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We Should Carry Forward Ideals of a 'Karma Yogi' For Inclusive, Developed India by 2047: LG Sinha

J&K LG Unveiled Statue of Social Worker Vijay Bahadur Singh in Ghazipur

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday unveiled the statue of noted social worker Vijay Bahadur Singh in Ghazipur and called for building an India envisioned by the freedom fighters, where every section of society is part of the mainstream of progress. Addressing the gathering, Sinha said the country is moving decisively towards becoming a developed nation and described the goal of 2047 as "not merely a date but a national resolve." He urged people to imbibe and spread the ideals of Singh, whom he described as a true karma yogi who served selflessly without seeking recognition or personal gain. Paying tribute, the Lieutenant Governor said Singh devoted his life to societal upliftment and future generations. He



highlighted the establishment of the Mahamandaleshwar Shri Bal Krishna Yati Inter College as a symbol of people-driven transformation, noting that it was founded in 1974 despite limited resources but with a firm belief in the power of education to change society. Sinha emphasized that Singh's work demonstrated how communities could shape their own destiny, particularly in the Bindravan and Jakhania regions, through collective effort and commitment to education. Highlighting national progress, the Lieutenant Governor credited the leadership of Narendra Modi for taking development beyond statistics to the grassroots level. He said millions of families now have housing, bringing dignity and security, while infrastructure expansion

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Winter Charm in Print : CM Unveils 'Six Seasons' Shishur Edition



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 21: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday unveiled the January-March 2026 edition of 'Six Seasons'-titled Shishur (Severe Cold)-published by the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department at the Civil Secretariat here. The winter-themed issue captures the essence of the season across the Union Territory while documenting key tourism initiatives undertaken during the period. Compiled by the

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From Soil to Success : CM Omar Unveils Inspiring Biography of Educationist Dr. Roop Lal Sharma

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Chief Minister Turn on Page 2

PWD Engineer Chargesheeted in Sopore Bribery Case

ACB says accused caught red-handed taking Rs 25,000 to clear contractor's bill

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, APR 21: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Jammu and Kashmir has filed a chargesheet against a former Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of the Public Works Department (R&B) Division Sopore in connection with a bribery case involving the alleged demand and acceptance of Rs 25,000 for processing a contractor's bill.

The chargesheet has been submitted before the Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption Baramulla, against Mubarak Ahmad Ganai, who was posted as AEE at the time of the incident. The case stems from a complaint filed by a contractor, who alleged that the official demanded a bribe at the rate of two per cent for clearing a bill amounting to Rs 28.27 lakh related to the construction of a classroom lecture block at Government Degree College Sopore.

An ACB spokesperson said that a discreet verification conducted into the case substantiated the claims.

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MLAs, Delegations Press Development, Relief Demands Before CM Omar Abdullah



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Several legislators and deputations on Tuesday met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, placing before him a wide array of development and relief-related concerns from their respective

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CM Omar Abdullah Flags Off Health Boost

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today flagged off seven ambulances and other health-care equipment from Civil Secretariat, Jammu for multiple districts across Jammu and Kashmir, provided by Jammu and Kashmir State

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10th class Summer Zone results declared, 88.85% students declared qualified

SAKEENA ITOO LAUDS STUDENTS FOR OUTSTANDING RESULTS

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) today declared the results of Annual/Regular 10th Class (Summer Zone) areas of Jammu division.

A total of 50,754 candidates appeared in the examination, out of which 45,094 candidates have qualified, making overall pass percentage of 88.85%, which is much better than the last year's percentage of 79.94.

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CM Omar Abdullah congratulates students

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today congratulated the students of summer zone schools on the declaration of the Class 10 results by the Jammu and Kashmir Board

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Jitendra Singh Marks Civil Services Day, Notes Record Entrie

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, APR 21 : The popularity of Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence has risen sharply across over 750 districts, and the competitive participation has shown a corresponding rise with entries increasing from 1,216 in 2023 to 1,588 in 2024 and 2,035 in 2025. The iGOTKarmayogi platform has boarded more than 88 lakh officials who have accessed over 2,000 courses. Grievance redressal

through CPGRAMS has expanded from around 2 lakh complaints annually in 2014 to 25-30 lakh at present, with over 95% of cases disposed of and average resolution time reduced from 60 days to about 12 days. In pension reforms, over 40 lakh pensioners used face recognition-based digital life certificates in 2024 alone, while cumulative usage across systems has reached significant scale. These interesting figures were cited

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LG Saxena Calls On Union Minister Nitin Gadkari In New Delhi

HT NEWS NETWORK

LEH, APR 21: The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, today called on the Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Nitin Gadkari, in New Delhi to discuss key infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening road connectivity and boosting overall development in the Ladakh region.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor apprised the Union Minister of several critical projects that require intervention and early

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Unseasonal Snow Adds To Hardship Of Gujjar, Bakerwal Tribes' Seasonal Migration

HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH, APR 21: Amid unseasonal snowfall, hundreds of Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes have begun their centuries-old biannual migration to the highland pastures of Jammu and Kashmir's Chenab Valley, braving harsh conditions. The nomads and their livestock embarked on their traditional routes



last week, signalling the start of the seasonal transhumance. The movement comes notwithstanding fresh, or rather unusual, snowfall in several higher-altitude areas, which has made the passage particularly risky. Hundreds of families have been traversing through the plains of Kathua, Samba and Jammu districts towards the high-altitude meadows

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'Life Stood Still That Day': Navy Officer's Family Still Grieves a Year After Pahalgam Attack

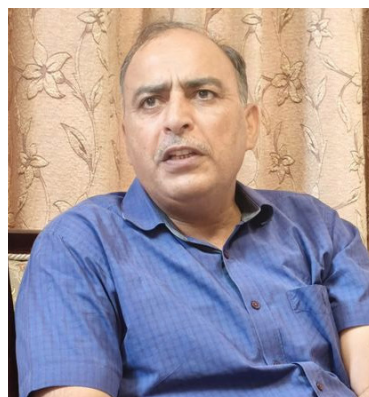
Father says loss of 26-year-old Lt Vinay Narwal has left an irreplaceable void despite passage of time

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

CHANDIGARH, APR 21: A year after the deadly Pahalgam terror attack claimed 26 lives, the family of Lieutenant Vinay Narwal continues to grapple with a loss they say time has failed to heal.

Lt Narwal, a 26-year-old Indian Navy officer, was among those killed on April 22, 2025, when terrorists opened fire on tourists in south Kashmir's Pahalgam. He had been

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Pahalgam Remembers Victims of Deadly Attack as Security Tightens

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

PAHALGAM, APR 21: A year after a brutal terror attack shook the scenic hill resort of Pahalgam, a solemn memorial has been erected to honour the 26 victims, even as authorities intensified security arrangements across the region ahead of the first anniversary.

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We Should.....

has connected villages and boosted economic opportunities.

He pointed to the growth in airports, road connectivity, and the digital revolution, stating that access to bank accounts, identity systems, and mobile-based financial transactions has empowered marginalized sections of society.

Sinha also underlined advances in education, including new institutions, policy reforms, and improved facilities for girls, adding that education today is increasingly focused on innovation, research, and nurturing responsible citizens rather than merely passing examinations.

Winter Charm.....

Directorate of Tourism Kashmir, the magazine presents curated stories on prominent tourist destinations and provides a comprehensive account of international events organised by the department.

It also features coverage of annual conventions of travel, trade and hospitality bodies, participation in major travel marts, and outreach programmes spearheaded by the Chief Minister to boost tourism.

Senior officials, including Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Information Shreya Singhal, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad and Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta, were present at the unveiling.

Praising the initiative, the Chief Minister said such publications play a crucial role in showcasing the vast tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir and strengthening its presence on the global tourism map.

From Soil to.....

Omar Abdullah on Monday released Mitti se Mukam Tak, a biography documenting the life, struggles and achievements of noted educationist Dr. Roop Lal Sharma.

Authored by his daughter, Dr. Sakahi Sharma, the book traces Dr. Sharma's journey from modest beginnings to becoming the founder chairman of the Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research.

Lauding the effort, the Chief Minister said the biography captures an inspiring life dedicated to the cause of education and institution-building. He appreciated the author for documenting her father's legacy and highlighted Dr. Sharma's significant contributions to the academic landscape.

PWD Engineer.....

following which a case was registered under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. A trap was subsequently laid, and on October 16, 2024, the accused was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting Rs 25,000 from the complainant. The tainted money was recovered from his possession in the presence of independent witnesses.

Investigations revealed that the accused had direct authority over the processing of the pending bill and had allegedly withheld it to extract illegal gratification. Upon completion of the investigation, sanction for prosecution was obtained from the competent authority, after which the final report was filed before the court.

The case is now pending before the court for judicial determination, with the next hearing scheduled for June 6, 2026. The ACB reiterated its resolve to act firmly against corruption and ensure accountability in public service.

MLAs, Delegations.....

constituencies.

MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmed Khan, MLA Samba Surjit Singh Slathia, MLA Lolab Qaysar Jamshed Lone and MLA Bani Rameshwar Singh were among those who called on the Chief Minister, highlighting key issues ranging from infrastructure gaps to local developmental demands.

Nazir Ahmed Khan underscored the challenges faced by residents of the far-flung Gurez region, seeking focused government intervention, while other legislators raised constituency-specific matters requiring urgent attention.

A deputation representing private power companies also met the Chief Minister to discuss issues concerning new independent power producers in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the Chishoti-Paddar area of Kishtwar district apprised the Chief Minister of the difficulties faced by families affected by a recent cloudburst, urging immediate rehabilitation measures.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured that their genuine concerns would be examined on priority, with appropriate steps to ensure early redressal.

CM Omar.....

Power Development Corporation under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The ambulances have been distributed across Jammu and Kashmir at a total cost of 144.73 lakh.

In addition, JKSPDC has provided 07 TruNat machines at a cost of 58.80 lakh and 02 handheld X-ray machines costing 35.96

lakh.

For the Thalassemia Day Care Centre at SMGS Hospital, Jammu, essential medical equipment and medicines have been provided at a cost of 29.09 lakh to support treatment and patient care.

Essential items have been provided to Child Care Institutions at Palaash/Parisha/SAA Udhampur at a cost of 3.11 lakh to improve living conditions and support the needs of children.

Further, various Braille items have been provided to the Blind School, Roop Nagar, Jammu at a cost of 2.90 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said, "Strengthening emergency healthcare access, especially in underserved areas, remains a top priority. These ambulances and medical equipment will significantly improve timely medical response and save precious lives."

Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Managing Director JKSPDC Rahul Yadav, Director Health Services Jammu, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister was also briefed about civil construction works undertaken by JKSPDC during the financial year 2025-26 across multiple districts, amounting to 237.28 lakh.

The total cost of all CSR initiatives, including procurement and construction works, stands at 523 lakh for the last financial year.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to inclusive development, the Chief Minister appreciated the role of JKSPDC in extending support to vital sectors through its CSR initiatives.

10th class.....

Among the candidates, 27,486 boys and 23,268 girls appeared in the examination. Of these, 24,054 boys and 21,040 girls qualified. The pass percentage of boys stood at 87.51%, whereas girls have recorded a higher pass percentage of 90.42%.

The examination was conducted smoothly across 527 centres.

Notably, 26,706 candidates from Government schools appeared in the examination with 22,283 qualifying, making pass percentage of 83.44%. From Private Schools, 24,048 candidates appeared with 22,811 qualifying, making pass percentage of 94.86%.

Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo extended her heartfelt greetings to the students of 10th Class (Summer Zone) for passing the examination with flying colours.

The Minister commended the students for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance, stating that the results are a testament to their commitment and the collective efforts of teachers, parents, and the education system at large. She added that the pass percentage of 83.44 for Government schools is very encouraging and highlights the improvement of educational standards in Government institutions.

"These outstanding results reflect the Government's sustained focus on strengthening the education sector and ensuring quality learning outcomes across Jammu and Kashmir," she stated.

Highlighting the achievements of girl students, the Minister lauded their outstanding performance in the examinations. She noted with pride that girls have once again outshined boys, showcasing their determination, resilience, and academic excellence.

"This achievement is not only a matter of pride but also a clear indication of the positive impact of various government initiatives aimed at empowering girls through education," she said.

Encouraging students to remain focused and motivated, the Minister urged them to pursue their future academic and career goals with confidence and determination. She also advised those who could not perform as expected to remain hopeful and work harder, emphasizing that success is a continuous journey.

The Minister further reiterated the Government's commitment to providing an inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education system. She assured that continuous efforts are being made to improve infrastructure, enhance teaching standards, and create a conducive learning environment for all students.

CM Omar Abdullah.....

of School Education.

The Chief Minister extended his best wishes to all successful candidates and encouraged those who may not have achieved their desired outcome to remain determined and continue striving for excellence.

Earlier today, the JKBOSE declared the Class 10th Annual Regular Examination results for Summer Zone of Jammu Division, recording an overall pass percentage of 88.85 percent. A total of 50,754 students appeared in the examination, out of which 45,094 qualified successfully.

The results once again reflected stronger performance by girls, who secured a pass percentage of 90.42 percent, while boys recorded 87.51 percent, continuing the trend of female candidates leading in academic

outcomes.

Jitendra Singh.....

by Union Minister Incharge DoPT, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh while addressing the 18 Civil Services Day here, as he highlighted a shift towards "citizen-centric, institutionalised governance", underlined reforms in service delivery and announced continued expansion of capacity-building initiatives such as Mission Karmayogi and its newer components, alongside a reor-iented framework for evaluating administrative performance through competitive, pro-gramme-based benchmarks rather than individual profiling.

The Minister emphasised structural shifts in governance, including a move "from individual delivery to institutionalised delivery" and from "rule-based" to "role-based" administration. He pointed to the removal of nearly 2,000 obsolete rules, abolition of interviews for certain recruitment processes, and the redesign of Civil Services Day into a more knowledge-driven platform. The evaluation framework for excellence awards has been restructured to focus on flagship programme outcomes rather than individual officer profiles. Institutional innovations such as the Assistant Secretary programme, digital governance systems covering nearly 90% of government operations, and international collaborations, including hosting global administrative forums, were also highlighted.

Looking ahead, Dr. Jitendra Singh indicated expansion of training and governance reforms through initiatives like Mission Karmayogi and "Karmayogi Prarambh," with a focus on preparing civil servants for emerging governance challenges. He also pointed to increasing global interest in Indian administrative models, with countries such as Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh and South Africa studying systems like CPGRAMS. The broader push, he said, aligns with the theme of "Viksit Bharat: Citizen-Centric Governance and Development at the Last Mile," aimed at equipping the next generation of civil servants for India's centenary of independence in 2047.

"The shift is from administration-centric governance to citizen-centric governance," Dr. Jitendra Singh said, adding that reforms are intended to ensure "maximum transparency, maximum accountability and timeline discipline." He also noted that increased grievance filings reflect improved trust in redressal systems rather than rising dissatisfaction.

The developments underscore an ongoing transition in India's administrative framework towards data-driven evaluation, digital governance, and large-scale capacity building as central pillars of public service reform.

Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan presided over the function as the Chief Guest. The function was attended by senior members of the government's top administrative leadership. Also present on the dais were Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Shaktikanta Das, Cabinet Secretary T. V. Somanathan, and Secretary, DARPG Ms. Nivedita Shukla Verma reflecting the high-level institutional presence at the annual civil services gathering.

LG Saxena.....

sanction for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Saxena discussed the progress of the Zoji-La Tunnel with the Hon'ble Minister, wherein Nitin Gadkari informed that the final breakthrough of the tunnel is expected by the end of May. Once completed, the tunnel will connect Ladakh with the rest of the country, marking a significant milestone towards ensuring all-weather connectivity to the region.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the need for avalanche protection works along the Zoji-La Top stretch. Despite the completion of the tunnel, Saxena noted, this route will continue to be used for the movement of traffic, and hence, there was an urgent need for avalanche protection, as seven people lost their lives to an avalanche in the region in a re-cent incident.

The Lieutenant Governor raised the issue of pending projects under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), informing that road and bridge works amounting to Rs 1465.88 crore are awaiting approval. He emphasised that these projects are critical for improving connectivity, enhancing safety, and driving economic growth, particularly in remote and strategically important areas of Ladakh.

Another key issue discussed was the upgradation of the NH-03 stretch from Leh to Sindh Ghat. Saxena informed that while 5.20 km out of the total 10.08 km has already been up-graded to a four-lane road, the remaining 4.88 km continues as a double-lane stretch, resulting in traffic congestion. He requested early approval for the upgradation of the remaining stretch to ensure smooth and efficient traffic flow.

The Lieutenant Governor also sought early sanction for the construction of the Leh Bypass. He informed that the DPR for the southern alignment of 48.10 km, estimated at Rs 1011 crore, has already been submitted, while the DPR for the northern alignment is under preparation. He noted that the project is expected to significantly ease congestion

within Leh town and improve urban mobility.

Nitin Gadkari, underscoring the strategic importance of Ladakh, instantly directed the concerned officials to prioritise all infrastructure projects in the region without delay and in a time-bound manner. He assured that sanctions for the pending CRIF projects would be accorded by the month of May, and instructed the concerned officials that all necessary ap-provals be expedited on priority.

Highlighting the broader impact of these initiatives, the Lieutenant Governor stated that the timely execution of these projects would significantly transform connectivity and infrastructure in Ladakh. He emphasised that the development of robust road infrastructure is essential for the region's growth, given its strategic location and challenging terrain, and added that these projects would not only ensure seamless connectivity but also boost tourism, facilitate economic activities, and generate employment opportunities for the local population.

Unseasonal.....

of the Chenab Valley, a journey that would take at least a month to reach the summer pastures.

According to official figures, in the past 10 days, 250 nomadic families have crossed the 10,500-foot-high snow-bound Chattergalla check post, connecting Baderwah in Doda district with Basohli in Kathua district.

Accompanied by herds of sheep, goats, and horses, the families have been navigating steep mountain trails, swollen streams, and slippery tracks, exposing themselves to significant challenges.

Officials said the migration is crucial for the sustenance of these communities, as they depend on highland grazing grounds during the summer months. Each year, as winter recedes and spring sets in across the Jammu region, the Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes embark on their centuries-old migration, revitalising the highland pastures of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts in the Chenab Valley.

"Though we face numerous life-threatening challenges during migration, we have been in this profession since time immemorial. We have no option but to continue this extremely difficult way of life, which has been passed down by our forefathers," Abdul Majeed (85), a resident of Basohli in Kathua who is leading his group to Paddar in Kishtwar, said.

Majeed said that every year, the community loses livestock, including goats and horses, during the arduous journey due to harsh weather conditions, adding that even children and the elderly have, at times, lost their lives. He also said that there have been little to no government assistance.

"Due to snowstorms along the 15-km route between Sarthal and Guldanda, several of our goats died. Food was also scarce for three consecutive days (last week). We now hope to reach our destination in Machail safely," Nishata Begum (63) said.

She said that was once a time of joy during migration has now turned into a period marked by the loss of hard-earned livestock, compounded by instances of hostility and discrimination from locals.

Begum said despite her two sons being graduates and belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category, they were unable to secure government jobs and were ultimately compelled to continue the centuries-old occupation of their forefathers.

Saddam Chohan (14) said the journey to the high-altitude meadows brought him face-to-face with harsh realities at Chattergalla, where several goats perished in a snowstorm before his eyes, leaving him helpless.

He said the family has little choice but to continue the profession practised by his father and grandfather.

Baderwah Divisional Forest Officer Devinder Kumar has formed a team of officials, led by Range Officer Sameer Rishu, to ensure that the nomads do not face any hostility from anyone while passing through forest areas.

"Several hundred families have entered the Baderwah forest range over the past fortnight, and our team is there to receive them round the clock, as many continue their journey even during night hours," Rishu said.

The officer urged locals not to view the nomadic tribes as trespassers but to welcome them as guests, emphasising that they are an integral part of the forest ecosystem.

He said the communities share a centuries-old, symbiotic relationship with the forests — relying on them for food, shelter and livelihoods while also conserving biodiversity through sustainable practices.

"Their culture, beliefs and traditional knowledge are deeply rooted in nature, making them custodians of the forests rather than mere users," Rishu said. Tribal nomads traditionally move with

their livestock to the upper slopes of the northern Himalayas during the summer, and return to the plains in winter after covering hundreds of miles on foot along serpentine tracks. (Agencies)

'Life Stood.....

on his honeymoon with his wife, Himanshi, when he was shot at point-blank range.

Recalling the day that changed their lives forever, his father Rajesh Narwal said the family has struggled to come to terms with the tragedy.

"Life has not been the same since that day. We are living because we have to, but for us, everything ended when we got the news," he said at his residence in Karnal.

Describing the loss of a young son as unbearable, he said such grief does not fade with time. "People may recover from smaller setbacks, but this pain will remain forever," he added.

Lt Narwal, who had recently begun his career as a naval officer, had meticulously planned his future, maintaining a notebook detailing his goals and aspirations. His father remembered him as affectionate and deeply empathetic, someone who treated others' problems as his own.

"He was my son, but I think of him as an angel," Rajesh Narwal said, recalling moments from his childhood and the excitement leading up to his marriage. "Just days before the wedding, we went shopping in Delhi. He had so many plans for his family."

Initially aspiring to join the Air Force, Lt Narwal later found his calling in the Navy, a development his father said made him proud and happy to serve the nation.

The officer is survived by his wife, parents, and sister.

Despite the enduring grief, the family says it is determined to honour his memory in meaningful ways. Rajesh Narwal also acknowledged the support extended by the government in the aftermath of the attack.

Last year, following India's response to the incident, he had expressed hope that such action would deter future attacks, saying perpetrators would "think many times" before repeating such acts.

For the Narwal family, however, the passage of one year has done little to ease the pain, as memories of a promising life cut short continue to linger.

Pahalgam.....

The attack on April 22 last year, which claimed the lives of 25 tourists and a local ponywallah, had sent shockwaves across Jammu and Kashmir and dealt a severe blow to its tourism industry. The sector, a vital pillar of the local economy, is now showing signs of recovery following sustained efforts by the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

All three terrorists involved in the attack were eliminated in an encounter in the Srinagar hills three months later, while investigations by the National Investigation Agency continued. The agency filed a chargesheet in December against seven accused, including the Pakistan-based outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba and its proxy, The Resistance Front.

In an unprecedented response, large sections of the local population had taken to the streets to protest the killings, marking one of the most significant public demonstrations against terrorism in the Valley in over three decades. In a rare show of unity, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly convened a special session on April 28, 2025, unanimously passing a resolution condemning the attack and pledging to safeguard communal harmony.

The black marble memorial, inscribed with the names of all 26 victims, has been constructed along the Lidder river near the meadows of Baisaran valley, serving as a poignant reminder of the tragedy. A year on, the site continues to attract visitors, many of whom remain undeterred by the shadow of the attack.

Tourists from different parts of the country said they felt reassured by the strong security presence and the hospitality extended by locals. Many described their stay as comfortable and welcoming, with no untoward incidents reported.

Authorities have deployed additional police and paramilitary personnel in and around Pahalgam, with intensified surveillance and checking at multiple points to ensure a peaceful commemoration. Officials said elaborate arrangements have been made for the anniversary event, which is expected to be attended by political leaders, civil society members, families of the victims and local representatives.

Tourism stakeholders said visitor foot-fall has steadily improved in recent months, reflecting renewed confidence among travellers and indicating a gradual revival of the Valley's tourism sector.



Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan

DIPR's Cultural Unit Srinagar organizes Awareness Programme at BHS Theed

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 21: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Abhiyan, the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) organized an awareness programme at Government Boys High School (BHS) Theed, Harwan.

The event featured a thematic short play and a series of folk songs aimed at highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a healthy, substance-free lifestyle. The performances were well received and widely applauded by the students and staff, who appreciated the engaging and impactful medium of communication.

Addressing the gathering, AECO, Cultural Unit Srinagar, Syed Shakeel Shan delivered a



strong message to the youth, urging them to stay away from drugs and contribute positively to society.

Principal BHS Theed and other speakers also emphasized the importance of awareness, community participation, and early intervention in combating substance abuse.

The Principal expressed gratitude to the Cultural Unit Kashmir, for organizing such meaningful programmes across the Valley, stating that these initiatives play a vital role in educating and guiding young minds.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment among students to uphold the values of a drug-free society and to act as ambassadors of positive change within their communities.

Five-Day National Painting Camp Inaugurated in Gulmarg

- Renowned Artists from Across India Participate
- Joint Initiative of NZCC Patiala and J&K Cultural Academy

■ JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, APR 21: A five-day National Painting Camp titled "Vision Bharat @ 2047" was formally inaugurated at the renowned tourist destination of Gulmarg. The camp is being jointly organised by the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Patiala, and the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Gulmarg, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Principal Secretary, Culture, Shri Brij Mohan Sharma attended as the Guest of Honour. Also present on the occasion were Assistant Director, NZCC Patiala, Ravinder Sharma, and Additional Secretary, J&K Cultural Academy, Adeel Saleem.

The five-day camp is witnessing participation from eminent and seasoned artists from various states across



the country. Through their artwork, the artists will depict the theme "Vision Bharat @ 2047" along with the scenic beauty of Gulmarg.

During the event, the dignitaries interacted with the participating artists from within and outside the Union Territory and appreciated their creative works.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Secretary Culture, Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, termed the aayojan of such an artistic camp at a picturesque location like Gulmarg as a welcome step. He stated that such initiatives not only promote fine arts but also strengthen cultural harmony among diverse communities. He further emphasized that such programmes play a vital role in fostering national integration and provide a meaningful platform for artists to express their creativity.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah appreciated the aayojan of cultural programmes in Gulmarg and lauded the efforts of NZCC and the J&K Cultural Academy. He said that such initiatives not only boost tourism but also give a new dimension to local art and culture.

Assistant Director NZCC, Ravinder Sharma, and Additional Secretary, J&K Cultural Academy, Adeel Saleem, also expressed their gratitude to the guests and participating artists, expressing hope for organizing more such camps in the future.

On the occasion, renowned artist K.K. Gandhi presented a beautiful painting as a token of appreciation to the Chief Guest. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Mohammad Saleem Salik, Editor, Urdu of the Cultural Academy.

Dr. Itoo attends AoME Assessment Team Membership Meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 20: Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, a distinguished physician and medical educator, attended the Assessment Team Membership Meeting of the Academy of Medical Educators (AoME), UK, held on 20th April 2026.

The meeting brought together esteemed mem-



bers of the AoME assessment team to deliberate on key aspects of membership evaluation, quality assurance frameworks, and evolving best practices in medical education. It served as a platform for collaborative dialogue on maintaining excellence and consistency in professional accreditation processes and upholding the Code of Conduct of AoME while carrying assessment of membership applications.

The session was led by Professor John Sanders, a globally recognized expert in medical education and lead Assessor of AoME. Under his leadership, discussions focused on enhancing the robustness of assessment methodologies and aligning them with international benchmarks to ensure credibility and transparency.

Dr. Itoo participated in his capacity as an AoME Membership Assessor, contributing valuable insights drawn from his extensive experience in clinical practice and academic medicine. His involvement underscores his commitment to advancing high-quality medical education and fostering professional development within the healthcare community.

Retired Forest Officers Bat for Eco-Tourism, Welfare Reforms in Srinagar Meet

Delegation to approach New Delhi on April 27; Focus on Environment, Pension Rights and Anti-Drug Campaign

■ FAIZAN QUREISHI

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 20: A meeting of the Forest Officers Welfare Association (Retd) was held at the Forest PC Depot here under the chairmanship of Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, where participants deliberated on key environmental concerns and welfare issues affecting retired personnel.

The meeting brought together former forest officers who discussed the need for effective implementation of an eco-tourism policy, promotion of a clean environment, and greater awareness among the public, particularly school students, on environmental conservation.

Members underscored the importance of strengthening plantation drives under the Green Jammu & Kashmir mission and called for sustained efforts to preserve the region's ecological balance.

Highlighting social responsibilities, the association reaffirmed



its commitment to the "Nasha Mukt" campaign, aligning itself with the ongoing anti-drug initiative being carried out under the 100-day campaign across the Union Territory.

The meeting also took up several service-related matters, including the removal of pay anomalies in light of the High Court of Jammu's decision in SLP No. 177/2016. Other demands raised included provision of free accommodation during forest-related events and exemption from toll taxes for retired officers.

Issues concerning pensioners

were also discussed at length, particularly in the context of the forthcoming 8th Pay Commission. The association announced that a delegation led by Sheikh Bashir Ahmad will visit New Delhi on April 27 to take up the concerns of forest employees and pensioners with the concerned authorities.

The participants expressed gratitude to PCCF/HoFF and CCF Central Dr. Anand (IFS) for their continued support and for recognising the contributions of retired officers through the issuance of appreciation certificates.

GDC Qazigund Organises Quiz Competition Under NMBA Awareness Campaign

■ FAROOQ RATHER

QAZIGUND, APR 21: As part of the ongoing 14-day awareness campaign under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), Government Degree College (GDC) Qazigund, through its Anti-Drug Cell, organised an inter-student quiz competition to raise awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

The event was aimed at providing an engaging academic platform for students to enhance their understanding of drug abuse, its health, social and legal consequences, and preventive strategies. The programme witnessed active participation from students, making it both informative and competitive.

In his address, the Principal, Professor (Dr) Sudhir Singh, emphasized the importance of awareness and education in eradicating drug abuse. He highlighted that informed youth can play a crucial role in building a drug-free society.

The quiz competition featured four teams. Team A comprised Sheikh Sahab Zahoor and Muneeb Iqbal Mir (both from 2nd Semester). Team B included Seerat Nazir (2nd Semester). Team C consisted of Iqra Mehak Sofia (2nd Semester) and Abdul (6th Semester), while Team D was represented by Shameem Mubeen (2nd Semester) and Sehar Ahmad Kumar (4th Semester).

The questions were designed to test participants' knowledge



about drug abuse, its consequences, preventive measures, and awareness initiatives. The competition remained highly engaging throughout, with Team B emerging as the winner, while Team A secured the runner-up

position after a closely contested round.

Professor Nadeem Fayaz Fatima conducted the quiz as Quiz Master. Professor Irshad Ahmad Matoo (Head, Political Science) served as Time Monitor,

while Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Zargar (Faculty, Urdu) acted as the Scorer.

The event was organised by Professor Talib Ahmad, Nodal Officer of the Anti-Drug Cell. Several faculty members, including Professor Ayoub Ahmad Zargar (Head, Computer Science), Professor Ishfaq Ahmad Shah (Head, Education), and Professor Rameez Ahmad Shah (Head, Environmental Science Studies), were also present on the occasion.

Overall, the programme was meaningful and well-received, encouraging students to reflect seriously on the issue of drug abuse while participating in an informative and intellectually stimulating activity.

Kulgam Police Registers 6 FIRs Against Illegal Poppy Cultivation; Drugs and Liquor Seized

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, APR 21: Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking, illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, and illegal liquor trade, Kulgam Police has registered six FIRs in separate cases across the district and achieved significant success by

recovering narcotic substances and seizing illicit liquor.

Police Station Qazigund registered FIR Nos. 87/2026 and 88/2026 under Sections 8/18 of the NDPS Act after receiving credible information about illegal poppy cultivation in Babapora and Bonigam areas. During verification, standing

poppy crops were found, sampled, seized, and destroyed on the spot in the presence of an Executive Magistrate after completing all legal formalities. In Bonigam, the land was found under the possession of a local resident. During naka checking at Upper Bazar near Dooru Crossing, police apprehended a suspect

carrying a nylon bag. On search, 2.615 kilograms of poppy straw-like substance was recovered from his possession. The accused, a resident of Larkipora Dooru, was booked under FIR No. 89/2026 under Sections 8/15 of the NDPS Act, and investigation has been taken up.

Two more cases of illegal

poppy cultivation were detected in Zadoora and Lalipora under the jurisdiction of Police Post Mir Bazar. The crops were destroyed on the spot in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and local witnesses after identification of the landowners.

Meanwhile, Police Station

Devsar registered FIR Nos. 23/2026 and 24/2026 under Section 8/18 of the NDPS Act after detecting two separate patches of land under illegal poppy cultivation in Kilam area. The cultivation was immediately destroyed following due legal procedure.

In another operation, Police

Station Qaimoh apprehended a person during naka checking at Harnag Railway Road and recovered 21 bottles of IMFL liquor from his possession, found in excess of the permissible limit and without any valid permit or licence. A case under Section 48 of the J&K Excise Act has been registered.

Satish Sharma releases Coffee Table Book on IEC activities, unveils S&T depts' annual IEC calendar 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today released the Coffee Table Book on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Activities and unveiled the annual IEC Calendar 2026 of the Department of Science & Technology, Jammu & Kashmir government, at a formal function held here.

The Coffee Table Book offers a comprehensive documentation of IEC initiatives undertaken across Jammu & Kashmir, showcasing the outreach, impact and diversity of science and technology interventions at the grassroots level. It reflects the department's sustained efforts to promote scientific temper, strengthen innovation ecosystems and foster meaningful engagement between institutions and communities.

The annual IEC Calendar 2026 outlines a detailed, month-wise roadmap of awareness campaigns, outreach programmes and thematic activities aimed at ensuring continuous public engagement with science and technology. By integrating key observances, innovation-driven events and awareness drives, the calendar institutionalises a structured and sustained approach to science communication across the Union Territory.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized that science and technology must act as catalyst for inclusive growth and social



transformation. He stated that the real measure of scientific progress lies in its ability to positively impact the lives of common citizens. He highlighted that IEC initiatives play a crucial role in bridging the gap between laboratories and society, ensuring that innovations are effectively communicated, understood and adopted at the grassroots level.

Satish Sharma observed that Jammu & Kashmir is steadily progressing towards becoming a knowledge-driven and innovation-

oriented Union Territory, where scientific awareness and technological interventions are increasingly integrated into governance and development frameworks. He appreciated the department's efforts in making science accessible, relevant and people-centric and stressed the need to further expand outreach in rural and remote areas, particularly among youth, students and marginalized communities.

Underscoring the importance of strategic communication, the

Minister noted that the annual IEC Calendar would serve as an effective tool for planning, coordination and implementation of outreach initiatives. He expressed confidence that such structured efforts would contribute significantly towards fostering innovation, enhancing awareness of government programmes and promoting sustainable practices in areas such as renewable energy, digital technologies and scientific research.

Speaking on the occasion,

Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Babila Rakwal, stated that the Coffee Table Book reflects the Department's evolving approach towards inclusive and impact-driven science communication. She highlighted that IEC activities have emerged as a core pillar of the Department's mandate, enabling the translation of scientific knowledge into tangible societal benefits.

She further elaborated that through key institutions such as JKSTIC and JAKEDA, the Department has successfully implemented outreach programmes addressing real-world challenges while building awareness and capacity among citizens. She reiterated the department's commitment to strengthening institutional linkages, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and aligning scientific advancements with developmental priorities.

The Commissioner Secretary added that the Annual IEC Calendar will enhance coordination among stakeholders and ensure a systematic and sustained outreach strategy. She emphasized that the department will continue to expand its programmes, particularly in underserved and remote areas, to ensure inclusive access to the benefits of science and technology.

Among others present on the occasion were Special Secretary Riyaz Ahmad Wani; Additional Secretaries Anshuman Singh and Neelam Khajuria; Deputy Secretary Dr. Abdul Khair; Asif Amin; CEO, JAKEDA, Dr. P. K. Dhar; Additional Director, JKSTIC, Mushtaq Ahmed; and other senior officers and officials of the Department.

DC throws open District Level Cricket Tournament at Sports Stadium Budgam

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, APRIL 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan today threw open the District Level Cricket Tournament at Sports Stadium Budgam amid enthusiastic participation of youth and sports lovers from across the district and Kashmir Division.



The tournament, organized by the local youth of Budgam, aims to promote sports culture, strengthen youth engagement, and provide a vibrant platform for budding cricketers to showcase their talent. A total of 31 cricket teams from across the Kashmir Division are participating in the tournament, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for sports among the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC appreciated the efforts of the local youth for organizing such a large-scale sporting event and termed the initiative as a positive step towards channelizing youthful energy into constructive activities. He emphasized that sports play a vital role in personality development, discipline, teamwork, and the overall well-being of young people.

Highlighting the significance of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, the DC underscored the importance of sports as a powerful tool in the fight against drug abuse.

He urged the youth to actively participate in sports and constructive activities to stay away from substance abuse and lead a healthy, purposeful life.

He further emphasized that such initiatives not only promote physical fitness but also serve as an effective platform to spread awareness about the ill effects of drugs, encouraging young people to adopt a drug-free lifestyle.

The DC lauded the organizers for taking the lead in promoting sports at the grassroots level and encouraged them to continue organizing similar events in future.

He reiterated the District Administration's commitment to supporting youth-oriented initiatives that foster healthy competition, community participation, and contribute towards realizing the vision of a drug-free society.

The DC also interacted with the players of the opening match, extended his best wishes to all participating teams, and encouraged them to uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play throughout the tournament.

The opening ceremony witnessed the presence of sports enthusiasts, local youth, organizers, and officials, who welcomed the commencement of the tournament with great enthusiasm.

The tournament is expected to continue over the coming days, providing an opportunity for young cricketers from different parts of the Kashmir Division to compete, learn, and build sportsmanship through sports.

NZATI, RIHFW organise training session on BLS for JKAS Probationers

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute (NZATI), Jammu in collaboration with Regional Institute of Health and Family Welfare (RIHFW), Nagrota organized a training session on Basic Life Support (BLS) for JKAS (Accounts) probationers of Phase-II training programme (SAC-II).

The programme was presided over by Director General Accounts & Treasuries, Fayaz Ahmad Lone and conducted under the able guidance of Director Finance/ Principal, NZATI, Jammu, Rajesh Talwar.

Among others Principal, Regional Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Manoj Bhagat; Master Trainer, Dr. Shelly Mahajan; Dr. Kapil Sharma (Public Health), In-charge Skill Lab Coordinator at RIHFW Nagrota, Rajeev Gupta; Director, Accounts & Treasuries, Jammu, Rajesh Kotwal and Joint Director (Central), Directorate General of Accounts & Treasuries, J&K, Ishfaq Ahmad Pandith were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Fayaz Ahmad Lone emphasized the importance of such capacity-building initiatives, stating that officers must be equipped not only with domain knowledge but also with essential emergency response skills.

The session was organized with the objective to equip the probationers with essential life-saving skills and enhancing their preparedness to respond effectively in emergency situations. The technical and practical sessions were conducted by Dr. Shelly Mahajan, Dr. Kapil Sharma and Rajeev Gupta.

The team provided hands-on practice sessions wherein participants performed Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and airway management techniques for both adult and neo-natal resuscitation under Basic Life Support protocols, aimed at saving lives during emergency situations. They emphasized on the importance of such training programmes in building first-response capabilities among officers.

The training was delivered through a simulation-based and interactive approach, enabling participants to gain practical exposure and confidence in handling real-life emergencies.

The session witnessed active participation and was highly appreciated by the probationers for its practical relevance and importance.

Sarmad Hafeez Flags off Mega Padyatra at Baramulla Under 100-Day Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, APRIL 21: As part of the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir campaign, the District Administration Baramulla today organized a mega Padyatra to intensify awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthier, addiction-free society.

Padyatra was flagged off by Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez who is also Distinct Mentor for 100 days NMBA campaign, from Dak Bungalow in presence of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, SSP Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh, SSP Sopore, Iftikhar Talib, ADC Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, ADC Sopore, S.A. Raina and saw enthusiastic participation from other officers, officials, civil society members, youth and a large number of students.

The initiative aimed to sensitize

people, especially the youth, about health consequences of drug addiction while encouraging them to adopt a positive and disciplined lifestyle.

The padyatra traversed through key areas of Baramulla town and culminated at Showkat Ali Stadium Baramulla.

Throughout the march, participants carried placards and raised slogans, powerfully highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse and reinforcing the message of a drug-free society.

Earlier, Sarmad Hafeez, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and enforcement of the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir initiative in district Baramulla.

During the meeting, the commissioner secretary directed the district administration to intensify awareness campaigns at the grassroots level to penetrate every section of

society, particularly targeting the youth, to educate them about the ill effects of substance abuse.

He further urged officers to adopt innovative and engaging methods to combat the drug menace, including the involvement of national figures, sports persons, and local icons who can effectively influence and inspire the younger generation.

Highlighting the importance of impactful execution, Commissioner Secretary instructed that the campaign should not be reduced to a mere ritualistic exercise, but must bring about a tangible and meaningful change in society.

Stressing the need for collective responsibility, he called for a collaborative approach wherein all stakeholders, including government departments, law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and civil society work in close coordination.

PAG organizes District Level Workshop on Accounting Procedures at Budgam

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, APRIL 21: District Level Workshop on capacity building and awareness regarding accounting procedures conducted today at the Auditorium of SAM Degree College Budgam.

The workshop was organized by the Office of the Principal Accountant General (PAG) (A&E), Jammu & Kashmir with the objective of strengthening financial management practices and enhancing awareness among stakeholders on various accounting-related issues.

The workshop witnessed the participation of all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of District Budgam, along with treasury officials and other

concerned functionaries.

The programme focused on sensitizing officers about financial discipline, compliance requirements, and best practices in government accounting systems.

On the occasion, the District Treasury Officer Budgam, Dr. Showkat Ali Rather delivered the welcome address, highlighting the importance of capacity building for financial officers and the need for strict adherence to accounting norms.

During the workshop, expert resource persons from the office of the Principal Accountant General delivered comprehensive presentations covering key areas such as preparation of budget estimates, classification checks, accounting, implementation of



the e-voucher system, and clearance of pending audit paras. The sessions also addressed common accounting discrepancies and provided practical guidance for improving financial accuracy and transparency in departmental transactions.

Interactive discussions were held throughout the programme, allowing participants to raise

queries and share field-level challenges related to accounting procedures.

The experts provided detailed clarifications and emphasized adherence to prescribed financial rules and timely reconciliation of accounts to ensure effective public financial management.

Senior Accounts Officers, Mukesh Kumar Dayal and Arvind Sinha from the Accountant General's Office delivered detailed presentations, elaborating on modern accounting practices, digital financial systems, and compliance mechanisms.

The technical sessions were followed by a concluding address by Senior Accounts Officer, Vikas Bhagat, who summarized the deliberations and stressed

coordinated efforts for strengthening financial governance.

The participating officers appreciated the initiative, stating that the workshop proved highly informative and beneficial in enhancing their understanding of evolving accounting practices and digital financial systems.

The programme also highlighted the importance of accountability, transparency, and efficient utilization of government resources.

The workshop concluded successfully with active participation from all DDOs of District Budgam, reaffirming the administration's commitment to capacity building and strengthening financial governance across departments.

Training Programme for Field Trainers for Census 2027 held in Ganderbal

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, APRIL 21: The training programme for Field Trainers for the upcoming Census 2027 was today formally inaugurated at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, marking a key step towards strengthening district-level preparedness for the national

exercise. The programme is being conducted under the overall supervision of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Faheem Bihagi, who is also serving as District Census Officer, Ganderbal. Speaking on the occasion, the Joint Director Census, Arun underscored the significance of accuracy, dedication and strict adherence

to prescribed guidelines during census operations. He highlighted the pivotal role of Field Trainers in ensuring effective dissemination of training to enumerators and other field-level functionaries, thereby laying the groundwork for smooth execution of the exercise.

The training sessions, being conducted by experienced Master



Trainers, focus on essential aspects of census operations

including enumeration procedures, data collection

practices, use of technology and handling of field-level challenges.

The programme is designed to equip participants with practical knowledge and clarity on their roles and responsibilities.

The initiative reflects the district administration's proactive approach towards ensuring a well-coordinated and efficient Census process. It also reaffirms

the commitment to uphold high standards of data quality and operational excellence, recognizing the Census as a vital tool for evidence-based planning and inclusive development.

The training will continue over the coming days with structured sessions aimed at building capacity and readiness among the field functionaries.

Mentor to District Kulgam for NMBA reviews implementation of ongoing 100-day campaign

Also presides over mega awareness programme

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, APRIL 21: Mentor to District Kulgam for Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) and Chairman JKSSRB, Vikas Kundal, today visited Kulgam where he reviewed the implementation of the ongoing 100-day campaign and presided over a mega awareness programme organised under the initiative.

During the programme, Vikas Kundal led a pledge ceremony in which participants collectively pledged to work towards building a drug-free society and actively support the fight against substance abuse. He also participated in a plantation drive.

A signature campaign was also conducted on the occasion, with participants expressing their commitment to spreading awareness and encouraging people to stay away from drugs.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikas Kundal emphasized that eliminating drug abuse requires collective and sustained efforts from all sections of society,

including government agencies, community leaders and youth.

He urged the participants to actively contribute towards making Kulgam a drug-free district and to continue spreading awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

He added that youth are the future of the country and that drug abuse poses a serious challenge that can destroy their potential.

He stressed the need for a collective fight against drugs and urged people to inform the police and administration about individuals involved in drug peddling. He further emphasized that the ongoing campaign must yield tangible results in the fight against substance abuse.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted that the focus is on demand reduction, supply reduction and rehabilitation as key pillars to tackle drug abuse.

He said that a comprehensive activity calendar has been prepared under the 100-day



campaign to intensify awareness programmes across the district. The DC further stated that a

significant number of drug seizures and arrests have been made in Kulgam, adding that

strict action against drug peddlers will continue. He also noted that the District

De-Addiction Centre is functioning effectively and that the administration is focusing on continuous counselling, skill training and a comprehensive rehabilitation plan for victims of substance abuse.

Showkat Ahmad Rather, Member JKSSRB, and other officers also spoke on the occasion.

While presenting a brief on the activities, actions and achievements in the district, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Viazar Ahmad Giri informed that several measures have been undertaken to curb drug abuse. He stated that no cultivation of poppy has been recorded in the district, while 100 percent CCTV surveillance has been ensured in pharmacies to monitor the sale of medicines.

It was also informed that 752 victims of substance abuse have been treated and rehabilitated at the District De-Addiction Centre (DDAC) so far. Officials further apprised that

under the 100-day campaign, extensive awareness drives, counselling sessions and preventive initiatives are being carried out across the district to discourage drug abuse, particularly among youth.

A felicitation ceremony was also held on the occasion to honour participants who excelled in various competitions organised under the campaign, including essay writing, painting, speech and slogan writing competitions. Students also highlighted the harmful effects of drug abuse through their paintings, speeches and slogans, spreading a strong message against substance abuse and promoting a drug-free society.

SSP Kulgam, Anayat Ali Choudhary; JKSSRB members Showkat Ahmad Rather and Riyaz Ahmad Malik; District Program Officer, Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; SDM, Noorabad, Bashir-ul-Hassan, DPO, DSWO and other officers, students and locals participated in the programme.

ADC Ganderbal reviews progress on forest boundary demarcation

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, APRIL 21: A meeting of the District Level Committee constituted for monitoring the progress of demarcation of forest boundaries and installation of boundary pillars was today chaired by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Syed Faheem Bihagi here.

At the outset, the ADC took a detailed review of the work being carried out by the Forest Department regarding demarcation of forest land and installation of boundary pillars.

The Divisional Forest Officer apprised the chair that substantial progress has been achieved in several forest areas, while work in some remaining locations is underway.

It was informed that in certain areas, the demarcation process requires assistance from the Revenue Department due to the non-availability of relevant records with the Forest Department. The chair was also apprised that some forest compartments extend into neighbouring districts, and coordination is being maintained with the concerned authorities to address related issues.

Emphasizing the importance of clear and accurate records, the ADC directed the Forest Department to rationalize and update data related to boundary pillars in a systematic manner for better clarity and monitoring.

He further instructed that all pending works related to demarcation and installation of boundary pillars be completed within the stipulated timeframe. Tehsildars were directed to provide necessary support on priority to ensure smooth execution of the process on the ground.

While reviewing issues related to forest protection, the ADC stressed the need for immediate identification of areas affected by encroachment. He directed that necessary steps be taken for removal of encroachments in a phased and coordinated manner.

The Assistant Commissioner Panchayat was asked to furnish the status of cases under the Forest Rights Act to facilitate effective action.

To ensure smooth conduct of eviction drives, the ADC directed that adequate magisterial and security support be provided in coordination with the Revenue and Police departments to maintain law and order.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Divisional Forest Officer Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal, representatives of the Wildlife Department, and Tehsildars from various tehsils of the district.

Shantmanu inspects Special Revision camps in Kathua; stresses 100% enrolment of eligible voters

HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, APRIL 21: State Election Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir, Shantmanu, today conducted an extensive tour of Kathua district to inspect the Special Summary Revision camps being organised for updation of Panchayat Electoral Rolls-2026.

District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Kathua, Rajesh Sharma and Secretary, State Election Commission J&K, Sushel Kumar also accompanied the State Election Commissioner during the visit.

The visit was aimed at reviewing the progress of the revision exercise on the ground and ensuring that the electoral rolls are comprehensive, accurate and inclusive.

The ongoing revision process, which commenced on March 27, 2026, provides for filing of claims and objections pertaining to new

enrolments, deletions and transposition of voters across the Union Territory.

During the inspection of special camps at GDC Hiranagar and GMS Badala, the State Election Commissioner reviewed the functioning of special camps and assessed the pace of enrolment of newly eligible voters. He examined the status of forms received for inclusion, deletion, correction and transposition in the Panchayat electoral rolls.

Interacting with the Panchayat Secretaries and field functionaries, he emphasised the need for expeditious disposal of claims and objections and called for ensuring 100 percent registration of all eligible voters. He also sought identification of bottlenecks, if any, in the enrolment process and directed for their timely redressal.

The State Election Commissioner stressed the importance of transparency and accessibility in



the revision process and directed the concerned officers to intensify

awareness campaigns across all Panchayat Halqas so that every

eligible citizen is facilitated to get enrolled without any hindrance.

DEPO (DC) Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, assured that the District Election Cell, along with field functionaries, will strive to make Kathua the best performing district in the ongoing revision exercise. He emphasised the crucial role of BLOs and Panchayat Secretaries in achieving this objective and informed that special camps are being organised in colleges and across all Panchayats, including on Saturdays and Sundays, to maximise outreach. He also urged all eligible but unregistered citizens to visit these camps and ensure their inclusion in the electoral rolls.

Among others, SDM Hiranagar Phulail Singh, ACR Kathua, ACD Kathua, Akhil Sadotra, Principal GLDM College Hiranagar, Pragya Khanna, DyDEO Nagesh Singh, Tehsildar Hiranagar Anup Kumar and other officers and officials were present on the occasion.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan: District Admin Kupwara organizes Pad Yatra rallies across district

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, APRIL 21: In a significant step towards reinforcing the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Kupwara today intensified its awareness drive against drug abuse by organizing a series of Pad Yatra rallies across different parts of the district.

The rallies were aimed at sensitizing the public, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encouraging collective responsibility in building a drug-free society.

The main highlight of the day was a mega Pad Yatra rally held in Sub-Division Karnah. The rally

witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Tehsildar Karnah, Mohammad Amin Bhat along with various government officers, officials, students, and members of the local community. The event reflected a strong sense of unity and commitment among participants towards combating the growing menace of drug addiction.

Students played a particularly active role in the rally, carrying placards and banners that vividly depicted the ill effects of drug abuse on individuals, families, and society at large.

They raised impactful slogans emphasizing the urgent need to eliminate drug abuse and promote a healthy, responsible lifestyle. Their

energy and involvement added vibrancy and purpose to the campaign, reinforcing the message among onlookers and passersby.

The rally commenced from Tangdar Market and proceeded through key areas before culminating at Government Degree College Kandi, where participants gathered to reiterate their commitment to the cause.

In addition, similar Nasha Mukht awareness rallies were organized in various High and Higher Secondary Schools across the district. These events saw active participation from students, teachers, and members of civil society, all coming together to spread awareness and encourage dialogue on the dangers of drug addiction.

District Admin Bandipora conducts Mock Drill to strengthen Emergency Preparedness

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, APRIL 21: In a proactive move to enhance disaster preparedness and response mechanisms, the District Administration Bandipora on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive mock drill at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, with active involvement of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). The drill was held in the presence of senior district officers, including Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Shabir Ahmad Wani, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Bashir Ahmad Paddar, and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Headquarters Bandipora, Ahmad Shafee, besides officers and officials from various line departments.



The exercise witnessed active participation from Police, Health, Fire & Emergency Services, Civil Defence, and SDRF teams, demonstrating a well-coordinated multi-agency response framework.

During the drill, an emergency scenario was simulated to assess preparedness levels, response time, and inter-departmental coordination. Key response components, including rescue operations, evacuation procedures, fire safety measures, and first aid, were effectively demonstrated.

Speaking on the occasion, officials underscored the significance of such mock drills in strengthening institutional readiness and ensuring swift, coordinated response during real-life emergencies. They highlighted that regular exercises help identify gaps and enhance synergy among stakeholders.

DLSA Srinagar organizes Legal Awareness Programme at GHSS Nawakadal

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 21: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar in collaboration with Chief Education Officer Srinagar today organized an awareness programme under the guidance of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman DLSA (PD&SJ) Srinagar and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS).

Nawakadal with the objective of sensitizing students about important legal provisions and social issues affecting society.

The programme witnessed active participation of students and staff, and featured informative sessions by legal experts. Jahan Ara, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC) delivered an

insightful lecture on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, highlighting the rights of children, legal safeguards available to them, and the importance of reporting offences without fear. Emphasis was laid on creating a safe environment for children both at home and in educational institutions.

Adv. Sofiya Mudassir, Trained Mediator DLSA, spoke on the Dowry Prohibition Act and the concept of free legal aid. The speaker elaborated on the legal consequences of demanding or giving dowry and stressed the need to eradicate this social evil. Students were also informed about the availability of free legal aid services for eligible persons under various schemes, ensuring access to justice for all sections of society.



Further, Sehar Nazir, Assistant LADC addressed the gathering on

the growing menace of drug abuse, particularly among youth. The

session focused on the harmful effects of substance abuse, legal implications, and the importance of making informed and responsible life choices. Students were encouraged to stay away from drugs and to spread awareness among their peers.

The programme concluded with an interactive session where students raised queries and actively engaged with the speakers. The initiative aimed at empowering young minds with legal knowledge and promoting awareness about social issues, thereby contributing to the creation of a more informed and responsible society.

DLSA Srinagar remains committed to conducting such awareness programmes to educate the public and ensure access to justice for all.

HT EDITORIAL

Plug loopholes in order to avoid tragic accidents

More than 20 persons lost their lives in a tragic accident at Ramnagar in Udhampur district on Monday. In addition to this more than 40 persons were injured in this accident that took place in the early hours. Rescue teams of different departments and agencies rushed to the site of the accident and the injured were shifted to the hospital for treatment. Leaders across the political spectrum expressed grief over the incident and conveyed sympathies to the bereaved families.

The Ramnagar accident is not the first such accident in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir with scores of accidents taking place in the past. Hundreds have lost their lives in these accidents with thousands of others suffering injuries. Over the years it has been observed that these accidents occur frequently in the Jammu division as compared to the Kashmir division. Day in and day out there are reports of accidents from the Jammu division with fatal casualties taking place.

Majority of these accidents take place in Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar, Doda, Reasi and Udhampur districts. The authorities have over the years identified different reasons for such accidents but it is ironic that no substantial action has been taken to stop such accidents. Rash and reckless driving, narrow roads, overcrowding of passenger vehicles and plying of old vehicles are some of the prominent reasons responsible for such accidents. Unfortunately, the concerned department has not taken any action to plug loopholes in this regard.

It is imperative that the transport department carries out a physical inspection of the passenger vehicles across the union territory. At the same time, it is important that the vehicles whose fitness has expired are condemned and taken off the roads. This would ensure that only fit vehicles run on the roads with the unfit ones dumped in the junkyard. There should be no compromise on this front since the matter is connected with human lives.

In the same breath the authorities should carry out a rigorous campaign and counsel the drivers so that they don't resort to rash and reckless driving. The ill effects of over speeding need to be spelled out to the drivers so that the precious human lives are saved. There is a need to widen the roads across Jammu & Kashmir so that the accidents are avoided. As on date most of the roads are narrow and need immediate upgradation.

15TH PUBLICATION HEADLINES TODAY Voice To The Voiceless

Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group: Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi), Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor: Syed Jahangir Bukhari, Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora Srinagar -190017, Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad Cell No - 9697071471, Editorial Section: 7006846797, Multimedia Section: 9419008414, Advertisement Section: 9697071471 RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231 dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

Reading enhances vocabulary



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

It has been centuries since the first newspaper was printed in the year 1605. In India, the first newspaper was published in 1779 by James Augustus. The Times of India is one of the leading newspapers in the country today, and there are a number of other prominent newspapers that are published daily in different countries across the globe. Newspaper reading adds new words to our vocabulary and provides us with current general knowledge about our surroundings. It is one of the most reliable sources of information and helps people remain aware of what is happening around them.

Today, everyone should have a gallery of knowledge to tackle difficult situations in day-to-day life. Every individual needs to be capable of facing different kinds of hardships and achieving success in life. Today's world is fully laced with advanced technology, and society needs technically skilled, energetic, and active people who possess good communication skills. These skills help individuals deal with others properly, politely, and in a humble and kind manner.

Language is simply a medium through which we communicate with each other and express our ideas and thoughts. At the same time, we are living in a competitive world where we must have skills, motivation, and strong communication abilities. One should possess a wide range of knowledge to express thoughts clearly and confidently to the outside world. Reading newspapers regularly strengthens language skills and improves both reading and writing abilities.

During vacations, several coaching institutes offer English-speaking courses, personality-development training, and language-learning classes to help students prepare for employment. Nowadays, the competency level is very high among learners and job-seeking youth, but at the same time, many of us still



lack essential skills. Education is mandatory to obtain a reputed job and earn a respectable income. Being educated enhances one's morale, develops personality, and increases self-respect and dignity.

There are many other sources that we should utilize to develop our overall personality. The time is not far when our nation will witness a revolution in education and development. A nation grows when its youth come forward with full zeal and enthusiasm, carrying dreams for the country and for themselves. When we start to develop positive thoughts, set big goals, and move ahead with strong determination, no one can stop us from achieving success.

In today's article, I am going to explore the benefits of newspaper reading and how it helps us become educated unintentionally. These days, social media plays a major role in spreading information quickly. It brings many good things to light, but at the same time, it also has a negative side. Due to the influence of social media, many people spend more time on mobile phones instead of engaging in productive physical and mental activities. This habit can affect concentration and overall development.

Several Android applications display current happenings on mobile phones within a short time, and

Google also plays a vital role in keeping us updated in day-to-day life. However, the newspaper is quite a different and more reliable learning medium for students and members of society. Newspaper reading helps us learn new words, understand proper sentence formation, and improve pronunciation. It provides a wide gallery of knowledge within a short period and keeps us informed about important national and international events.

Newspaper reading helps us know what is happening throughout the world, the country, and the state. It provides detailed information about politics, sports, education, health, science, and technology. It also gives updates about weather conditions, national highways, job advertisements, government schemes, and renowned places worth visiting. By reading newspapers regularly, people become aware of the position of the share market, the state of the economy, and other significant developments.

Most importantly, newspaper reading enhances our vocabulary because editors use new and trending words in news columns. Readers come across various sentence structures and writing styles, which help improve their own writing skills. Other interesting features are also published in newspapers, including poetry, short stories, recipes, ad-

vertisements, religious facts, puzzles, cartoons, jokes, and educational articles. These sections make newspaper reading both informative and entertaining.

Newspapers also play an important role in shaping public opinion. They encourage people to think critically about social issues and national matters. Editorials and opinion columns present different viewpoints, which help readers develop their own perspectives. This habit strengthens analytical thinking and decision-making abilities.

Another major benefit of newspaper reading is that it builds discipline. When a person develops the habit of reading a newspaper daily, it becomes part of a healthy routine. Spending a few minutes every morning reading a newspaper is a productive way to start the day. It refreshes the mind and prepares a person to face daily challenges with confidence.

For students, newspapers are extremely useful. They help in preparing for competitive examinations, improving language skills, and staying informed about current affairs. Many questions in examinations are based on current events, and regular newspaper reading provides accurate and updated information. Teachers also encourage students to read newspapers to broaden their knowledge base.

Newspapers in our country are published in many languages such as English, Urdu, and Hindi. Readers can choose the language they are most comfortable with and enjoy their favourite columns. This helps people from different backgrounds stay connected with national and global developments. Newspapers unite society by spreading awareness and promoting understanding among people.

In conclusion, newspaper reading is one of the best habits that a person can develop. It increases knowledge, improves language skills, builds confidence, and keeps us updated about the world. If you want to enhance your personality, broaden your thinking, and stay informed, make newspaper reading a part of your daily routine. It is an inexpensive and easily accessible source of knowledge that benefits people of all ages.

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A story of a dead man . Who saved lives .



RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

To be very honest , these days internet is filled with filth . Especially the Instagram which is filled with vulgar content. People nowadays don't focus on anything but reach, views, shares, followers and likes. But in between all this you still can find a post in all this filth . While I was scrolling through all the filth , I came across a post which got me in tears and brought smile on my face at the same time . The post was about a guy who died of a disease but gave life to others . Yes, you read it right . He died but he gave life to others . We don't often come across such things because now all people want is entertainment not something that adds to their life .

Kirsh, a 17 years old boy who met an accident while he was riding his bike to tuition, saved six lives .While he himself is no more alive .

Here's the story of how Kirsh helped to save six lives.

It all began. When Kirsh was brought to hospital and the doctors said "He can't be saved". What happened next made kirsh live in six souls.

On 31 March, Ahmedabad teen Krish Akbari was riding to tuition when a Nilgai, startled by a truck's horn, suddenly ran onto the road, colliding with his scooter.

Krish suffered critical injuries to his head and face and was rushed to a hospital. Despite doctors' efforts, he was declared brain-dead.

Amid this unimaginable grief, his family made a life-changing decision of organ donation.

His heart, liver, kidneys, lungs, hands and corneas were donated, which gave six patients a second chance at life.

"When Krish's last rites were being performed,

his heart was being transplanted in a 13-year-old boy from Bhavnagar." Said -Krish's father.

His hands went to a teenager in Faridabad, his kidneys saved two young lives, his corneas restored sight, and his lungs helped another child breathe again.

Krish's father added the family hopes their decision will inspire more people to choose organ donation.

"He saved six families from the same grief we are feeling. He isn't gone; he's living on through the heartbeat of a child and the sight of a stranger."-Krish's aunt

A single bold move by his parents is now the reason behind six people living their life . Kirsh's heart now no more beats in his body but now it's helping a 13 years old live, similarly now his kidneys are the reason why two people are living . Kirsh's body turned into ash but he's alive in six other bodies . While I am writing these lines in am getting goosebumps. Imagine what falls on his parents when their eyes see those who are alive today because of their son . Mixed emotions of grief and happiness is what they might be experiencing on seeing them . Kirsh's parents did what many can never imagine of doing . This must have had been the very difficult decisions of their life . But they took it and proved that sometimes you have to keep emotions aside and think rationally.

The first successful long-term human organ transplant was a kidney transplant performed on December 23, 1954, in Boston by Dr. Joseph Murray and his team. The surgery was successful because it was done between identical twins, Ronald and Richard Herrick, which eliminated immune system rejection.

First Successful Liver Transplant: 1963.

First Successful Human Heart Transplant: December 3, 1967, by Dr. Christiaan Barnard in South Africa.

First Corneal Transplant: 1906.

While earlier, temporary transplants were attempted (such as in 1950 and 1952), the 1954 kidney transplant is recognized as the first successful, long-term human organ transplantation.

India did it's first transplant on February 2, 1971,

at the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, by a team led by Dr. Mohan Rao and Dr. K.V. Johny. While earlier experimental transplants occurred, this 1971 operation is recognized as the inaugural successful, long-term kidney transplant in the country.

Key early milestones include:
Kidney Transplant: Feb 2, 1971, at CMC Vellore.
First Heart Transplant (Unsuccessful): Feb 1968, by Dr. P.K. Sen in Mumbai.

First Successful Heart Transplant: Aug 1994, by Dr. P. Venugopal at AIIMS, New Delhi.

First Liver Transplant: 1998, in New Delhi
India did its first successful kidney transplant 17 years after the world's first successful kidney transplant.

Early Experimental Phase (1900s): Surgeons like Mathieu Jaboulay and Alexis Carrel (who won a Nobel Prize in 1912) experimented with vascular suturing to transplant kidneys, mostly from animals, which failed

Finding donor for heart is often very difficult . Because a heart donor dies . A heart is one of the important organs for survival. Other organ like Heart, Liver, lungs, Pancreas, intestines and various tissues (corneas, skin, bone, heart valves, blood vessels) are to save or enhance lives. Donation usually requires death in a hospital setting (often brain death for organs), with some tissues possible after cardiac death.

Organs that can be donated (after Brain Death):
Heart: Transplanted within 4–6 hours.
Kidneys: Can be preserved for 24–48 hours.
Liver: Can be split to help two people.
Lungs: Single or double-lung transplants.
Pancreas: Used for diabetic patients.
Intestines: Transplanted, though rare.
Uterus: Transplanted for fertility purposes
Tissues that can be donated (after Cardiac Death):
Corneas/Eyes: Restore vision; can be removed several hours after death.
Skin: Used for burn victims.
Bone/Cartilage: Reconstructive surgery.
Heart Valves: Crucial for congenital heart defects.
Raqif makhdoomi is a law student and a human rights activist .

TULIP SEASON STRENGTHENS KASHMIR'S TOURISM MOMENTUM



■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

The Tulip Season in Kashmir has concluded on a vibrant and successful note, leaving behind a wave of optimism for the Valley's tourism sector. The Indra Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar, which remained the centerpiece of the annual Tulip Festival, witnessed an overwhelming response from visitors, reaffirming its position as the symbolic beginning of Kashmir's tourism calendar every year.

Set against the majestic Zabarwan hills and overlooking the serene Dal Lake, the garden transformed into a breathtaking expanse of colour during the festival. Lakhs of tourists from across the country and beyond thronged the site, drawn by the beauty of blooming tulips and the promise of spring in the Valley. With the festival concluded on April 16, this year stakeholders across sectors are now reflecting on a season that not only met but, in many ways, exceeded expectations.

The Tulip Festival has long been recognized as a key driver of early-season tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. Following the relatively quiet winter months, the bloom of tulips marks the revival of economic activity, attracting visitors at a time when tourism traditionally begins to pick up. This early momentum plays a crucial role in setting the pace for the rest of the year, providing a strong foundation for the peak summer season.

This year's festival saw high levels of engagement across the tourism ecosystem. Hotels, guesthouses, and houseboats in Srinagar reported robust occupancy throughout the season, reflecting sustained demand from visitors. The hospitality sector, which often faces seasonal fluctuations, benefited significantly from the early influx, with many operators noting improved bookings compared to previous years.

Transport services also experienced a notable surge in activity. Taxi operators, tour guides, and shikara owners on Dal Lake reported increased demand, indicating the wide-ranging impact of the festival. The steady flow of tourists ensured

that economic benefits were distributed across multiple sectors, supporting livelihoods and strengthening local businesses.

Local markets, particularly those dealing in traditional handicrafts, witnessed a considerable boost. Tourists visiting the tulip garden often extended their trips to nearby markets, purchasing items such as Pashmina shawls, carpets, papier-mâché artefacts, and other locally crafted products. For artisans and small traders, the festival provided a valuable opportunity to connect directly with customers, enhancing both income and visibility.

Beyond its economic significance, the Tulip Season 2026 stood out for its emphasis on inclusivity and social outreach. In a noteworthy initiative, authorities and healthcare institutions collaborated to facilitate visits for pediatric patients and individuals undergoing medical treatment. These efforts ensured that the beauty of the tulip garden could be experienced by those who might otherwise remain confined to hospital environments.

Children receiving treatment in hospitals across Srinagar were brought to the garden under carefully supervised arrangements. Special transportation, medical assistance, and support staff were deployed to ensure their safety and comfort during the visits. For many of these young patients, the outing provided a rare opportunity to step outside clinical settings and engage with nature.

The impact of such visits extended beyond recreation. Exposure to the open environment, vibrant colours, and fresh air contributed positively to the emotional and psychological well-being of the children. Healthcare professionals have long emphasized the therapeutic value of nature, and the initiative served as a practical demonstration of how such experiences can support recovery and improve mental health.

In addition to pediatric patients, efforts were made to accommodate individuals with disabilities and those facing mobility challenges. Improved infrastructure, including wheelchair-accessible pathways and on-site assistance, ensured that the garden remained accessible to a broader segment of society. These measures reflect a growing commitment to inclusive tourism, where public spaces are designed to be enjoyed by all.

The integration of such initiatives has added a new dimension to the Tulip Festival, transforming it from a purely aes-



thetic attraction into a socially responsive event. It highlights the potential of tourism to contribute not only to economic growth but also to community well-being and social inclusion.

The tulip garden itself continued to captivate visitors with its expansive layout and meticulous planning. Featuring over a million tulip bulbs in a diverse array of colours and patterns, the garden offered a visually stunning experience. Continuous improvements in landscaping, maintenance, and visitor facilities ensured that the site maintained its status as a world-class attraction.

Cultural programmes organized during the festival further enriched the visitor experience. Traditional Kashmiri music, dance performances, and local cuisine provided an opportunity for tourists to engage with the region's rich cultural heritage. These elements helped create a holistic experience, combining natural beauty with cultural immersion.

The influence of digital media was particularly evident during this year's festival. Social media platforms were flooded with images and videos of the blooming tulips, capturing the attention of audiences far beyond the Valley. Visitors, travel bloggers, and influencers played a key role in promoting the festival, contributing to its growing popularity and reach.

Authorities have attributed the success of the Tulip Season to improved infrastructure and effective coordination. Enhanced road connectivity, better traffic management, and efficient public services made it easier for tourists to access the garden. Cleanliness and security measures were also prioritized, ensuring a safe and pleasant environment for visitors.

Environmental sustainability remained a central focus throughout the festival. Measures such as waste management systems, eco-friendly practices, and aware-

ness campaigns were implemented to minimize the environmental impact of large crowds. Visitors were encouraged to maintain cleanliness and respect the natural surroundings, reinforcing the importance of responsible tourism.

Despite the overall success, certain challenges persist. Managing large crowds and maintaining infrastructure require continuous effort, particularly as visitor numbers continue to grow. Experts have emphasized the need for sustainable tourism strategies that balance development with environmental conservation.

There is also a growing recognition of the need to diversify tourism experiences beyond the tulip garden. Encouraging visitors to explore other destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Sonamarg can help distribute tourist inflow more evenly and reduce pressure on a single site. Such an approach would also enhance the overall appeal of Kashmir as a multi-dimensional destination.

As the Tulip Season concludes, it leaves behind a strong sense of optimism and momentum. The festival has once again demonstrated its ability to revive tourism, support local livelihoods, and showcase the natural beauty of Kashmir to the world.

More importantly, the inclusion of initiatives for pediatric and other patients has highlighted a progressive vision for tourism—one that prioritizes inclusivity and well-being alongside economic growth. These efforts have set a precedent for future events, emphasizing that tourism can play a meaningful role in enhancing quality of life.

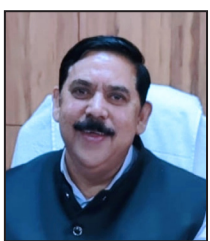
For the people of Kashmir, the tulip bloom continues to symbolize renewal, resilience, and hope. Each spring, it marks not just the arrival of a new season but the beginning of new opportunities for the Valley's tourism sector.

With the successful conclusion of the Tulip Season 2026, the stage is now set for a vibrant year ahead. The strong start provided by the festival has reinforced confidence among stakeholders and created a positive outlook for the months to come. As visitors carry memories of the colourful landscape back with them, the Valley stands ready to welcome many more, continuing its journey toward sustained growth and renewed prosperity.

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Earth Day 2026:

The Soil We Owe Our Children: India's Agriculture at a Crossroads



■ PROF. DINESH CHANDRA RAI

Each year, Earth Day comes around to serve as a reminder for all of us. However, for India—which is a country that has always moved to the tune of rains, seasons, and harvests—this occasion should mean much more than a celebration of the earth. The soil of our nation is dying and we are rapidly running out of time to accept that fact. It is rather sad to observe a situation where a disaster takes place without any immediate effects but gradually leads to a state of exhaustion before reaching the point of no return. This seems to be the exact situation in the case of the soil of India right now.

Green Revolution was a phenomenon of the 1960s that saved India from hunger and famine and turned it into a self-sufficient country when it comes to food production. For this achievement, we can give credit to the Green Revolution and extend our gratitude towards our agri-

culture scientists. However, the cost of this revolution appears to be high. In our quest to increase food production, we failed to consider soil as an ecosystem and started treating it merely as a substance used to hold plants up while we added chemicals to it.

In the Indo-Gangetic plains, especially across the productive belt of North Bihar, the statistics speak for themselves. Soils with Organic Carbon—clear indication of a soil's biological health—fall dismally below the 0.5% mark across much of the belt, even though any true resilience will require them to be above the 1% mark. Meanwhile, the groundwater is being depleted at a pace far exceeding what rainfall can refill it at. We have effectively borrowed from our future, something we cannot possibly repay. For an agriculture-dependent country, a lack of agricultural resilience has serious implications, geopolitically speaking.

Credit where it is due, India's policymakers have started correcting mistakes. The Soil Health Card Scheme, through which more than 25.89 crore such cards have been issued to farmers, providing them with accurate information about soil nutrients, has helped bring down chemical fertilizer usage in the country to as much as eight to ten percent. Similarly, the PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana has

made it possible to micro-irrigate as much as 80 lakh hectares of farmland, thereby lowering water consumption by nearly half in the case of water-intensive crops.

Nevertheless, the chasm between knowledge and action is what constitutes the core problem with our approach to agriculture. Knowledge without behavioural change is no more than data written on paper. Urea application by many farmers continues to be based on gut feeling and personal experience because reading the soil advisory card is tough, the costs of changing mindsets are high, and the short-term need to feed one's family overwhelms rational long-term considerations.

In addressing the above issue, we will have to do a little more than improve scientific approaches. We need to take a closer look at the reasons why a farmer in Muzaffarpur decides to ignore an advisory he does not understand and find ways to facilitate better decision-making for the small holder.

Agriculture regenerative, with its emphasis on soil biology, is not some kind of romantic journey back to an ancient past but rather a more intelligent future. The restoration of crop residues and cow dung back into the soil, the use of healthy soil bacteria, and nutrient application with the help of sensors and satellite map-

ping are science-driven practices. Nevertheless, when farmers resort to such methods, they inevitably experience a "yield dip" for two to three years as the soil starts working normally again. To ask someone who cultivates less than two hectares with limited finances to endure such losses is unjust.

This is the reason why the first thing India needs to do to solve its environmental problems is to build a system of economic incentives. In other words, what is required is the implementation of the Soil Health Credit concept—an initiative whereby farmers will receive economic benefits for carbon sequestration and an increase in organic matter. It is no exaggeration to say that a farmer from Bihar, who makes his land into a carbon sink, becomes a participant in the process of climate change.

Even universities themselves have a responsibility that transcends that of mere research papers. As per the guidelines outlined under the National Education Policy 2020, our university is expected to dismantle the barriers between the study of biotechnology and agronomy, and between digital sensing technology and agricultural experience. The B.R. Ambedkar Bihar University believes that there is an urgent need to educate our young minds about the fact that the soil

microbiome and regional weather conditions share one and the same emergency. Agricultural extension must be revived to become the backbone of rural development.

The Earth Day is not meant for any celebration; it is the time by which action needs to be taken. The Indian farmer had no role in creating the climate emergency situation, but it is he/she who suffers from this global phenomenon, and also has the potential of being a healer to the world. The land cultivated by him/her can provide a huge scope for carbon storage and sustainable cultivation of food without the destruction of the ecosystems on which food depends. While the first Green Revolution provided India with food security, the second revolution should provide dignity to our land.

About the author
Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai, a senior professor at BHU and currently the Vice Chancellor of BR Ambedkar Bihar University. Prof. Rai's extensive research spanning over three decades, centers around tangible welfare of farmers, environment and rural economy through academic research and leadership.



Green Tea

Plus Exercise May Reduce Fatty Liver Disease



People suffering from non-alcoholic fatty liver disease may benefit from regular exercise and replacing high-calorie beverages with decaffeinated, diet green tea, suggests new research. The researchers found that a combination of green tea extract and exercise reduced the severity of obesity-related fatty liver disease by 75 per cent in mice fed a high-fat diet. Although untested in human trials, the results suggest a potential health strategy. "Combining the two might have health benefits for people, but we don't have the clinical data

yet," said Joshua Lambert, Associate Professor of Food Science at The Pennsylvania State University in the US. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is a significant global health problem that is expected to worsen, Lambert said. Because of the high prevalence of risk factors such as obesity and Type-2 diabetes, fatty liver disease is forecast to afflict more than 100 million people by 2030. And there are currently no validated therapies for the disease. In the study, mice fed a high-fat diet for 16 weeks that consumed green tea extract and exercised regularly by running on a wheel were

found to have just a quarter of the lipid deposits in their livers compared to those seen in the livers

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In the study, mice fed a high-fat diet for 16 weeks that consumed green tea extract and exercised regularly by running on a wheel were found to have just a quarter of the lipid deposits in their livers compared to those seen in the livers of a control group of mice

of a control group of mice. Mice that were treated with green tea extract alone or exercise alone had roughly half as much fat in their livers as the control group. In addition to analyzing the liver tissues of mice in the study, which was published recently in the Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry, the researchers also measured the protein and fat content in their faeces. They found that the mice that consumed green tea extract and exercised had higher fecal lipid and protein levels. "By examining the livers of these mice after the study concluded and by screening their faeces during the research, we saw that the mice that consumed green tea extract and exercised actually were processing nutrients differently -- their bodies were handling food differently," Lambert said. "We think the polyphenols in green tea interact with digestive enzymes secreted in the small intestine and partially inhibit the breakdown of carbohydrates, fat and protein in food," he added. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com "So, if a mouse doesn't digest the fat in its diet, that fat and the calories associated with it pass through the mouse's digestive system, and a certain amount of it ends up coming out in its faeces," he said.

Courtesy Healthline

Coffee Vs. Green Tea: Which One Is Best For You?

Tea and coffee are amongst the most popularly consumed hot beverages around the world. Both of which, are often consumed routinely. When we consume something on a regular basis its intake has a huge impact on our health as well as our moods, be it healthy or unhealthy. Hence, it is important to understand whether these beverages are good for our health. If yes, how do these popularly consumed hot beverages benefit us? We must also navigate which one is healthier and ideal for us.

Green Tea

Green tea has been popularly advertised as the healthier alternative to regular tea, which is most commonly consumed in India. Green tea has many health benefits, some of which are:

Betters metabolism

Green tea has been proven to better metabolism. A fast metabolism indicates that your body can burn calories faster than an average person. This means you can consume more calories without gaining weight and also burn calories easily. Hence, better metabolism boosts fat burn and weight loss.

Might prevent cancer

Green tea is high in antioxidants. Antioxidants help fight off external radicals that might negatively affect the body. Antioxidants help avoid and reduce cell damage caused by these radicals, which are reactive molecules produced by the body in response to the environment and other causes. Hence, high antioxidants in green tea can help prevent cancer.

Better brain function

Just like other teas and coffee, green tea is high in caffeine. Caffeine helps us feel energised and boosts our brain's functions. In fact, caffeine has



been proven to better various brain functions such as memory, reaction time, mood and attentiveness. It helps us feel active and promotes productivity.

Might slow down brain ageing

Along with short-term benefits, green tea has proven to also provide long-term benefits to the brain. Green tea has been proven to reduce the risk of developing various neurodegenerative diseases. Parkinson's and Alzheimer's are some of the diseases caused by brain ageing.

Betters heart health

Various studies have found that green tea can reduce risks for cardiovascular diseases. In addition to this, the metabolic benefits of green tea help us maintain our ideal weight. Obesity can increase our risk of developing other chronic diseases. Hence, consuming green tea can help us avoid obesity and other diseases.

Coffee

Coffee is a globally consumed hot beverage.

Coffee is popular for its unique flavour and energy-boosting properties. Coffee has various other benefits some of which are:

Prevent cancer

Studies show that coffee can help us by making our DNA stronger. Although it cannot alter our DNA, it protects us from cellular damage that can later negatively alter our DNA. This cellular damage is what can cause cancer. Cellular damage can be caused by various external factors such as prolonged sun exposure, etc. Antioxidants in the coffee can help fight these cell damage-causing radicals.

Better liver health

Caffeine makes our body produce a compound known as paraxanthine, it reduces the creation of scar tissue. This could contribute to the treatment of various liver-related diseases such as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, liver cancer, cirrhosis caused by alcohol, and hepatitis C.

Boosts energy

Coffee is popular for being a great morning beverage. The high caffeine content in coffee promotes high energy levels. It may help better your productivity at work as well as while exercising.

Reduce risks of neurodegenerative diseases

As you grow old, you become more prone to neurodegenerative diseases as a result of brain ageing. Regular consumption of coffee can help you reduce the risks of developing dementia disorders such as Alzheimer's or other neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's.

What's better for you?

As discussed above, both green tea and coffee have various benefits. In addition to this, both of these contain zero calories which makes them healthy beverages. However, in the case of these exceptions, you might want to avoid consuming them.

Green tea might be unfit for you in case you suffer from:

- Iron deficiency
- Stomach sensitivity; might cause vomiting, nausea and stomach ache
- Diabetes
- Anxiety or panic attacks
- Heart-related conditions
- Sensitive bowel
- Liver diseases

Green tea is also considered unfit for children, pregnant or/and breastfeeding individuals

Coffee is considered unfit for these groups of people:

- Children
- If you have an irregular heart rate or other heart-related diseases
- People that suffer from sleep disorders
- In case you suffer from anxiety or panic attacks
- Epilepsy patients
- People that have overreactive bowel or experience diarrhoea often
- Pregnant or breastfeeding individuals

If you do not come under any of the categories listed above, you can pick which one is best for you based on preference.

Courtesy Healthline

Kulgam Police Organises Pad Yatra Rally Under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, APR 21: In a significant initiative to curb drug abuse and promote a healthy society, Kulgam Police, on the directions of SSP Kulgam Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), organised a grand Pad Yatra Rally at Yaripora under the theme "Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan" as part of the ongoing 100-day anti-drug campaign.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, youth, civil society members, and people from various walks of life.

Police officers also actively took part in the event, highlighting the collective responsibility of society in combating the menace of drug abuse.

Participants carried placards, performed skits, and used other engaging methods to spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of community vigilance. The rally served as an effective platform to connect with the public and reinforce the message of prevention, rehabilitation, and strict enforcement against drug-related activities.

Speaking on the occasion, several prominent citizens emphasized the importance of building a drug-free society. They noted that such awareness initiatives play a vital role in sensitizing the youth and strengthening the collective resolve to make Kulgam free from the menace of drugs.

The programme concluded with a renewed pledge by all stakeholders to work together for the success of the "Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan" and to ensure a safer, healthier future for coming generations.

Cemtac Cements holds plantation drive at Khrew plant

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KHREW, APR 21: Cemtac Cements on Monday organised a plantation drive at its plant site in Pulwama, with officials from the Forest Department Jammu & Kashmir and the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee in attendance. The drive witnessed the presence of Mudasir Mehmood, DFO Awantipora Division, officials of the Forest Department, and Fayaz Ahmad, District Officer, Pulwama Division (JKPCC), among others. Around 1,000 saplings of different species were planted as part of the initiative aimed at enhancing green cover and promoting ecological balance in the area. Members of J&K Eco Watch also participated in the drive. Speaking on the occasion, DFO Awantipora Division, Mudasir Mehmood, said,

"Such initiatives by industrial units are a positive step towards environmental conservation. Increasing green cover is essential for maintaining ecological balance, and we appreciate Cemtac's efforts in this regard. We hope to collaborate with them in future plantation and afforestation drives as well." District Officer, Pulwama Division (JKPCC), Fayaz Ahmad, said, "Industries have a crucial role in ensuring environmental compliance and sustainability. This plantation drive reflects a responsible approach, and we encourage more such initiatives that align development with environmental protection." Director of Operations, Ruman Riaz, said the company remains committed to sustainable practices. "At Cemtac, we believe that industrial growth must be balanced with environmental responsibility. This drive is a step towards that vision, and we are committed to continuing such efforts in the future to contribute to a greener and more sustainable ecosystem," he said. The company said the initiative forms part of its broader commitment to sustainability and community engagement, with similar programmes planned in the coming months.

Mendhar Girl Tops JKBOSE Class 10 With 499 Marks

■ M S NAZKI

POONCH, APR 21: In an outstanding display of academic excellence, Niyati Dutta from Mendhar in Poonch district has secured the top position in the Class 10 examinations conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), scoring an exceptional 499 out of 500 marks.

Daughter of Munish Dutta, a government teacher, Niyati shares the top rank with a few other students who also secured 499 marks.

Niyati credited both her parents and teachers for her success. "I learned how to strategise and work hard from my papa, who is also a teacher. My mother has always been supportive and guided me whenever I faced any difficulty," she told HT.

She also acknowledged the support of her teachers at both the primary level at KGN Public School and during her higher secondary schooling. She fondly recalled the guidance of mentors such as Lata ma'am and her principal, as well as coaching teachers like Pallavi ma'am. She also hailed contribution of brother Ishan in teaching her mathematics.

JKBOSE declared the Class 10 results for the Jammu division, recording an overall pass percentage of 88.85 percent. According to official data, girls outperformed boys with a pass percentage of 90.42 percent, compared to 87.51 percent among boys. A total of 50,754 students appeared in the March session examinations, including 27,486 boys and 23,268 girls.

Out of these, 45,094 students—24,054 boys and 21,040 girls—have been declared qualified. However, around 5,650 students were unable to clear the examination, as per the official figures.

Hailing from a border area often associated with limited resources and challenges, Niyati's achievement stands as a testament to determination, discipline, and hard work. Her near-perfect score has not only earned her the first rank but has also brought immense pride to Mendhar and the entire district.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of FAREEDA BEGUM W/O NAZIR AHMAD WANI R/O WARIPORA BALA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that NAZIR AHMAD WANI S/O ABDUL GUFOOR WANI R/O WARIPORA bala has passed away on 01/04/2026. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... FAREEDA BEGUM wife 49 House wife widow
- 2...WAZEERA NAZIR daughter 33 years H/W married
- 3...AMIR NAZIR son 27 years labour unmarried
- 4...RAFIA NAZIR daughter 24 years students unmarried
- 5...RAFIQ AHMAD WANI son 25 years //

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

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 Kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of ZAINAB SHOWKAT D/O SHOWKAT AHMAD MIR R/O. KREERI Tehsil KREERI Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 18/05/2014 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection .

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of FAREEDA BEGUM W/O NAZIR AHMAD WANI R/O WARIPORA BALA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

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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 Kreeri

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Grandfather name MALLA SAMAD S/O MALLA ISMAIL R/O WATERGAM then transferred on my Father's name GH RASOOL MALLA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040001000 wants to be registered on my name JAHANGIR AHMAD MALLA S/O ABDUL RASHEED MALLA R/O WATERGAM . 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: JAHANGIR AHMAD MALLA
S/O... ABDUL RASHEED MALLA
R/O WATERGAM, BLOCK.... WAGOORA

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name MOHD RAMZAN WAZA S/O ABDUL KHALIQ WAZA R/O FRESTHAR KREERI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040009106 wants to be registered on my name MANZOOR AHMAD WAZA S/O MOHD RAMZAN WAZA R/O ...FRESTHAR . If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name... MANZOOR AHMAD WAZA, S/O... MOHD RAMZAN WAZA, R/O FRESTHAR KREERI , BLOCK.... WAGOORA

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS

SERVICE FOR ALL LAPTOPS

DELL hp lenovo

7006083461

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B)D Mechanical Division South Kashmir

Notice Inviting Tenders

e-NIT No: 01 of R&B/MDSK/2026-27 | Dated: 21/04/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two-cover system (Technical and Financial) on Percentage basis from Experienced firms for the below mentioned work:

S.No	Name of work	T.D cost	Est. Cost	E/M
1	Construction of Two Story Training School Building at Fisheries Training institute Kokernag. (Mechanical Part) (Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Fighting and Fire Alarm system)."	600/-	11.83/-	23660/-

Time of Completion: 3 Months (After Civil Approval)

Tender Opening Authority: Executive Engineer R&B Mechanical Division South Kashmir

Position of Funds: Available with intending department

Position of AAA: Authorization conveyed vide No. Directorate of Fisheries Order No: 440 of 2025, Dated: 24/07/2025 by the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs.

Position of TS: Accorded by Chief Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Engineering Department, Kashmir vide order no. CE/(R&B)/SK/TS/204, Dt: 29/09/2025.

S.No	Particulars	Date		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21/04/2026		
2	Period of Downloading of bidder Documents	From 21/04/2026 To 05/05/2026	(13:00 hrs)	(12:00 hrs)
3	Bid Submission State Date	From 21/04/2026	(13:00 hrs)	
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 05/05/2026	(12:00 hrs)	
5	Date and time of opening of technical bid (Online)	06/05/2026 at after 12:00 hrs in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Mechanical Division South Kashmir		
6	Date and time of opening of financial bid (online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.		
7	Tender document Fee Submission (Between the start and end date of bid submission)	By uploading a scanned copy of Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir Anantnag to be deposited in Major Head MH-0059		
8	Earnest Money Deposit	Earnest money deposit @2% amounting to Rs 23660/- of the estimated cost, in shape of CDR/FDR/BG from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Mechanical Division South Kashmir The bidders must upload documentary proof (scanned copies) of the CDR/FDR /BG-. In case of unsuccessful bidder(s), the EMD shall be released immediately after placement of the work order in favour of the lowest bidder and in case of the successful bidder the same shall be released after submission of Performance Security @5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG within 7 days after intimation by tender inviting authority. EMD shall be valid for a period of 45 days after bid validity.		

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule.

Note: 1. The bidder must get registered on JKPWDOMS, as no payments shall be made unless the bill is processed on JKPWDOMS in view of circular issued by Finance Department of JK UT. No payment shall be released until and unless bill is processed through JKPWDOMS application and routed through JKPaysys. However, for those bidders who are not yet registered on JKPWDOMS shall submit and undertaking that JKPWDOMS registration will be done well on time before release of payment.

2. In case of any technical clarifications, suggestions, and comments set forth in the tender documents, the tenderers shall address the Executive Engineer R&B Mechanical South Kashmir in writing at least six days before the last date fixed for submission of tenders. The queries/clarifications can be mailed to xnrnmdsk@jk.gov.in.

No: R&B/MDSK/ 271-77 | Dated: 21/04/2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer
R&B Mechanical Division South Kashmir

DIPK: 627/26 | Dated: 21-04-2026

Vishwa Bharti Women's college, Srinagar commemorated its 75th Foundation Year (Platinum Jubilee)

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR APR 21: Established in 1951, the institution has grown from a modest initiative into a well-regarded centre of learning, dedicated to the empowerment of youth and the advancement of inclusive education. Over the decades, it has played a significant role in shaping responsible and confident citizens.

As part of the celebrations, a rally was organised to commemorate the occasion, commencing from Srinagar and culminating at Nishat Garden. This was followed by a cultural programme held in the college auditorium, where students, along with teaching and non-teaching staff, participated with enthusiasm.



Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that the name of my Daughter has been incorrectly recorded in the Aadhaar database.

Name shown in Aadhaar: Umiyah Jaan
Correct and legal name: Nazia Jaan
Father's Name: Mohd Amir Malik
Address: Kuhru, Langate, Jammu and Kashmir - 193302
I, Mohd Amir Malik, hereby declare that the name (Umiyah Jaan) mentioned in the Aadhaar card of my daughter is incorrect. Her correct and legal name is Nazia Jaan.

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.

Date: 20/04/2026
Mohd Amir Malik
Phone : 6006903368

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Pahalgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the following persons have applied for issuance of Backward Certificate:

Insha Jan

D/o Mohammad Ashraf Lone

Aflaq Ahmad Lone

S/o Mohammad Ashraf Lone

Irtika Jan

D/o Mohammad Ashraf Lone

All residents of R/o Laripora, Pahalgam.

If anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of the said certificate, he/she may file objections in the office of the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar, Pahalgam

Deputy Chief Minister calls for enhanced connectivity through 4-Lane Domel-Katra-Reasi-Bambla road project

Chairs review meeting to assess progress

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 21: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today emphasized the need to strengthen connectivity across Katra, Reasi and Pouni regions through the proposed Domel-Katra-Reasi-Bambla road project.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the progress of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation and examined the proposed alignment of the project.

He described the initiative as a vital infrastructure development, saying that the proposed four-lane road will significantly improve connectivity, reduce travel time,



and enhance overall mobility in the region.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer PMGSY, Purshotam Kumar, Director Planning and other senior officers.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the officials to ensure that

approaches connecting the major populated habitations particularly at Reasi, Pouni, Katra are comprehensively included in the DPR.

"Our aim is to ensure improved road connectivity and deliver tangible benefits to the people," he stated.

During the meeting, the Consultant briefed him on various aspects of the project, including alignment feasibility, land acquisition requirements, tunnel construction, projected travel time savings and potential cost implications.

He instructed the concerned departments to expedite the engagement of consultancy services and fast-track the DPR preparation to facilitate timely approval.

Reiterating the government's commitment, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "We are dedicated to ensuring seamless and enhanced road connectivity across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on inclusive and balanced development."

DC Anantnag inaugurates South Kashmir Cricket Cup

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, APRIL 21: To promote sports among youth and realise the goal of a drug free society through Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyan, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat today visited Sports Stadium Bijbehara and inaugurated South Kashmir Cricket Cup.

He was accompanied by ADC, ACR, SDM and Tehsildar Bijbehara, renowned cricketer, Parvez Rasool and other officials. Local cricket stars besides a large number of youth and spectators were present during the inaugural ceremony.

The tournament is being organised by District Administration in collaboration with local industries and cricket associations. With 48 teams competing for glory, JCC Tahab and The Elite Shamsipora played the inaugural match, marking the commencement of a major sports initiative.

On the occasion, the DC administered Nasha Mukti pledge to the gathering, urging them to actively contribute towards eliminating the menace of drug abuse from society. The initiative seeks to engage youth in positive activities and channelise their energy in a meaningful and constructive manner, he remarked.

Interacting with the players and other participants, the DC highlighted the vital role of sports in promoting discipline, teamwork, competitive spirit and resilience especially among the youth. He said the district has great advantage to have the services of well recognised sports stars mentoring and guiding youth to develop into better athletes as well as responsible citizens.

He advised participants to stay away from drugs and act as role models and ambassadors of the NMJK Campaign and spread awareness against the substance abuse.

The DC reiterated that the fight against drug menace requires collective efforts

and emphasized the importance of community participation, especially the involvement of youth, in making the campaign successful. He said sports and games have great potential to inculcate the values of hardwork, discipline, leadership, perseverance and patience ultimately leading to a healthy and drug free society. He called upon the youth to fully utilise the opportunity and develop into better athletes and responsible citizens while learning discipline and sports etiquettes from the local stars.

Highlighting the role of NMJK Abhiyan, the DC said that a 100 day intensive campaign has been launched to create mass awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and engage youth in sports and other constructive activities. He noted that a multi pronged strategy has been adopted and the vulnerable groups are particularly sensitised so the objectives of a healthy and drug free district, UT and country are realised.

Cautioning about the ill effects of drug abuse, the DC said that addiction not only destroys the life and career of individuals but has devastating consequences on social and moral fabric of families and society. It is therefore every citizen's moral and civic responsibility to contribute to the cause of a drug free society in one's personal, official and professional capacity, he stressed.

He assured the administration is committed to provide better sports infrastructure and other necessary facilities for boosting sports ecosystem besides facilitating smooth conduct of such events in the district.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and sports enthusiasts, who appreciated the administration's efforts in fostering a culture of sports and social responsibility.

They affirmed to fully utilise such platforms for amplifying the message of NMJK Campaign and developing into better athletes and citizens.

Budgam intensifies fight against Drug Abuse under 100-Day Nasha Mukti Abhiyan

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, APRIL 21: As part of the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan, District Budgam today witnessed a series of impactful awareness activities across multiple sectors, reaffirming its commitment towards building a drug-free society.

A wide range of programmes including rallies, plantation drives, school-based competitions, and door-to-door awareness campaigns were conducted across the district.

Municipal Committees, educational institutions, and various departments actively participated in organizing these initiatives, ensuring broad-based community outreach.

Rallies were held at several locations, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, officials, and local residents, who raised slogans and carried messages highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse. Plantation drives were also organized, symbolizing a collective commitment towards nurturing a healthy and sustainable future.

In educational institutions, competitions and awareness sessions were conducted to sensitize students about the dangers of drug addiction and the importance of making informed life choices. Door-to-door campaigns further strengthened grassroots outreach, with teams engaging directly with households to spread awareness and encourage community vigilance.

The coordinated efforts of multiple stakeholders, including field functionaries and local bodies, underscored the importance of collective responsibility in addressing the issue of substance abuse.

These initiatives not only enhanced public awareness but also encouraged active participation in the mission for a drug-free Budgam.

The district administration reiterated its resolve to sustain the momentum of the campaign through continuous engagement, awareness drives, and inter-departmental coordination, ensuring that the objectives of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan are effectively realized at every level.

GCoE organizes Intra-Mural Tournament to promote physical fitness among participants

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 21: Department of Physical Education of the Government College of Education (GCoE) M.A. Road, Srinagar, today organized an Intra-Mural Tournament in Badminton and Volleyball for students and staff at the college Multipurpose Hall.

The event was formally inaugurated by the Principal, Prof. Dr. Seema Naz, in the presence of Convenor Sports, Prof. Mohd Yasin. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across different streams, creating a vibrant and competitive atmosphere. The event aimed to promote physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship among the participants.



In the Volleyball final, the UG team delivered an impressive performance and defeated the B.Ed 1st Semester team by 2-0 sets to clinch the title.

In the Badminton final, the pair of Mohsin and Zubaid (UG) showcased excellent coordination and skill, defeating A.B. Rehman and Mohd. Ashraf (B.Ed 3rd Semester) to emerge as winners. The matches were played in the true spirit of sportsmanship, and the event concluded successfully with great enthusiasm.

DC Budgam takes on-site stock of Ring Road Development Project in District

Inspects Ring Road Phase-I, Reviews Airport & Railway connectivity

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, APRIL 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today undertook an extensive field visit across multiple locations along the alignment of the Ring Road project, reviewing the progress of Ring Road Phase-I, the proposed Airport and Railway Station connectivity.

The tour commenced from near NH44 Galandar, and covered various critical stretches and points along the Ring Road corridor, including sections falling under Phase-I, till Narbal including Khanda, Wathoora, Gadsathu, Ichkoot, Razwan, Dharmuna, Narbal.

The DC was accompanied by ACR Budgam, Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Budgam, senior officers, and key stakeholders, including representatives of NHAI

and executing agencies.

During the visit, the DC conducted on-site inspections at multiple work locations, taking a segment-wise review of the progress achieved across different reaches of the project. At each site, the DC assessed the pace of execution, quality of works, and adherence to timelines, while also reviewing technical aspects of alignment, land availability, and infrastructure readiness.

The DC was apprised about the proposals of Airport and Railway Station connectivity.

Emphasizing the importance of the project, the DC stated that the Ring Road and its allied links are transformational infrastructure initiatives that will significantly enhance connectivity across Kashmir valley including Budgam and adjoining areas, reduce travel time, and



decongest existing routes.

While moving across different sections of the project, the DC directed executing agencies to

ensure that construction activities are carried out in a manner that minimizes inconvenience to commuters and local residents,

particularly in populated and high-traffic stretches.

He stressed the need for proper traffic regulation, diversions, and safety arrangements at all active work sites.

At several locations along the route, the DC also reviewed issues related to execution and instructed concerned officers to resolve bottlenecks on priority, ensure seamless coordination among departments, and maintain uniform progress across all segments of the project.

The DC further directed that all works must adhere to high-quality standards, with proper drainage systems, road safety features, and environmental safeguards incorporated throughout the alignment. He stressed regular monitoring and accountability to ensure timely completion.

DC Samba reviews progress of HPV Vaccination Campaign in the district

HT NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA, APRIL 21: A review meeting of the District Task Force on Immunization (DTFI) was convened today under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan to assess intersectoral coordination and review the progress of the ongoing Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign in the district.

The meeting began with a welcome address by Chief Medical Officer Samba, Dr. Vidhi Bhatial, while a detailed overview of the campaign was presented by District Immunization Officer Dr. Kamlesh Kumari.

The campaign launched on February 28, 2026 aims to vaccinate girls who have attained 14 years of age but are below 15 years, thereby protecting them against cervical cancer through timely HPV vaccination.

Emphasizing the importance of awareness, the Deputy Commissioner directed the strengthening of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities. She called for wide publicity through banners, posters and pamphlets at schools, health institutions, Anganwadi centres and marketplaces. She also stressed enhanced media engagement through video and audio messages by qualified gynecologists and pediatricians to address misconceptions and build public confidence in the vaccine.

Highlighting the role of the Education Department, the Chief Education Officer was directed to ensure active participation of schools. The schools shall organise awareness sessions for parents during Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs), focusing on the benefits, eligibility and importance of HPV vaccination. Teachers were also encouraged to act as community influencers.

For effective implementation, field-level functionaries including ASHAs, ANMs, Anganwadi Workers and school staff were directed to work in close coordination to identify eligible beneficiaries and ensure their vaccination, with special focus on hard-to-reach areas and out-of-school girls.

To ensure close monitoring, regular block-level reviews shall be conducted and progress reports submitted to the district headquarters for timely assessment and corrective measures.

Addressing vaccine hesitancy, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized engaging community leaders, parents and local influencers to dispel myths and cultural barriers through interactive sessions and awareness programmes.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that achieving 100% coverage within the stipulated time frame is essential to safeguard the health and well-being of adolescent girls in the district. She called for proactive participation and coordinated efforts from all stakeholders.

DLSA Reasi organises legal awareness programmes

HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, APRIL 21: Under the visionary leadership of Khalil Choudhary, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge Reasi) and the guidance of Pooja Gupta, Secretary, DLSA Reasi, an awareness programme was organized by TLSC Mahore.

The programme was conducted at High School Nihoch. The awareness session focused on pressing issues of drug abuse and child marriage. During the programme, the participants, especially students were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug addiction on health, society and future prospects. Emphasis was laid on prevention, early identification and the importance of seeking help through proper legal and social channels. The PLV also highlighted the legal provisions related to the prohibition of child marriage, explaining the consequences and penalties under the law. Students were encouraged to raise voices against such social evils and contribute towards building a safer and healthier society. The programme witnessed active participation from students and staff, making the session interactive and impactful.

The programme also focused on ensuring that the eligible beneficiaries, especially from rural and underprivileged sections, are able to access government support effectively. The participants actively interacted with the PLVs and raised queries regarding eligibility criteria and application procedures, which were duly addressed during the session.

Another awareness programme on drug abuse was organized today at PLV Aid Clinic, Police Station Chassana by TLSC Mahore. During the session, the PLVs educated the participants about the harmful effects of drug abuse, its impact on health, family and society and the legal consequences associated

with substance abuse and trafficking. The participants were also made aware about the role of Legal Services Authorities in providing free legal aid and assistance to the needy. Emphasis was laid on adopting a healthy lifestyle and staying away from drugs, while encouraging community participation in eradicating this social menace. The programme witnessed active participation from the locals, who appreciated the efforts of DLSA Reasi and TLSC Mahore in spreading awareness on such a crucial issue.

An awareness programme on DLSA and its functions was organized at Panchayat Karua by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Katra. During the session, the PLVs sensitized the locals about the role and functions of the District Legal Services Authority, emphasizing the Availability of free legal aid and services for eligible sections of society. The participants were informed about various schemes, legal aid clinics, Lok Adalats and the Importance of legal awareness in ensuring access to justice. The PLVs also encouraged the public to approach DLSA/TLSC in case of any legal issues and assured necessary support and Guidance. The programme witnessed active

participation from the locals, who appreciated the initiative.

An awareness programme on Lok Adalat and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods was organized at Katra by Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs). During the programme, the PLVs sensitized the participants about the importance and benefits of Lok Adalats as an effective mechanism for speedy and amicable settlement of disputes. They highlighted that Lok Adalats provide a cost-effective, time-saving and hassle-free platform where cases can be resolved without prolonged litigation. The participants were also made aware of various ADR methods including mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

Emphasis was laid on how these mechanisms help in reducing the burden on courts while ensuring justice in a more accessible and efficient manner.

The PLVs further informed the public about the role and functions of DLSA and encouraged them to take advantage of free legal aid services available for eligible sections of society. The programme witnessed active participation from the locals, who appreciated the initiative and expressed keen interest in resolving disputes through ADR mechanisms.

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US begins \$166 Billion tariff refunds, Indian exporters left without direct claim route

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, APR 21 : The United States government has initiated the long-awaited process of refunding billions of dollars in tariffs after the Supreme Court of the United States struck down duties imposed under President Donald Trump earlier this year.

While the move unlocks an estimated USD 166 billion in refunds, Indian exporters impacted by the tariff regime are unlikely to benefit directly.

According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), Indian exporters do not have a legal mechanism to claim refunds from US authorities. The refunded duties are payable only to US-based importers who had originally borne the tariff

burden at the time of entry.

GTRI has advised Indian exporters to proactively engage with their American buyers to negotiate a share of the refunded amounts. "The refunds will flow only to US importers, making commercial negotiations critical for exporters seeking compensation," the think tank noted.

The tariffs, introduced on April 2, 2025, targeted multiple countries, including India, and significantly impacted outbound shipments. Of the total USD 166 billion eligible for refunds, nearly USD 12 billion is estimated to be linked to imports of Indian-origin goods.

Tariffs on Indian exports began at 10 pc and were subsequently raised in phases, touching 25 pc by August 7 and



escalating further to 50 pc by August 28, where they remained until early February 2026. The sweeping tariff framework was eventually invalidated by the US Supreme Court on February 20, rendering the duties legally void.

The refund process, however, comes with procedural constraints. As per reports, US importers must file detailed claims through an online system, including shipment-level data, tariff classifications, and proof of duty payments.

Initial eligibility is restricted to certain "unliquidated" entries or shipments still within 80 days of final customs accounting. Data from the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shows that over 330,000 importers paid duties across more than

53 million shipments, but only around 56,500 had completed mandatory registration for electronic refunds by mid-April.

The impact on Indian exports was substantial, with nearly 53 pc of shipments to the US—primarily textiles and apparel—falling under the elevated tariff bracket.

These sectors are now expected to account for a significant share of the refund pool, though actual gains for Indian exporters will depend on bilateral negotiations with US buyers.

The development marks a major reversal of the Trump-era trade policy, but for Indian exporters, the recovery of losses will hinge more on commercial leverage than legal entitlement. UNI

Titan Launches 'Zero Hour' Sports Line; Unveils 500M Professional Diver's Watch

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 21 : Titan Company Limited on Tuesday announced the launch of its new performance sports sub-brand 'Zero Hour', along with a 500-metre professional diver's automatic watch, marking its entry into high-performance watchmaking.

In a release, the company said the Zero Hour line is designed for extreme conditions, focusing on precision, durability and reliability.

The launch includes a collection of 12 timepieces with water resistance ranging from 100 metres to 500 metres.

At the top end is the Titan 500M Professional Diver's Automatic watch, built to meet ISO 6425 standards for professional dive watches.

The timepiece is powered by Titan's in-house automatic Calibre 7AC0 movement, operating at 28,800 vibrations per hour and offering an accuracy of -10/30 seconds per day.

The watch features a Grade 2 titanium case, sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating, and a unidirectional bezel with an Aqua Lock mechanism for underwater precision.

It is equipped with Super-LumiNova X1 lume for enhanced visibility in low-light conditions and comes with interchangeable titanium bracelet and FKM strap options.

Titan said the limited-edition 500M Professional Diver's watch will be available in two variants, with 500 units each, priced between Rs 75,995 and Rs 77,995.

Other models in the range, including 300M, 200M and 100M variants, will be priced starting from Rs 15,795.

Speaking on the launch, Rahul Shukla, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Titan Watches, said the Zero Hour line represents a significant step in expanding the company's presence in the sports and performance watch segment and reflects its growing capabilities in mechanical watchmaking.

Titan also announced a collaboration with Professional Association of Diving Instructors to strengthen its diver's watch portfolio through access to global diving expertise and community engagement. UNI

Telangana offers world-class infra for medical devices: Duddilla Sridhar Babu

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APRIL 21 : Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Tuesday stated that Telangana offers world-class infrastructure for the manufacturing of advanced medical devices.

He noted that all necessary facilities are in place at the Medical Devices Park in Genome Valley, Hyderabad, to enable immediate commencement of production.

Sridhar Babu held discussions at the Secretariat with MedTech industrialists from the Netherlands and researchers from universities.

He explained that Telangana is highly conducive for medical research, the development of

artificial intelligence, and the production of medical equipment.

He highlighted that the state ranks among the top in the country in pharmaceutical production, innovation, and vaccine manufacturing.

Recalling the COVID pandemic, he noted that biotech companies from the state supplied vaccines to 120 countries.

The Minister stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the government is extending full support to develop Telangana into a hub for advanced medical device manufacturing.

He added that there is ample availability of electricity, water, and land.

He also pointed out the strong



potential for the use of artificial intelligence in the medical sector and said that areas such as imaging technology, clinical validation, and

digital profiles are favourable for investment.

He emphasised that there is no shortage of skilled human

resources, which is why some of the world's largest pharmaceutical and biotech companies have established their manufacturing bases in the state.

He encouraged exploring partnerships with universities in Telangana.

A delegation of experts from various fields, led by Netherlands Innovation Counsellor Jan Reint Smit, participated in the meeting. From the state government, IT Advisor I. Saikrishna, TGIC MD Shashank, Industries Commissioner Nikhil Chakravarthy, Industries Special Secretary Raghurama Sharma, Telangana Life Sciences CEO Sarvesh Singh, Vice President Venu, and others were present. UNI

Orbicular Partner Gets Tentative USFDA Nod for Generic Ozempic; OneSource as CDMO

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 21 : OneSource Specialty Pharma Limited on Tuesday said its partner Orbicular Pharmaceutical Technologies, along with its U.S.-based front-end partner, has secured tentative approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) for a generic version of Ozempic (Semaglutide Injection). OneSource is serving as the contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO) partner for the product.

In a release, the pharma company said the milestone reflects a closely integrated development-to-submission model, with Orbicular leading product development and the technical programme for the complex peptide, while OneSource provided end-to-end manufacturing support for the U.S.



market filing. The collaboration is aimed at ensuring reliable commercial supply from OneSource's USFDA-approved flagship manufacturing facility in Bengaluru. Commenting on the development, OneSource CEO and MD Neeraj Sharma said the tentative approval underscores Orbicular's scientific capabilities and OneSource's CDMO expertise backed by its USFDA-

approved manufacturing infrastructure. He added that OneSource continues to strengthen its position as a global CDMO partner for drug-device combinations, complex injectables and specialty pharmaceutical products through strategic collaborations, including its partnership with Orbicular for manufacturing and commercial supply readiness. UNI

Govt Coal Firms Must Stay Competitive Under New Sale Policy: union Coal Minister Kishan Reddy

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 21 : union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy on Tuesday directed all government coal companies to enhance competitiveness by maintaining strict quality standards and reducing production costs, in line with India's push towards energy self-reliance.



During a nationwide review meeting held via video conference from New Delhi, Kishan Reddy emphasised that coal must be marketed at competitive prices without compromising on quality under the proposed 'Coal Exchange mechanism'.

He stated that the new coal sale framework would allow consumers across the country to procure coal of their preferred grade from suppliers of their choice, thereby increasing competition.

In such a market-driven environment, maintaining quality would be crucial for sustaining and expanding market share, he noted. Reviewing the performance of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCLL), the union Minister advised the company to focus on supplying high-quality coal at competitive prices while meeting targets for new mining projects. SCLL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti, participated in the meeting from Singareni Bhavan in Hyderabad and presented the company's future plans.

He informed that efforts are underway to obtain approvals for five new opencast projects during the current year, including: JK OC at Yellandu; Manuguru Opencast Extension; Ramagundam OC-1 Phase-III; Goleti OC and RK Opencast Project.

These projects require forest and environmental clearances, while approvals for non-forest land are pending for seven additional projects, the CMD said. Dr. Jyoti stated that SCLL is taking steps to supply better-quality coal and increase dispatches to prevent stock accumulation during the summer season.

He also highlighted that the lack of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land remains a challenge, and sought CPSU status for SCLL to facilitate faster execution of new mining projects.

Senior officials including Directors for Operations, Planning & Projects, and E&M, along with other key executives, participated in the review meeting from Hyderabad. UNI

Vedanta shareholders to receive 1:1 shares in four new demerged entities

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, APR 21 : The board of directors of Vedanta Limited has formally approved the implementation of its long-anticipated composite scheme of arrangement, setting May 1, 2026 as both the effective date of the demerger as well as the record date for determining shareholders eligible to receive consideration under the scheme, the company has officially announced.

Under its demerger scheme, Vedanta will demerge four business undertakings into separate entities, namely Vedanta Aluminium Metal Limited (VAML), Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL), Malco Energy Limited (MEL) as well as Vedanta Iron and Steel Limited (VISL).

Taking May 1, 2026 as the date of record, all shareholders will receive one share each in all four entities for every Vedanta share held.

TSPL shares will carry a face value of Rs 10, while VAML, MEL and VISL shares will carry a face value of Rs 1 each.

According to the company, Investors must hold Vedanta shares in their demat account as of the record date to be eligible for the shares of the demerged entities.

However, since May 1, 2026 is Maharashtra Day as well as a public holiday for both stock exchanges



and banks, the last date to purchase Vedanta shares and qualify for the demerger entitlement will be April 29, 2026.

Investors who buy shares on or before April 29 2026 will see their holdings reflected in their demat accounts by May 1, 2026, making them eligible to receive shares in the demerged entities, according to the company statement.

Certain non-convertible debentures forming part of the

aluminium undertaking will also be transferred to VAML on the same record date of May 1.

Upon the scheme's effectiveness, TSPL and MEL will be renamed Vedanta Power Limited and Vedanta Oil and Gas Limited, respectively, subject to regulatory approval, according to the statement.

Separately, the board also approved the transfer of Vedanta's shareholding in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) to VAML. The agreement for this share

sale between Vedanta and VAML is expected to be signed on or before April 30, 2026, with the transaction expected to be completed by the same date.

BALCO's turnover for FY 24-25 stood at Rs 15,909 crore, constituting approximately 10% of Vedanta's consolidated revenue for the year. BALCO's net worth as of 31 March 2025 was Rs 12,088 crore, representing 39% of the company's consolidated net worth as of the same date.

Vedanta's demerger is widely regarded as one of the most significant corporate restructurings in India's metals and mining sector. The restructuring scheme had previously secured shareholder and creditor approvals, and received a pivotal boost when the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved it in December 2025.

After the demerger is implemented, Vedanta's diversified businesses will operate as independently listed entities, enabling investors to hold direct stakes in distinct, sector-focused companies rather than a single conglomerate.

The company has maintained that the split will help simplify its business structure, sharpen management focus, and unlock value by allowing each vertical to chart its own growth and capital allocation trajectory.

Vedanta's chairman Anil Agarwal had previously indicated that the combined valuation of all demerged entities could surpass the current unified market capitalisation of the company.

The demerger also coincides with Vedanta's ongoing efforts to reshape its balance sheet, with parent Vedanta Resources continuing its deleveraging drive. UNI



Prince Yadav enters top 3 in Purple Cap race

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH: Two games on Sunday, many players in action, and, therefore, lots of movements near the top of the Orange Cap and Purple Cap tables in IPL 2026. Here's a look.

Purple Cap leaderboard

Prince Yadav was the best bowler in the Punjab Kings (PBKS) vs Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) game, which PBKS won by 54 runs. In a game where 454 runs were scored, Prince returned figures of 2 for 25. Prince has now picked up at least a wicket in each of his six IPL 2026 appearances. The two on Sunday took his tally to 11, the same as Prasad Krishna of Gujarat Titans (GT) but at a superior economy rate.

Anshul Kamboj continues to lead the table with 13 wickets, and Ravi Bishnoi of Rajasthan Royals (RR) has now climbed to No. 5 with 10 wickets after picking up one against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), behind Bhuvneshwar Kumar of Royal Chal-

engers Bengaluru (RCB).

After Sunday's action, RR's Jofra Archer has eight wickets, the same as four others including Kartik Tyagi of KKR, who returned 3 for 22 against RR.

Orange Cap leaderboard

The one, two and three on the run-getters' table haven't changed, but a No. 1 from earlier in the tournament is at No. 4 now. Heinrich Klaasen of Sunrisers Hyderabad (RCB), GT's Shubman Gill and RCB's Virat Kohli have the top-three spots, and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi of RR is now in fourth position after scoring 46 against KKR.

PBKS' Cooper Connolly is also on the rise after recording his second big score of the season - 87 in 46 balls. He is in sixth place with 223 runs, the same as RR's Yashasvi Jaiswal, who scored 39 against KKR. Connolly's partner-in-crime from Sunday, Priyansh Arya has also breached the 200-run mark - taking the number up to 15 - after his incredible 93 in 37 balls against LSG.

Former Afghanistan quick Shapoor Zadran battles for his life in Delhi hospital

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

PERTH: Former Afghanistan left-arm fast bowler Shapoor Zadran is suffering from Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a rare, life-threatening disease, in which the immune system starts failing. Shapoor, who will turn 39 in July, has an advance form of HLH and is currently battling for life in the intensive care unit of a New Delhi hospital, where he travelled to in January.

Standing tall at 6'2" with a broad frame and distinctive flowing hair, Shapoor was a presence on the cricket field when he ran in to bowl. Today, though, he lies curled up in an ICU fighting stage four HLH, which predominantly occurs in children, but can also afflict adults who are susceptible to infection or have had cancer. The patient suffers hyper inflammation, which is triggered by an overactive immune system leading to damages to the body's tissues including the bone marrow, liver, spleen and lymph nodes.

Shapoor, who played 80 internationals (44 ODIs and 36 T20Is) for Afghanistan between 2009 and 2020, first felt unwell last October, his younger brother Ghamai Zadran said. The doctors in Afghanistan asked him to go India for treatment.

Shapoor got his Indian visa fast-tracked after Rashid Khan and Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) chairman Mirwais Ashraf sought help from their contacts in India, Ghamai said. While Ashraf spoke to ICC chairman Jay Shah, Rashid reached out to his contacts in the franchise circuit - he plays for Gujarat Titans in the IPL and Mumbai Indians-owned teams in several other leagues. Shapoor reached India on January 18 and was admitted to the hospital.

Shapoor was accompanied by his wife and former Afghanistan teammate Asghar Afghan. Ghamai, who lives in Canada, joined his brother on January 26. "It was a very serious infection," Ghamai told. "His whole body was full of the infection including TB (tuberculosis). It also spread to his brain, which was revealed after MRI and CT scan." Ghamai said Shapoor had started to respond to the treatment and, after a few weeks, he was discharged from the hospital and the group moved to a hotel nearby.

"The doctor said we could drop in for the check-ups frequently," Ghamai said. "He [Shapoor] was feeling good for about 20 days before he got the infection again. Then we admitted him to the hospital [again]." Shapoor was discharged again after 20-odd days. But then he complained of an stomach upset, so Ghamai brought Shapoor to the hospital once more, and things got worse.

PBKS bowling attack has 'different guns, can just pull the trigger at different stages'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Kings (PBKS) can knock off 200-plus chases without fuss, and if they bat first - as they did for the first time this season on Sunday against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) - they put up record numbers. But cricket matches, whatever the format, are not won by the batters alone. It's their less spoken-about suit, but PBKS have also put together a pretty stellar bowling attack, one that can at-



tack, but has sparked as a defensive unit this season.

They have so far bowled Gujarat Titans (GT) out for 162, and stopped Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on 209 for 5, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on 219 for 6, and Mumbai Indians (MI) on 195 for 6. Those are not small totals, bar GT's effort, but this is a big-scoring IPL.

"You have to look at what they have in their team. It's not a team that is lacking offensive skill sets. [And] their skill sets can go defensive," Faf du Plessis said PBKS beat LSG by 54 runs.

"But you look at the names in that bowling attack, it's all front-line attacking bowlers - Marco Jansen, [Xavier] Bartlett, Arshdeep [Singh]. It is all genuine wicket-takers with the new ball there, with the skill set of swinging the ball; tall bowlers getting bounce; Arshdeep is a good yorker bowler with the new ball. So it's not by chance that they are one of the better bowling units." But wicket-taking hasn't been their forte - perhaps even their focus - this season.

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