normal in the everyday life of people, irrespective of gender, sexuality, class, caste, race, nationality, or any other regional and ethnic variation. Dresses are identified with race, ethnicity, religion, region, class, gender, sexuality, and other forms of individual representation and identity.

Even professional dress codes exist for doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, priests, corporate managers, and workers in different factories. Yet such normalisation of dress and dressing in terms of fashion was not always normal. People have only been socialised into it within the last three centuries or less. Dress and dressing have been transformed from necessity to desire with the rise of the fashion industry. From comfort to luxury, all-inclusive fat fashion to fast fashion, from zero size to oversized flamboyance—it works like drugs for people today. It has produced a culture where people have begun searching for their ‘self’ in a shopping bag, and their ‘self-worth’ is now defined by price tags printed

by corporations.

The corporate and economic construction of individual ‘self-worth’ is shaped by the idea of the ‘material self,’ as conceptualised by psychologist William James in his book *The Principles of Psychology: Volume 1*. He defines the material self in a narrow, essentialist manner by stating: “a man’s self is the sum total of all that he can call his, not only his body and his psychic powers, but his clothes and his house.” Such a narrow definition of human life is central to the construction of the material self, which in turn underpins the construction of ‘self-expression’ through dress and dressing. This very notion lies at the heart of the fashion industry—in all its representative forms and inclusive shapes.

The way tobacco consumption was normalised in the name of empowerment, the fashion industry was similarly naturalised under the guise of ‘self-expression’ or an ‘extension of personality.’ Tobacco and fashion are old drugs that continue to stimulate individual consumers and transform their everyday lives—shifting necessities into commodity desires in order to realise their material self-expression and worth. Such a trap not only domesticates individuals

but also places them under debt in the search for meaning of life in the marketplace of dead commodities. Instead of individuals defining commodities, commodities—like dress, cars, houses, and other wearable and non-wearable material products—come to define life.

The commodification of life is central to the survival of capitalism as a social, cultural, political, and economic system. It neither emancipates people from their conditions nor creates conditions for material, spiritual, cultural, social, or political self-expression. Buddhist, Islamic, or any other religious fashion does not help to realise spiritual freedom. Alienation is the only outcome of capitalism, all religions, and drugs. Spiritual freedom in life depends on collective connections of human life based on solidarity. Commodity competition within the fashion industry provides neither self-expression nor smart representation. It is an abstract construction meant to bind people within the commodity culture of capitalism and its fictitious consumption of drugs like tobacco and fashion.

Wear what you like and feel comfortable in, based on weather, tradition, culture, and personal choice—without falling into the capitalist trap where addiction to the drugs

They are fundamental questions that shape our everyday behaviour and domesticate individuals in their daily lives—both in terms of their presentation of self to others and their physical representation across different spaces, times, and with different people in different situations.

of fashion means searching for the self in a shopping bag, and where people are undermined with a price tag. Cover nudity, but do not hide individual natural beauty under the pressure of the fashion industry and its advertising machinery, which reconstruct individuals into acceptable forms of presentation as per market requirements—market that seeks only profit for capitalism by manipulating individual minds. Seek alternatives that help satisfy individual needs and desires for self-expression, rather than domestication by fashion industries.

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The End Of Knowing?

Artificial Intelligence And Future Of Human Understanding

DR. ZAHID HUSSAIN WANI

Throughout human history, knowledge has been defined by scarcity. Ancient libraries guarded manuscripts as treasures, universities became centres of learning because information was difficult to access, and experts commanded authority because they possessed knowledge that others did not. The rise of Large Language Models (LLMs) has challenged this centuries-old order.

Today, anyone with an internet connection can ask an AI system to explain quantum mechanics, summarise a legal document, generate computer code, translate languages, or draft a research proposal within seconds. Information that once required years of study or access to specialised institutions is now available almost instantaneously.

Does this signify the end of knowledge?

Not quite. It marks the end of knowledge scarcity. The traditional value of education has often been associated with memorisation and information retrieval. In the age of LLMs, these abilities are increasingly being outsourced to machines. Just as calculators reduced the need for mental arithmetic and search engines transformed information retrieval, LLMs are changing what it means to “know” something.

However, there is a profound distinction between information and knowledge. Information consists of facts and data. Knowledge involves understanding, interpretation, context, and judgment. An AI system may explain the theory of relativity, but it does not truly



comprehend the implications of scientific discovery. It can generate convincing answers, yet it cannot independently verify truth, exercise wisdom, or bear responsibility for its conclusions.

This transformation presents both opportunities and risks. On one hand, LLMs democratise access to information, enabling millions of people to learn, innovate, and solve problems that were previously beyond their reach. On the other hand, they may encourage intellectual complacency, where individuals rely on machine-generated responses without questioning their accuracy or assumptions.

Educational institutions are therefore facing a historic challenge. If machines can retrieve information more efficiently than humans, education must move beyond rote learning. The future will demand critical thinking, ethical reasoning, creativity, interdisciplinary understanding, and the ability to ask meaningful questions.

In the era of artificial intelligence, the quality of one’s questions may become more important than the quantity of facts one can recall.

The emergence of LLMs does not represent the end of knowledge. Rather, it signals the end of an age in which knowledge was primarily defined by possession of information. Human intelligence will increasingly be measured not by how much we remember but by how wisely we evaluate, synthesise, and apply the information that intelligent machines provide.

The age of artificial intelligence is not extinguishing knowledge; it is compelling humanity to redefine it.

Today, anyone with an internet connection can ask an AI system to explain quantum mechanics, summarise a legal document, generate computer code, translate languages, or draft a research proposal within seconds. Information that once required years of study or access to specialised institutions is now available almost instantaneously.

Author is Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Chandigarh University, INDIA.

CDS, Army Chief

General Subramani also reviewed the anti-infiltration grid and was apprised of recent infiltration attempts from across the border. He is scheduled to visit Srinagar on Saturday to assess the security situation in the Kashmir Valley.

Meanwhile, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi visited Leh and reviewed the operational situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. He also met Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to discuss civil-military cooperation, including the proposed re-employment of Agniveers in the Union Territory administration.

Separately, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth arrived in Ladakh on a three-day visit. He is expected to review the security situation along the LAC and visit the Siachen Glacier to interact with troops deployed in the high-altitude region.

India's Strength Lies

respecting one another's beliefs. That is the eternal principle.

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Karan Singh, former Union Minister; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Dr. Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmed, President, Inter-Faith Harmony Foundation of India; Dr. Md. Shams Equbal, Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi; Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Founder Director, Dara Shikoh Centre, Srinagar; Dr. Nasreen Shama, Director, Operations, Inter Faith Harmony Foundation of India; Shri Fida Firdous, President, Kashmir Writers Association; Shri Navaid ul Islam Khan; National Coordinator, Inter Faith Harmony Foundation of India, Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; senior officials, prominent citizens and literary personalities were present.

LG Seeks Civil Society's

Amarnath Ji Yatra is an opportunity to showcase our culture of selfless service, compassion, and hospitality to the world.

"Let us unite across all sectors to make this year's pilgrimage a beacon of faith, unity, and devotion. As pilgrims embark on the sacred journey to Baba Barfani's cave, let us transform our devotion into compassionate action, making this Yatra a true testament to ultimate experience and human kindness," he said.

This sacred journey of devotion, dedication and faith will begin on 3 July and conclude on 28 August this year. The Lieutenant Governor said that the representatives of civil society, religious and business leaders, and social workers are the guardians of our nation's moral conscience.

"Everyone present here is a custodian of spiritual traditions. Generation after generation, we have ensured that Baba Amarnath's ancient spiritual heritage remains vibrant. As we prepare once again to welcome the devotees, I look to each of you for your guidance and cooperation. Your role is vital in ensuring that every pilgrim experiences respect, safety and a sense of belonging," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has shaped our faith, culture and identity since time immemorial. He said the sacred Yatra reminds us of our eternal bond with Lord Shiva, the symbol of infinite power, knowledge and compassion. Each year pilgrims come from across the country and abroad and they bring not only their prayers but also the hopes and aspirations of all humanity, he said.

"Every year the world bears witness that

the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is an occasion where people of all faiths, communities and walks of life unite in the spirit of serving the pilgrims. Let us make Baba Barfani's Yatra an exemplary model of devotion and service. Let us show the world that when devotion and service go hand in hand, the impossible becomes possible. Let us ensure that every pilgrim feels our hospitality and warmth. This is an occasion when Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and followers of all faiths in Jammu Kashmir stand together in the cause of human service. That unity is our greatest strength," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized that over the past few years, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and other stakeholders continuously worked to make the Yatra smoother and safer. Roads have been widened, communication facilities improved and infrastructure modernized. He said Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is now equipped with world-class facilities.

During the interaction, the members of civil society unanimously extended their support and cooperation for the successful conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. They appreciated the extensive arrangements made by the Administration and the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board over the past few years, stating that significant improvements in infrastructure, security, healthcare, sanitation and pilgrim facilities have greatly enhanced the overall Yatra experience.

The Lieutenant Governor also welcomed the valuable suggestions shared by the civil society members and other stakeholders. He assured them that all genuine recommendations would be thoroughly examined for implementation.

The interaction was attended by Shri Altaf Ahmad Wani, Shri Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi and Shri Mian Mehar Ali, Members of Legislative Assembly; Shri Nalin Prabhat, Director General of Police; Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners, senior officials, representatives of religious and social organisations, trade and business associations, social organisations and other prominent members of civil society also participated.

Earthquake Tremors

received from anywhere in the Union Territory.

Afghanistan frequently experiences earthquakes, particularly in the Hindu Kush region, which lies in a highly active seismic zone, according to the Red Cross.

Afghanistan's vulnerability to earthquakes is linked to its location along the collision zone between the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. A major fault line also passes through parts of the country, including the Herat region.

Afghanistan remains extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, including earthquakes, landslides and seasonal flooding. Repeated tremors worsen the situation for communities already struggling with decades of conflict and development.

CIK Conducts Raids

police, searched the residence of Gulzar Ahmad Rather, a resident of Nowgam, Kapran.

During the search, officials seized a Redmi Note 9 Pro mobile phone in connection with FIR No. 07/2023 registered under Sections 153, 506, 13, 18-B and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act at Police Station JIC CIK Srinagar.

Officials said the search operation in Anantnag concluded peacefully, while raids at other locations were continuing.

NIA Chargesheets

secret Eidgah meeting at Srinagar in June 2022, during which the terror module AGuH Interim was established, NIA's probe has further revealed.

Muzafar was deeply involved in the manufacture, testing and safekeeping of TATP-based IEDs at a clandestine IED facility run by Umer and Muzammil at Al-Falah University, Faridabad.

A Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) has also been issued against Muzafar and efforts are on to track and arrest him.

As per the NIA investigations, Zameer, an Overground Worker (OGW) of AGuH Interim, was actively in touch with handlers, and acted as a courier for arms, ammunition, and cash for the terror module.

Tufail, a former OGW of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror organisation, served as the module's arms supplier. He had procured one AK-47, one Krinkov rifle, one Pistol, magazines and live ammunition through dead drops orchestrated by a handler, and delivered them to the deceased main accused Dr. Umer Un Nabi for Rs. 3 lakh.

In the chargesheet filed before the NIA Special Court, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi, arrested accused Zameer and Tufail have been charged under sections 13, 18, 20, 23, 38 and 39 of the UA(P) Act, and sections 61(2), 147, 148 & 152 of the BNS.

Muzafar has been additionally charged under section 61(2) read with sec 103(1), 109(1),

118(1) & 118(2) of the BNS, sections 3, 4 & 5 of the Explosive Substances Act, and sections 3 & 4 of the PDPP Act.

NIA, which established the linkages between various accused through multi-disciplinary scientific investigation, including detailed forensic testing, geo-location mapping of conspiracy sites and granular financial-trail analysis, is continuing with its investigation in the case.

SIA Issues Proclamation

checking operation at Barthana in Srinagar. During the course of the investigation, the case was transferred to the SIA Kashmir, which unearthed an organised cross-border narco-terror syndicate allegedly operating in close coordination with handlers based in Pakistan.

Investigators said the network was involved in smuggling narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir to generate funds for terrorist activities. Following the findings, relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) were invoked in the case.

The SIA has already filed a chargesheet against seven accused, who are currently facing trial before the competent court. Officials said the investigation is continuing to expose the larger conspiracy and identify other individuals linked to the narco-terror network.

Reaffirming its commitment to dismantling the infrastructure supporting narco-terrorism, the agency said every effort is being made to trace and apprehend absconding accused and bring them to justice. It added that the latest action reflects its sustained resolve to eliminate drug trafficking networks financing terrorism while strengthening the objectives of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan across Jammu and Kashmir. (KNC)

Ram Madhav Rejects

informal discussions on the sidelines of the IISS security conference in Colombo this week.

According to the report, the Indian delegation included Ram Madhav, former Army chief Gen. M.M. Naravane and former diplomat Ruchi Ghanashyam, while the Pakistani side comprised Foreign Ministry Director General (South Asia and SAARC) Sajjad Haider Khan, Pakistan Peoples Party leader Sherry Rehman and retired Maj. Gen. Isfandiari Ali Khan Pataudi.

The newspaper reported that the Indian and Pakistani delegates held separate discussions over a day and a half at the Hilton Colombo. It said the talks covered issues including terrorism, sharing of waters of cross-border rivers, strengthening communications during crises and possible measures to manage and prevent escalation of tensions.

"I did not attend the two-day dialogue. I was invited to speak at one session, which I did, and left. Complete spin to a non-story," he added.

Meanwhile, The Tribune quoted sources as saying that, Indian, Pakistani and other South Asian strategic experts have been attending conferences organised by Western think tanks for many years.

The conference in Colombo was part of a series of such events.

The event is traditionally held in Bahrain but was shifted to Colombo this year due to the fragile situation in West Asia amid the conflict involving the US, Israel and Iran.

J&K Pulled Up For Grid

committee reminded each state to plan in advance for such eventualities.

NRPC urged all hydro generators to regularly update the data on silt monitoring portals so that necessary load generation balancing can be carried out by load despatch centres.

About the maximising availability of ERS in summer 2026, NRPC said that several important transmission lines in the Northern Region remain under prolonged outage due to tower collapse in Apr-Jun months during windstorm events reported during the summer season. "The extended non-availability of these transmission lines impacts grid reliability, load transfer capability, and in some cases RE evacuation," it reads.

"Further, more than 30 number of transmission lines are under outage due to tower collapse in northern region," NRPC said—(KNO)

Kashmir Must Preserve

He urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to preserve that legacy by strengthening mutual trust, safeguarding the region's shared cultural and spiritual heritage and ensuring that future generations continue to uphold the values of unity in diversity.

Tracing the history of the global interfaith movement, Dr Singh recalled the first Parliament of the World's Religions held in Chicago in 1893, where Swami Vivekananda impressed the world with India's message

of universal acceptance and respect for all faiths.

He said the movement was revived in 1993 and has since evolved into a global platform for promoting dialogue among religions. Recalling his own association with the movement, he said he has participated in several international interfaith gatherings over the years.

Explaining the concept of interfaith dialogue, Dr Singh said it was not meant to establish the superiority of one religion over another. "This is not Shastrarth. Every religion has its own philosophy and values. The objective is to understand each other and strengthen harmony," he said.

Quoting the Rig Vedic verse 'Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti', he said truth is one though expressed in different ways, adding that while religions may follow different paths, they ultimately lead to the same Divine.

Drawing an analogy with the different routes leading to the Shankaracharya hill, he said the paths may vary, but the destination remains one.

Highlighting India's unique civilisational diversity, Dr Karan Singh said the country is home to nine major religious traditions—Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Christianity, Jainism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Bahai Faith, making India uniquely positioned to strengthen interfaith understanding.

Reflecting on Kashmir's spiritual journey, Dr Singh said the Valley witnessed the flourishing of Vedic traditions, Buddhism, Kashmir Shaivism and the teachings of philosopher Abhinavagupta before mystic Lal Ded carried spirituality to the masses in the local language.

He said the subsequent arrival of Sufi saints, including Shah-e-Hamdan, Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani and other revered spiritual leaders, further enriched Kashmir's composite culture and strengthened its traditions of coexistence.

"The world needs love, not hatred. We may belong to different religions, speak different languages and come from different regions, but first and foremost we are human beings," he said.

Dr Singh also proposed establishing a permanent Interfaith Dialogue Centre in Kashmir to institutionalise dialogue among different religious communities and strengthen the Valley's long-standing tradition of peaceful coexistence.

Referring to the work of the Dara Shikoh Centre, he said similar initiatives should continue in Jammu and Kashmir to deepen civilisational and interfaith engagement.

Dr Singh also strongly advocated the promotion of Urdu, describing it as an Indian language and an inseparable part of the country's composite cultural heritage.

"Urdu is one of the richest literary traditions of the subcontinent. The language deserves greater recognition and encouragement," he said. "Urdu was born in India. It is not a foreign language. It should be preserved, promoted and used wherever possible."

Recalling his admiration for Urdu poetry and his interaction with renowned poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz, he said the renowned poet had once told him that his celebrated poem "Aap Aaye To Bahaar Aayi" was written during his imprisonment.

Expressing confidence in Kashmir's future, Dr Singh said the Valley has historically demonstrated that people belonging to different religions, languages and traditions can live together in peace and hoped it would continue to serve as a beacon of interfaith harmony, cultural pluralism and national unity for the rest of the country—(KNO)



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J&K's first interfaith organ donation meet brings communities together

JAHANGEER GANAIE

JAMMU: In a first-of-its-kind initiative in Jammu and Kashmir, an Interfaith Organ Donation Awareness Meet brought together representatives of diverse religious communities, healthcare professionals, social organisations, NGOs and public representatives to spread awareness about organ donation and encourage people to embrace the life-saving cause beyond religious and cultural differences.

The Sarv Dharam Awareness Meet on Organ Donation was organised by the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) J&K in collaboration with the S.S. Jain Sabha Jammu (Regd.) under the supervision of Dr Elias Sharma, Nodal Officer, SOTTO J&K and Head of the Department of Urology, Super Speciality Hospital, Government Medical College Jammu. The programme was held at Namah, Shree Vimal Muni Bhawan, Bahu Plaza, Gandhi Nagar.

The event marked a significant milestone in the Union Territory by creat-

ing a common platform where representatives of different faiths collectively advocated organ donation as an act of compassion, humanity and selfless service. It highlighted the shared belief across religions that saving a human life is among the noblest forms of service.

Adding a cultural touch to the programme, women members of Shraman Sanskriti Manch presented a soulful song dedicated to organ donation, reinforcing the message of hope and the gift of life.

The programme saw enthusiastic participation from members of the Sikh, Muslim, Christian, Kashmiri Pandit, Aggarwal and Jain communities, along with representatives of the Brahma Kumaris, various NGOs, healthcare professionals, community leaders and social organisations, reflecting a united commitment towards promoting organ donation.

Among the dignitaries present were MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta, MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa and MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi, who appreciated the efforts of SOTTO J&K

and the S.S. Jain Sabha for organising the awareness programme. They commended the initiative for strengthening social harmony while encouraging citizens to come forward for the noble cause of organ donation.

A major highlight of the event was a detailed presentation by Dr. Poonam Mahajan, Joint Director, SOTTO J&K, on "Organ Donation Through the Lens of Different Religions." She explained that major religions, including Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, Sikhism, and Jainism, promote values such as compassion, charity, selfless service and saving lives. Referring to teachings from various religious scriptures, she emphasised that organ donation is widely regarded as a humanitarian act that transcends religious boundaries.

Representatives from different faiths unanimously endorsed the message that organ donation is a noble act reflecting universal values of kindness, generosity and service to humanity. They urged people to overcome misconceptions and actively support organ donation to

help save countless lives.

Members of NGOs, civil society organisations and community groups also pledged to intensify awareness campaigns and motivate people to register as organ donors, making the event a powerful demonstration of unity across faiths for a common humanitarian objective.

Speaking on the occasion, Suneel Jain, President of S.S. Jain Sabha Jammu, and Pavinder Jain, General Secretary, reiterated the Sabha's commitment to organising more awareness programmes and community outreach initiatives to promote organ donation and transplantation across Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge by participants to dispel myths surrounding organ donation, encourage greater public participation and inspire more individuals to register as organ donors. The gathering conveyed a strong message that while faiths may differ, the shared commitment to saving lives and serving humanity unites all communities—(KNO)

Rana holds public outreach camp at Ari; addresses public concerns

GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: In a direct demonstration of the government's commitment to grassroots outreach and inclusive development, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Saturday convened a public outreach meeting at Village Ari in Mendhar.

The meeting provided a platform for the local populace to voice their developmental concerns, pending grievances and demands directly before the Minister.

The residents raised a range of issues pertaining to local infrastructure, water supply, forest-related matters and other civic concerns, seeking speedy



redress of the same.

Taking cognisance of the representations made by the people, the Minister directed the concerned officers present on the occasion to ensure prompt and effective resolution of the issues raised, with specific directions issued on the spot for matters requiring immediate attention.

Addressing the participants, the Minister underscored the pivotal

role of public outreach programmes in bridging the gap between the administration and the citizens at the grassroots level. He stated that such meetings are not merely a formality but a vital instrument of responsive and transparent governance, ensuring that the benefits of government schemes and developmental initiatives reach every household, particularly in remote and tribal areas.

"Public outreach programmes are the cornerstone of people-centric governance. It is our responsibility to ensure that every citizen, especially those in far-flung areas, has direct access to administration and that their grievances do not go unheard. The government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is fully committed to take governance to the doorstep of every individual," said Minister Rana.

The Minister also reiterated the government's resolve to accelerate developmental activities in the Mendhar constituency. He assured the public of continued focus on addressing their long-standing concerns across all sectors under his charge.

DLSA G'bal continues drug awareness Campaign through Legal Awareness Programmes

GMK News Network GANDERBAL: In continuation of its sustained efforts to promote legal literacy and public awareness, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, under the Chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and under the guidance and supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Saturday organised legal awareness programmes under the NALSA (DAWN) Scheme – Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation for a Drug-Free India, 2025, as part of its ongoing campaign against drug abuse.

A Legal Awareness Programme was organised at Valley Lakes Educational Institute, Kohistan Colony, Safapora, Ganderbal, with the objective of sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse, the legal consequences of involvement in narcotic offences, the importance of preventive measures, and the need for collective efforts in building a drug-free society. The participants were also informed about the free legal aid services available through the Legal Services Institutions and the rehabilitation support mechanisms available for persons affected by substance abuse.

Adv. Younis Saleem Wani, Member, DAWN Unit, DLSA Ganderbal, and Burjeena Hameed, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, sensitised the participants on the physical, psychological, social, and legal consequences of substance abuse, highlighted preventive measures and rehabilitation facilities, and encouraged the youth to

adopt healthy lifestyles and seek timely assistance whenever required.

In another awareness programme organised by the Department of Social Welfare, Ganderbal, at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Ganderbal, Shaheena Ali, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Ganderbal, sensitised the participants about the legal, social, and psychological consequences of drug abuse, explained the legal provisions relating to narcotic offences, and emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts by educational institutions, families, government agencies, and the community in protecting the younger generation from the menace of substance abuse.

These programmes were organised in continuation of the district-wide awareness campaign launched by the District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal. The Authority had also conducted extensive legal awareness and outreach programmes through its Para Legal Volunteers across various locations of the district to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, spreading awareness on the ill effects of drug abuse, preventive measures, rehabilitation facilities, and the availability of free legal aid.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, who appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy, responsible, and drug-free society.

MSME DFO Srinagar celebrates MSME Day 2026



GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

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

The programme featured insightful deliberations by Professor Saad Parvez, Head, MSME

Incubation Centre, NIT Srinagar; Professor Parvez Mir, Head, CIED Foundation, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST); and Dr. Shahid Jibrán, Chief Executive Officer, Atal Incubation Centre, who shared their perspectives on fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-driven growth for MSMEs.

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

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

Int'l Day against Drug Abuse, Illicit Trafficking observed in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the District Administration Kulgam, organized an awareness-cum-counselling programme on various aspects of drug abuse at the Auditorium-cum-Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking-2026.



Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam presided over the programme as the Chief Guest, while the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Viqar Ahmad Giri Kulgam

attended as the Guest of Honour. Resource persons from Government Degree College Kulgam, ATF Kulgam, DLSA Kulgam and Government Higher Secondary

School Yarpura addressed the gathering and sensitized participants about the harmful effects of drug abuse, preventive measures and the importance of counselling and rehabilitation support.

The programme witnessed active participation of ASHA workers from the Health Department, Anganwadi workers from the ICDS Department and students from various schools and colleges.

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/ DISTRICT MAGISTRATE SRINAGAR

Email: dcsgr-jk@nic.in Phone/Fax: 0194-2477742

Subject: Selection-cum-Appointment Order for Contractual Engagement for the Positions of SBDU/BHDs under Mission YUVA.

ORDER NO. 103 DDCS OF 2026
DATED: 25/06/2026

In pursuance of the Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines issued vide no. ED/Plan/Mission YUVA/233/368-414 dated 18-07-2025, and in continuation to re-advertisement notification no. DDCS/SBDU/YUVA/802-04 dated: 21-04-2026 regarding temporary engagement of personnel for SBDU and BHD positions under Mission YUVA in District Srinagar, the following is hereby notified:-

A total of one hundred fifty six (156) applications were received through the online Google form for District Srinagar. The Selection Oversight Committee, vide endorsement no. DCSADC(PS)/YUVA/2025-26/4373-74 dated:- 02-06-2026, scrutinized the applications and found Twenty-four (24) candidates eligible as per the prescribed criteria and recommended for next stage of recruitment (interview).

Subsequently, this office issued Interview Notification vide no. DDCS/SBDU/YUVA/2906-08 dated 05-06-2026, and the interview was conducted on 08-06-2026 in the Meeting Hall, DC Office Srinagar, wherein only Twenty (20) candidates appeared before the Interview Panel.

Now, based on the applicable guidelines, composite merit, interview performance, and preferences furnished by the candidates, the following result is hereby notified:-

List of Selected Candidates:-

S.No	Name	Parentage	Address	Post for temporary engagement as per given preferences
1	Faiz Ahmad Kawoosa	Bilal Ahmad Kawoosa	Naseemabad, Hazratbal, Srinagar	SBDU coordinator
2	Iqra Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Bhat	Habba Kadal, Srinagar	BHD Lead

The engagement is subject to the following terms and conditions, as prescribed under the Mission YUVA Guidelines, and as conveyed from time to time by the competent authority.

1. **Nature of Engagement:-**

The engagement shall be purely "contractual" and "temporary", governed strictly by Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines. The appointment shall not confer any right to permanent absorption or continuation beyond the approved project period.

2. **Duration of Contract and Renewal:-**

- ▶ The initial engagement period shall be eleven months from the date of joining.
- ▶ Performance shall be reviewed as per the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) defined under Mission YUVA.
- ▶ Renewal for an additional eleven months may be granted based on satisfactory performance (achievement of targets and adherence to service conditions) and approval of the competent authority, subject to the project lifecycle.

3. **Roles and Reporting:-**

The selected personnel shall perform duties and report strictly as prescribed in the Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines for SBDUs and BHDs.

4. **Terms and Conditions:-**

- The selected candidates shall report to the Deputy Director Employment, DE&CC, Srinagar (Member Secretary, Mission YUVA) within 07 days of the issuance of this order, along with original documents for verification:
 - ▶ Domicile Certificate
 - ▶ Date of Birth Certificate
 - ▶ Qualification Certificates
 - ▶ Experience Certificates
 - ▶ Character Certificate from competent authority
 - ▶ Undertaking
 - ▶ Cross-verification of salary records from previous employer(s)
- Failure to report within the stipulated time shall be deemed unwillingness to join, and the offer shall stand cancelled.
- The selectee shall execute a contractual agreement, which will outline:
 - ▶ Terms of engagement & service conditions
 - ▶ Duties, responsibilities & deliverables
 - ▶ Performance evaluation parameters
 - ▶ Compensation terms under Mission YUVA
 - ▶ Disciplinary & termination clauses
- Monthly consolidated remuneration shall be paid as per Mission YUVA norms, subject to successful verification of all documents.
- Engagement shall remain subject to verification of character/ antecedents from the Police/ CID and authenticity of documents.
- The appointee shall maintain integrity, discipline, and confidentiality in all official duties.

5. **Termination of Contract:-**

The contract may be terminated at any time under the following circumstances:-

- ▶ Poor performance or failure to meet KPIs
- ▶ Misconduct, indiscipline, or violation of Code of Conduct
- ▶ Submission of false/misleading documents
- ▶ Unauthorized absence exceeding seven consecutive working days
- ▶ Activities inconsistent with Mission YUVA objectives or exhibiting political affiliations
- ▶ Any other ground deemed appropriate by the competent authority.

Further, the CEO Mission YUVA / Director Employment / SPV reserves the absolute right to terminate the services of any SBDU/BHD personnel at any time during the contract period if deemed necessary.

All other terms and conditions shall continue to be governed strictly in accordance with the Operational Guidelines of Mission YUVA applicable to SBDUs and BHDs.

Moreover, the overall merit list with waiting list is attached as Annexure "A" to this order.

No: DDCS/2025-26/YUVA/3802-09

Dated:- 25/06/2026

Sd/-
District Development Commissioner,

Annexure A to order No. 103 DDCS of 2026 Dated: 25/06/2026

S.NO	Name	Father's Name	Address	Role Preference I	Role Preference II	Academic Points	Interview Points	Total Points
Selection List								
1	Faiz Ahmed Kawoosa	Bilal Ahmad Kawoosa	Naseemabad Hazratbal, Srinagar	SBDU Coordinator	BHD Lead	54.90	5.66	60.56
2	Iqra Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Bhat	Habba Kadal, Srinagar	BHD Lead	SBDU Coordinator	49.50	6.72	56.22
Waiting List								
1	Syed Hamid Ul Hussnain	Syed Ab Hamid	Channapora Srinagar	BHD Lead	SBDU Coordinator	49.50	5.425	54.925
2	Aqsa Javid	Javid Ahmad Jet	Nawakadal Srinagar	BHD Lead	SBDU Coordinator	49.50	5.06	54.56
3	Mehjabeen	Mehraj U Din Baba	Lal Bazar Srinagar	SBDU Coordinator	BHD Lead	48.60	5.37	53.97
4	Tahnishen Rashid	Abdul Rashid Kathijoo	Rainawari Srinagar	BHD Lead	SBDU Coordinator	46.80	4.91	51.71
5	Huzina Sahal	Gulzar Ahmad Bhat	Mehjoor Nagar Srinagar	BHD Lead	SBDU Coordinator	45.00	5.62	50.62
6	Saima Ahmad	Gh Ahmad Hakak	Nawakadal Srinagar	BHD Lead	SBDU Coordinator	45.00	4.76	49.76

DIPK-2592-26
DT: 27/06/2026

India sign off with four medals from Asia Cup Bridge Championships



IAN S

PANAJI: Host nation India concluded its campaign in the 5th Asia Cup Bridge Championships with an impressive haul of three silver and one bronze, underlining the country's strong performance across both the Team and Matchpoint Finals on Saturday.

The standout performance came from the India B Seniors team, which topped the league stage before scripting one of the tournament's most memorable victories—a dramatic 126-125 (1 IMP) semifinal win over Japan—to book a place in the Gold Medal Final. The team eventually settled for Silver after a hard-fought championship clash against Australia in the event recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) and supported by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

The India B Seniors squad, comprising Sukamal Das, Hemant Jalan, Jitendra Solani, Anil Padhye, Rajesh Dalal, and Raju Tolani, which was guided by Coach & NPC Anal Shah, delivered a

remarkable campaign that saw it remain in contention for the title until the closing stages of the final.

India also bagged a bronze medal in the Men's Team Championship, with the India A team finishing on the podium. Further success came in the Matchpoint Finals, in which Savleen Thadani and Sadhana Gupta secured silver in the Women's Pairs, while Subir Majumdar and Sujit Kumar Bhattacharjee won silver in the Seniors Pairs.

The gold medals in the Team Championships were shared among Asia's leading bridge nations, with Australia winning the Seniors title, Hong Kong China emerging as champions in the Men's event, Indonesia claiming the Women's title, and China securing the Mixed Teams crown.

In the Matchpoint Finals, Wei Ho and Sun Wei Lee (Chinese Taipei) won the Men's title, Barbara Travis and Lori Smith (Australia) triumphed in the Women's event, Suk King Chan and Kon Wong (Hong Kong China) claimed the Mixed title,

while Younghong Cheng and Wei Wei Tsao (Chinese Taipei) captured the Seniors crown.

India also excelled in the Friendship Pairs, an additional event held alongside the championships. Arun Bapat and Ajay Khare emerged champions to win gold, finishing first with 616.64 points, while Kamna Sharma and Abhijit Pal secured the bronze medal with 586.82 points, adding further distinction to India's overall campaign.

India's campaign was marked by resilience, consistency, and depth, highlighted by the Seniors' inspiring run to the final and medal-winning performances across multiple disciplines. With three silver medals and one bronze, plus gold and bronze in the HCL Friendship Pairs, the host nation reinforced its growing stature among Asia's leading bridge-playing nations.

The Awards Night in Panaji celebrated champions from across Asia, bringing to a close a thrilling week of world-class bridge competition.

Auqib Nabi's four-wicket haul hands India A crucial 122-run lead against Sri Lanka A

IAN S

GALLE: Pacer Auqib Nabi spearheaded India A's bowling charge with a four-wicket haul as the visitors secured a commanding 122-run first-innings advantage against Sri Lanka A on day three of the first four-day game here on Saturday.

Despite fifties from Nuwanidu Fernando (84), captain Sahan Arachchige (72), and Ashen Bandara (70), Sri Lanka A eventually made 330 in response to India A's mammoth first-innings total of 452/6 declared. By the time stumps arrived, India A extended their overall lead to 170 runs, reaching 48 for no loss in their second essay.

Sai Sudharsan, who smashed a century in the first innings as an opener, had a minor setback and retired hurt on seven. However, Devdutt Padikkal (20 not out) and Ayush Pandey (20 not out) negotiated the remaining overs flawlessly to keep the visitors in absolute control.

Resuming the day from an overnight score of 113/2, Sri Lanka A enjoyed a productive morning session. Nuwanidu and Ban-



dera frustrated the Indian bowling attack with a 105-run partnership for the third wicket. Nuwanidu looked well-poised for a century before seamer Yash Thakur dismissed him 16 runs short of the three-figure mark.

Skipper Arachchige then joined Bandara to further steady the ship. Arachchige took an aggressive approach against the Indian spinners, dispatching Saransh Jain over the ropes to take the hosts to a comfortable 204 for 3 at the lunch break. The afternoon session witnessed a brief weather interruption, but the hosts' batters maintained their composure.

Arachchige brought up his half-century in style with a brace of sixes off

Harsh Dubey, while a boundary from Bandara off Thakur brought up their 117-run alliance. India A eventually fought back through their spinners. Off-spinner Jain broke the threatening partnership by removing Bandara, with Padikkal taking a sharp catch.

Left-arm spinner Dubey soon sent back the dangerous Arachchige, courtesy another catch by Padikkal. A brief counter-attack by Ravindu Fernando and Anjala Bandara momentarily pushed the hosts past the 300-run mark. However, Nabi broke the lower-order resistance by striking in consecutive overs just before the tea interval, leaving Sri Lanka A reeling at 315/7.

FIFA WC 2026: Egypt sweat over Salah's fitness ahead of historic knockout match against Australia

IAN S

NEW YORK: Egypt have been handed an injury scare ahead of their historic FIFA World Cup last 32 clash against Australia after star forward Mohamed Salah suffered a knee problem during his side's final group-stage match.

The former Liverpool striker was forced off in the 57th minute of Egypt's 1-1 draw against Iran in Seattle after experiencing discomfort in his left knee. Salah was replaced by Mostafa Zico, raising concerns among Egyptian fans just days before the country's biggest World

Cup match in history.

Speaking after the game, Egypt head coach Hossam Hassan sought to ease fears over the condition of his captain. The coach revealed that Salah had spoken positively about the injury and believed it was not a serious setback.

"I have spoken to Salah, and he told me that he is going to recover and that it is not a serious injury," Hassan told reporters after the match.

The coach added that there was still enough time before Egypt's knockout fixture to help Salah regain full fitness. He expressed confidence in the medical

staff and remained optimistic that the 34-year-old would be available against Australia next Friday.

"We still have time to work with the medical team, and I think he will be back. When I spoke to him, he assured me he would recover," Hassan said.

Egypt reached the knockout stage of the FIFA World Cup for the first time in the nation's history after finishing their group-stage campaign, marking a landmark achievement for African football. The team will now look to continue its dream run when it faces Australia in the round of 32.

Women's T20 WC: Prendergast's half-century powers Ireland to historic six-wicket win over West Indies

IAN S

BRISTOL: Ireland scripted history by registering their first-ever victory in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup as Orla Prendergast produced a match-winning knock of 63 to guide her side to a comfortable six-wicket win over West Indies in their final Group Stage match at the County Ground on Saturday.

Chasing a modest target of 129, Ireland remained composed throughout the innings before reaching 129/4 in 18.1 overs with 11 balls to spare. Prendergast led the chase with an attacking 63 off 44 deliveries, while Amy Hunter chipped in with a valuable 28 as Ireland completed one of the most memorable victories in their Women's T20 World Cup history.

Ireland made a cautious start to the chase, scoring only three runs in the opening over. West Indies kept the pressure on early as spinner Ashmini Munisar conceded just five runs in the second over, forcing the batters to play carefully.

Amy Hunter then shifted the momentum in Ireland's favour despite surviving an early chance. After being dropped off the first ball of Hayley Matthews' over, Hunter made West Indies pay by smashing a boundary and a six to release the



pressure.

West Indies eventually found the breakthrough in the fifth over when Munisar dismissed captain Gaby Lewis for nine off 11 deliveries. Lewis attempted an aggressive stroke but failed to find the elevation and was caught after a slow start.

Prendergast joined Hunter at the crease and immediately looked positive. She struck a boundary off just her third delivery and focused on rotating the strike alongside Hunter. The pair avoided unnecessary dot balls and steadily rebuilt the innings as Ireland reached 37/1 at the end of the Powerplay.

The duo continued to build patiently after the fielding restrictions. They collected only three runs from the seventh over against Qiana Joseph before Prendergast responded with a boundary in the following

over to keep the required rate comfortably under control.

Prendergast soon took complete charge of the chase. She hammered Joseph for a four and a six in the ninth over before Ireland reached 66/1 at the halfway stage. Her aggressive strokeplay left the West Indies bowlers searching for answers as she regularly found gaps and punished loose deliveries.

She continued her fine timing by hitting two more boundaries in the 12th over, taking Ireland within touching distance of victory.

West Indies finally ended the 62-run partnership in the 13th over when Afy Fletcher dismissed Hunter with a well-flighted delivery. Hunter contributed a patient 28 from 32 balls, including one four and one six.

Prendergast, however, remained unfazed. She

brought up a superb half-century off just 35 balls with a boundary on the first ball of the 14th over and continued to dominate the bowling attack.

Matthews eventually dismissed the Irish all-rounder after she attempted another attacking stroke. Prendergast walked back after a brilliant innings of 63 from 44 deliveries, decorated with eight fours and two sixes, having all but sealed the result for her team.

West Indies picked up another wicket in the following over as Leah Paul departed cheaply, but Rebecca Stokell ensured there were no further hiccups. She struck two timely boundaries in the 18th over and remained unbeaten on 16 as Ireland completed the chase with ease.

Earlier, Ireland produced a disciplined bowling display to restrict West Indies

to 128/7 after opting to bowl first.

The Irish bowlers struck early when Aimee Maguire dismissed opener Qiana Joseph for eight after she failed to clear the infield while attempting an attacking shot.

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews briefly counterattacked with two elegant boundaries, but Ireland continued to strike at regular intervals. Arlene Kelly removed Shemaine Campbell after recovering well from an expensive start, leaving the Caribbean side under pressure inside the Powerplay.

Matthews and experienced batter Stafanie Taylor attempted to rebuild through a cautious partnership, relying mainly on singles and twos as Ireland's bowlers maintained disciplined lines. West Indies reached only 40/2 after six overs.

Matthews looked set for a bigger score before Cara Murray provided another breakthrough. The skipper was caught at square leg by Rebecca Stokell for 22 from 25 balls after hitting three boundaries.

Taylor and Deandra Dottin tried to revive the innings but found scoring increasingly difficult against Ireland's tight spin attack. At the halfway stage, the West Indies had crawled to just 54/3.

Rugby Premier League: Hyderabad Heroes set up title clash against Mumbai Dreamers of Season 2

IAN S

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Heroes edge Chennai Bulls 29-24 in the semifinals of Season 2 of the Rugby Premier League played at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday.

"It feels really good to clear the hurdle from last year. Full credit to our coach, DJ Forbes, and the entire squad for playing the brand of rugby that we set out to play right from day one. We go again tomorrow and give it our all as a team," said Manuel Moreno, captain of the Hyderabad Heroes, after winning the semifinal.



"We were really tested in the semis, so I'm hoping the boys will be well prepared for everything that comes at them tomorrow. We definitely made it hard on ourselves, so if we can tidy up a

few errors, we will definitely give ourselves a chance. Anything can happen, as was witnessed in both semis. There's not much separating the teams, but when we execute the basics and limit

our errors, we can play some quality sevens. I'm excited for the boys, and they deserve to be in the final," said DJ Forbes, Head Coach, Hyderabad Heroes.

The Heroes made an electric start, shifting the ball swiftly across the field before Taitaifono Tavita crossed over within the opening minute. Chennai responded with greater physicality, attacking through the middle as Marika Koroibete powered over to edge the Bulls ahead.

Hyderabad, however, continued to exploit the width, with Tavita racing down the left wing for his

second try before Maurice Longbottom's elusive running and quick link play created the opening for Ravuama Seruvakula to extend the lead.

Hyderabad refused to back down, with captain Manuel Moreno leading the comeback by cutting the deficit to just two points. The Heroes then displayed remarkable composure in the closing stages, patiently recycling possession until a gap emerged for Sambit Pradhan to race through for the decisive try, before Diego Ardao controlled the ball expertly in the final moments to seal a hard-fought victory.

MOVIES Watchlist

Sunday, 28 June

CARRY ON JATTA 4
(PUNJABI) (U/A 13+)
03:20 PM

MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA
(HINDI) (U/A 16+)
12:00 PM | 06:15 PM

COCKTAIL 2
(HINDI) (A)
10:30 AM | 04:00 PM | 07:00 PM

SUPERGIRL
(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A 16+)
01:30 PM

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
(HINDI ATMOS) (U/A 16+)
10:00 AM | 01:15 PM | 04:30 PM | 07:45 PM

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