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## Talks Progressing on UCC, 'One Nation, One Election': PM Modi

PM Calls these two proposals BJP's unfinished agenda while attacking Congress

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, APR 6:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said serious and positive discussions are underway in the country on the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal, describing the two initiatives as part of the unfinished agenda of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Addressing party workers virtually on the BJP's foundation day, Modi said the party's mission remains ongoing and expressed confidence that the discussions taking place on the two issues would lead to positive outcomes. The 'One Nation, One Election' proposal seeks to conduct elections to the Lok Sabha



and state legislative assemblies simultaneously, while the Uniform Civil Code aims to introduce a common set of laws governing

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## CM Flags Delays in RAS Appointments, Hands Over Jobs to 124 Beneficiaries

Omar Abdullah Vows Reforms to ensure faster, transparent compassionate recruitment process



HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 06:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday stressed the urgent need to streamline the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) while distributing appointment letters to 124 beneficiaries from Jammu division, asserting that delays in compassionate appointments are unacceptable.

Speaking at the Convention Centre here, the Chief Minister said the government would review existing provisions, including SRO-43 and SRO-94, to identify gaps and ensure timely completion of the appointment process. He acknowledged that despite earlier revisions aimed at expediting recruitment, several shortcomings had surfaced during implementation.

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**Omar Abdullah Meets Delegations in Jammu, Promises Swift Action on Public Issues**

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 06:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday held a series of meetings with public representatives, former legislators, officials and delegations in Jammu, assuring them that the issues raised would be addressed on priority.

Among those who called on the Chief Minister was MLA Jasrota, Rajiv Jasrotia, who apprised him of several concerns related to his constituency and sought timely intervention for their resolution.

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## 'Dream Come True': Andrabi Welcomes Women's Quota in Legislatures

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, APR 6:** Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board chairperson Darakshan Andrabi on Monday described the implementation of the Women's Reservation Act as a "dream come true"



for women, saying it would mark a historic step towards their empowerment in lawmaking.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a BJP foundation day function here, Andrabi said the provision of 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies would ensure their meaningful participation

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## ₹1.24 Lakh Cr Excess Spend in J&K Awaiting Nod Since 1980, CAG Sounds Alarm



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**JAMMU, APR 6:** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has flagged that excess expenditure of over Rs. 1.24 lakh crore incurred by the government of Jammu and Kashmir over the past four decades remains pending for legislative approval, raising serious concerns over financial governance and accountability.

In its report on the Union Territory's finances for the year ended March 2024, the CAG noted that the excess spending, accumulated between 1980 and 2020, has not been regularised due to the absence of scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee. Under established financial procedures, any expenditure beyond the approved budget requires ratification by the legislature.

The auditor observed that appropriation accounts from 1980-81 onwards have not

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## Rain, Snow Set to Lash J&K; MeT Issues Warning for Thunderstorms, Landslides

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR, APR 6:** A fresh spell of wet weather is set to impact Jammu and Kashmir from Tuesday forenoon, with the Meteorological Department forecasting intermittent light to moderate rainfall across the Union Territory till Wednesday evening, along with snowfall over higher reaches.

Officials said that while most areas in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions are expected to receive light to moderate rain, a few places may witness moderate to heavy showers. Higher altitude regions are likely to experience light to moderate

snowfall during the same period.

The MeT Department has also issued an advisory warning of thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph at isolated locations on April 7 and 8. It cautioned that intense spells of rain over short durations could trigger flash floods, landslides in vulnerable areas and waterlogging in low-lying regions.

The forecast further indicates that on April 9 and 10, scattered areas may receive brief spells of light rain, while higher reaches could continue to witness snowfall. From April 11 to 16, weather conditions are expected to remain largely dry.

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## BJP Not Against Muslims, Believes in 'Sarvadharm Sambhav': Gadkari

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NAGPUR, APR 6:** Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday rejected allegations that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is opposed to Muslims and other minorities, asserting that the party draws from India's long-standing tradition of inclusiveness and universal welfare.

Addressing party workers here, Gadkari said the BJP is neither casteist nor communal and

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**CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....**

**Talks Progressing.....**

personal matters such as marriage, divorce and adoption for all citizens across the country.

The Prime Minister also launched a sharp attack on the Indian National Congress, saying BJP workers had faced hardships and oppression during its rule, including during the period of the Emergency.

He claimed that several BJP workers had even sacrificed their lives in states such as West Bengal and Kerala, alleging that political violence had become a culture in those regions.

Modi said the country recognises that the BJP is sincerely striving to confront every challenge and added that the party's efforts have already delivered several major outcomes. Among the achievements he listed were the scrapping of hundreds of colonial-era laws, the construction of the new Parliament building, the 10 per cent reservation for economically weaker sections in the general category, the law banning triple talaq, the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act and the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

He said the BJP stands apart from other political parties because its workers regard the organisation as their mother, adding that the party's foundation day is not merely a political occasion but an emotional moment for its cadre. Modi said the day provides an opportunity for workers to express gratitude to the party for giving them the chance to serve the nation.

**CM Flags Delays.....**

"We are aware of the difficulties you have faced and that the process took longer than it should have. Appointments meant for earlier years should not be delivered much later. We will bring necessary improvements to make the system more efficient," he said.

In an emotional address, Abdullah noted that while securing a government job is generally a moment of celebration, appointments under RAS come in the wake of personal tragedy. "In your case, it follows the loss of a loved one. The trauma you endure is far greater than any competitive examination," he said, adding that he chose to personally hand over the letters as a gesture of solidarity with the affected families.

Urging the appointees to serve with dedication and integrity, the Chief Minister said many of them come from remote areas and are well aware of the challenges faced by the public. He advised them to resist short-cuts and work sincerely to address people's grievances.

Reaffirming government support, he said the administration would remain accessible to assist them in overcoming any difficulties in their professional journey.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani said that while no compensation can replace the loss of a loved one, compassionate appointments provide emotional and financial relief to bereaved families.

Senior officials, including Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department M. Raju, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Deputy Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Minhas, were present on the occasion along with the beneficiaries and their families.

**Omar Abdullah.....**

A delegation led by former Minister and President of Jaat Sabha J&K, Manjeet Singh, along with former Ministers, a former Member of Parliament and other representatives, also met the Chief Minister and discussed a range of public issues.

Former State Election Commissioner B. R. Sharma called on the Chief Minister and exchanged views on matters of public importance, while Chairperson J&K BOPEE Dr. Minu Mahajan briefed him on the functioning and ongoing initiatives of the Board of Professional Entrance Examinations.

Later, Dr. Anuj Vaid, Chairman of the Jammu Chapter of NIRC of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, also met the Chief Minister and discussed various professional and institutional matters.

Giving a patient hearing to all delegations, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to responsive governance and prompt redressal of public grievances.

**'Dream Come.....**

in governance. She congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for what she termed a decisive move towards women's empowerment.

Calling the development "inspiring," Andrabi said women would now have greater opportunities to contribute to the legislative process. She referred to Modi's recent remarks indicating that the Budget session of Parliament has been extended to facilitate the rollout of the law enacted in 2023, which is expected to be implemented from 2029.

Parliament is set to reconvene on April 16 after a brief recess, during which key legislative measures, including increasing the strength of the Lok Sabha, are likely to be taken up to pave the way for the reservation policy.

Asserting that the initiative reflects the

government's commitment to empowering women, Andrabi said the progress achieved in recent years had not been possible in decades earlier. She also claimed that the BJP has emerged stronger in Jammu and Kashmir and would continue to expand its support base in the Union Territory.

Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur said the party remains guided by its core principles of nationalism, democracy, Gandhian socialism and value-based politics. He added that efforts are ongoing to strengthen industries, generate employment and reinforce the country's economic framework, urging party workers to stay committed to public welfare and inclusive development.

**Rs. 1.24 Lakh Cr.....**

been examined, leaving an accumulated excess expenditure of Rs. 1,24,004.41 crore yet to be cleared. The report cautioned that such prolonged non-regularisation weakens budgetary controls and encourages financial indiscipline in the management of public resources.

The issue persists as a legacy matter following the reorganisation of the erstwhile state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in October 2019.

Responding to the audit findings, the Finance Department in February 2025 termed the excess expenditure a "legacy issue" and assured that it would be placed before the legislature for approval.

The report further highlighted that excess expenditure was recorded across 543 grants and appropriations over the years, with significant overruns during the late 1990s and early 2000s, including Rs. 12,954.06 crore in 2005-06 and Rs. 9,770.53 crore in 2003-04. Even in 2019-20, prior to reorganisation, excess spending of Rs. 5,311.53 crore was reported for the period from April 1 to October 30, 2019.

Reiterating its concern, the CAG warned that leaving such expenditure unregularised for extended periods "vitiates the system of budgetary and financial control and encourages financial indiscipline," underscoring the need for urgent legislative intervention.

**Rain, Snow.....**

although brief afternoon showers at a few places cannot be ruled out.

Meanwhile, night temperatures across the Union Territory showed mixed trends. Several parts of the Kashmir division recorded minimum temperatures 1-3 degrees Celsius above normal, while many areas in the Jammu division experienced temperatures 0-3 degrees below normal.

Among the coldest places, Gulmarg recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.1 degrees Celsius, while Baderwah in Jammu division registered 4.0 degrees Celsius, according to meteorological data.

**Crackdown in.....**

disrupting nesting and hatching. Officials said the department launched intensified anti-poaching operations in March, focusing on vulnerable wetland zones. "Regular patrolling and surveillance have led to the detection of several illegal hunting attempts and recovery of arms, ammunition and other equipment," a senior official said.

In one instance on March 13, a poaching attempt at Dal Lake was foiled after patrol teams responded swiftly to the sound of gunfire. The suspects managed to escape, abandoning cartridges, a knife and other items at the scene.

The following day, authorities seized a double-barrelled gun, 32 live cartridges and two wooden boats from Narkara Wetland. Similar recoveries were made at Rampura wetlands in the Chattabal area, where a trapping attempt was thwarted.

In a significant breakthrough, three poachers were arrested on March 24 during patrol operations in Narkara wetlands, with firearms recovered from their possession. The accused were later produced before a court for proceedings under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Officials said the intensified crackdown aims to safeguard the Valley's fragile wetland ecosystem and ensure safe breeding conditions for migratory birds, which play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance.

**BJP Not.....**

claimed that such perceptions have been deliberately spread by political opponents over the years. "BJP is not against any religion. People may have different ways of worship, but every individual has the right to follow their faith. Despite these differences, we are all Indians with a shared culture, history and heritage," he said.

He alleged that misinformation had been propagated to link the party with particular caste interests and even with those responsible for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

Recalling an interview of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee with noted writer Javed Akhtar, Gadkari said Vajpayee had dismissed concerns about secularism being under threat if the BJP came to power. According to Gadkari, Vajpayee had maintained that India's secular character is rooted

in its civilisational ethos and the inclusive nature of its majority community.

Expounding on the party's ideological framework, Gadkari said, "Rashtriyatva and Bharatiyatva together define Hindutva. Hindu is not merely a religion or sect, but a way of life that is inherently inclusive. The essence of secularism is 'sarvadharmasambhava', which means equal respect for all religions."

Reiterating that the BJP stands for the welfare of all citizens, he said the party remains committed to ensuring basic amenities such as clean drinking water, quality infrastructure, employment opportunities and freedom from hunger.

Highlighting organisational principles, Gadkari said the BJP promotes leadership from the grassroots through its "karyakarta se netritva" approach. "Positions are temporary and must be held with humility, but being a party worker is permanent," he added.

The minister also recalled his interaction with Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei during discussions on the development of the Chabahar Port, referring to an exchange on linguistic and historical links between Persian and Sanskrit.

**Chief Secy.....**

concerned departments to identify projects strictly in line with the scheme guidelines. He observed that the scheme has immense potential to transform the standards of urban centres and emphasized that the Union Territory should optimally leverage it for upgrading infrastructure and making cities more liveable and citizen-friendly.

Highlighting the innovative funding structure, it was informed that central assistance under UCF will be limited to 25% of project cost, acting as a catalytic instrument to mobilize at least 50% of funds through market sources such as bonds, bank loans, and public-private partnerships. This blended financing model is aimed at enhancing financial sustainability and reducing dependence on traditional budgetary support.

He further directed the officers to shortlist at least a dozen viable projects across the twin cities, covering areas such as urban mobility, parking infrastructure, housing, beautification and other eligible sectors, so that these could be taken up in a structured and time-bound manner under the scheme. He stressed the need for timely identification and preparation of high-quality, bankable projects to fully leverage the opportunities under the Urban Challenge Fund.

At the outset, Gurjeet Singh Dhillon from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs gave a detailed overview of the scheme, highlighting its vast potential, funding architecture and implementation framework. He informed that J&K has the opportunity to bring a majority of its urban areas under the ambit of this scheme.

During the meeting, the Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), Shailendra Kumar, underscored the importance of focusing on bankable projects as envisaged under the scheme. He advised the department to draw lessons from past experiences in implementing PPP projects to ensure that proposed initiatives are executed smoothly without encountering bottlenecks.

The Managing Director, J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, also shared insights into best practices adopted by various States in leveraging similar financing models. He assured that the bank would extend full support in building local capacity and facilitating access to market-based financing to maximize the benefits of the scheme.

The Divisional Commissioners also identified several city development and housing projects with strong potential for successful implementation under the scheme. Representatives from National Housing Bank and Housing and Urban Development Corporation expressed their keen interest in partnering with the Union Territory for execution of projects under the Urban Challenge Fund.

The Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development, Mandeep Kaur speaking in the meeting informed that the Urban Challenge Fund, with a national outlay of Rs. 1,00,000 crore, is designed to usher in a paradigm shift in urban development by leveraging market-based financing and promoting sustainable, revenue-generating infrastructure projects.

She added that out of the total outlay, Rs. 90,000 crore is earmarked for bankable infrastructure projects, while Rs. 5,000 crore each has been allocated for project preparation & capacity building and credit repayment guarantee mechanisms.

The Chief Secretary was further apprised that the mission to be implemented over a five-year period from FY 2026 covers a wide range of urban local bodies, including cities with a population above 10 lakh, capital cities, major industrial towns, and all ULBs in hilly and special category regions, with a particular focus on Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

The presentation outlined three key strategic verticals under the fund including Cities as Growth Hubs, Creative Redevelopment of Cities, and Water & Sanitation. These

verticals aim to promote economic growth, rejuvenate urban spaces, and ensure universal access to essential urban services. Proposed interventions include development of economic corridors, transit-oriented infrastructure, heritage revitalisation, integrated water supply systems, sewerage networks, and climate-resilient urban infrastructure.

It was further informed that special emphasis is being laid on sustainable urban mobility, redevelopment of markets and public spaces, strengthening of industrial and MSME infrastructure, and adoption of smart and digital technologies for efficient urban management.

The fund also provides for a robust project preparation and capacity building component to strengthen institutional capabilities, alongside a Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme to support smaller urban local bodies, particularly in hilly and northeastern regions, in accessing market finance.

The meeting was informed that Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the UT will be signed shortly, marking the formal commencement of the programme.

Reiterating the significance of the initiative, the Chief Secretary observed that the Urban Challenge Fund presents a major opportunity for J&K to accelerate urban transformation, strengthen economic growth centres, and significantly improve the quality of life in its

cities through sustainable and innovative financing mechanisms.

**Fast-Track.....**

reflect practical execution challenges observed in completed projects.

The new guidelines allow for extension of the base construction period depending on the complexity of the project, including factors such as multiple railway overbridges, elevated corridors and tunnel lengths. An additional 12 months may also be granted in difficult terrain to accommodate formation cutting and slope stabilisation.

The norms will apply to all national highway projects to be bid out on or after May 6, 2026, across execution models such as engineering, procurement and construction (EPC), hybrid annuity model (HAM) and build-operate-transfer (BOT).

Special provisions have been made for projects in hilly and mountainous regions, including Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and several northeastern states, where challenging terrain often impacts construction timelines. The ministry has also directed that detailed project report consultants must estimate project-specific construction periods based on realistic work programmes, to be presented during appraisal meetings. Officials said the move aims to align planning with ground realities and reduce time and cost overruns in highway development projects.

**Mega Plantation Drive organised by the Chief Education Office, Baramulla, across district, with enthusiasm and commitment**

HT NEWS DESK

**BARAMULLA, APR 06:** Plantation Drives Across District Baramulla - A Collective Step Towards a Greener Future

Under the exemplary leadership of the Honourable Minister of Education, Jammu and Kashmir, plantation initiatives were successfully conducted today across all educational institutions within District Baramulla, demonstrating widespread enthusiasm and dedication.

The Chief Education Officer (CEO) of Baramulla personally supervised the plantation efforts in Zone Dangerpora, with particular emphasis on HSS Botingo and HS Seelo, motivating both staff and students through active engagement. Meanwhile, Deputy Education Public Officer (DEPO) Baramulla, Tariq Ahmad, participated actively in the plantation initiative organised in Cluster Dangiwa, reinforcing the communal spirit of this commendable endeavour.



All institution heads and zonal education officers ensured the effective execution of the program through thorough planning and coordination. The drives received enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and community members, reflecting a collective commitment to environmental preservation.

This initiative extends beyond the act of planting saplings; it aims to foster a culture of responsibility, awareness, and sustainable living among the youth. Each sapling represents a symbol of hope, growth, and the prospect of a greener future for Kashmir.

These collaborative efforts, conducted under the Greener Kashmir Programme and Mission LiFE, serve as a compelling reminder that collective small actions can culminate in significant environmental impact.

The Chief Education Officer, Baramulla, commends the dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm demonstrated by all stakeholders. It is imperative that we continue to maintain this momentum and commitment to protect and conserve the environment for future generations.

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## Javid Dar reviews progress on irrigation Khuls, micro irrigation works under MGNREGA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APR 06:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress on desilting works of Irrigation Khuls and the execution of Micro Irrigation projects undertaken under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act for the 2025-26 fiscal.

The meeting also reviewed the proposed action plan for the Financial Year 2026-27 aimed at strengthening the irrigation infrastructure and improving water availability for agriculture.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department Sheetal Nanda, Director RDD Jammu, Shehnaz Akhtar, Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat, Member Secretary MGNREGA, Waseem Raja, Chief Engineer of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs) of both divisions and other senior officers of the concerned departments while the outstation officers participated online.

During the meeting, the Mem-



ber Secretary, MGNREGA, delivered a detailed PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the district-wise performance of Micro Irrigation works being implemented under the MGNREGA. The presentation informed that a total of 26,198 works were taken up across the Union Territory, of which, around 12,000 have been physically completed while 13,493 works are currently under execution. It was further apprised that the ongoing works are progressing at a steady pace and are expected to be complet-

ed by 10 April 2026, thereby strengthening the irrigation infrastructure and enhancing water availability for the farming community.

The meeting was further apprised that a total of Rs. 267.90 crore have been utilized for execution of these works. Large-scale desilting of irrigation khuls, nal-lahs and canals is being carried out to improve the water flow and enhance irrigation potential. These interventions are expected to significantly support the water harvesting and irrigation require-

ments for the upcoming cropping season, thereby benefiting the farming community across rural areas.

The officers also informed the Minister that the e-KYC verification of active and eligible job card holders under MGNREGA is presently underway. The process is being carried out on priority to ensure transparency and inclusion of genuine beneficiaries.

While reviewing the progress, the Minister directed the concerned officers to expedite completion of all the pending and

ongoing desilting works within the stipulated timeframe. He emphasized that the works should be carried out in close coordination with the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to ensure technical efficiency and sustainability.

The Minister further instructed that the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments must be kept closely involved in planning and execution of these works so that irrigation interventions are aligned with the actual needs of farmers and crop patterns in different regions.

Highlighting the importance of community participation, the Minister stressed that local communities, particularly farmers, should be actively involved in execution and monitoring of such works. He noted that greater participation will help ensure better asset creation, improve irrigation infrastructure and strengthen the rural livelihoods, particularly for poor and marginal farmers.

He also directed the officers to complete the e-KYC process at the earliest, ensuring that no deserving and active job card holder remains uncovered under the scheme, thereby enabling them to benefit from employment opportunities and rural development initiatives under MGNREGA.

## SSP Mr. Dushyant Sharma assumes charge as Commandant IRP 15th Bn.G, G Jammu

■ GULFAM BARJI

**JAMMU, MAR 06:** SSP Mr. Dushyant Sharma (JKPS 2002) has assumed charge as Commandant of the IRP 15th Bn. Gulshan Ground Jammu.

He takes over the charge from Ms. Sargun Shukla who has been transferred and posted as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban Range, replacing.

On his arrival, Mr. Dushyant Sharma was warmly received by senior officers and personnel of the



battalion, including Deputy Commandant SP Mr. Zulafqar Ahmed (JKPS) DySP's Smt. Anita pawar, Smt. Anuradha Raina, Smt. Sonali Kohli, Mr. Almas Sharma, Mr. Harmohinder Singh and other officers and officials of the battalion.

Mr. Dushyant Sharma was presented a ceremonial guard of honour at the Quarter Guard and later inspected various sections of the battalion before formally taking over the charge.

Prior to this posting, SSP Mr. Dushyant Sharma was serving as Commandant of JKP 3rd Security Bn, at Zewan, Srinagar.

## Plantation drive conducted at Ganderbal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL, APR 06:** In a profound celebration of nature, responsibility, and collective awakening, District Ganderbal today marked a significant environmental milestone through the successful conduct of the "Mega Plantation Drive across its schools," with the plantation of over \*10,000\* saplings, ushering in a new era of green consciousness and sustainable learning spaces.

The initiative was formally inaugurated at "BHS Shalabugh" in the distinguished presence of the "Chief Guest, Iqbal Rasool (IFS), Divisional Forest Officer, Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal", alongside the "Chief Education Officer Ganderbal". The occasion symbolized a harmonious partnership between education and environmental stewardship, reinforcing the idea that the future of humanity rests in the hands of environmentally conscious generations.

This visionary drive was undertaken in pursuance of the directions of the "Hon'ble Education Minister, Sakina Masood Itoo, and under the able guidance of the Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani". Their unwavering commitment to integrating ecological values within the educational framework has inspired this transformative initiative.

Schools across the district actively participated with great zeal, converting their campuses into green sanctuaries through plantation, beautification, and the establishment of kitchen gardens and herbal gardens. This initiative stands as a living testament to the timeless philosophy that "to nurture a tree is to nurture life itself."

The Mega Plantation Drive is not merely an environmental activity, but a collective pledge towards a sustainable tomorrow, where each sapling planted today grows into a guardian of ecological balance and a symbol of hope for future generations.

## Infrastructure improvements on key bridges aimed to strengthen connectivity & public safety: DC Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, APR 06:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today conducted an on-site inspection of ongoing fencing and allied upgradation works on Gandbal Bridge and Aramwari Bridge to assess the progress and quality of the two projects.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Executive Engineer R&B Dalgate, Fareed Khan, Executive Engineer R&B Rajbagh, Khalid Mehmood, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Muzamil Zaman and other concerned.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a thorough evaluation of the ongoing fencing and allied infrastructure upgradation works on Gandbal Bridge and Aramwari Bridge and emphasized the importance of structural safety, durability and adherence to approved project timelines. The DC reviewed the status of fencing, approach improvements and other allied works being undertaken to enhance pedestrian safety on both the bridges. He instructed the executing agencies to expedite the remaining works at the earliest strictly adhering to quality standards. On the occasion, the DC highlight-



ed the significance of these pivotal bridges as key transport links for local habitations and stressed that the upgraded infrastructure will improve connectivity, ensure public safety and facilitate smoother movement in the area.

Highlighting the significance of these bridges as key passage links for local habitations, the DC stated that the upgraded infrastructure will improve connectivity, ensure public

safety and facilitate smoother movement of the residents in the area.

He underscored that the Gandbal Foot Bridge over the River Jhelum, connecting Gandbal Soiteng areas with the National Highway at Batwara and the Aramwari Suspension Foot Bridge, linking Rajbagh localities to the Sonwar area will significantly enhance accessibility and particularly benefit students, patients and residents across these densely populated areas.

## Major Drug Bust in Kulgam: 14 Peddlers Held, 10 NDPS Cases Registered in 3 Weeks

■ FAROOQ RATHER

**KULGAM, APR 06:** Kulgam Police has intensified its anti-narcotics drive, registering 10 cases under the NDPS Act in the past three weeks and arresting 14 drug peddlers. The crackdown has led to the seizure of large quantities of contraband substances and the exposure of an organised drug network. Officials said that nine FIRs were registered at Police Station Qazigund and one at Police Station Devsar. During the operations, police recovered 415.61 grams of heroin, 1348 grams of charas (including powder), 1.5 kilograms of bhang patri, along with Rs. 1,37,990 in cash.

Investigations have revealed multiple backward and forward linkages,



indicating the involvement of a wide inter-district and inter-state narcotics network.

In a major breakthrough (FIR No. 43/2026), police seized 278 grams of heroin and cash at Kurigam. Further investigation led to the recovery of an additional 262 grams of heroin from Jammu, exposing a well-organ-

ised drug syndicate.

Other recoveries were made from various locations including Furrar, Khrewan, Nassu Badragund, Wanpora, Nawa Qazigund, and Cheyan during separate operations.

Senior Superintendent of Police Kulgam, Anayat Ali Choudhary (IPS), reiterated that police are following a zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking and will continue strict action against those involved. He also urged the public to share information regarding drug peddling, assuring full confidentiality.

Kulgam Police stated that it remains committed to eradicating the drug menace and will continue its intensified operations to dismantle narcotics networks.

## Kulgam Police Intensifies Crackdown on Misuse of Medicines; Chemist Shops Inspected Across District

■ FAROOQ RATHER

**KULGAM, APR 06:** As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and the "War on Drugs" campaign, Kulgam Police on Tuesday carried out a comprehensive inspection drive of chemist shops and druggist establishments across the district to ensure strict compliance with regulations and prevent misuse of pharmaceutical drugs.

During the drive, joint police teams conducted thorough checks of stock registers, sale and purchase records, valid licenses, and other mandatory documentation at various establishments. The inspections aimed to identify irregularities and curb the illegal sale of medicines, particularly controlled and prescription drugs,



which are often misused and can contribute to substance abuse among the youth.

Officials said that special focus was laid on areas in and around educational institutions, where checking was intensified to prevent the unlawful sale of medicines to students and

young individuals.

The drive forms part of the broader efforts by the district police to tackle drug abuse not only through action against narcotics but also by monitoring the misuse of legally available pharmaceutical substances.

Kulgam Police stated that such inspection drives will continue regularly to ensure accountability, adherence to legal norms, and protection of public health and safety. Shopkeepers were advised to maintain proper records, follow all prescribed guidelines strictly, and extend full cooperation during inspections.

Reaffirming its commitment, the police emphasized that strict action will be taken against any violations, as part of its continued efforts to curb the drug menace in the district.

## Plantation Drive held at Govt BMS Barwalla Kangan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KANGAN, APR 06:** A plantation drive was conducted today at GMS Barwalla. The saplings received from the Zonal Education Officer Kangan, along with some addi-



tional saplings arranged from the locality, were planted in the school premises.

Students and staff members participated enthusiastically, holding placards with messages on environmental protection and the importance of trees. The drive aimed to create awareness among students about the need to protect nature and maintain a clean, green environment.

# Amid 'One Student-One Tree' call, Sakeena Itoo launches mega plantation drive from Jammu

Calls students Ambassadors of Environmental protection

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 06:** In a significant initiative aimed at promoting environmental sustainability, Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today launched a mega plantation drive across Jammu and Kashmir from SRML Higher Secondary School (HSS) here to instil the spirit of environmental protection and green development among students.

MLAs Qaysar Jamshaid Lone; Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi and Showkat Hussain Ganie; MD ICDS, Sajad Hussain Ganai; Director School Education Jammu; Naseem Javid Choudhary; Director Social Welfare Jammu, Ranjeet Singh; Director Health Jammu, Principal SRML HSS Jammu, CEO Jammu, Principals and Headmasters of other HSSs and HSs of Jammu district, large number of teachers and students were also present on the occasion.

Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director Colleges, J&K, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Health Kashmir, Chief Education Officers of all districts other than Jammu, Principals and Headmasters of various HSSs and HSs along with students and faculty also participated in the plantation drive virtually.

The drive has been organised collectively by School Education, Higher Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education departments.

Addressing a large gathering after planting a sapling, the Minister highlighted that environmental protection must begin at the grassroots level and schools play



a pivotal role in shaping responsible future generations. "This day is not just the launch of a programme, today we started a movement, a movement to clean our land, protect our future and nurture life", she stated.

She added that around 2.50 lakh trees saplings are being planted across Jammu and Kashmir in Schools, Higher Secondary Schools, Colleges, Hospitals, Anganwadi centres, Healthcare facilities and other places.

The Education Minister underlined that Jammu and Kashmir has always been known for its natural beauty, valleys, forests, rivers and green pastures but that beauty is under silent threat. "Climate change, rising temperatures, harmed nature are realities, we can no longer ignore. Truth is simple, if we do not act now, we risk compromising the future of our children", she lamented.

The Minister said that in order to secure our future and future of coming generations, this Green Jammu and Kashmir initiative has

been launched. "Green Jammu and Kashmir initiative is a clear vision to transform every school, every health institution, into a green, vibrant and life-supporting space. A tree is not just a tree, it is clean air for the patient, shade for a student and hope for the future", she stated.

Calling students the ambassadors of environmental protection, Sakeena Itoo said that students are not just participants in this mission, they are its ambassadors.

Giving slogan of one student-one tree, the Minister said, "Let every student make a promise and pledge one student-one tree. Let every tree you plant grow with you, as a symbol of your responsibility and your love for this land".

The Minister also called upon the teachers that the schools should be examples of protecting nature.

Highlighting that health is deeply connected to the nature, the Minister also spoke about the role of doctors and healthcare professionals to environmental

sustainability. "Greener air, greener surroundings, peaceful space contribute directly to healing. Let our hospitals not only treat illness, but also promote wellness through nature", she said.

The Minister also underlined the role of Social Welfare department, adding that their reach at the grassroots is unmatched and they are the backbone of this movement.

"It is not about how many young trees we plant in a day. It is about how many trees survive, grow and become a part of our lives", Sakeena Itoo said.

The Minister highlighted that we need to move from plantation to preservation, from campaign to commitment, from effort to ownership. "Every tree grown will have a protector. Every institution will have a responsibility and every district will have a mission to complete", she said.

The Minister on the occasion, asked all participants, to promise with themselves and pledge to make every school greener, every hospital healthier, every season a

protector of nature. "Together let us not just plant trees, let us plant hope", she said.

On the sidelines of the programme, Sakeena Itoo also distributed sports kits among various government schools to encourage physical fitness and promote sporting culture among youth. The kits included equipment for multiple disciplines aimed at strengthening extracurricular engagement and identifying sporting talent at an early stage.

In another major boost to educational infrastructure, the Minister also handed over technical equipment like desktops and other stuff to several schools to enhance digital learning and skill-based education. The initiative is expected to improve classroom experiences and enable students to adapt to modern technological advancements.

Highlighting the government's commitment to girl child education and empowerment, Sakeena Itoo also distributed bicycles among girl students from different schools.

The Minister reiterated that empowering girls through education remains a top priority of the government. She noted that providing mobility support directly contributes to reducing dropout rates and fostering confidence among young learners.

Pertinently, the plantation drive, organised by the School Education Department in collaboration with allied departments, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, education officials, and local stakeholders across Jammu and Kashmir.

## 2-day Faculty Orientation Workshop on Project-Based Learning, DYD Pedagogy begins at GCW Parade

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 06:** Government College for Women (GCW) Parade Ground on Monday inaugurated a two-day Faculty Orientation Workshop focused on strengthening Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Design Your Degree (DYD) pedagogy.

The workshop aims to equip faculty members with innovative, student-centric teaching approaches that encourage interdisciplinary learning, critical thinking and experiential engagement in higher education. Approximately 100 faculties from Degree Colleges of the Jammu Division are attending the programme.

Principal Dr. Ravender K. Tickoo formally welcomed the dignitaries and participants. In his address, the Principal highlighted the successful implementation of the DYD programme at GCW Parade Ground and its transformative impact on students.

He noted that the initiative has significantly enhanced creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills among learners, while fostering greater ownership of their academic journey. He emphasized that such initiatives are aligned with the broader vision of reforming higher education through innovation and flexibility.

Dean, DYD Programme Dr. Alpana Vohra introduced the workshop schedule and provided an overview of its objectives and structure. Initiating her address with a reflective question on the student-centric nature of higher education, she elaborated on the philosophy of the DYD framework, which enables students to design their own academic pathways based on their interests and aspirations. She underscored the role of the programme in promoting holistic development through the integration of disciplinary knowledge with real-world applications and skill-based learning.

The workshop commenced with an interactive introductory session, during which participants shared their expectations. This segment fostered an open and collaborative environment, encouraging dialogue and exchange of ideas among faculty from diverse disciplines.

The academic sessions were conducted by distinguished resource persons from the Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi, including Dr. Geetanjali Kala (Associate Professor, Media and Communication Studies), Dr. Asani Bhaduri (Assistant Professor, Molecular Biology) and Dr. Mohd Saleem Mir (Assistant Professor, Heritage Tourism).

Dr. Mohammad Saleem Mir delivered a detailed session on the concept and implementation of the DYD framework, discussing its flexible curriculum, interdisciplinary approach and emphasis on learner autonomy. He also shared practical strategies for integrating the model into existing academic systems and highlighted the importance of mentorship and continuous assessment.

Dr. Asani Bhaduri conducted a comprehensive session on Project-Based Learning as a key pedagogical approach within the DYD framework. He emphasized its role in bridging theoretical knowledge with real-world applications and illustrated how PBL fosters collaboration, analytical thinking and problem-solving skills. He also discussed effective project design, assessment methods and inclusive learning practices.

The sessions witnessed active participation, insightful discussions and meaningful exchange of ideas among attendees, reflecting a strong commitment to pedagogical innovation.

The first day concluded on a productive note, providing participants with valuable insights into contemporary teaching-learning methodologies.

The deliberations laid a strong foundation for the upcoming sessions, which will focus on hands-on experience in designing and implementing interdisciplinary and project-based learning frameworks.

The workshop is being coordinated by Dr. Gurpreet Kour, Coordinator, DYD, GCW Parade Ground and Dr. Randheer Kour, Assistant Professor, Punjabi. Proceedings of the session were conducted by Dr. Sukriti Sharma, Assistant Professor Department of English.

## Karkhandar Unit for Calico Craft inaugurated at Data Talab Samba

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SAMBA, APRIL 06:** In a significant step towards preservation and promotion of traditional crafts, a Karkhandar Unit for Calico craft was inaugurated today here at Data Talab.

Owned by Romi Devi, the unit has been established under the guidance of Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu Mohammad Nazir Sheikh. Assistant Director Handicrafts Samba Ekshu Sharma inaugurated the unit in the presence of local artisans and members of the community.

The Karkhandar Unit aims to strengthen the rich legacy of Calico craft in Samba, a heritage art form known for its cultural and economic significance in the region.

The initiative is expected to provide a structured platform to artisans to enhance production, improve quality and access better livelihood opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Assistant Director underscored the importance of the Karkhandar Scheme in revitalizing traditional handicrafts and fostering sustainable rural livelihoods.

The event concluded with an interactive session, wherein artisans shared their experiences and expressed appreciation for the continued support and guidance extended by the Handicrafts Department.

## DLSA Reasi educates citizens about legal rights, significance of Lok Adalat

HT NEWS NETWORK

**REASI, APRIL 06:** Under the visionary leadership of Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, a series of legal awareness events were held across the District Today.

Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Rights of Senior Citizens" was organized by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Katra at Government High School Dhanori, Katra, in collaboration with the Department of Education. The objective was to generate awareness among students regarding the rights, dignity and welfare of senior



citizens and to sensitize the younger generation towards their responsibilities in ensuring respect and care for the elderly. Among the 10 participants, the winners were felicitated with trophies and medals in recognition of their performance.

Another awareness programme was held at the Court Complex Front Office-Mahore to mobilize participation in the upcoming Lok Adalat scheduled on April 18 2026, with special focus on Labour disputes and Land acquisition cases. The PLVs highlighted the significance of Lok Adalats as an effective mechanism for speedy, cost-effective and amicable settlement of disputes. Another awareness programme on Anti-Ragging Laws was organized at Akhli Katra. The initiative aimed to educate students and the general public about the legal provisions related to ragging, its serious consequences and the importance of maintaining a safe and respectful environment in educational institutions.

## Preparations for Baisakhi Festival reviewed at Bhaderwah

HT NEWS NETWORK

**BHADERWAH, APRIL 06:** Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal on Monday chaired a meeting here at Dak Bungalow to review arrangements for the Baisakhi festival in the region. The meeting held detailed discussions regarding

the smooth conduct of Baisakhi Melas scheduled at different religious and tourist spots. On April 13, melas shall be organised at Subar Naag (Chinta), Sibbi Naag (Neota), Hirna Naag (Taisana) and Chatur Bhuj Naag. On April 14, festivities will take place at Nagni Mata, Vasuki Naag (Vasak Dehra) and Boung Naag (Guttasa). Similarly,

on April 15, celebrations are scheduled at Dhairo Naag (Bhalara Kapra) and Mel Naag, among other locations. The ADC emphasized ensuring adequate arrangements for essential services including uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, proper road connectivity, sanitation and availability of essential commodities

for the convenience of devotees and visitors. He directed all concerned departments to work in coordination to ensure smooth conduct of the festival. The meeting was attended by officers including DFO, SDPO, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), Tehsilidars, AO BDA, BDOs, BMO, AE JPDCL, AEE Jal Shakti, AEE PMGSY, EO Municipal

Committee Bhaderwah, Fire and Emergency Services and President of Sanatan Dharam Sabha along with prominent citizens. The administration reaffirmed its commitment to ensure that all arrangements are put in place well in advance for the successful and peaceful celebration of the Baisakhi festival in the region.

## Arrangements for Baisakhi Festival reviewed at Dera Nangali Sahib

HT NEWS NETWORK

**POONCH, APRIL 06:** To ensure smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming Baisakhi festival, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Poonch Tahir Mustaf Malik, along with concerned officers, conducted an on-site visit to Shiromani Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib on Monday.

During the visit, the ADC held a detailed meeting with the management committee of Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib to review the preparedness and discuss necessary arrangements for the annual celebrations.

The members of the management committee highlighted several key demands, seeking adequate drinking water, proper lighting,

sanitation, security arrangements, parking facility and maintenance of roads. They also emphasized the urgent requirement for repair of potholes on the main road leading to Nangali Sahib.

Responding to the demands, the ADC assured that all necessary arrangements would be put in place well in time. He directed for adequate security deployment and systematic vehicle parking during the festival. Instructions were also issued for deployment of water tankers and ensuring uninterrupted supply of potable water and power through JPDCL and Jal Shakti Department.

The Executive Engineer of JPDCL and Tourism Department were directed to repair all non-functional street lights and install additional

lighting wherever required. The Municipal authorities were instructed to maintain cleanliness in and around the shrine and other congregation areas.

To ensure a safe and smooth travelling for devotees, the ADC directed GREF authorities to repair potholes and maintain the road stretch from Poonch Eid Gah to Nangali Sahib. The Health Department was instructed to deploy ambulance services during the event.

It was informed that the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and AYUSH shall set up awareness and service camps during the main Baisakhi event.

The ADC also reviewed arrangements for the three-day religious Samagam scheduled from

April 9 to April 11, 2026, at Gurudwara Baithak Mahant Mohar Singh, emphasizing uninterrupted water and power supply, sanitation and robust security measures.

The meeting was attended by officers from JPDCL, PWD (R&B), Municipality, Tehsil Administration, MVD, PHE, AYUSH, Tourism Department, TSO, GREF, along with representatives of Dera Nangali Sahib including Manager Janak Singh, Bhupinder Singh, Organizer of Shri Guru Ramdas Ji Sewa Society, Anmol Singh and Kuldeep Singh the member of Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib.

The ADC reiterated the administration's commitment to ensure a safe, clean and well-organized Baisakhi celebration for all devotees.

## DHSJ organises plantation drive

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 06:** The Directorate of Health Services Jammu (DHSJ) on Monday organized a plantation drive at its office premises with the objective of promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing green cover.

The programme was attended by Director Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar; Deputy Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma; Financial Advisor/Chief Account Officer Rajni Gupta; Deputy Director Planning Raman Sharma; State Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Jyoti Jolly and Assistant Director Schemes Dr. Ila Gupta along with other officers and officials of the Directorate.

The Director highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and emphasized the need for sustained and collective efforts to maintain ecological balance. He stated that such initiatives are



essential for fostering environmental awareness and ensuring a healthier and cleaner environment.

During the drive, around 6900 saplings were planted in the Jammu Division. The officers and staff members actively participated in the plantation activity and demonstrated their commitment to environmental protection.

## Sakeena Itoo takes stock of hailstorm damage in Kulgam, Shopian districts; Orders immediate assessment, relief measures

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 06:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has expressed deep concern over the widespread damage caused by the hailstorm which severely affected many orchards and farmlands in several areas of Kulgam and Shopian districts.

The Minister said that this unforeseen weather calamity has traded a huge blow to thousands of orchardists and farmers, who are completely relying on the upcoming harvest season for their livelihood.

After receiving reports of hailstorm, the Minister established a direct communication with the district administration and took detailed assessment from them regarding the impact of hailstorm. She directed the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam to carry out immediate ground assessments of the damages caused and ensure timely compensation is provided



to affected orchardists and farmers. "District Administration has been asked to conduct detailed assessment of losses accurately, facilitate timely relief under existing government norms and extend all possible assistance to affected orchardists and farmers without delay", she said.

The Minister also instructed other concerned departments like Horticulture, Agriculture, and Revenue, to work in close synergy to expedite compensation processes and provide necessary technical support to farmers for crop recovery wherever possible.

"Our Government completely stands with the farming community in this difficult time. We will ensure all losses are compensated fairly," Sakeena said.

The Minister also asked the Deputy Commissioner to keep officers and officials on ground and maintain close liaison with local representatives and ensure that no affected family is left unattended during this difficult period.

## Overwhelming participation marks Plantation Drive across Educational Institutions in Anantnag

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG, APRIL 06:** In a remarkable stride towards environmental sustainability and ecological restoration, District Anantnag today witnessed an overwhelming response to the Special Plantation Drive.

The district-level launch ceremony was ceremoniously inaugurated at Government Higher Secondary School Wanpoh by Advocate Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi), MLA Anantnag West, in the presence of the Chief Education Officer, Anantnag, and the District Education Planning Officer, Anantnag.

The occasion marked the beginning of a powerful environmental campaign rooted in collective responsibility and community participation.

From the early hours of the day, almost all educational institutions across District Anantnag—both Government and Private—actively participated in the drive with extraordinary zeal and commitment.

School campuses transformed into centers of ecological action, where students, teachers, and community members joined hands to plant saplings and pledge their role in safeguarding the environment.

To ensure effective implementation and to boost morale on the ground, the Chief Education Officer along with DEPO Anantnag,

and the District Cultural Coordinator, undertook extensive field visits to multiple institutions, closely monitoring the activities and motivating stakeholders.

The scale of participation was truly phenomenal, with an estimated 45,900 students, teachers, and community members actively contributing to the success of the drive. Notably, more than 13,500 saplings were planted during the special drive, marking a significant step towards enhancing the green cover of the district and reinforcing its commitment to environmental conservation.

Beyond plantation, the drive served as a powerful platform to instill environmental consciousness among the youth, reinforcing the message that every sapling planted today is a step towards a greener, healthier, and more sustainable tomorrow.

The Chief Education Office, expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, educational institutions, DFO, Social Forestry Anantnag, DFO, Lidder Forest Division, Bijbehara and the community at large for their unwavering support and dedication in transforming this noble initiative into a grand success.

The district stands united in its resolve to nurture these saplings and uphold its commitment towards environmental preservation for generations to come.

## Gyan Bharatam: Training programme on National Manuscript Survey held at Ganderbal

ADDC presides over the event; stresses preservation of heritage

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL, APRIL 06:** A one-day workshop-cum-training programme for the 'Gyan Bharatam National Manuscript Survey' was today organized at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The workshop aimed at equipping local coordinators and surveyors with the necessary skills for the forthcoming nationwide survey focused on identification and documentation of ancient manuscripts.

The programme was presided over by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, and attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat and other officers and officials.

Prof. Jehangir Ahmad, Head of the Department of Persian, University of Kashmir served as



the expert resource person for the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC underscored the cultural and historical significance of preserving ancient manuscripts, describing them as invaluable

repositories of heritage and traditional knowledge. He emphasized the need for a thorough and dedicated survey to ensure that no significant manuscript across the district remains undocumented.

The workshop featured detailed technical sessions conducted by subject experts, who trained participants on identification of various manuscript types, standardised data collection formats, and methods of digital

documentation to ensure accurate archiving.

Prof. Jehangir, the expert resource person delivered an in-depth session on the importance, classification, and preservation of manuscripts.

He also apprised the participants about the survey methodology, documentation protocols, and best practices to be followed during field work.

The programme witnessed participation from district officers, field functionaries, surveyors, and representatives from various academic institutions, reflecting a coordinated effort towards safeguarding the district's rich manuscript heritage.

The workshop concluded with an interactive session, where participants raised queries and shared feedback regarding survey implementation and documentation procedures.

## Training Programme for Census Functionaries concludes at Anantnag

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG, APRIL 06:** Training Programme for census functionaries- District, Sub-district level officers and Clerical staff, organized by the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, in two phases of three days each, in collaboration with District Administration, Anantnag, concluded today at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

The programme was attended by the District Statistics & Evaluation Officer (DSEO), officers from DCO, Tehsildars, and Executive Officers of Municipal Council/Committees, among others.



On the last day, sub-district maps (Tehsils/Towns) were distributed among the Tehsildars and the Executive Officers for verification of villages/towns within their respective jurisdictions. They were advised to carefully examine the maps and identify discrepancies, if any, and immediately submit the updated details to the concerned authorities.

Supervising the session, the DSEO briefed the participants on various aspects of census preparation, with special emphasis on field-level accuracy and coordination.

Notably, the programme laid emphasis on ensuring accuracy in jurisdictional data and strengthening coordination among field functionaries for the smooth conduct of Census-2027.

## 3-Day Training Programme on Census Operations concludes at Kulgam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM, APRIL 06:** Three-day training programme for officers associated with upcoming census operations concluded today at Kulgam.

The training sessions were conducted in phases on March 30, April 3 and April 6, with the participation of all concerned Charge Officers and officials.

The programme was organized to orient the officers with the procedures, guidelines and responsibilities related to the smooth conduct of census activities in the district.

During the sessions, officials were briefed in detail about the methodology, data collection procedures and coordination required for effective implementation of census operations.



The Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts and directed all officers to ensure meticulous planning and preparedness for the smooth and successful conduct of the census in the district.

He urged the officers to carry out their responsibilities with dedication and ensure accurate and timely data collection, which is vital for planning and development.

All concerned Charge Officers actively participated in the training programme and assured full cooperation in ensuring the smooth conduct of the census process across the district.

## DC Kupwara reviews progress of RKCTC National Highway-701 Project

Directs expeditious resolution of issues to increase pace of execution

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA, APRIL 06:** Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today convened a meeting to review the progress of the Rafiabad-Kupwara-Chowkibal-Tangdar-Chamkote (RKCTC) National Highway-701 project.

At the outset, OC 109 RCC BEACON apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the latest developments and milestones achieved under the project so far. The DC underscored the

strategic significance of the RKCTC road, noting its pivotal role in enhancing connectivity and catalysing economic growth across Kupwara district.

He directed all concerned departments to maintain seamless inter-departmental coordination and ensure the timely removal of impediments obstructing project execution.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed the executing agencies to intensify the pace of work and adhere strictly to the

stipulated timelines.

He directed joint site inspections by all concerned officers to on-the-spot resolution of issues arising during the construction process. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Superintending Engineers of PHE and R&B, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Officer Commanding 109 RCC BEACON, Executive Engineers of various departments, concerned Tehsildars, and other officers and officials.

## District Shopian conducts massive plantation drive across educational institutions

Over 30,000 saplings planted across district

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, APRIL 06:** In a significant initiative aimed at promoting environmental conservation and sustainable practices, a district-wide plantation drive was successfully conducted across all educational institutions of District Shopian today.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teaching staff, and education functionaries across the district.

The plantation drive was formally inaugurated by the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Shopian, Bashir Ahmad Shah, at Government High School Bohrihallan.

The inaugural event was attended by the Dy. CEO Shopian, Headmaster of Government High School Bohrihallan, members of the teaching staff, and a large number of students, who actively



participated in the plantation of saplings within the school premises.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO highlighted the vital importance of trees in sustaining life and maintaining ecological

balance.

He emphasized that trees are indispensable for human survival and stated that no life is possible without trees.

He further urged students to

take an active role in environmental protection and to ensure proper care and nurturing of the planted saplings.

Meanwhile, mega plantation drives were simultaneously

organized across all 15 clusters and at the zonal level throughout the district.

The drives were led by Principals of Government Higher Secondary Schools and Zonal Education Officers, ensuring effective coordination and large scale participation.

All 503 Government and Private schools of the district participated in the drive with remarkable enthusiasm. Students, in particular, displayed a high level of commitment and awareness towards environmental preservation, turning the initiative into a vibrant mass movement.

As per preliminary estimates, around 32,000 saplings were planted across district Shopian during the drive, marking a substantial contribution towards enhancing green cover and promoting ecological sustainability in the region.

**HT EDITORIAL**

**Act sternly against govt departments who fail to pay water usage charges**

The Jal Shakti department is busy these days in collecting the water usage charges from the people across the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The water usage charges in the union territory are charged annually and over the past few years most of the people are regularly paying these charges which was not the case earlier. Going by the usage of water by the people the water usage charges with respect to the people of Jammu & Kashmir are very less.

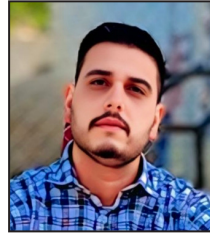
The Jal Shakti department is quite right in demanding the water usage charges from the consumers but at the same time the parameters should be the same for the government departments. According to the figures dished out by the government in the recent assembly session around 4000 crores are pending with the government departments as water usage charges. These figures are quite significant since the water usage charges in Jammu & Kashmir are quite less when compared to the other states or union territories of the country.

The Jal Shakti department has threatened that it will disconnect the water supply to the consumers who have not paid the water usage charges over the past few years. It is good to take punitive action against the people who are not regular in paying the water usage charges. But at the same time stern action needs to be taken against the government departments that have failed to water usage charges over the past so many years.

Taking action against the common masses while leaving the government departments Scott free does not go well with the principles of justice and equality. It is important that the higher ups of the Jal Shakti department take the matter seriously and issue strong worded warnings to the heads of the departments that have failed to pay the water usage charges over the years. If this does not work then an ultimatum should be served following which water supply should be discontinued to such departments in case they don't budge.

Water is one of the most precious and important natural resources in Jammu & Kashmir and it needs to be used judiciously. Paying water tax on time is one of the important responsibilities of a common citizen and this responsibility needs to be fulfilled by the people without delay. This should also be understood by the people who are manning or heading the different government departments.

**Planting Trees, Forgetting Tomorrow**



■ **JAWAID IQBAL**

Every year, as the monsoon approaches or on designated environmental days, we witness a familiar ritual: rows of saplings planted by enthusiastic hands, photographs taken, promises made, and hashtags shared. Yet, as seasons pass, many of these saplings wither away, and the urgency that once stirred collective action quietly fades. The question is not whether we know the importance of trees—we do. The deeper question is: why do we keep forgetting what we already know, and why does our commitment dissolve into ceremony rather than sustained action?

This is not merely an environmental concern; it is a reflection of our societal priorities, our memory, and our relationship with nature.

■ **The Silent Pillars of Life**

Trees are not just part of our landscape; they are the very foundation of life on Earth. They perform functions so fundamental that their absence would render human survival impossible.

At the most basic level, trees are the planet's lungs. Through the process of Photosynthesis, they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, maintaining the delicate balance of gases in our atmosphere. In an age where industrial emissions and vehicular pollution are rising exponentially, trees stand as our most effective natural defense.

But their role extends far beyond air purification. Trees regulate temperature, reduce urban heat, and create microclimates that make cities livable. Anyone who has walked under a shaded avenue on a hot summer day understands this instinctively. Without trees, our cities become concrete furnaces, intensifying the phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect.

Moreover, trees are custodians of



water. Their roots hold the soil together, preventing erosion and landslides—an issue particularly relevant in hilly regions like Jammu & Kashmir. They enhance groundwater recharge, ensuring that rivers and streams do not run dry. Remove trees, and you invite floods in one season and droughts in another.

■ **Guardians of Biodiversity**

A single tree is not an isolated organism; it is an ecosystem in itself. From birds that nest in its branches to insects that pollinate flowers, from fungi that enrich the soil to mammals that depend on it for shelter—trees sustain an intricate web of life.

When we cut down forests, we are not merely removing wood; we are dismantling entire ecosystems. The loss of biodiversity is not a distant or abstract issue—it directly affects agriculture, food security, and even human health. Pollinators like bees, which are essential for crop production, depend heavily on tree-rich environments.

Thus, planting trees is not just about greenery; it is about restoring life's balance.

■ **Climate Change: The Unforgiving Reality**

We live in an era defined by the looming threat of Climate Change. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, melting glaciers, and increasing natural disasters are no longer predictions—they are realities we are already experiencing.

Trees act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in their biomass. Large-scale afforestation is one of the most

effective and affordable strategies to combat climate change. Unlike technological solutions that require massive investment, trees offer a natural, sustainable alternative.

And yet, despite knowing this, deforestation continues at an alarming rate. The paradox is striking: we plant trees ceremonially while simultaneously destroying forests systematically.

■ **Why Do We Forget?**

This brings us to the most crucial question: if we understand the importance of trees so well, why do we fail to act consistently?

1. **The Culture of Symbolism**

Plantation drives have become symbolic acts rather than sustained commitments. The act of planting is celebrated, but the responsibility of nurturing is neglected. A sapling requires years of care to become a tree, but our attention span rarely extends beyond the day of the event.

2. **Disconnection from Nature**

Modern life has distanced us from the natural world. For many, trees are no longer companions but background elements. When nature becomes invisible, its importance diminishes in our consciousness.

3. **Immediate Gains vs. Long-Term Benefits**

Human psychology often prioritizes immediate rewards over long-term benefits. Cutting a tree yields instant economic gain; planting one demands patience and offers delayed returns. This imbalance shapes policy decisions and individual behavior alike.

4. **Lack of Accountability**

Who is responsible for the saplings planted during a drive? Once the event concludes, accountability dissolves. Without systems to monitor and maintain plantations, survival rates remain dimly low.

5. **Seasonal Awareness**

Environmental consciousness often peaks around specific days—World Environment Day, Van Mahotsav—and then fades. True awareness, however, must be continuous, not seasonal.

■ **From Plantation to Preservation**

If we are to transform our efforts from ritual to impact, we must shift our focus from planting trees to growing trees.

1. **Care Over Count**

Instead of measuring success by the number of saplings planted, we must measure it by the number of trees that survive and thrive.

2. **Community Ownership**

Local communities must take ownership of plantations. When people feel connected to the trees around them, they are more likely to protect and nurture them.

3. **Policy and Planning**

Governments must integrate tree plantation with urban planning, infrastructure development, and environmental policies. Trees should not be afterthoughts; they should be central to development.

4. **Education and Awareness**

Environmental education must go beyond textbooks. Schools should involve students in long-term plantation and maintenance projects, fostering a lifelong connection with nature.

5. **Technology and Monitoring**

Modern tools—such as GPS tagging and digital monitoring—can ensure accountability. Every planted sapling can be tracked, ensuring it receives the care it needs.

■ **A Moral Responsibility**

Planting trees is not merely an environmental act; it is a moral obligation. We have inherited a planet rich in natural resources, and it is our duty to pass it on in a condition that is not diminished.

The author is a teacher from Distt Kupwara

**Unlocking India's Creative Potential**

Why Institutions Must Compete for the Best Minds



■ **RAYEES RASHID (RAYEES WATHORI)**

India stands at a remarkable crossroads of tradition and innovation, where centuries-old cultural heritage coexists with a rapidly evolving modern imagination. Across the country, creativity is not confined to elite spaces—it thrives in rural craftsmanship, urban ingenuity, grassroots innovation, and the bold experiments of a young and dynamic population. From rethinking sustainability to reshaping technology and reimagining everyday life, India's creative pulse is vibrant and unmistakable. Yet, transforming this immense reservoir of raw talent into meaningful, scalable impact depends largely on one critical factor: access to high-quality, forward-looking education.

In today's world, design and creative thinking are no longer peripheral disciplines; they are central to solving some of the most pressing challenges of our time. Whether it is building inclusive cities, designing intuitive digital ecosystems, addressing climate change, or improving public services, designers are playing a crucial role in shaping a more equitable and sustainable future. As a result, the demand for skilled designers and creative professionals has grown exponentially, both in India and globally.

This shift has fundamentally altered the dynamics of education. The competition is no longer limited to students striving to gain admission into prestigious institutions; it now extends to institutions themselves, which must actively compete to attract the brightest and most promising minds. The traditional model—where institutions passively waited for applications—is rapidly becoming obsolete. Instead, universities and design schools must adopt a proactive approach, identifying talent early, reaching out to diverse communities, and creating pathways for students who might otherwise remain overlooked.

At the heart of any great educational institution lies its student community. When curious, driven, and imaginative individuals come together, they create an environment that is intellectually stimulating and creatively charged. Classrooms evolve into spaces of dialogue rather than one-way instruction. Ideas are challenged, refined, and expanded through peer interaction as much as through faculty guidance. Such ecosystems not only enhance individual learning but also elevate the collective standard of the institution. In this sense, attracting talented students is not merely about improving rankings or prestige—it is about cultivating a culture where innovation becomes a shared value. However, one of the most significant barriers to accessing quality education in India remains affordability. Countless talented students are unable to pursue their aspirations due to financial constraints. This makes it imperative for institutions to prioritize merit-based and need-based scholarships, financial aid programs, and inclusive admission policies. By doing so, they not only empower deserving students but also enrich their campuses with diverse perspectives—an essential ingredient for creativity and innovation. Diversity in the classroom brings together individuals from different socio-economic, cultural, and geographic backgrounds, fostering a broader exchange of ideas. In creative disciplines, where context and perspective are key, such diversity often leads to more holistic and impactful solutions. Therefore, investing in accessibility is not just a moral imperative; it is a strategic necessity for institutions that aspire to lead in the creative domain.

Equally important is the evolving expectation of students themselves. Today's learners are not satisfied with degrees alone; they seek immersive, meaningful experiences that prepare them for real-world challenges. They look for institutions that offer state-of-the-art infrastructure, modern studios, access to cutting-edge technology, and opportunities for experimentation. Exposure to global ideas, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a culture that encourages risk-taking and innovation are now critical factors influencing their choices.

Institutions that recognize and respond to these expectations naturally become hubs of excellence. They attract ambitious students who are eager to explore, create, and push boundaries. Such environments, in turn, reinforce the institution's reputation

and contribute to a virtuous cycle of growth and innovation.

Another crucial dimension of contemporary education is industry engagement. Bridging the gap between academia and the professional world is essential for making learning relevant and impactful. When students work on real-world projects, interact with industry leaders, and understand how ideas translate into tangible outcomes, their education becomes more grounded and practical. This exposure not only enhances their skills but also builds confidence, adaptability, and a deeper understanding of their chosen fields. Internships, live projects, mentorship programs, and collaborations with industry partners can significantly enrich the educational experience. They enable students to test their ideas in real contexts, learn from failures, and develop a problem-solving mindset that is essential in today's rapidly changing world. Whether they go on to become designers, entrepreneurs, or innovators, such experiences equip them with the tools needed to navigate complexity and uncertainty. As India aspires to position itself as a global leader in innovation and creativity, the role of educational institutions becomes even more critical. They must not only impart knowledge but also inspire curiosity, nurture talent, and create environments where creativity can flourish without constraints. This requires a shift in mindset—from viewing education as a transactional process to embracing it as a transformative journey.

In conclusion, unlocking India's creative potential demands a concerted effort from educational institutions to identify, attract, and nurture the best minds. By investing in accessibility, fostering diversity, providing world-class infrastructure, and strengthening industry connections, institutions can create ecosystems that empower students to realize their full potential. Such efforts will not only benefit individuals but also contribute to the nation's broader goals of innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth.

The future of India's creative economy depends on the decisions made today. Institutions that rise to this challenge will not only shape the next generation of thinkers and creators but also define the trajectory of the nation's progress in the years to come.

The author from Wathora Chadora Badgam



## BOOK REVIEW



MOHAMMAD  
ARFAT WANI

The author is a writer, social activist, and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change. Email: wania6817@gmail.com

# A Critical Review of Pagdandi Ka Musafir, a Collection of Short Stories by Dr. Mohd Shafi Ayaz

In Urdu literature, the short story is not only a literary form but a mirror that reflects human consciousness, social truths, and psychological complexity. Through the medium of short stories, individuals and society can view and observe themselves in reality. The role of a short story writer is not only to write stories but to reveal the unseen aspects of life, to voice human emotions, and to keep alive issues that are often forgotten due to social apathy and indifference. Urdu short story writing has always progressed through writers who, instead of relying on their imagination and creativity, used to derive inspiration from life's bitter and sweet experiences.

In this tradition of excellence in Urdu short stories, Dr. Mohd Shafi Ayaz's short stories in his collection "Pagdandi Ka Musafir" are a remarkable and meaningful contribution to Urdu literature. His stories are about individuals who tread on the unseen paths of life instead of the main highways. On these paths of life, pain is silent but profound, truth is simple but touching, and life is ordinary but subtle.

This collection is based on observation rather than imagination. It is quite evident from the beginning of the book and the preface that for the author, literature is not a source of amusement and pastime but a voice for the deprived and oppressed sections of the population whose voices go unheard. Dr. Ayaz admits that this is his second collection of short stories that has been the result of five years of creative work and intellectual contemplation. The purpose of this book, according to Dr. Ayaz himself, is to give voice to silent tears that go unnoticed due to the apathy and injustices of the social system. He writes on page six that the essence of being human is to feel the pain of others and that is the soul of his work.

The title "Pagdandi Ka Musafir" is symbolic. "Pagdandi" does not imply a road but a path, and this path is generally used by people who are undertaking a tough, lonely, and less traveled journey. The title reflects the author's social commitment and his focus on the unseen aspects of life. The book was published in 2011 by Bajji Printers. The price of the book is 350 rupees. The book can be procured from Al-Mukhtar



Publications Islamabad, Kitab Ghar Lal Chowk Srinagar, and directly from the author at K.P. Road, Islamabad, Kashmir.

The contents and topics of the book reveal that the author has explored every corner of life and has followed characters wherever they have gone. The table of contents reveals that there are thirty-four stories in the book. These stories include Chalay, Shanakhti Parade, Pagdandi Ka Musafir, English Medium, Dickson, Wakeel Sahab, Hina, Bhaiya, Degree, Class Felo, Ab Aur Nahin, Bhikaran, Alif Khan, Arzoo, Wafa, Bhoot, Ramu, Akela, Soz o Gaddaz, Neelami, Khairat, Wrong Number, Bais e Daam, Kashkool, Jazbaat, Najoomi, Talaq, Khat, Aurat, Zeenat, Aasmani Hoor, Diwan Khana, Abel Chor, and Rasm e Wafa. These stories together form a complete social map. These stories are not just names; they are social ills and behaviors that the author has revealed skillfully. Stories like English Medium, Degree, and Talaq challenge the contradictions in our educational and family systems.

The strongest aspect of this book is the dedication. This establishes the fact that these stories are not just fantasies but realities. Dr. Ayaz dedicates this book to the anonymous individuals whose lives are private and yet real. This establishes

the fact that the writer has lived with these marginalized individuals and has observed their pain and suffering. Through his writing, he has become the advocate of these individuals. This writer has a doctorate in management, and this book establishes the fact that knowledge is not just for the purpose of employment but also helps in refining the understanding of the world and the people in it. This book, through its evidence of knowledge, characters, and writing style, has established itself as a worthy contribution to the literature of Urdu short stories.

Renowned writer Veerinder Patwari has praised Dr. Mohd Shafi Ayaz as a traveler of the hidden paths of life and not just a member of the crowd. He watches the characters in his stories carefully and writes stories that make the reader feel as if he is also a part of the journey. Patwari has also praised Dr. Mohd Shafi Ayaz as a traditionalist and a master of beautiful language. He says that the collection of short stories by Dr. Mohd Shafi Ayaz is a significant addition to Urdu literature. He further says that these stories are not only artistic but also bring a new dimension to the world of stories.

Reading the stories in "Pagdandi Ka Musafir" provides deep insights into

human psychology. The story "Chhalay" reflects the selfishness and apathy of human beings, showing that hard work and loyalty do not necessarily ensure justice. "Shanakhti Parade" reflects the contrast between the beauty of nature and the oppression of human beings, thus encouraging the reader to think about the vulnerable sections of society. "Pagdandi Ka Musafir" reflects the cruelties of the powerful and the sufferings of the oppressed, with the death of the protagonist being an example of the injustices in society. "English Medium" reflects the contrast between social status and actual capacity. "Dickson" reflects simplicity and greatness, with love and sacrifice being the underlying theme. "Wakeel Sahab" reflects the ego of human beings and the hierarchy of society, with Hina reflecting the theme of betrayal and the harsh realities of human nature. "Bhaiya" reflects the significance of strong and lasting relationships as opposed to emotions.

Some other stories revolve around various themes such as deception, ethics, and contradictions in society and education. "Degree" provides insight into corruption and bribery in education, which proves that hard work is not enough to bring success. "Class Felo" revolves around the theme of friendship among individuals belonging to different castes. "Ab Aur Nahin" revolves around the theme of contrasts between the innocence of human nature and hypocrisy in society. "Bhikaran" revolves around various themes such as lust, greed, and loyalty. "Alif Khan" revolves around the theme of service to humanity and virtues that go unrecognized. "Arzoo" revolves around various themes such as selflessness and morality. "Wafa" revolves around the theme of hypocrisy in society and deception. "Bhoot" revolves around contrasts between human intelligence and supernatural occurrences.

The book also deals with human struggles, inequality in society, and exploitation. "Ramu" describes simplicity in the lives of poor laborers and exploitation by those in power. "Akeela" describes loneliness and psychological complexity. "Soz O Gaddaz" describes the conflict of an artist with life by showing readers the bitter

experiences of life that lead to genuine creativity. "Neelami" describes human vulnerability and indifference of financial systems. "Khairat" describes human simplicity and deception in society. Rang Number describes unexpected coincidences in life and complexity in human relationships. "Baais E Daam" describes pressure in human social appearances. "Kashkool" describes inequality in society and poverty. "Jazbaat" describes religious and social conflicts in human relationships.

These stories leave an impression on human values, morality, love, and societal norms. "Najoomi" focuses on the difference between hard work and destiny and explains the concept of consequences. "Talaq" focuses on parental concerns and harsh realities of life. "Khat" focuses on love and regret. "Aurat" is philosophical in nature as it discusses the existence of women in society. "Zeenat" focuses on human emotions and relationship complexities. "Aasmani Hoor" focuses on moral purity and high character. "Diwan Khana" focuses on empathy and changing hardships of village life. "Abel Chor" focuses on patience and contentment, while "Rasm E Wafa" focuses on unfulfilled desires in relationship dynamics.

Overall, "Pagdandi Ka Musafir" proves that Urdu short story writing is still an effective medium of exploring human psychology and societal realities. Dr. Mohd Shafi Ayaz has created characters who encourage readers to think deeply rather than following the story. The greatest strength of these stories is that they encourage readers to think and question their own lives.

This collection also shows that if a writer looks at the world around him with sincerity, empathy, and insight, literature can be more than just art, literature can be a living document of society. "Pagdandi Ka Musafir" is a very important and meaningful addition to Urdu literature, and this work will remain important for many years to come. I, Wani Arfat offer my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Mohd Shafi Ayaz Sahab on this thoughtful and creative work of literature, and pray that he may continue to enrich Urdu literature with his insightful, observant, and meaningful works.

## Never Ignore the Way of Learning



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Today, it is very fortunate that most of us have come to understand that acquiring education does not only mean getting government jobs. We now know that education means developing our overall personality and helping the nation strengthen its backbone in all respects. Education has a different meaning — it motivates us, relaxes us, and helps us become someone valuable for humanity.

Today, the level of competition among learners is at its peak. Learners know that learning has no limits, no boundaries, and no hurdles, and every learner gives their best to achieve their goals.

Nowadays, public libraries have become a pressing demand among students and aspirants. Many young people openly discuss the urgent need for such facilities. Libraries can serve as a common knowledge hub where students from different backgrounds gather under one roof with a shared purpose — to learn and achieve their goals. In a world where education is recognized as the key to empow-

erment, it is impossible to ignore the importance of libraries.

Today's world is full of advanced and incredible technologies. From artificial intelligence to digital learning platforms, technology has transformed how we gain knowledge. Giant machines, smart devices, and innovative tools surround us everywhere. The question arises: why should education lag behind when every other sector is progressing rapidly? The reason for discussing these technological advancements is clear — education must move alongside modern innovations. From an educated person to an illiterate one, everyone now understands the value of education. As rightly said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which can change the world." Education never discriminates; it empowers everyone equally.

When we understand the demands of the present time, why should we hesitate to implement meaningful changes? Why should genuine demands like public libraries not be placed before higher authorities? Education plays a pivotal role not only in an individual's personal life but also in the overall development of a nation. Across the world, education is highly appreciated, and it has produced eminent scientists, doctors, engineers, and innovators. Every day, new discoveries and inventions take place, contributing to human welfare. All of this is possible because of strong educational foundations, where libraries act as silent contributors.

Public libraries are especially essential for youth preparing for competitive examinations such as civil services, banking, defence, and other national-level tests. Most aspirants face numerous challenges, including a lack of study space, limited access to books, poor internet connectivity, and an unhealthy study environment at home. A well-equipped library can solve many of these problems by providing a peaceful atmosphere, updated study material, and access to digital resources.

In the Kashmir Valley, the education sector has always played a crucial role in identifying and nurturing talent across all age groups. Educational institutions provide a platform where students can share ideas related to social, economic, educational, environmental, moral, ethical, health, and technological issues. Such interaction helps in developing critical thinking and broader perspectives. Unfortunately, since 1989, the valley has been passing through difficult and uncertain circumstances due to ongoing tensions. These challenges have directly or indirectly affected the education sector.

Whenever uncertainty arises, educational institutions are often the first to face closures. Orders from state, district, or tehsil-level administrations frequently disrupt academic activities. As a result, students suffer academically and mentally. In such situations, public libraries can act as alternative learning spaces. Even if schools and colleges are closed, libraries can continue to function and ensure

continuity in education.

Another major concern is that a large portion of the population in the Kashmir Valley lives in villages and small hamlets where basic facilities are still inadequate. While it is fortunate that the government provides the fundamental right to education, implementation remains challenging. The Right to Education Act, introduced through the 86th Constitutional Amendment in 2002, inserted Article 21-A, which guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged six to fourteen years. However, providing education under uncertain conditions and without proper infrastructure remains a serious challenge.

In the present era, we often talk about education, knowledge, moral values, and personality development, but we ignore essential support systems like libraries. Without proper facilities, it becomes difficult to achieve educational goals. Education does not only mean classroom teaching; it requires access to books, research materials, and a healthy learning environment.

Due to the lack of facilities, many students from Kashmir prefer to move outside the state for competitive exam preparation. Delhi has emerged as a major hub for aspirants. Students leave their homeland and face numerous hardships related to accommodation, finances, and emotional well-being. The question is: why are they forced to leave? The answer is simple — better facilities, cooperative admin-

istration, and a supportive environment.

If similar facilities were available within the state, students would not need to migrate. The government and society must work together to encourage local talent. Providing well-established libraries at district and tehsil levels would greatly reduce the burden on aspirants. These libraries should offer uninterrupted electricity, high-speed internet, updated books, newspapers, journals, online databases, and guidance from trained librarians.

A public library is not just a building filled with books; it is a center of enlightenment. It promotes self-study, discipline, and intellectual curiosity. It also encourages inclusivity, as students from different economic backgrounds can access the same resources. In this way, libraries contribute to social equality and national integration.

In conclusion, libraries are a comprehensive way to learn, grow, and achieve life goals. For the youth of Kashmir, especially competitive exam aspirants, public libraries can become a ray of hope. Establishing 24x7 libraries in every district and tehsil is not a luxury but a necessity. Such an initiative will strengthen the education system, empower youth, reduce migration, and contribute to nation-building. It is time for policymakers to recognize this need and take concrete steps toward building a knowledgeable and progressive society.

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# GLP-1s Show Promise in Reducing Heart Risk in ARDs

MEDICAL JOURNAL

GLP-1 RECEPTOR AGONISTS (GLP-1RAs) may offer potential cardiovascular benefits for people with autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ARDs), according to emerging evidence. ARDs, which include rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriatic arthritis, and axial spondyloarthritis, are characterised with chronic systemic inflammation that accelerates atherogenesis and substantially increases premature cardiovascular death.



### Elevated Cardiovascular Risk In ARDs

Patients with ARDs face heightened CV risk due to multiple factors: persistent inflammation, frequent use of glucocorticoids and NSAIDs, and higher prevalence of cardio-metabolic conditions such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, and hypertension. Non-pharmacological strategies like optimised nutrition and physical activity remain foundational, but new drug classes including GLP-1RAs and SGLT2 inhibitors are expanding treatment options.

### Understanding GLP-1RAs and Cardiovascular Health

GLP-1RAs mimic native glucagon-like peptide-1, a hormone secreted by intestinal L cells in response to food, which stimulates insulin release and regulates glucose. These drugs act on GLP-1 receptors expressed throughout the body, producing pancreatic and extra-pancreatic benefits such as reduced blood glucose, appetite, blood pressure, serum lipids, and systemic inflammation. In addition to controlling obesity and type 2 diabetes, two key cardiovascular risk factors, GLP-1RAs may stabilise atherosclerotic plaques, mitigate post-prandial hyperlipidaemia, and reduce sympathetic nervous system activity that contributes to elevated blood pressure.

### Observational Evidence for GLP-1RAs

Real-world data in ARDs, particularly rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus, suggest GLP-1RA use is associated with lower rates of major adverse cardiovascular events and all-cause mortality, mirroring findings in broader populations.

Mechanistic studies in mice show anti-inflammatory and anti-atherogenic effects, including direct attenuation of T-cell-mediated inflammation via gut receptors and indirect modulation of myeloid cell activity through central neuronal pathways. Early reports also indicate potential benefits in heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.

### Remaining Questions and Future Directions

Despite promising findings, data for other ARDs remain limited. Future research should explore long-term safety, efficacy in combination with SGLT2 inhibitors, and the role of multi-agonist therapies targeting GIP, glucagon, or amylin pathways. Clarifying whether cardioprotective and anti-inflammatory effects occur independently of weight loss and glucose control will be critical for assessing clinical impact.

### Clinical Implications

GLP-1RAs may represent a valuable option for clinicians managing patients with ARDs and concurrent cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic conditions. While more studies are needed, current evidence supports their potential to reduce CV risk through multiple direct and indirect mechanisms, offering hope for improved outcomes in a population with historically elevated premature mortality.

# The Advent of Hand Sanitizer: A Simple Yet Powerful Hygiene Tool



DR. SURINDERPAL SINGH

In today's fast-moving world, maintaining personal hygiene has become more important than ever. Among the many tools used to prevent infections, hand sanitizers have emerged as one of the most convenient and effective solutions. Though they existed long before, their widespread use became especially noticeable during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the world urgently needed quick and reliable ways to reduce the spread of infection.

A hand sanitizer is a liquid, gel, or foam-based product designed to kill germs, bacteria, and some viruses on the hands without the need for water. Most sanitizers contain alcohol in concentrations ranging from 60 to 95 percent, which acts as the primary germ-killing agent. Alongside alcohol, they often include moisturizers to protect the skin from dryness and, in some cases, fragrance for a pleasant scent. Alcohol-based sanitizers are widely considered the most effective in eliminating harmful microbes.

The origin of hand sanitizers can be traced back to healthcare settings, where maintaining strict hygiene was essential. They were initially developed for use in hospitals, allowing doctors and nurses to clean their hands quickly between patient interactions. Over time, these products became available to the general public, but their real global breakthrough came during major health crises such as the SARS outbreak, swine flu, and most significantly, the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, hand sanitizers became an essential household item across the globe, symbolizing a first line of defense against infection.

Hand sanitizers play a vital role in maintaining hygiene, especially when



soap and water are not readily available. They help prevent the spread of infectious diseases, offer quick and easy hand cleaning, and reduce the risk of contamination in public places. Their convenience makes them especially useful in everyday environments such as offices, schools, hospitals, and while traveling. During the COVID-19 pandemic, their importance grew even further as people used them frequently after touching surfaces, before eating, or after being in public spaces. They became a common sight at entrances of buildings, shops, and transport hubs, with governments and health organizations strongly recommending their use to limit virus transmission.

Even after the pandemic, the use of hand sanitizers has remained consistently high. This continued popularity is largely due to increased public awareness about hygiene and disease prevention. The habits formed during the pandemic

have persisted, and the convenience and portability of sanitizers make them a preferred choice in daily life. Workplaces and institutions have also adopted their use as a standard practice, while growing concerns about emerging diseases have further reinforced their importance. Today, hand sanitizers are no longer seen as a temporary solution but as a regular part of personal hygiene routines.

One of the key advantages of hand sanitizers is their convenience, as they are easy to carry and can be used anywhere without the need for water or towels. They act quickly, killing germs within seconds, and are effective against a wide range of bacteria and viruses. Their time-saving nature makes them ideal for busy lifestyles, and their widespread availability in different sizes and forms ensures accessibility for all.

However, hand sanitizers are not without limitations. They are not effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy, as they cannot remove physical impurities. Frequent use may also lead to skin dryness or irritation, particularly if moisturizers are not included. Additionally, they may not eliminate all types of germs, such as certain spores. Overreliance on sanitizers can reduce the habit of proper handwashing, which remains the most thorough method of cleaning hands. Safety is another concern, as alcohol-based sanitizers are flammable and must be kept out of reach of children to prevent accidental ingestion.

Hand sanitizers have transformed from a medical necessity into a daily hygiene essential. Their rise, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighted their crucial role in preventing the spread of diseases. While they offer unmatched convenience and effectiveness, they should not completely replace traditional handwashing with soap and water. A balanced approach, using sanitizers when needed while maintaining proper hygiene practices, ensures the best protection for our health.

The author is a Faculty in Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib, Punjab

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## Kupwara's Natural Lifelines in Distress: Time Running Out for Action

Slow Ecological Collapse: The Story of Kupwara's Nallahs

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

**KUPWARA, APR 06:** Kupwara district in North Kashmir is blessed with abundant natural water resources, among which Nallah Mawar and Nallah Pohru (locally known as Pharou/ Pehru) stand out as the most vital. These perennial streams are not merely water bodies; they are the backbone of life in the region, sustaining drinking water supplies, agriculture, horticulture, and overall livelihoods for nearly 70% of the population.

According to official records of the District Administration Kupwara, along with technical reports of the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and District Irrigation Plan under PMKSY, Nallah Mawar originates from the snow-fed Shamsabari mountain ranges. It flows through the Mawar Qalamabad belt of Handwara before merging into the larger Pohru system. Nallah Pohru itself is formed by the confluence of Kehmil and Lolab nallahs and eventually drains into the River Jhelum near Sopore. Historically, these streams have been lifelines in the truest sense. In times when road connectivity was limited, they even served as important transport routes between Kupwara and Baramulla. More importantly, they continue to play a crucial role in irrigation networks and groundwater recharge, directly supporting the district's agrarian economy. However, this lifeline is now under severe threat. Over the years, unchecked urbanization, unregulated waste disposal, and administrative lapses have turned these once-pristine streams into polluted channels. Sewage from towns and villages flows directly into the nallahs without any treatment. Instead of establishing adequate Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), drainage systems have been designed to discharge waste straight into these water bodies. Adding to the crisis is the rampant dumping of solid waste along the banks. Plastic, polythene, and other non-biodegradable materials are visible across stretches in Handwara, Langate, Pharou, and Kupwara. In some areas, even animal carcasses can be seen floating, highlighting the gravity of neglect. Encroachments and unregulated sand extraction have further disturbed the ecological balance, damaging the natural habitat and reducing the carrying capacity of these streams.

Environmentalists warn that if this trend continues, the damage may soon become irreversible. Despite the formulation



of several action plans aimed at intercepting and managing sewage and waste in key towns, implementation remains a distant goal. Projects approved at higher levels are still awaiting funding and execution, reflecting a gap between policy and practice. The crisis extends beyond these major streams. Smaller water bodies and traditional channels such as Douhgam Koul, Lalikul, Gratkoul, Hardkhari, and Doodkoul are also facing similar neglect, with many either blocked or disappearing entirely. Equally troubling is the lack of accountability at multiple levels. While awareness campaigns, seminars, and social media initiatives are frequently conducted, they have failed to translate into tangible results on the ground. Signboards promoting cleanliness may be visible, but the reality remains unchanged.

This is not solely a government failure; it is a collective one. From authorities to local bodies, and from civil society to individual citizens, everyone shares responsibility for the current state of affairs. The need of the hour is coordinated and sincere action. Establishing functional waste management systems, constructing sewage treatment plants, enforcing strict regulations against dumping and encroachment, and reviving traditional water channels must become immediate priorities. A few unsung heroes from government departments and civil society continue to work tirelessly for the protection of the environment and natural water resources. Among them is Noorul Shabaz, a young gold medalist from Pharoupeeth and founding member of the Pharou Youth Federation, who has taken it upon himself to raise awareness about the deteriorating condition of local water bodies. Calling it a "basic need of the time," he emphasized that despite repeatedly knocking on the doors of the civil administration, no concrete action has been taken on the ground. He has passionately appealed to the youth to come forward and join hands in safeguarding these vital water resources for future generations.

Local Auqaf committees, religious leaders, civil society groups, and youth organizations must also step forward not just in words, but through meaningful action. Community participation will be key to restoring and protecting these lifelines. The future of Kupwara depends on the health of its water resources. If Nallah Mawar and Nallah Pohru continue to be neglected, the district risks facing a severe water and environmental crisis in the years to come.

### Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect. Name shown in Aadhaar: Subreena Jan Correct name: Sabreena Jan, Fathers name, Farooq Ahmad Lone, Address: Audoora Qalamabad Langate Jammu and Kashmir 193302. The above mentioned person (Subreena Jan) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that her correct and legal name is Sabreena Jan. Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

### Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that the name of my son has been incorrectly recorded in the Aadhaar database. Name shown in Aadhaar: Mohd Aaban Sheikh. Correct and legal name: Mohammad Aaban, Father's Name: Fida Hussain Sheikh, Address: Kachri Langate, Jammu and Kashmir - 193302. I, Fida Hussain Sheikh, hereby declare that the name (Mohd Aaban Sheikh) mentioned in the Aadhaar card of my son is incorrect. His correct and legal name is Mohammad Aaban. Any person having any objection to this correction may submit their objection to the concerned UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Srinagar, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, necessary steps for correction of the name in Aadhaar records will be undertaken.

(Fida Hussain Sheikh)  
Father of Mohammad Aaban  
Phone : 7006378783

### Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CONCERNED AUTHORITY / TOURISM DEPARTMENT

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the Ponywala Registration Certificate bearing No. 12/18/top, which was previously recorded in the name of Gh. Nabi Mir (Damad of Gh. Mohammad Rafter) R/o Laripora, Pahalgam, is now intended to be recorded/transferred in the name of Shahid Hussain Mir S/o Gh. Nabi Mir R/o Laripora, Pahalgam.

If any person has any objection regarding this change, he/she may file the same in writing before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained and the record shall be updated accordingly.

Applicant: Shahid Hussain Mir  
S/o Gh. Nabi Mir, R/o Laripora, Pahalgam

### Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application FAROOQ AHMAD BHAT S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD BHAT R/O BURZAWACHAN Tehsil KREERI for issuance of RBA certificate in favour.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of BHAT of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the BANDI BALA community having annual income 267000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows  
1... GHULAM MOHAMMAD BHAT HOF 62 years Labour 36000  
2... SALEEMA BAGUM wife 60 years H/W  
3... SHAFEEQ AH BHAT Son 32 years Labour 18000  
4... TOUSEEFA BEGUM Daughter in law 31 years H/W  
5... MOHD ANWAR BHAT Son 27 years Labour 36000  
6... FAROOQ AHMAD BHAT Son 22 years student  
7... MUJTAB SHAFEEQ Grand son 9 months //

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

### Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name MOHAMMAD SUBHAN DAR R/O KEEL MOHALLA WAGOORA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204000636 wants to be registered on my name ABDUL KAREEM DAR S/O MOHAMMAD SUBHAN DAR R/O KEEL MOHALLA WAGOORA. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: ABDUL KAREEM. DAR  
S/O... MOHAMMAD SUBHAN DAR  
R/O .... KEEL MOHALLA WAGOORA  
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

### Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name ARSHID AHMAD BHAT S/O GH RASOOL BHAT R/O. CHECKTAPPAR Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0213040002890 division SOPORE wants to be registered on my correct name IRSHAD AHMAD BHAT S/O GHULAM RASOOL BHAT R/O CHECKTAPPAR as per my Adhaar. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: IRSHAD AHMAD BHAT  
S/O ... GHULAM RASOOL BHAT  
R/O .... CHECKTAPPAR WARIPORA PATTAN  
Division... SOPORE

### Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name MOHAMMAD SUBHAN DAR R/O KEEL MOHALLA WAGOORA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204000636 wants to be registered on my name ABDUL KAREEM DAR S/O MOHAMMAD SUBHAN DAR R/O KEEL MOHALLA WAGOORA. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: ABDUL KAREEM. DAR , S/O... MOHAMMAD SUBHAN DAR, R/O .... KEEL MOHALLA WAGOORA  
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

### Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application MUSKAAN SHAFI D/O MOHD SHAFI WAR R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC ( Other Backward classes in his/her favor

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the WAR community having annual income 660000 // ( Six Lack Sixty Thousand ) the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1... MOHD SHAFI WAR father 56 years Labour
- 2... SHAKEELA BEGUM Mother 52 years H/W
- 3... WASEEM SHAFI Brother 27 years student
- 4... AISEMA SHAFI sister 29 years student
- 5... SONOBER SHAFI sister 29 years student
- 6... MUSKAAN SHAFI 19 years student

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

### Public Notice

I MOHAMMAD LATEEF GUJAR DEADER S/O LAL DIN GUJAR DEADER Here by inform to general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned as ABDUL LATEEF DEADER while my correct name is MOHAMMAD LATEEF GUJAR DEADER as per my Adhaar record which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with office of J & K BANK CHANDDOOSA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name... MOHAMMAD LATEEF GUJAR DEADER, S/O... LAL DIN GUJAR DEADER, R/O... BANDI BALA, DIST... BARAMULLA

### Public Notice

I, SHOWKAT AHMAD SHEIKH, S/o GH MOHAMMAD SHEIKH, R/o Kalantra Payeen, hereby inform that I have lost my Class 9th School Certificates. I intend to apply for a duplicate certificate from Govt. Higher Secondary School Kachwa Muqam.

If anyone has any objections, please submit them to the Office of The Principal, Govt. Higher Secondary School Kachwa Muqam, within 7 days from the date of this publication. Objections received after this period will not be considered.

Showkat Ahmad Sheikh, S/O Gh Mohammad Sheikh  
R/O Kalantra Payeen

## Office of the Principal Hanfia Model Hr. Sec. School Kreeri

Recognized by J&K Govt. & Affiliated with State Board of School Education Srinagar  
Recognition No: RECO000888 and Dated: 07-July-2023

### PROPOSED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

S.No	Name	Parentage	Address	Designation	Occupation	Signature
1	Dr. Abdul Rashid Badoo	Haji Gul Mohd Badoo	Kreeri	Chairman	Rtd. Employee	
2	Dr. Bashir Ahmad Zargar	Gh. Ahmad Zargar	Kreeri	Managing Director	Rtd. Employee	
3	Mr. Abdul Ahad Ganaie	Sunaullah Ganai	Naseem Bagh Sopore	Secretary	Rtd. Employee	
4	Mr. Showkat Ahmad Bhat	Mohd Ashraf Bhat	Nehalpora	Member	Private Employee	
5	Mr. Mohd Assadullah Dar	Gh. Ahmad Dar	Kreeri	Member	Private Employee	
6	Mrs. Tasleema Begum	Mohd Assadullah Khan	Kreeri	Member	Private Employee	
7	Miss. Haseena Akhter	Saif ul Din Lone	Saloosa	Member	Private Employee	

#### Declaration:

We hereby declare that the above mentioned persons are the proposed members of the Management Committee of the Institution and the information provided is true and correct to the best of our knowledge

Sd/- Chairman Managing  
Committee HMSS Kreeri (BIA)

## GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR(UT) OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER BUDGAM

PIN CODE:- 191111

Sub: Tender Notice of Eatable/Stationary & other Items for KGBV Patwava Zone Budgam for the financial year 2026-27.

For and on behalf of Governor of J&K State sealed Tenders are invited from authorized/registered dealers for supply of the below mentioned items during the year 2026-27 which should reach to the office of the under S/d. in a sealed envelope supported with the CDR of Rs: 5000.00 pledged in the name of Zonal Education Officer Budgam within ten days from the publication of this tender notice in the News paper including the date of publication. The tenderers shall in clear terms indicate the quality & quantity of each item as per tender notice without any cutting. The rate mentioned in the quotation should be for KGBV Patwava and shall remain valid for the entire financial year 2026-27. The tenders shall be opened on the next day after expiry of ten days in presence of tenderers or their authorized representatives. The tenderers shall have option to remain present on the day of opening of tenders. A copy of GST registration may also be enclosed. The rate quoted by tenderers be inclusive GST and all taxes. ZEO Budgam reversed the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

S. No.	Name of the Item	Unit	S. No.	Name of the Item	Unit
01	Mustered Oil (Jumbo A Grade)	15 Ltr. Pack	28	Cucumber	Per Kg
02	Chili Powder (Kanwal/Elephant)	Per Kg	29	Curd	Per Kg
03	Turmeric Powder (Kanwal/Elephant)	Per Kg	30	Soap Detol	Per Piece
04	Spices (Masala)	Per Pack	31	Wheel Powder	Per Kg
05	Rice (Wond Apple Brand)	Per Quintal	32	Quilt	Per Piece
06	Lpton Tea (Taaza)	Per Kg	33	Mattresses with Moga Cotton	Per Piece
07	Sugar	Per Kg	34	Pillow With Moga Cotton	Per Piece
08	Milk (Tetra Pack Amul)	Per Ltr.	35	Bed Sheet	Per Piece
09	Bread	Per Piece.	36	Covers of Quilts/Pillow	Per Piece
10	Flour (Atta) (Fine)	Per Kg	37	School Bag "Tycoon 1"	Per Piece
11	Sheep Meat	Per Kg	38	Note Book 24x18 132 Pages	Per Piece
12	Cheese	Per Kg	39	Pencil/Shapner/Eraser	Per Piece
13	Chicken (Broiler)	Per Kg	40	Geometry Box	Per Piece
14	Dal Rajmash "Grade A"	Per Kg	41	School Shoe (Action/School Time)	Per Piece
15	Dal Mong "Grade A"	Per Kg	42	School Sock Cotton	Per Piece
16	Dal Chulla "Grade A"	Per Kg	43	Full Uniforms (Girls)	Per Set
17	Peas	Per Kg	44	Sweater "Snowsun"	Per Piece
18	Cauliflower	Per Kg	45	Scarf	Per Piece
19	Cabbage	Per Kg	46	Tea Green Packed "Samawar"	Per Kg
20	Tomato	Per Kg	47	Tooth Brush "Colgate"	Per Piece
21	Potato	Per Kg	48	Tooth Paste "Colgate"	100 grm Pack
22	Onion	Per Kg	49	Hair Oil "Asli" 80ML	Per Piece
23	Brinjal	Per Kg	50	Shampoo "Clinic Plus" 80 ML	Per Piece
24	Carrot	Per Kg	51	Comb Large Size	Per Piece
25	Capsicum	Per Kg	52	Nail Clipper	Per Piece
26	Radish	Per Kg	53	Suji	Per Kg
27	Salt "Tata"	Per Kg	54	Ball Pen Ordinary	Per Piece

#### Terms & Conditions:

1. Quality of Dietary/Non Dietary items should be as per sample approved by the committee.
2. Regular check of the items approved by the committee will be made off on.
3. Convener of the committee is authorized to reject any items at any time if found substandard.
4. A fine of 5 times the cost of the items will be imposed if found substandard.
5. The approved dealer is bond to supplying the items on spot i-e KGBV Patwava
6. The approved dealer will be bond to deliver the goods in time.
7. Vegetables/Meat/Eggs/Cheese are to be supplied as per requirement on daily menu.
8. Dry food items should be supply on monthly basis.
9. Payments as per claim will be released soon after the availability of funds.

Sd/- Zonal Education Officer Budgam

DIPK: 149/26 | Dated: 06-04-2026

# Rana commends role of Jamia Muhammadia Qasimul Uloom in education, social reformation

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**POONCH, APRIL 06:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today lauded the significant contribution of Jamia Muhammadia Qasimul Uloom in promotion of education, moral values and social reformation in the society.

He made these remarks during his visit to the institution at Seeri Khawaja in Poonch where he held a detailed dialogue with the management and intellectuals regarding the integration of religious and contemporary education.

Administrator, Maulana Muhammad Abdullah, outlined the Jamia's academic framework, its diverse community outreach and its long-standing commitment towards advancing Islamic studies across the region.



Javed Rana praised the management for maintaining rigorous academic standards while

instilling a strong sense of discipline and service in its students. "Jamia Muhammadia Qasimul Uloom has become a cornerstone of learning and playing a pivotal role in fostering both intellectual and social awareness," he maintained.

The Minister lauded the Jamia's expansion plans, describing them as a necessary step to meet the community's growing educational needs.

He underscored the importance of a balanced education, urging the faculty to continue mentoring the youth by blending the traditional knowledge with modern scientific understanding.

Rana reaffirmed his commitment to such initiatives, assuring that institutions dedicated to social reformation, logic-based ethics and intellectual growth would remain a key priority for the present government.

## PD&SJ, DC Bandipora inspect ongoing works of District Court Complex

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, APRIL 06:** Principal District & Sessions Judge (PD&SJ) Bandipora, Jeema Bashir, along with the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today inspected the ongoing works on several components of the District Court Complex Bandipora and took stock of the progress achieved so far.



During the inspection, it was informed that the project is being executed by the Police Housing Corporation at an estimated cost of Rs. 35 crore. The officers were apprised that while the main court building has been completed, several components of the complex are still under construction, including Lawyers' Chambers with about 60 percent progress, residential quarters at 70 percent completion, and the prosecution building at around 60 percent completion. Overall, nearly 80 percent of the project has been completed so far.

The PD&SJ and DC, stressed the need for maintaining the pace of work and directed the executing agency to ensure timely completion of the project. They also emphasized adherence to quality standards and proper supervision at all stages of construction.

The officers underscored the importance of the project in strengthening judicial infrastructure in the district and facilitating better access to justice for the public.

During the visit, the accompanying officers were directed to closely monitor the progress of work and ensure that all components of the project are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

## JMC strengthens drainage infrastructure with Wire Mesh Installations

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 06:** The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is undertaking proactive measures to strengthen urban drainage systems and enhance aviation safety by installing wire mesh over major drains across the city. Acting under the directives of Commissioner JMC Dr. Devansh Yadav, the Health and Sanitation Wing is intensifying efforts to address persistent sanitation challenges.



It has been observed that in several areas, residents indiscriminately dispose of garbage and other waste materials into open drains, leading to severe accumulation of filth and obstruction of water flow. To curb this practice, JMC has initiated the installation of wire mesh over drains, which acts as a preventive barrier against the dumping of solid waste.

The installation of wire mesh over open drains and channels is a critical structural intervention designed to improve urban waste management and enhance hydraulic efficiency. The step will help ensure the smooth flow of wastewater, reduce the risk of waterlogging and contribute to a cleaner urban environment.

The JMC also conducts regular awareness campaigns to sensitize citizens about responsible waste disposal practices. These initiatives emphasize the importance of avoiding littering in public places, preventing open defecation, ensuring proper disposal of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste, discouraging the use of polythene and refraining from dumping waste into water bodies such as rivers, ponds and drains.

Fine/penalties have been levied upon the defaulters. Between April 2025 and March 2026, the Health and Sanitation Wing of JMC imposed fines amounting to approximately 14,39,200 on violators. This includes 3,58,800 for the use of polythene, 8,57,100 for improper disposal of C&D waste and 2,23,300 for general littering in public spaces. Additionally, over 3,000 challans have been issued and referred to the courts for further legal proceedings.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation urges all residents to share their responsibilities and avoid littering / throwing garbage in Nallahs. Active public participation is essential to achieving the vision of a cleaner and more sustainable Jammu city.

## Workshop on Gyan Bharatam initiative held at Samba

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SAMBA, APRIL 06:** A workshop under the Gyan Bharatam initiative of the Ministry of Culture was organized under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan, here today at Samba.

The workshop witnessed the participation of senior district officials including Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Additional Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Block Development Officers (BDOs), Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Municipal Council Samba and Executive Officers (EOs) from Municipal Committees of Bari Brahmana and Ramgarh, along with designated surveyors.

The workshop featured an insightful lecture by Dr. Jahangir Iqbal from the Department of Persian, University of Kashmir. He elaborated on the objectives and significance of the Gyan Bharatam initiative. He highlighted that the



initiative aims to identify, document and preserve the nation's rich manuscript heritage, thereby safeguarding its cultural legacy for future generations. He also provided a comprehensive understanding of manuscripts, underlining their immense historical, cultural and intellectual value and emphasized the urgent need for their conservation.

During the session, surveyors were thoroughly sensitized to their role and responsibilities. In rural areas, surveyors include Panchayat Secretaries, Panchayat Accounts Assistants and Gram Rozgar Sevaks (GRSs), while in

urban areas the task has been assigned to municipal officials. They were also apprised of the mobile application interface to be used for conducting the survey, including practical guidance on data collection, uploading procedures and maintaining accuracy during fieldwork.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of conducting the survey in a comprehensive, systematic and time-bound manner. She stressed the need for extensive door-to-door outreach to ensure maximum coverage and highlighted the importance of creating awareness at the grassroots level about the value of manuscripts as repositories of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

The workshop concluded with a call for coordinated and dedicated efforts from all stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the survey and to contribute meaningfully towards preserving the region's invaluable manuscript heritage.

## SKUAST-K's Khudwani Centre celebrates 'Sarson/Tilhan Day' with focus on Oilseed Self-Sufficiency

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM, APRIL 06:** Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops (MRCFC), Khudwani, today celebrated "Sarson/Tilhan Day" with a large gathering of scientists, officers, and farmers from across Kulgam and Anantnag.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie was the Chief Guest, while Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Senior university officers including Director Research, Prof. Haroon Rashid Naik, Director Extension, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Heads of KVK Kulgam and KVK Anantnag, scientists of SKUAST-K, and officers of the Agriculture Department were also in attendance.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor praised the Centre for its sustained scientific contributions since its establishment in 1942. He noted that MRCFC-Khudwani has played a decisive role in varietal development in rice, wheat, and oilseeds, introducing 23 rice, 7 oilseed, and 3 wheat varieties along with complete production and protection technologies. These

innovations, he said, have raised Kashmir's rice productivity from 1 tonne per hectare in the 1960s to nearly 10 tonnes today, a change he termed "nothing short of historic." Highlighting Kashmir's unique advantage in Brown Sarson, he emphasized that this oilseed is produced exclusively in the Valley due to its distinctive agro-climatic conditions.

He added that breeding and technological interventions have increased oilseed yields from 8 to 12 quintals per hectare, while the cultivated area has expanded from 38,000 ha to 1.1 lakh ha within five years. "These achievements reflect strong research-extension partnership with the Department of Agriculture and the KVKs," he noted.

The Vice Chancellor urged farmers to adopt improved technologies and strive for 200% cropping intensity, higher SRR/VRR, and expanded seed production to help reduce edible oil imports by 25% in the next two years. He commended the Centre for meeting 100% of the Valley's breeder seed requirement and half of its foundation seed demand, and appreciated its advances in



sustainable pest and disease management, germplasm conservation, and agronomic research, encouraging wider dissemination of these strengths.

During his field visit, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed about the ongoing research programme, including 20 trials—five under national AICRP initiatives—and the maintenance of nearly 150 germplasm lines. He inspected the Bio-Input Laboratory, appreciating its role in promoting sustainable agriculture, Genomics lab, and the Soil Health Laboratory, where he was briefed on soil health research and the distribution of

Soil Health Cards to farmers. He assured full support from the district administration to the Research Centre and farmers, adding that youth should take advantage of various centrally sponsored schemes for livelihood generation.

Director Research, Prof. Haroon Rashid Naik, highlighted the pivotal role of MRCFC-bred varieties in strengthening food and nutritional security across J&K. He stressed the substantial untapped potential of the region's oilseed sector and called for elevating both quality and productivity to global standards.

Director Extension, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, outlined the University's extension network and reaffirmed its commitment to farmer training and capacity development.

Earlier, Dr. Najeeb R. Sofi presented an overview of the Centre's major research contributions, milestones, and ongoing priorities, noting its foundational role in rice, wheat, and oilseed research since its establishment in 1942. He highlighted that, over the past three years, the Centre has trained nearly 1,000 farmers and 250 officers in production technologies, crop improvement, post-harvest management, soil health, marketing, and related areas—strengthening capacity building across the region.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment to advancing oilseed research, seed production, and farmer-oriented technologies across the Valley. Stakeholders expressed confidence that the collective efforts of SKUAST-K, the Agriculture Department, and the farming community will accelerate Jammu & Kashmir's path toward oilseed self-sufficiency.

## DC Srinagar inspects progress of new building complex at Abhinandan Home for Specially Abled Children

Distributes sports kits to students, dining furniture, assured dedicated pick-up van for the School

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR APRIL 06:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroon Monday visited Abhinandan Home Solina, Kashmir's oldest institution for specially abled children and inspected the progress of infrastructure upgradation works on Rs 9.90 crore project for construction of new state of the art school building complex for Specially Abled Children, particularly those grappling with hearing & speaking challenges, being constructed by R&B

Department.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Deputy Director Employment, Shubi Tabasum, Executive Engineer R&B Khalid Mehmood, Executive Engineer Water Works, Ajjaz Rafiq, Executive Engineer KPDCI, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah, Deputy CEO, Anjum Raja, Officials from Abhinandan Home and other concerned.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing infrastructure upgradation works for the construction of the School. The project is being developed on a state-of-the-art pattern under the Social Welfare Department and will be the first of its kind in the entire Kashmir Division catering specifically to children grappling with challenges of hearing and speaking. On the occasion, the DC was informed that the new facility will comprise of Classrooms, Principal's Office,

Staff Room, Indoor Games Court, Gymnasium, Medical Room, Therapy Room, Washroom Blocks, Computer Lab, Library, Dormitory, and Dining Hall. While reviewing the progress of the pivotal project, the DC stressed the need for close coordination among all line departments to ensure timely completion of the work. He emphasized the need for added efforts by the executing agency to accelerate the pace of work to complete the project ahead of the scheduled timeline, while maintaining strict adherence to quality standards.

The DC also inspected the Hostel-cum-Kitchen Complex of Abhinandan Home and reviewed the facilities upgraded in the school's dining hall to enhance comfort and convenience for the students.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner also interacted with the students and staff of Abhinandan Home and assured them of continued support from the District Administration for the overall development of the Children. The DC also distributed sports kits, cricket bats, badminton sets and other sports

equipment to the children to encourage their active participation in sports and games. He commended the concerned officers for promptly addressing and fulfilling the demands raised by the children of the school during the last visit conducted.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stated that the district Administration Srinagar is exploring possibilities regarding the need to set up higher education academic facilities, introduction of vocational training, skill development programmes and trade diploma

courses through ITIs to strengthen educational pathways for specially-abled students.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Deputy Director Employment to organize special camps in collaboration with industry representatives to explore career prospects and placement opportunities for specially abled students of Abhinandan Home, Solina.

He also directed for conducting a special health screening and medical check-up camp for the students at the school to ensure their wellbeing.

# Moody's cut down India's economic growth for current fiscal to 6pc amid Iran War

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, APR 6:** Amid the ongoing Middle East War leading to the blockage of Strait of Hormuz and affecting the global economy at large, Moody's Ratings has slashed India's economic growth estimates for the current fiscal to 6 per cent from 6.8 per cent earlier. It said the ongoing conflict in West Asia will moderate growth momentum and raise inflation risks.

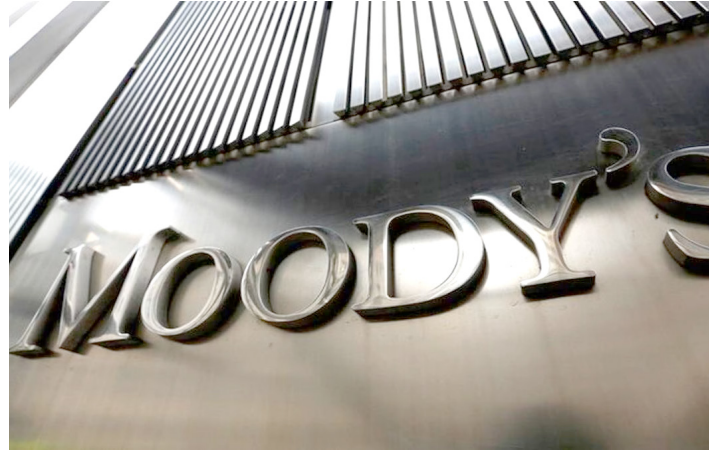
Moody's said prolonged disruptions, particularly LPG shipments due to the conflict, would lead to near-term household shortages, higher fuel and transport costs, and spillovers to food inflation through India's reliance on imported fertilisers. The region accounts for around 55 per cent

of crude oil imports and over 90 per cent of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) supplies to India.

"While inflation remains contained for now, geopolitical risks have tilted the inflation outlook to the upside," Moody's said while projecting inflation to average 4.8 per cent in FY27, up from 2.4 per cent in FY26.

With inflation risks re-emerging and growth remaining robust, policy rates are likely to be held steady or raised gradually in fiscal 2026-27, depending on the duration of geopolitical tensions and their pass-through to food and fuel prices, Moody's said.

The report further said that "in light of India's economic exposure to the ongoing military conflict in the Middle East, we expect real GDP growth to moderate to 6 per



cent in fiscal 2026-27 from 6.8 per cent earlier, driven by subdued private consumption, softer industrial activity and a weakening in the momentum of gross fixed capital formation amid elevated

prices and higher input costs." Earlier, EY has also said that India's real GDP growth for FY27 could erode by around 1 percentage point, while retail inflation could rise by about 1.5 percent-

age points from their baseline estimates if the West Asia conflict persists through 2026-27.

On the other hand, ICRA expected the growth to moderate to 6.5 per cent in FY27, owing to the adverse impact of elevated energy prices and concerns around energy availability amid the West Asia conflict.

Amid the ongoing crisis, the central government has said it will come up with a new credit guarantee scheme which will be on similar lines as it did during the Covid pandemic times.

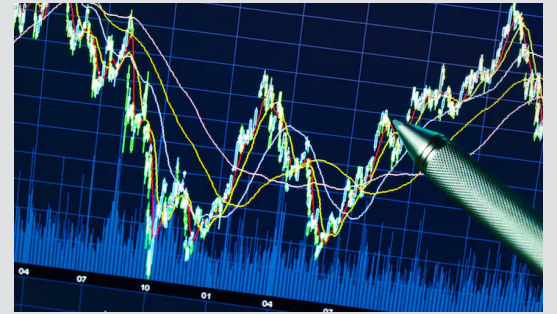
The proposed scheme aims to ease funding access for companies facing higher input and logistics costs. The scheme is likely to provide guarantees up to Rs 2-2.5 lakh crore, and will be unveiled in two weeks. UNI

## Market valuation of six of top-10 firms declines by over Rs 64,000 Cr.

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, APR 6:** The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most valued firms declined by Rs 64,734.46 Crore last week. Bharti Airtel taking the biggest hit, reflecting the broader weakness with its market valuation eroding by Rs 29,993.07 Cr. to Rs 10,20,420.26 Cr.

In a holiday-shortened last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex declined 263.67 points, or 0.35 per cent, and the NSE Nifty fell 106.5 points, or 0.46 per cent. In a rank-wise analysis, Reliance Industries



remained the most valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro and Hindustan Unilever.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries gained Rs 3,518.45 Cr. to Rs 18,28,034.07 Cr.

ICICI Bank's valuation tanked by Rs 12,845.81 Cr. to Rs 8,70,705.49 Cr. while the market capitalisation (mcap) of HDFC Bank dropped by Rs 7,822.79 Cr. to Rs 11,56,195.90 Cr.

State Bank of India's market capitalisation diminished by Rs 553.84 Cr. to Rs 9,41,015.31 Cr. Bajaj Finance lost Rs 11,169.36 Cr. from its market valuation, which stood at Rs 5,14,226.12 Cr.

Mcap of Hindustan Unilever declined by Rs 2,349.59 Cr. to Rs 4,85,190.60 Cr. and that of Larsen & Toubro added Rs 6,575.43 Cr. to Rs 4,97,111.62 Cr.

The market valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) surged by Rs 22,359.78 Cr. to Rs 8,87,028.43 Cr. while the mcap of Infosys soared by Rs 12,374.76 Cr. to Rs 5,27,409.43 Cr.

On Friday, stock markets ended on a positive note in a highly volatile session on Thursday with Nifty closing above 22,700. Market was supported by IT stocks after the Indian rupee posted its biggest gain in over a decade.

At close, the Sensex was up 185.23 points or 0.25 per cent at 73,319.55, and the Nifty was up 33.70 points or 0.15 per cent at 22,713.10. Nifty Midcap index fell 0.3 per cent and Smallcap index declined 0.4 per cent. UNI

## DP World Cochin handles record 8,000 TEUs from single vessel operation

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

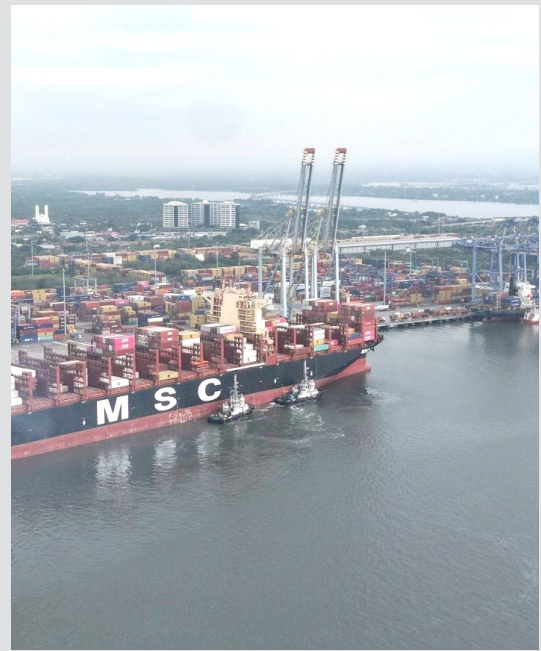
**KOCHI, APR 6:** DP World Cochin has set a new operational benchmark by handling more than 8,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) from a single vessel, marking the highest volume ever achieved at the terminal.

The record was set with the arrival of MSC Ilaria, a 366-metre-long ultra large container vessel (ULCV), surpassing the previous high of over 6,000 TEUs handled from MSC Aurora.

The milestone highlights the terminal's growing capability to efficiently manage next-generation container ships and rising trade volumes. MSC Ilaria, one of the largest vessels to call at the port, has a carrying capacity of 16,616 TEUs, an overall length of 366 metres, a beam of 51 metres, deadweight tonnage of 171,079 tonnes, and a maximum draft of 17 metres.

Officials said the achievement reflects the increasing scale of global maritime trade and the corresponding need for advanced port infrastructure.

DP World Cochin has undertaken significant upgrades in recent years, including the deployment of new ship-to-shore cranes, electrified rubber-tyred gantry cranes (e-RTGs), and expansion of yard space, raising the terminal's total capacity



to approximately 1.4 million TEUs.

The terminal has also strengthened its power infrastructure from 3 MVA to 5 MVA to ensure uninterrupted operations during peak demand. Additionally, the complete electrification of yard cranes and the integration of an in-house solar power plant have helped reduce the carbon footprint of cargo handling operations.

Dipin Kayyath, Chief Executive Officer of Ports & Terminals at DP World Cochin, described the development as a significant milestone.

He said handling a vessel of this scale for the first time reinforces the terminal's position as a premier gateway for South India and reflects its commitment to efficient global trade facilitation through enhanced infrastructure and faster turnaround times.

Strategically located with minimal deviation from major international shipping routes, the terminal offers logistical advantages for EXIM trade, particularly for cargo originating from Kerala and southwest Tamil Nadu. It also ensures strong coastal connectivity across India, linking ports from Gujarat to Kolkata.

DP World has further strengthened its presence in the region by establishing Kerala's first Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) within Cochin Port—the only such facility in India co-located within a major port—aimed at boosting trade efficiency and supporting regional economic growth. UNI

## SAIL supplied special-grade steel plates for the construction of INS Taragiri

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, APR 6:** Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has played a significant role in the commissioning of INS Taragiri by supplying about 4,000 tonnes of special grade steel plates, said an official statement on Sunday here.

INS Taragiri is the fourth ship of the Nigiri-class (Project 17A) stealth frigates inducted into the Indian Navy on April 3. This warship has been constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited using the full requirement of approximately 4,000 tonnes of special-grade steel plates supplied by SAIL, said the Ministry of Steel statement.

It has been produced at SAIL's integrated steel plants at Bokaro, Bhilai and Rourkela which demonstrated the organisation's advanced metallurgical capabilities and con-



sistent quality standards.

Earlier, SAIL supplied its special steel for the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and the first three ships of the Project 17A class, which are INS Nilgiri, INS Himgiri and INS

Udaygiri.

Now, the successful completion of INS Taragiri marks another step forward in the contribution towards making India self-reliant in defence manufacturing. UNI

## Hyd: Pharmexcil meet charts vision to make India global benchmark in pharma quality

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD, APR 6:** A Chintan Shivir on the pharmaceutical industry, organised by the Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India, on Saturday outlined a strategic vision to position India as a global benchmark for pharmaceutical quality and reliability.

The event, held with the support of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, brought together policymakers, industry leaders and experts to deliberate on strengthening India's pharmaceutical export ecosystem.

Union Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, who chaired the inaugural session, emphasised the need for policy support, regulatory alignment and digital transformation to reinforce India's leadership in global pharmaceutical exports.

He said India's pharma sector is well-positioned to move towards high-value segments such as biologics and biosimilars, while strengthening its reputation for quality and reliability.

Pharmexcil Chairman Namit Joshi said that despite global challenges such as supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions, India's export sector remains

resilient with positive growth trends.

Director General of Pharmexcil Raja Bhanu said pharmaceutical exports reached about USD 28.29 billion during April-February FY26, registering a 5.6 per cent growth year-on-year.

He added that the sector, currently valued at around USD 60 billion, is projected to reach USD 130 billion by 2030.

The deliberations covered key areas such as the role of artificial intelligence and digital transformation in regulatory processes, utilisation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), and strategies to enhance export competitiveness and market access.

Participants also discussed the importance of strengthening regulatory frameworks, reducing procedural bottlenecks and supporting MSMEs to expand India's footprint in global markets.

The Shivir also highlighted Hyderabad as a major pharmaceutical hub, contributing significantly to India's drug manufacturing and exports, particularly in bulk drugs, generics and biosimilars.

The event concluded with a consensus on the need for continued collaboration between the government and industry to achieve India's ambitious pharmaceutical export growth targets. UNI

## NAREDCO NextGen NCR Chapter launched to empower young real estate leaders and drive sustainable urban growth

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, APR 6:** In a significant move aimed at strengthening the future of the real estate sector, the NAREDCO NextGen NCR Chapter was officially launched, bringing together emerging leaders from across the National Capital Region to promote sustainable and responsible urban development, the NAREDCO statement said here.

The launch took place during the NAREDCO Maharashtra NextGen Excelerate 2026 event, where young developers, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals from key NCR cities including Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Faridabad, Bhiwadi and Meerut participated alongside policymakers and experts.

The initiative is expected to provide a structured platform for next-generation leaders to actively engage in shaping the region's rapidly evolving real estate landscape.

The discussions at the event focused on critical areas such as urban development, finance, sustainability, innovation, and policy frameworks. Emphasis was laid on collaboration, knowledge exchange, and adopting global best practices to address the challenges of urbanisation.

Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Chairman of NAREDCO, highlighted the importance of nurturing young talent in the sector, stating that the formation of the NCR chapter reflects the organisation's commitment to empowering future leaders. He noted that as urbanisation accelerates, it becomes essential to equip young professionals with platforms that enable them to contribute to innovation, policy thinking, and responsible development.

NAREDCO President Parveen Jain underscored NCR's importance as a major real estate hub, citing its scale, complexity, and consistent demand as key drivers of growth. He said the new chapter would ensure structured participation of young leaders, strengthening industry dialogue and encouraging more aligned and forward-looking development.

Echoing similar sentiments, Siddharth Jain, President of NAREDCO NextGen NCR, described the initiative as a timely step towards building leadership for the future. He emphasized that the platform would allow young professionals to collaborate, exchange ideas, and actively contribute to the sector while carrying forward the legacy of transparency and policy advocacy established by NAREDCO.

## Venu Srinivasan quits key Tata Trust post after Mehli Mistry challenges his eligibility

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**MUMBAI, APR 6:** Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor and "Vice Chairman" of seven Tata Group trusts, resigned from the Bai Hirabai Charitable Trust on Saturday morning, citing his preoccupation with "other business commitments", adding a fresh dimension to the ongoing internal tensions within the Tata Trusts structure.

The Bai Hirabai Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution (BHJTNCI) is one of the several trusts which collectively hold a major stake in Tata Sons, which is the holding company of the

Tata Group.

The Bai Hirabai Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution was established in 1923 as a philanthropic institution focused on Parsi Zoroastrian community welfare in Navsari, Gujarat, with a mandate spanning education and healthcare. It forms part of the allied Tata Trusts and shares a common Board of Trustees with the Sir Ratan Tata Trust.

Srinivasan resigned after former trustee Mehli Mistry filed an objection application with the Maharashtra State Charity Commissioner, contending that neither Srinivasan nor Singh ever met the qualifications to be

trustees and were therefore expressly disqualified as per Trust Deed rules.

Srinivasan was appointed as a "Vice-Chairman" and trustee for several key Tata Trusts, including the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT).

Mehli Mistry, former trustee of three-key trusts of the Tata Group including the Bai Hirabai Trust Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution (BHJTNCI), formally challenged the appointment of Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh in the BHJTNCI on Friday, April 3, 2026.

Mistry's objection application

invoked Clauses 6 and 18 of the Trust Deed, under which any disqualified trustee must be treated as "deemed dead".

Mistry's objection application stated that both Venu Srinivasan and another trustee Vijay Singh have never been of the Parsi Zoroastrian faith and hence do not hold permanent residence in Mumbai. As per trust norms, these are the two conditions which Mehli Mehta cited as mandatory for trusteeship. Based on these conditions, Mehta sought a suo motu inquiry by the Maharashtra State Charity Commissioner, urging it to direct all trust-

tees to file affidavits confirming their eligibility.

Mistry has alleged that the appointment of these ineligible individuals (namely Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh) constitutes fraud and criminal breach of trust, which amounts to mismanagement under the Indian Penal Code (BNS) 2024 and the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act, 1950. He contends that any action taken by them as trustees is legally void.

Mistry clarified in his application that the purpose of his complaint is not to seek his reinstatement or reinstatement in the trust. (UNI)

# Torture by yorker

## Deshpande nails 'em in final over

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**AHMEBABAD:** One over left. Gujarat Titans (GT) needed 11 runs with three wickets in hand. Shubman Gill, their regular captain who sat out this game with muscle spasms, was left to chew his nails in nervousness.

In stark contrast, the nerveless Tushar Deshpande nailed one yorker after another in the middle to stun Ahmedabad. He celebrated his death-bowling masterclass with an Imran Tahir-esque sprint before thumping the Rajasthan Royals (RR) badge on his jersey and gesturing that Ahmedabad was now his territory.

Bowling in the death is no unfamiliar territory for Deshpande. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) trusted him to perform the role that Dwayne Bravo once did for them. Because Deshpande had defensive skills that could often turn a batter's strength into a weakness. Yet, it felt like it was a big call from

RR to toss the ball to Deshpande for that over, especially when they had an over each from Sandeep Sharma, who had denied MS Dhoni and other finishers in the death in the recent past, and Nandre Burger, the South Africa left-arm quick who plays T20 cricket around the world.

Deshpande's plan was simple: go for the yorker. Executing that ball is anything but simple. There is actually no margin for error. Overpitch it, it becomes a full-toss. Underpitch it, it becomes a slot ball. Sometimes, even if you execute it, little edges can squeeze the ball away to the boundaries behind the wicket. Then there are some funky batters who try to shuffle across the stumps and play the scoop from the blockhole.

Bowling yorkers is a job for super-specialists in T20 cricket. At one point, Mumbai Indians had two in Lasith Malinga and Jasprit Bumrah. One of them bowled an all-time



great slower yorker in an IPL final to give his team the title. For CSK, Bravo came alive at the death for a number of years. After that, Deshpande went from being a net bowler to a death bowler for CSK.

Deshpande's skills are not comparable to these stalwarts, but he has always had the will to pick up the slack for his team when under pressure. On Saturday, with ten to defend in the final over, he conceded just four and closed it out.

Against the left-handed Kagiso Rabada, Deshpande went for the outside-off yorker, with protection at sweeper cover and deep point. Ravindra Jadeja, one of the best fielders in the world, was stationed at sweeper cover.

Deshpande's first ball to Rabada was speared past the tramline, resulting in an off-side wide. But Deshpande didn't veer from that plan and had Rabada jamming the first leg ball of the over to Jadeja for a single.

Against Rashid Khan, Deshpande had three men out on the leg-side boundary and went for the stump yorker.

"It was just incredible. I took a chance, thinking let's just go full and fast. The way my boys delivered... You can see my voice cracking. I was shouting and so excited at the fact that they executed as they wanted. It was just insane"

He then missed his length with the fifth ball and shifted his line wide of off, with only deep third and sweeper cover out on the boundary on the off side. It landed in the slot. Rashid used his fast hands to scythe the ball in the air. It seemed destined to travel to the cover boundary until Jofra Archer ran across and dived to his right to pull off a screamer with both hands.

With GT needing seven off the final ball, Deshpande missed the stump yorker marginally. It came out as a low full-toss. But it was still a difficult delivery to put away.

### Hayden Expects GT Bowlers to 'Keep Consistently Bowling Their Best Ball'

UNITED NEWS OFF INDIA

**AHMEDABAD:** Gujarat Titans (GT) bowled nine wickets. Rajasthan Royals (RR) bowled three. That's six runs right there, the difference between the two sides in the end in their IPL 2026 game in Ahmedabad on Saturday. Except, of course, that that's not how results work. It wasn't just the wickets. GT made other mistakes too to go down for the second game in a row, joining Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings in that unwanted record.

But the wides are a concern all right, and Matthew Hayden, GT's batting coach, accepted that. Crucially, Kagiso Rabada and Rashid Khan, their two premier international superstars, bowled three and two of those, respectively. Rabada finished with 2 for 42 - after 1 for 34 from three overs in GT's earlier game - and Rashid 1 for 39. Mohammed Siraj, the third star bowler, returned 1 for 48.

"I felt like a lot of our bowlers were just a little bit off their rhythm and their line in particular," Hayden said at the press conference after the game. "KG Rabada's figures, I think, were a bit more expensive than perhaps what he bowled today. I thought he was actually pretty good and same too with Rashid."

"Siraj had an off day, simple as that. When we reviewed his pitch map, he was a little bit too short, a little bit too wide, and that's just a great bowler just having an off day. Whereas I thought Rashid actually could have had a much better day. It could have been a couple more wickets in the wicket column and so too with KG Rabada as well." "If anything, KG bowled a little bit of a leg-stumpy line, back of a length. And short-of-a-length, good-length balls tended to be a fraction wide of off stump. But we're splitting hairs in many ways. Batters have the intent now to score quickly." But the star bowlers would be expected to do the basics right, wouldn't they? "It just shows you the margins in these games - this is a loss by six runs - are so small," Hayden said. "But the point is definitely noted in terms of the discipline and wides and just those abilities of our bowlers to keep consistently bowling their best ball." GT have also fallen short with the bat, by some distance in the first game, against Punjab Kings (PBKS), and by just a bit against Rajasthan Royals (RR).

And it could be down to their six-hitting, or the lack of it. GT comfortably beat PBKS on the fours count - 15 to six - but lost on sixes - three to 14. On Saturday, they hit 24 fours to RR's 18, but only seven sixes to RR's 12.

## 'Exceptional talent' Jurel plays his part with bat, and with the thinking cap on

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**CHANDIGARH:** He didn't do much with the bat in Rajasthan Royals' (RR) first game of the IPL 2026 season, against Chennai Super Kings, but against Gujarat Titans on Saturday in Ahmedabad, Dhruv Jurel turned on the style, scoring 75 in 42 balls to headline his team's batting effort. RR still needed their bowlers, Ravi Bishnoi in particular, to get them the win, but Jurel played his part there too.

RR had already had a strong

start, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi adding 70 for the first wicket in just 38 balls. Jaiswal, after scoring 36 in 20 balls in that stand, slowed down a bit once Jurel joined him, contributing 19 in 16 balls to their partnership, but Jurel settled in fast and dominated straightaway as they put on 56 in 37 balls.

"He assessed the conditions, he allowed Jaiswal to sort of continue the partnership, and then, once he got in, he took over. Great knock," Aaron Finch said



Jurel's innings, which included five fours and five sixes.

Ambati Rayudu had earlier expressed his satisfaction at Jurel being moved up to No. 3 at RR this season, ahead of the likes of Shimron Hetmyer and captain Riyan Parag.

"I think he is quite underrated," Rayudu said to nods of agreement from Finch. "He has been an exceptional talent in Indian cricket for two or three years now, and he's not talked about much. And here he is, playing against good quality fast

bowling, and he's been so comfortable. The kind of shots he has played [are] so good on the eye. He's a proper talent."

Against GT, who lost by just six runs in a close finish, Jurel also appeared to make a couple of key contributions in the field, one that changed the course of the game and another that completed it.

Ravi Bishnoi, the Player of the Match for his four-wicket haul, had three left-hand batters among his victims. And Jurel had a role to play there.

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