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Powering Growth : LG Inaugurates ₹200 Crore Eveready Plant in Samba

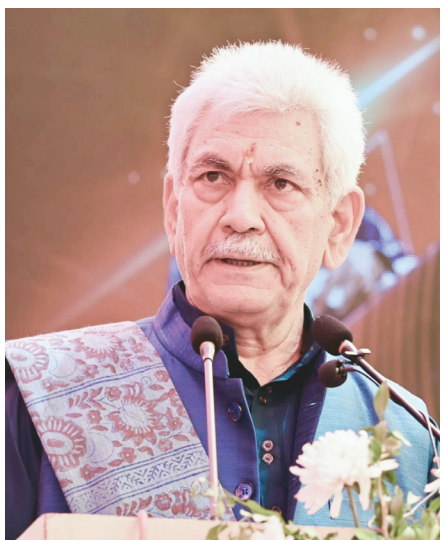
Facility to generate jobs, boost local industry and reflect rising investment momentum in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated a new industrial unit of Eveready Industries India Limited in Samba, describing it as a landmark moment in Jammu and Kashmir's industrial transformation.

Established with an investment of Rs. 200 crore, the plant is expected to create employment opportunities, strengthen ancillary units and suppliers, and promote skill development among youth and women, while contributing significantly to the Union Territory's economic growth.

Addressing the gathering, Sinha said the inauguration, along with the evolving atmosphere in the region, reflects sustained efforts under the leadership of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose vision has reshaped the developmental trajectory of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the industrial growth witnessed across Samba, Kathua, Jammu and parts of Kashmir over the past five years marks the beginning of a new era.

Highlighting investment trends, the Lieutenant Governor said the Union Territory attracted Rs. 5,824 crore in FY 2025-26 alone, more than 13 times the average investment recorded before 2021. He added that major projects, including those by Chiripal Polyfilms, Kandhari Beverages and Aegios, reflect growing investor confidence in the region.

Sinha said the number of startups has increased from 69 in 2020 to over

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Hormuz Tensions Ring Alarm Bells for India : Rajnath Singh

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 22: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday cautioned that disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are a matter of immediate concern for India, warning that such developments have direct implications for the country's security and economic stability.

Addressing the German Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence and Security during his three-day visit, Singh said the ongoing conflict in West Asia—now stretching over 50 days—has underscored how regional crises can trigger far-reaching global consequences.

"For a developing country like India, which depends significantly on the region for its energy requirements, disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are not distant events but stark realities," he said, stressing the interconnected nature of modern geopolitical challenges.

Highlighting the rapidly evolving security landscape, Singh noted that technological advancements have added layers of complexity, making it imperative for nations to adopt adaptive strategies and work in close coordination.



He pitched for enhanced collaboration between the defence industries of India and Germany, pointing to the synergy between India's expanding start-up ecosystem and Germany's technologically advanced industrial base, including its Mittelstand sector.

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Malaysian Tour Leader Declares Kashmir Safe, Boosts Tourism Hopes

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

PAHALGAM, APR 22: A Malaysian tour leader has declared Kashmir "safe and very peaceful," as he led a group of international tourists to the Valley, sending out a strong message of confidence exactly a year after a deadly terror attack had shaken the region's tourism sector.

Mohammad Fadli, who arrived in Pahalgam with 21 visitors, said the situation on the ground was calm and reassuring, urging travellers from across the world not to hesitate in visiting the region. Standing along the picturesque Lidder River, he remarked that his group felt safe and was enjoying the natural beauty of Kashmir.

Recalling scenes from the Bollywood film Bajirangi Bhaijaan, which was partly shot in the area, Fadli said Kashmir's landscapes continue to attract visitors, particularly in Malaysia where Hindi cinema enjoys wide popularity. He added that the Valley's charm, seen on screen and now experienced in person, remains intact

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Security Must be Top Priority, No Repeat of Pahalgam Tragedy : Omar Abdullah



HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, APR 22: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said preventing a repeat of the Pahalgam terror attack remains the government's foremost

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CM Omar visits GMC Udhampur to see injured persons of bus accident

HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited Government Medical College Udhampur to enquire about the health of those injured in the tragic road

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Nation Unites in Remembrance of Pahalgam Victims, Vows Firm Stand Against Terror

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, APR 22: The nation on Wednesday paid solemn tributes to the victims of last year's Pahalgam terror attack, with top leaders expressing solidarity with bereaved families and reiterating India's unwavering resolve to combat terrorism.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the victims "will never be forgotten," describing the April 22, 2025 tragedy as one that continues to weigh on the nation's conscience. In a post on X, he said India stands united in grief

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Leaders Honor Pahalgam Victims, Vow No Mercy for Terror

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 22: As India observed the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack on Wednesday, President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, union

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12th class Summer Zone results declared, 89.79% students declared qualified

Sakeena Itoo congratulates students for outstanding results

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) today declared the results of Annual/Regular 12th Class (Summer Zone) areas of Jammu division.

As per the official statistics, a total

of 39,309 students appeared in the examination (20,376 boys and 18,933 girls), out of which 35,299 (18,117 boys and 17,182 girls) successfully qualified, registering an overall pass percentage of 89.79%, a notable improvement than the previous year pass percentage of 75.95.

The performance of girls has once again surpassed that of boys. The pass percentage among girls stands at 90.75%, compared to 88.91% among boys.

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2017 Fidayeen Attack On CRPF Lethpora Camp NIA attaches multiple properties of JeM operative in South Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

NEW DELHI, APR 22: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday attached multiple properties of a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) operative in connection with the 2017 fidayeen attack on a camp of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) that left five personnel dead and three seriously injured.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a NIA spokesman said, "The attachment action, taken under Section 33 (1) of UA (P) Act, 1967, in pursuance



of recent orders of the NIA Special Court at Jammu, comes as a major step towards dismantling the terror outfits operating in J&K."

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Adil Shah's Heroism Lives On as Family Gets New Home

Shinde says ponywallah's sacrifice in Pahalgam attack will never be forgotten

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

MUMBAI, APR 22: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday said the sacrifice of ponywallah Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who was among the 26 victims of last year's Pahalgam terror attack, has been immortalised in

the nation's history.

A newly constructed house was handed over to Shah's family in Hapatnar village of Pahalgam, a gesture Shinde described as a tribute to the young man's courage rather than mere assistance.

Shah had lost his life along with 25 tourists in the attack at Baisaran

Valley on April 22 last year. He was shot dead while attempting to snatch a terrorist's rifle during the assault.

The house, named 'Anand Nath Sadan' in memory of Shinde's mentor Anand Dighe, was handed over by Shiv Sena ministers

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No shortage of Fuel, LPG or Fertilizers in J&K: Officers to CS

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 22: As part of a periodic review a high-level meeting was today convened by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to take stock of the availability and distribution of essential commodities across the districts of J&K in the aftermath of the recent West Asia crisis that had initially given rise to the apprehensions of impacting the supply chains.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, School Education; Secretary, IT and, Transport



Departments; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IG Traffic; and other concerned officials.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of the situation to ensure ease and convenience

for the public. He directed Deputy Commissioners to saturate the e-KYC of all active beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System within the next two weeks, ensuring transparency and efficiency

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CS Reviews Plan to Boost J&K Handicrafts & Handloom Sector

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress and future roadmap for large-scale promotion and strengthening of the Handicrafts and Handloom sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Director, Handicrafts &

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Powering Growth....

1,300 in FY 2025-26, significantly expanding employment avenues. He also paid homage to victims of last year's Pahalgam terrorist attack, asserting that despite challenges, Jammu and Kashmir continues to move forward on the path of development.

Eveready's Non-Executive Director Mohit Burman said the greenfield facility will generate around 500 direct and indirect jobs at full capacity and contribute to strengthening domestic manufacturing under the vision of a self-reliant India. The plant has an annual peak production capacity of about 360 million alkaline batteries, with an installed capacity of 456 million units, marking a significant boost to the country's power solutions sector.

Hormuz Tensions....

Referring to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Singh said both countries are committed to strengthening their strategic partnership, with growing engagement also visible at the European Union level.

He reiterated that India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative is aimed not just at domestic capability building but at fostering co-development and co-innovation with trusted global partners.

Emphasising that current geopolitical instability cannot be seen in isolation, Singh said such developments have wide-ranging implications for global energy and food security, economic stability and humanitarian conditions.

Upon arrival in Berlin, the minister was accorded military honours and later paid tribute to Rabindranath Tagore at Humboldt University of Berlin, highlighting the enduring cultural and intellectual ties between India and Germany.

Malaysian....

despite last year's tragedy. Fadli's visit comes on the first anniversary of the April 22, 2025 terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead. His return to the Valley, after having led another group of Malaysian tourists just last month, is being viewed by local stakeholders as a sign of resilience and gradual recovery for the tourism industry.

Tourism players said the steady arrival of visitors reflects renewed trust and sends a message to those who sought to disrupt peace. Asif Iqbal Burza said tourists from across the country and abroad are reinforcing unity and confidence through their presence.

He also credited Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for actively promoting tourism and engaging directly with stakeholders in recent months.

As tourists were seen taking photographs along the riverbanks amid tight security, the Valley appeared to be steadily reclaiming its image as a peaceful and welcoming destination.

Security Must....

priority, asserting that any such attempts would be decisively foiled.

Marking the first anniversary of the attack that left 25 tourists and a local pony operator dead, Abdullah said the tragedy continues to weigh heavily on the collective conscience of the people. He paid homage to the victims and expressed solidarity with their families, describing the incident as a senseless act of terror against innocent visitors.

The Chief Minister stressed that ensuring lasting peace and security in Jammu and Kashmir requires coordinated efforts between the elected government, the Centre and law enforcement agencies. He reiterated the administration's resolve to take all necessary measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Speaking after visiting those injured in a recent bus accident at Government Medical College here, Abdullah said the government remains committed to maintaining normalcy and stability across the region. On Pakistan's role and any possible changes following recent developments, he said such assessments rest with intelligence agencies, but maintained that the priority remains to thwart any hostile designs.

On tourism, Abdullah acknowledged some impact in the aftermath of the attack but expressed confidence that visitor numbers would improve as the season progresses. He said the administration expects a significant influx of pilgrims and tourists, particularly for visits to Vaishno Devi Temple and the annual Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to begin on July 3.

The Chief Minister also voiced concern over escalating tensions in West Asia involving Iran, the United States and Israel, warning that the conflict is impacting global supply chains and fuel prices. Calling for an immediate end to hostilities, he said prolonged instability could have wider economic repercussions, though India's situation remains comparatively stable for now.

CM Omar visits....

accident that occurred earlier this week. He interacted with the injured and their families, directing officials to ensure the best possible medical care with round-the-clock monitoring.

The Chief Minister, accompanied by Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo and Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, conducted a detailed inspection of the hospital facilities. Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa, Commissioner Transport J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan, DIG Udhampur-Reasi range and SSP, National Highway, Principal GMC Udhampur, Regional Transport Officer Jammu, Medical Superintendent GMC Udhampur and other concerned

were also present.

along with senior officers from the civil administration, police, and medical fraternity, were also present during the visit.

While taking round of the hospital, the Chief Minister inspected the Trauma Centre, ICU, Orthopaedic and Surgery wards, and other sections of the hospital. He met each injured patient individually, enquiring about their condition, treatment protocols, availability of medicines, nature of injuries, and expected discharge timelines.

The attending medical team briefed the Chief Minister on the line of treatment being administered, including surgeries and other medical interventions, as well as the recovery progress of the patients.

Assuring full support to the affected families, the Chief Minister emphasized the need for stringent measures to prevent such accidents in the future. He later chaired a review meeting to assess both the treatment being provided to the injured and the overall functioning of GMC Udhampur. The meeting was informed about the preliminary causes of the accident and the status of the ongoing investigation.

Expressing concern over road safety, the Chief Minister directed the Transport Department to ensure adequate frequency of buses on various routes and strictly curb overloading. "Don't show any laxity on these issues," he asserted.

On the occasion, officials apprised the Chief Minister about the relief being extended under the Road Accident Victim Fund, which includes financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh in case of death, Rs. 75,000 for permanent disability, Rs. 50,000 for grievous injuries, and Rs. 10,000 for minor injuries.

The Chief Minister further instructed all concerned departments to extend maximum support to the victims and their families through various welfare schemes of key sectors, including health, education, and social welfare, ensuring a comprehensive support system during their recovery and rehabilitation.

Soon after the tragedy, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced immediate relief from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the victims with an ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased, Rs. 1 lakh to those seriously injured, and Rs. 25,000 to those who sustained minor injuries in the accident.

Nation Unites in....

and determination and will never bow to any form of terror, asserting that the designs of terrorists will not succeed.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh termed the attack a "cowardly" act and paid heartfelt tributes to those who lost their lives, stating that India's response to cross-border terrorism has become "firm, decisive and unwavering." He said any attempt to harm citizens or disrupt national unity will be met with strength and clarity.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also remembered the victims, saying the pain of the loss continues to be felt across the country. Calling terrorism the greatest enemy of humanity, he reaffirmed India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and those who support it.

President Droupadi Murmu expressed deep condolences to the families, asserting that such acts cannot weaken India's commitment to peace and unity, while Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan reiterated the country's resolve to defeat terrorism in all its forms.

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi said the nation will never forgive those responsible, adding that the grief of the victims' families is shared by all Indians. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the country remains united and resilient, while Priyanka Gandhi Vadra described the attack as a "crime against humanity," asserting that India will neither forget nor forgive those behind it.

On April 22 last year, terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Pahalgam in south Kashmir, triggering nationwide outrage. In response, India launched a military operation on May 7 targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

As the country marked the first anniversary of the attack, a unified message of remembrance, resilience and resolve echoed across the nation.

Leaders Honor....

ministers along with leaders of various parties paid homage to the victims, asserting that the country will never bow to any form of terrorism.

Any attempt to harm people or disrupt unity will be met with strength and clarity, the government said, stressing that India will continue its zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and those who harbour it.

The dastardly attack by Pakistan-based Laskar-e-Taiba at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead and triggered a four-day military conflict with Pakistan after Indian armed forces retaliated with Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan-controlled territories.

The Indian Army reaffirmed its steely resolve to fight against terrorism, making it clear that for acts against India, "the response is assured". Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said India will neither ever forget the sacrifice of the victims and the anguish of their families, nor will it ever forgive the perpetrators of this cowardly act.

While paying tribute to the victims, President Murmu said the country remains resolute in its determination to defeat terrorism everywhere in all its forms. "The tragic loss of innocent lives in that heinous act remains etched in our collec-

tive memory. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. The entire nation stands with them. Such acts of terror cannot deter our unwavering commitment to peace and unity," she said.

Prime Minister Modi asserted that India will never bow to any form of terror and the heinous designs of terrorists will never succeed.

"Remembering the innocent lives lost in the gruesome Pahalgam terror attack on this day last year. They will never be forgotten... As a nation, we stand united in grief and resolve. India will never bow to any form of terror. The heinous designs of terrorists will never succeed," he said.

Vice C P President Radhakrishnan said such acts of brutality can never shake the country's resolve to uphold peace, unity, and the enduring values of humanity.

"We remain firm in our determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," he said.

Union Home Minister Shah said India will continue its zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and those who harbour it. "Terrorism is the greatest enemy of humanity, against which we must stand united to fight and defeat. India will continue its zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and those who harbour it," he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the nation will not forget the victims and underscored the government's strong response to terrorism. "We will never forget those wounds inflicted on our nation. India has endured decades of cross-border terror, but today our response is firm, decisive and unwavering. Through determined action, we have demonstrated that any attempt to harm our people or disrupt our unity will be met with strength and clarity," he said.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari said the country stands united in remembrance and solidarity with the victims' families. "As a nation, India stands united - firm in resolve, unwavering in spirit, and resolute against all forms of terror," he said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reiterated India's firm resolve against terrorism. "India stands steadfast in its resolve to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the day continues to weigh heavily on the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We pay tribute to the innocent lives lost in a senseless act of terror. They had come only to spend their holidays, yet were mercilessly targeted and killed. We stand in solidarity with their grieving families," he said. The chief minister said, "On that day (April 22, 2025), we resolved - and we remain committed - that we must do everything possible to ensure such (Pahalgam type) incidents never happen again. Whether it is the elected government, the central government, or the law and order machinery, we will all work together to make this effort successful." BJP national president Nitin Nabin said that the nation remains resolute against terrorism and "will never bow before any form of terrorism."

Rahul Gandhi said the entire nation stands united against terrorism. "The memory of the innocent lives so ruthlessly snatched away continues to shake our hearts to this day. The grief of the martyrs' families is a grief shared by us all," he said.

The Congress party said the entire nation stands united against terrorism and will never bow before forces that seek to spread hatred and violence. The opposition party, however, also lashed out at the central government, claiming that Pakistan, which stood isolated after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, has now acquired global respectability that reflected the "complete failure" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign policy.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan remembered the attack as a "painful reminder of the human cost of terrorism" and said it "marked a turning point" in India's resolve against terrorism. Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Virendra Kumar said, "The people of the country will never forget this cowardly murder of killing their loved ones in Pahalgam." (Agencies)

12th class....

The examination had commenced on February 23, 2026 and the JKBOSE had established 336 examination centres in the Jammu Division for the smooth conduct of examination. Interestingly, Government Schools have also performed well by showing a Pass percentage of 87.82%.

Congratulating students on remarkable performance in 12th class examination, Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo said that these remarkable results demonstrate a strong commitment to quality education and competitive performance. "The improved results compared to previous years, indicate the positive impact of ongoing educational reforms initiated by the Government, enhanced teaching methodologies, and better student support systems", she stated.

The Minister also noted with appreciation that girls outperformed boys, achieving a pass percentage of 90.75% compared to 88.91% among boys.

Commending the efforts of the teaching community, she said that their dedication, especially in ensuring continuity of learning, has played a crucial role in achieving these outcomes.

Encouraging students who could not qualify, the Minister urged them to remain determined and make use of continuing opportunities, assuring them of continued institutional support.

"The results are not just numbers but a testament to the hard work of our students and the collective efforts of educators and families. We remain committed to further improving the quality of education and providing every student with the opportunity to succeed," she added.

The Minister extended her best wishes to all successful candidates for their future endeavours and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in their chosen fields.

NIA attaches....

"The immovable properties attached by NIA include several pieces of land and residential premises in Lethpora in Awantipora police station area of Pulwama district of J&K. These properties, deemed to be proceeds of terrorism, belonged to accused Fayaz Ahmed Magray. Fayaz, who hailed from Lethpora, was arrested in connection with the case RC.10/2018/NIA/DLI in February 2019. NIA had charged him under various sections of RPC and UA (P) Act in August 2019, and the trial against him is continuing," the statement added.

Pertinently, the CRPF camp, located in Lethpora, was attacked on the night of 30th December 2017 by three unknown terrorists, armed with sophisticated weapons, explosives and ammunition. The trio had forced their way into the camp and attacked the personnel there before getting killed in retaliatory action.

"The NIA Investigations had revealed Fayaz to be an active Over Ground Worker (OGW) of the proscribed JeM terror organisation in South Kashmir. He was found to have participated in the meetings with the terrorists who had planned and executed the deadly attack on the CRPF centre. Along with two other men, identified as Noor Mohammad Tantray and Mudasar Ahmad Khan, Jaish operatives he had also conducted a reece of the target camp, besides arranging weapons for Mudasar and subsequently helping him escape Lethpora. Noor Mohammad was killed in an encounter with security forces before the CRPF camp attack while Mudasar was killed in another encounter later," the statement said - (KNO)

Adil Shah's....

Yogesh Kadam and Sanjay Shirsat. Addressing the event via video conferencing, Shinde said Adil Shah symbolised the nation's pride, having laid down his life for humanity beyond barriers of religion, language and creed. He said the sacrifice would never be forgotten.

Shinde also recalled monitoring evacuation efforts for tourists stranded in Srinagar after the attack and assured that demands for developing the area as a tourist destination would be taken up with the Centre.

Invoking the legacy of Bal Thackeray, he said the party remains committed to helping people beyond divisions of caste and religion. Family members of the deceased expressed gratitude, saying the house was not just a shelter but a symbol of honour and support.

No shortage....

in service delivery. The Chief Secretary further stressed the importance of closely monitoring the distribution and usage of fertilizers to prevent hoarding or disproportionate consumption by any individual or entity. He directed that mechanisms be put in place to ensure equitable access for all farmers and stakeholders. He also underscored the need to implement an Aadhaar-enabled distribution system for fertilizers to ensure transparency and fair allocation.

Reviewing the supply position, the it was informed that both Kashmir and Jammu divisions currently have adequate stocks of petroleum products and LPG. The Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar while aporising about Jammu Division, revealed that the diesel availability stands at about 11 days and petrol around 4 days, with additional supplies in transit improving the overall position. LPG stocks in Jammu are sufficient for 8-10 days, while kerosene reserves remain comfortable, he added.

Similarly for Kashmir Division, the Divisional Commissioner, Anshul Garg divulged that the petrol and diesel stocks provide coverage of around 17-19 days, extendable up to 20-22 days with supplies in transit, while LPG stocks are sufficient for about 15 days.

The meeting also took detailed note of district-wise price trends of LPG and petroleum products, along with enforcement action taken against violators. It was informed that strict action has been initiated against those indulging in hoarding or attempting to create artificial scarcity in the market, with a clear directive to maintain market discipline and protect consumer interests.

Availability of fuel and LPG to commercial and industrial establishments was also reviewed. The meeting was apprised that adequate arrangements are in place to ensure uninterrupted supply to key sectors. Special emphasis was laid on ensuring availability of food, cooking fuel and other essentials to critical residential institutions such as hospitals, hostels and other care facilities across all districts.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Ashish Chandra Verma, apprised the meeting that fertilizer stocks across J&K remain stable, though continuous monitoring is essential. He advised that consumers should be encouraged to use fertilizers judiciously to maintain balanced availability.

Highlighting enforcement measures, it was informed that extensive inspections are being carried out across districts to curb violations. Necessary action, including issuance of show-cause notices and suspension of licenses, is being taken against erring entities to ensure compliance with regulations.

CS Reviews.....

Handloom, Kashmir/Jammu; MD, JKHHMC and other concerned officers.

Taking a comprehensive review of departmental initiatives, the Chief Secretary emphasized the immediate operationalization of non-functional training centres across districts to ensure uninterrupted skill development and capacity building of artisans and craftsmen. He directed that these centres be aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) to ensure wider recognition of training certifications.

Stressing formalization and financial inclusion, he instructed the department to enhance artisan registrations on the Udyam portal and facilitate their linkage with the RBI's Unified Lending Interface (ULI) to improve access to affordable credit. He further advised exploring the introduction of a dedicated term loan product for the sector, on the analogy of the agriculture sector, to enable capital infusion and business expansion.

The Chief Secretary also called for expansion of training and capacity-building programmes in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), stating that short-term courses and diploma programmes would help integrate modern technology with traditional crafts.

Reviewing the progress on GI tagging, he directed optimal utilization of the QR-based management system for tracking and tracing GI products and emphasized its full operationalization through integration with the Government of India's MeghRaj cloud platform. He also stressed expediting the implementation of the Tex-RAMPS scheme, including early finalization of the requisite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, presented a detailed overview of departmental functioning and initiatives aimed at revitalizing the sector. He informed that proposals for multiple projects have been submitted to the Government of India for approval to strengthen handicrafts across districts. He also highlighted capacity-building programmes being conducted in collaboration with NIFT, Budgam, including courses ranging from 15 days to one year.

He further informed that approximately 17,000 artisans and weavers were registered during the previous year, taking the total to over 4.52 lakh across the Union Territory. Additionally, around 12,600 individuals have been trained through departmental training centres, he added.

Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, highlighted key initiatives including establishment of a Craft Village at Sonpah (Budgam), Common Facility Centres (CFCs) for wool processing, yarn dyeing and dehairing in Srinagar, and upgradation of IICT Srinagar and PTQCC laboratories. He also outlined efforts to enhance product quality and curb counterfeit products.

Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Jammu, Mohammad Nazir Sheikh, apprised the meeting of projects under consideration by the Ministry of Textiles, including raw material depots for Pashmina and wheat straw clusters, bamboo cluster at Samba, calico printing cluster at Jammu, and development of an Urban Haat at Samba. He further informed that several CFCs in Kathua and Samba districts have already been completed.

The meeting also reviewed financial inclusion initiatives, including the Credit Card Scheme for Artisans and Weavers, under which more than 2,400 cases have been sanctioned, providing credit facilities up to Rs. 2 lakh with interest subvention. Under the Karkhandar Scheme, 46 karkhanas have been established with government assistance amounting to Rs. 185.79 lakh.

Regarding GI certification, it was informed that 970 new authorized GI users were registered during 2025-26, taking the total to nearly 4,700 across various crafts. A total of 80,545 products have been QR-labelled. It was highlighted that Jammu & Kashmir has achieved distinction as the only Union Territory/State in India to secure GI tags across its entire range of traditional crafts.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the Craft Development Institute (CDI) and the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), along with promotional initiatives such as "Know Your Artisan," "Little Karigars," "Craft Pathshala," branding campaigns like "Soulful Kashmir," and the Annual UT Craftsmen Awards.



DC Srinagar presides over Mega Awareness-Cum-Registration Camp of PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana at Kashmir Haat

Highlights scheme benefits, encourages wider adoption to reduce electricity costs and promoting sustainable environment

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today presided over a mega Awareness-cum-Registration Camp on the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana here at Kashmir Haat (Numaish Gah) aimed at sensitizing citizens about the scheme benefits and facilitating on-the-spot registrations.

The programme was organized by Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) to spread awareness about rooftop solar installations and encourage residents to avail benefits under the scheme. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from citizens, reflecting growing interest in sustainable energy solutions under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The mega awareness camp was attended by Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintendent Engineer KPDCL, Syed Ahmad Wani, Superintendent Engineer KPDCL Mohammad Amin Shah Executive Engineers of all four divisions of KPDCL

including Syed Abrar, Tasaduq Nabi, Nissar Ahmad, other KPDCL Officers, scheme vendors and technical experts.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the advantages of the scheme, noting that Rooftop Solar installations can significantly reduce electricity bills while contributing to environmental sustainability. He emphasized that the initiative provides subsidies to households, making clean energy solutions more affordable and accessible.

Highlighting the purpose of the event, Akshay Labroo said the programme was aimed at informing residents about the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and facilitating on-the-spot registrations. He noted that the scheme is demand-driven and voluntary in nature, and urged people to enroll and take advantage of the opportunity to reduce energy costs while contributing to environmental conservation.

The DC emphasized further intensifying outreach efforts and



organize similar awareness camps across the district to ensure wider coverage under the scheme so that maximum households are benefited with less electric-

ity bills and promoting renewable energy to contribute to the environment.

During the event, the DC inspected awareness and registra-

tion stalls set up by KPDCL and vendors and encouraged continued outreach efforts. He also felicitated beneficiaries who have already availed the benefits of the scheme and commended the efforts of District Administration, KPDCL and Stakeholders involved in its implementation.

On the occasion, Officers from the concerned departments and technical experts were present at the venue to guide participants on eligibility criteria, subsidy provisions, installation procedures, and registration processes under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Live demonstrations and interactive sessions were also conducted to address public queries and concerns.

During the camp, several beneficiaries shared their views on the advantages of installing rooftop solar panels under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in their homes. Earlier, it was informed during the programme that over 5,000 rooftop solar panels have been installed in Srinagar District under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

Langate Unites Against Drug Menace, Mega Awareness Drive Held

"Say No to Drugs" Campaign Draws Massive Participation in Langate

DR. AB QAYOOM

LANGATE, APR 22: In a powerful demonstration of unity and determination against the growing drug menace, the District Administration Kupwara in collaboration with Handwara Police and Youth Civil Society Kashmir on Wednesday organised a mega awareness programme under the theme "Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Life" at Tehsil Headquarter Langate. The event carried a strong public message against substance abuse and reaffirmed the collective resolve to build a



healthier, drug-free society.

The programme was witnessed many high officials from civil and police administration including Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Shrikant Balasahab Suse (IAS), SSP Handwara Sahil Sarangal (IPS), ADC Handwara Javed Naseem Masoodi (JKAS), Tehsildar Langate Mohammad Ismael, DFO Langate, Superintendent DISTRICT HOSPITAL HANDWARA Dr. Ajaz, senior police officers including ASP and SDPO Handwara, EO Municipal Committee Langate Rohi Bhat, Deputy Chief Education Officer, District Education Planning Officer Kupwara, besides several officers from different departments. Members of civil society, traders, transport associations, youth groups, social activists and a large number of students from across Langate and Qaziabad also participated enthusiastically in the massive awareness programme.

Raising impactful slogans and carrying vibrant placards, participants also transformed the streets of Langate town into a strong platform of awareness, highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse and the urgent need for collective action.

The march commenced from Boys Higher Secondary School Langate to Langate Chowk and passed through major streets and markets of Langate town, drawing public attention and energising the anti-drug campaign at the grassroots level. Participants also took the Nasha Mukht pledge, reaffirming their commitment to stand united against substance abuse at the playground of GBHSC Langate.

The awareness programme culminated at the playground of Government Higher Secondary School Langate, where thousands of people from different walks of life assembled. Speakers, including SSP Handwara, DC KUPWARA, Civil Society Forum Kupwara Chairman Gh Hassan Malik and other dignitaries, stressed that the fight against drugs is not merely an administrative responsibility but a larger social mission requiring vigilance, awareness and sustained public participation.

Moreover Tug of war was conducted between students of medical colleges Handwara and GDC Handwara.

Trader's federation Langate and Handwara and between students of Langate and qaziabad. In this colorful event Participants from medical colleges Handwara, trader's federation Langate and students from land were declared as winners.

On the sidelines of Nisha Mukht campaign painting competition was conducted in which students from private and government schools participated. The beautiful paintings done by students were appreciated by officers.

The District Administration Kupwara reiterated its commitment to continue such impactful initiatives and urged parents, educators and community leaders to play an active role in safeguarding the future of the younger generation.

KU organises free medical camp under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR APRIL 22: The Health Centre, University of Kashmir (KU) Main Campus in collaboration with the Health Centre, Institute of Technology (IoT), Zakura Campus, organised a day-long free medical camp under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan. The camp aimed to promote awareness about substance abuse, encourage preventive healthcare practices, and provide accessible medical support to the campus community.

The initiative offered free medical consultation, counseling, general health check-ups, and blood sample collection and testing for students and staff. Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofar Khan, during her visit to the camp, said, "Health awareness and timely intervention are essential for building a responsible and informed community. Such initiatives play an important role in addressing issues like substance abuse and promoting overall well-being."

Registrar, KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that the University continues to support initiatives that focus on student and staff welfare and accessible healthcare services on campus. Director, IoT, Zakura Campus, KU, Prof. Mohammad Tariq Bandy, said that such outreach programmes play a key role in promoting health awareness and community well-being. Coordinator, Health Centre, KU, Dr. Khalid Nazir, said that the camp was organised to ensure early detection of health issues and to provide guidance on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The camp was attended by several students and staff, who expressed satisfaction with the services and medical support provided during the programme. Around 170 patients availed free treatment, medicines, and laboratory investigations. The investigations included Complete Blood Count (CBC), triple serology screening, and on-spot blood sugar testing.

Patron of Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari, Sanaullah Niyaz, Passes Away

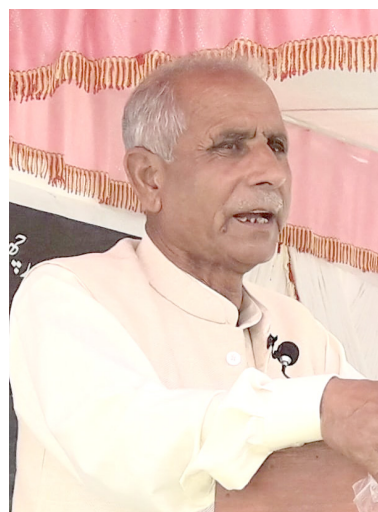
Adabi Markaz Kamraz and various literary and cultural organizations express grief, pay rich tributes to the deceased

JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, APR 22: Sanaullah Niyaz, Patron of Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari and a distinguished writer, critic, translator, and editor, passed away this morning. His demise has created an irreparable void in the literary landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Late Sanaullah Niyaz was a thoughtful and visionary literary figure who, during his long association with Halqa-e-Adab, played a pivotal role in introducing dozens of poets and writers. He was a close associate of noted scholar Professor Mohiuddin Hajni and remained actively involved in academic and literary activities throughout his life.

Niyaz remained associated with Adabi Markaz Kamraz, Jammu and Kashmir, for several decades, serving as a General Council member and Executive Member. He rendered significant services in promoting the institution's literary and cultural activities. Adabi Markaz Kamraz expressed deep sorrow and



grief over his demise. In his condolence message, President Mohammad Amin Bhat described the late Niyaz as a versatile literary and linguistic figure with a unique style, stating that his passing marks the end of an era. He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace and a high place for the departed soul.

The Patron of the institution, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi, also expressed profound shock over Niyaz's demise and conveyed his sympathies with the grieving family.

Several literary organizations and personalities also expressed their condolences, including Halqa-e-Adab Hajin, Wahab Cultural Society, Daira-e-Adab Delina, Inder Cultural Forum, Manzoor Hashmi Cultural Forum, Karwan-e-Adab Dab, Kashmir Bazm-e-Adab Sangrama, Karohin Cultural Forum Kreeri, Mehbub Cultural Society, Joye Adab Kajrag, Idara Tehzeeq-o-Adab Kupwara, Literary Forum Bandipora, Bahar-e-Adab Tilgam Pattan, Syed Saaduddin Saadi, Professor Mohammad Zaman Azurda, Abdul Ahad Hajni, Ahsan Memorial Foundation, Cultural Trust Kupwara, Rehmat Alam Cultural Trust, Jhelum Valley Cultural Forum, and Kashmir Collective Performers. The literary fraternity paid glowing tributes to the late Niyaz, stating that his intellectual, literary, and cultural contributions will always be remembered.

DC Baramulla Visits Asia's Second Largest Fruit Mandi in Sopore; Calls for Collective Action for Growth

KHAN JAHANGEER

SOPORE, APR 22: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Syed Fakhruddin Hamid, today visited Asia's second largest fruit mandi at Sopore Fruit Mandi and reviewed ongoing developmental works and issues concerning the market.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for unity and collective action among all stakeholders for the sustained growth and development of the mandi. He highlighted that several key infrastructure projects are currently under construction in Sopore, including the vital Mazbugh Bridge, which is expected to significantly improve connectivity and facilitate trade.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, S.A. Raina; SSP



Sopore, Iftkhar Talib; SDPO Sopore, Mohd Rafi; Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore, Er. Javid Ahmad Fakhtoo; President

Fruit Mandi Sopore, Fayaz Ahmad Malik; along with officials from PDD, Municipal Council Sopore, fruit growers, and representa-

tives of street vendors. The Deputy Commissioner held detailed discussions with stakeholders regarding various

issues, including the functioning of the fruit mandi, progress on the Mazbugh Bridge, and other ongoing developmental works.

Addressing labour-related concerns, the DC assured that the administration remains committed to safeguarding the rights and welfare of labourers working in the fruit mandi and will take necessary measures to address their grievances.

Meanwhile, President Fruit Mandi Sopore, Fayaz Ahmad Malik (popularly known as "Kaka Ji"), dismissed claims made by a breakaway group alleging financial irregularities. He emphasized unity within the mandi, stating that all members are like brothers and that no separate association exists or will be formed in the Sopore Fruit Mandi. Reiterating his stance, he said, "Doosri association ka sawaal hi paida nahin hota."

DC Anantnag chairs meeting of Single Window Committee of Mining Leases

Stresses interdepartmental coordination, adherence to Rules

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat today chaired a meeting of the District Level Single Window Committee at his office chambers, to review and facilitate the execution of mining leases in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC, SE Hydraulics, ACR, Wildlife Warden South Kashmir, DFOs Anantnag and Lidder Divisions, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Horticulture Officer, District Soil Conservation Officer, District Mineral Officer, Executive Engineers of Irrigation/ Flood Control, PHE, PWD and KPDCL, Assistant Directors of Fisheries and Tourism, and District Officer Pollution Control



Committee, among others.

During the meeting, elaborate deliberations were held on issuance of no objection certificates post obtaining clearances from all stakeholder departments and on issues related to the execution of mining leases with respect to 34 major mineral blocks identified in the district. Various procedural and departmental aspects were discussed to ensure timely and smooth processing of cases.

The ADC briefed the chair that NOCs from all concerned departments have been received while certain queries have been raised by the Forest Department and some cases have been flagged by the Irrigation and R&B Departments.

The DC stressed the importance

of inter-departmental coordination and timely disposal of cases to facilitate transparent and efficient execution of mining leases. He directed the concerned officers to strictly adhere to the prescribed rules and guidelines and ensure that all necessary formalities are completed within set timelines.

The DC further instructed that the process should be carried out in a transparent and accountable manner, while ensuring environmental safeguards and regulatory compliance.

After thorough deliberations, it was decided that the concerned departments shall address the queries raised, at the earliest for further processing of the cases.

SWD Srinagar organizes Awareness Programme on Skill Development, Financial Inclusion

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: Social Welfare Department (SWD) – SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar organized a one-day awareness programme on skill development, vocational training, and financial inclusion at Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar, today.

The programme aimed to equip students with essential knowledge and practical skills to support their future career aspirations. It brought together students and members of the SANKALP-HEW team, who provided valuable insights into a wide range of



vocational training opportunities and skill development initiatives.

The sessions were designed to enhance employability, foster entrepreneurial thinking, and prepare students to meet the evolving demands of today's job market.

Experts highlighted various pathways through which young women can build sustainable careers and achieve economic independence.

A major highlight of the event was the session on financial inclusion. Participants were sensitized to the importance of financial literacy, access to banking services, digital financial transactions, and awareness of government schemes aimed at economic empowerment. The speakers emphasized that financial independence is a key driver of both personal and professional growth, especially for women.

The programme also featured interactive sessions, enabling students to engage directly with resource persons and gain practical insights into diverse career options.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks, acknowledging the efforts of the organizers and the enthusiastic participation of students, making the programme both meaningful and impactful.

DC Budgam holds interdepartmental follow up and coordination meeting on Ring Road, NH444

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Ring Road Development Project in the district, following his field inspection of the project alignment yesterday.



The meeting focused on construction of Ring Road Phase-I, Airport and Railway Station connectivity, connectivity with district roads, Synchronization with NH444 corridor, Railway underpasses, junctions etc.

The DC was attended by ACR Budgam, Executive Engineer R&B Circle Srinagar, representatives of NHAI, and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the DC took a segment-wise review of the progress achieved across various stretches of the Ring Road corridor from NH-44 Galandar to Narbal, including Khanda, Wathoora, Gadsathu, Ichkoot, Razwan and Dharmuna.

He reviewed the status of works, land acquisition, utility shifting and alignment, drainage and irrigation water channelisation.

The DC directed executing agencies to ensure speedy progress across all stretches and directed for close coordination among departments to resolve bottlenecks. He also instructed adherence to timelines and quality standards.

JKEDI conducts Training Programmes under PMFME Scheme in Shopian, Ganderbal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) today inaugurated three-day/ 24 hours Training Programmes under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme at Shopian and Ganderbal District Centres.

The programmes saw the participation from candidates, officers from the Department of Horticulture and officials of JKEDI.

At Shopian, the PMFME programme was inaugurated at District Employment and Counselling Centre, Shopian where Zia U Din, Technical Officer, Department of Horticulture gave a detailed outlook of the scheme.

At Ganderbal, the programme was inaugurated at the Vikalp Centre, Government Degree College, Ganderbal. A total of 51 candidates have enrolled for the programmes.

These training programmes aim to enhance the entrepreneurial capabilities of aspiring and existing entrepreneurs in the micro food processing sector. Over the course of three days, participants will receive comprehensive training on key aspects



of capacity building, including business planning, financial management, market linkages, and awareness about the various schemes of the Government and access to credit facilities.

The initiative is designed to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge required to establish and sustain micro food processing enterprises. By fostering entrepreneurship and strengthening

local enterprise ecosystems, the programme seeks to promote self-employment opportunities and contribute to local economic development.

JKEDI continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing entrepreneurship across Jammu and Kashmir through targeted training and capacity-building initiatives under various government schemes.

LADC TEAM CONDUCTS INSPECTION OF CENTRAL JAIL SRINAGAR TO FACILITATE EARLY RELEASE OF ELIGIBLE INMATES

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, APRIL 20: In a coordinated initiative aimed at strengthening access to justice and ensuring timely relief to deserving inmates, the Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADC) of Shopian and Pulwama carried out a joint inspection of Central Jail Srinagar today.

The inspection was undertaken to identify cases eligible for early release in accordance with the categories defined under the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the forthcoming Under

Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting. The joint team was led by Secretary DLSA Shopian/ Pulwama, Mudasar Farooq, and comprised Chief LADC Shopian, Rafie Ahmad Ganie, Chief LADC Pulwama, Mehrajuddin Wani, and Junior Assistant DLSA Pulwama, Shakir Ahmad. The team was facilitated by Senior Superintendent of Jail, Saba Shawl, who provided detailed insights into the inmate population and administrative framework of the jail.

During the visit, the LADC teams conducted a thorough and systematic review of individual



inmate cases. The assessment focused on identifying prisoners

eligible for release under various SOP categories, including undertrials who have completed half of the maximum prescribed sentence, first-time offenders involved in minor offences, elderly or infirm inmates, and those granted bail but unable to furnish surety, among others as specified under UTRC guidelines. The team also interacted with inmates across different barracks to verify legal records, assess the status of cases, and ensure that no eligible individual is deprived of legal aid or relief due to lack of awareness or assistance.

SVEEP awareness programme conducted to promote electoral participation in Shopian

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, APRIL 22: In continuation of the ongoing Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision 2026 and the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) initiative, a series of awareness programmes were conducted today at Government High School Shadab Karewa and Government High School Chanchmarg, Shadab Karewa, by the District Election Office Shopian in collaboration with Chief education officer shopian.

The programmes aimed at sensitizing students, staff about the importance of electoral participation and the ongoing revision of the Panchayat Electoral Roll.

During the sessions, awareness was imparted regarding the right to vote, procedures for enrolment, and the

significance of ensuring accurate electoral registration.

On the occasion, officials highlighted the importance of voting in a democratic setup and urged all eligible citizens, particularly those who have attained the age of 18 years as on 01-04-2026, to enroll themselves in the electoral roll. It was emphasized that active participation in elections is essential for strengthening grassroots democracy.

The programmes witnessed the participation of teaching staff and school authorities, who extended full cooperation in organizing the awareness activities.

The initiative forms part of the district's broader outreach campaign under SVEEP, following the recent flag off of the IEC van by the Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, to enhance voter awareness across Panchayat Halqas in block Keller.

Sub Division Zainapora intensifies Anti Drug drive; Awareness Programme, Rally held at GDC Zainapora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, APRIL 22: Sub Division Zainapora intensified its anti drug efforts under Nasha Mukht J&K abhiyaan Day by organising an awareness programme and mass rally at GDC Zainapora.

Held in collaboration with the Chemists & Druggists Association under the chairmanship of SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad, the initiative focused on the campaign's core pillars Demand Reduction, Supply Control, and Community Participation. Officers from the Health Department, Drug Control Department, and J&K Police, along with students, civil society members, and trade representatives, participated. Expert sessions highlighted legal provisions under the NDPS Act, 1985 and Drugs &



Cosmetics Act, 1940, along with the regulation of psychotropic substances and compliance with prescription norms for NRX/Schedule H1 drugs.

Medical experts also elaborated on the serious health and social consequences of drug abuse and emphasized early identification and de-addiction pathways, with special

focus on misuse of prescription drugs such as Alprazolam, Tramadol, and Codeine based formulations.

Addressing the gathering, SDM Zainapora highlighted that the anti drug campaign in the subdivision is being pursued through strict enforcement against illegal supply chains and promotion of sustainable

livelihood alternatives.

He noted that illegal cultivation of cannabis and poppy has been eradicated, with over 800 kanals converted into high density apple orchards and nurseries, benefiting more than 2000 individuals through agriculture and horticulture based livelihoods supported by improved irrigation and government schemes.

DySP Zainapora, Athar Samad reiterated the police department's zero tolerance approach against drug peddling and urged citizens to actively share information, warning of strict action against violations of drug sale norms.

Following the session, a large scale rally was flagged off from the college premises, passing through main market and Bus Adda, reinforcing the message of a drug free society.

Rana calls for comprehensive strategy to address water scarcity in Kandi areas

Addresses public delegations at GDCT

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today emphasised the need for a comprehensive and result-oriented strategy to tackle the growing water scarcity in Kandi areas, stating that the challenge requires coordinated and long-term interventions.

The Minister made these remarks while interacting with the public delegations at Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT), where the people from various parts of Jammu highlighted their concerns, with water supply emerging as the key issue.

Stressing sustainable solutions, the Minister underscored the importance of creating water harvesting tanks across Kandi belts to capture rainwater that otherwise goes unutilised. He said such infrastructure can serve as dependable local water sources during the dry spells and reduce dependence on distant supply lines. He also called for intensified awareness drives to sensitise the communities about water conservation and the limited nature of groundwater reserves in these areas.



Rana stressed the need for effective dovetailing of efforts among the Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Forest and other line departments to ensure efficient water conservation and management. He highlighted that behavioural change among communities is as vital as infrastructure, urging judicious use of water in domestic consumption, agriculture and livestock rearing to prevent further depletion of already stressed sources.

The Minister directed the field

officers to strengthen ground-level monitoring to detect and plug leakages in the water supply network, noting that such losses deprive end users of their rightful share. He instructed the officers to conduct regular inspections of pipelines, storage tanks and distribution points to ensure optimal utilisation of available resources.

To ensure equitable distribution in water-stressed areas like Bathindi, the Minister directed the officials to implement alternate-day water supply and held field

officers accountable for the quality and regularity of monitoring reports.

Earlier, a delegation from Bathindi raised the issue of irregular water supply and demanded drilling of a borewell in Sagri Mohalla. Another delegation from Chowadhi highlighted water scarcity and the poor condition of roads.

Delegations from Samba, Akhnoor and other areas of Jammu division also presented their grievances and sought early redressal.

The officers informed the

Minister that work on six borewells in Bathindi and adjoining areas is underway and nearing completion, which is expected to significantly ease water scarcity and ensure a reliable supply.

Rana reiterated that coordinated planning, community participation and efficient resource management form the three pillars of a lasting solution to water scarcity in Kandi areas.

Later, the Minister held a detailed interaction with the officers and trustees regarding establishment of a Tribal Museum at GDCT. The proposed museum is envisioned as a dedicated space to preserve and showcase the rich cultural heritage, traditions and history of the tribal communities of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer I&FC, Jammu, Manoj Gupta, Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Dr V S Senthil Kumar; Director Tribal Affairs Department, Mohd Mumtaz Ali, Chief Engineer PHE, Mohd Hanief; Director Tribal Research Institute Dr Abdul Khair and other officers. Trustees of GDCT including Patron in Chief Abdul Hamid Coudhary, Chairman Arshad Ali Choudhary, Chairman Choudhary and General Secretary Er. M. Sadiq Azad also attended the meeting.

IMHANS-K holds Interactive Session with recovered patients of Drug Addiction

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: An interactive session with recovered and recovering patients of substance abuse was held today at Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS-K) as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The event, co-hosted by the Directorate of Social Welfare, was attended by around 23 patients of substance abuse who have recovered from the same.



Welcoming the participants, Medical Superintendent, IMHANS-K, Dr Ajaz Baba lauded them for their courage and resolve in combating the affliction of drug addiction. HOD, Psychiatry, Prof (Dr) Arshad Hussain highlighted the role of such interactions in reducing isolation and fostering hope among those struggling with addiction and drug dependence.

Nodal Officer, Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation, Prof (Dr) Yasir Hassan termed the recovered patients of Substance Abuse as 'fellow combatants' in the fight against drug addiction. Several patients shared their stories of struggle and success. One of the recovered patient related how after giving up drugs his relationship with his family had undergone a sea change and how he had got his business back on track and gained back his lost respect. He termed his successful recovery as "a journey back from darkness to light."

Another patient said that though the struggle wasn't easy he had got his life back and was "happily married now and living a meaningful life."

Some patients complained that societal attitudes towards former substance users are not very encouraging and they have to struggle with suspicion and distrust. The event which was co-ordinated by Dr Ajaz Suhaff, Medical Officer Oral Substitution Therapy (OST) and Sajad Ahmed, Sr. Social worker, IMHANS concluded with a shared resolve to combat the menace of drug addiction at individual as well as community levels.

Supreme Court's "Samadhan Samaroh" Initiative for amicable case settlement launched in Ganderbal

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, APRIL 22: In a significant move to reduce legal burdens and provide speedy justice, the District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal has rolled out a special initiative titled 'Samadhan Samaroh'.

The program, launched under the guidance of the Supreme Court of India, focuses on settling pending court cases through mediation and friendly agreements rather than prolonged courtroom litigation. The initiative serves as a preparatory phase for a major Special Lok Adalat event which is set to take place in late August this year.

The program is open to all individuals who have cases currently pending before the Court that can be resolved through mutual discussion. This includes a wide range of legal matters such as property and financial disputes, family and marriage issues, employment disagreements, insurance claims, and minor criminal offenses where the law allows for a settlement between parties.

By participating in the drive, litigants have a unique opportunity to close their cases permanently in a stress-free environment.

Starting today, interested parties and members of the legal community can visit the District Legal Services Authority office at the District Court Complex Ganderbal to begin the registration process. Early registration is encouraged as it allows the authorities to identify and shortlist eligible cases for the upcoming settlement days.

To ensure the benefits of the scheme reach every corner of the district, field staff and legal volunteers have been mobilized across Ganderbal. These representatives are working on the ground to identify eligible residents, explain the advantages of settling cases outside of court, and provide the necessary guidance to help people access the legal help desk.

The initiative marks a major step towards making the judicial process more accessible and less intimidating for the general public.

District Admin Kulgam conducts mock drill to test Disaster Preparedness

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, APRIL 22: District Administration Kulgam today conducted a comprehensive mock drill at the DPL Kulgam to assess preparedness and response mechanisms in case of emergencies and natural disasters.

The drill was carried out with the active participation of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) along with Police, Health, Fire & Emergency Services, Civil Defence and other concerned departments.

During the exercise, a simulated emergency scenario was created to test coordination among different



response agencies. Rescue teams demonstrated evacuation procedures, search and

rescue operations, first aid response and transportation of injured persons to medical facilities.

Officials said the mock drill aimed to evaluate the readiness of departments, improve coordination among agencies and enhance the capacity of responders to handle real-life disaster situations effectively.

The exercise also highlighted the importance of timely response, communication and public safety measures during emergencies.

Officers emphasized that such drills are essential to strengthen disaster management systems and ensure swift action in times of crisis.

Government focused to transform J&K into a hub of quality education, innovation: Sakeena Itoo

Lays e-foundation of Classroom Block for Innovative learning under DYOD, FYOG at IUST

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today laid e-foundation stone for Classroom Block for Innovative learning under Design Your Own Degree (DYOD) and Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) frameworks at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora.

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Ramshoo; Dean Academic Affairs, Prof Ayaz Hassan Moon; Registrar IUST, HoDs of various departments, senior faculty members and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the officers virtually, the Education Minister said that this unique initiative marks a major stride in strengthening higher education infrastructure and



promoting flexible, multidisciplinary learning and skill-oriented education in this prestigious University.

She added that this initiative reflects the government's focused commitment to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a hub of quality education and innovation. She noted that the proposed infrastructure will play a pivotal

role in fostering experiential learning, critical thinking, and research-driven academic engagement among students.

"The foundation of this innovative classroom facility signifies our resolve to align higher education with global standards and empower students with choice-based, future-ready learning opportunities," she said.

The Minister highlighted that the project is being developed under the progressive Design Your Own Degree (DYOD) and Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) frameworks, which are central to building a knowledge-driven and skill oriented society.

She added that this foundation marks another milestone in the Omar Abdullah led Government's

sustained efforts to modernize higher education institutions and create an enabling environment for holistic student development.

On the occasion, Vice Chancellor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo underscored the university's commitment to academic innovation and institutional growth. He stated that the upcoming facility will significantly enhance IUST's capacity to deliver high-quality, outcome-based education and provide students with a dynamic and engaging learning environment.

Pertinently, the Classroom Block will be constructed at an estimated cost of over 16 crore and will feature modern lecture halls, digital learning environments, collaborative spaces, and advanced academic infrastructure tailored to support the evolving needs of DYOD and FYUGP programmes.

DC Bandipora conducts extensive tour of Tulail on Day 2 of Gurez Visit

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, APRIL 22: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today conducted an extensive tour of Tulail Block in Sub-Division Gurez on the second day of her ongoing Gurez tour, reviewing developmental works and assessing public service delivery across the area.

At Kashpot, the Executive Engineer, PMGSY apprised the DC that approval had been accorded for permanent restoration of the Kashpot-Kilshay road at an estimated cost

of 76 lakh, and for the Neeru-Sikandar road damaged due to avalanches at an estimated cost of 90 lakh.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officials to expedite the process and ensure completion within the stipulated timeframe. She also directed that SDRF funds be utilized in landslide-prone areas and asked the Executive Engineer PMGSY to submit the necessary proposals.

During her visit to Sheikhpura Tulail, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of the receiving station being developed to provide on-grid electricity to

Tulail Block. Officials informed that the project is scheduled for completion by 2027.

She also inspected the work on an underground diesel storage tank at PTL, where she was apprised that administrative approval had been obtained and that pending work on the Snow Control Room would commence shortly. The Executive Engineer, R&B, Gurez stated that the tendering process would be initiated within a week. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the timely execution of urgent works.

The Deputy Commissioner

also visited Primary Health Centre Sheikhpura and took stock of healthcare facilities. She interacted with the staff, inspected the OPD and IPD sections, and reviewed records. She directed the BMO Gurez to ensure quality patient care, minimize referrals, and submit a list of institutional deliveries.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Government Degree College Tulail and reviewed its functioning. The Principal informed that the college is currently operating from prefabricated huts, while work on the main building is

underway with a tentative completion timeline of 2026. It was further informed that the tender for truss work had been floated.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the library attendance register and was apprised that visitor numbers remained low due to seasonal migration, despite the availability of around 15,000 books. She was also informed that work on the indoor stadium had been completed, while the hostel and residential quarters, along with water and electricity facilities, were under construction. Meanwhile, the Principal GDC,

Tulail raised the issue of shortage of driver and the Deputy Commissioner assured that a driver would be provided for the college bus to facilitate student transport, and stated that financial assistance would be extended to meritorious students from economically weaker sections. She also assured the establishment of a Skill Centre at GDC Tulail in collaboration with the technical departments of District Bandipora.

The Deputy Commissioner also visited Government High School Jurniyal, where she interacted with students and

staff and inspected a sketch competition organized under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. She encouraged the students to remain confident and pursue their goals with dedication. On the occasion, she directed the Executive Engineer R&B Gurez to expedite the construction of girls' toilets in schools.

At Badugam Shot, the Deputy Commissioner inspected a culvert blocked due to landslides, which was causing water overflow onto the road and nearby habitations. She directed the concerned authorities to clear the blockage within 15 days.

HT EDITORIAL

Allot kiosks to roadside vendors without any further delay

Many years back the then government of Jammu & Kashmir took a decisive step of decongesting the city centre by shifting the roadside vendors to a designated place. In this regard a plan was formulated according to which it was decided that kiosks would be provided to these roadside vendors. It was also decided to place all these kiosks with all the facilities including a solar panel.

It took the government years together to prepare these kiosks and these kiosks were made to dust and rust by the authorities. These kiosks were placed in the erstwhile contract carriage stand near the Khalsa High School. For years together nobody bothered to remove these kiosks from the contract carriage stand. Last year during the summer season some of these kiosks were shifted to the foreshore road leading from Nishat Garden to the Habak crossing and vice-versa.

People objected to this following which the government had to keep the kiosks at the old place. Months later the government took yet another decision in this regard and all these kiosks were placed in front of the Nishat Garden. The placement of these kiosks has been done in such a manner that it blocks the view of the Dal Lake at the Nishat Garden. As a result of this the tourists as well as locals are not able to view the beauty and vastness of the world famous Dal Lake.

The tourism players have also objected to the same and have demanded removal of the kiosks at the earliest. As on date the kiosks continue to be there at the Nishat Garden and the order for their removal has not been issued as yet. These kiosks have been designed in such a manner that some people get confused and think that they are mobile toilets. The purpose of preparing these kiosks has been lost since they have not been allotted to the roadside vendors of Lal Chowk and adjacent areas.

The city centre continues to be congested with people facing lots of problems in moving around. The government should take an immediate call in this regard and allot the kiosks to the people who were meant to receive the same. Once this is done a glaring issue will be resolved in Srinagar and people would heave a sigh of relief. A lot of time has already been wasted and there is no scope for wasting more time now.

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Mathematics Needs Patience from the Learner



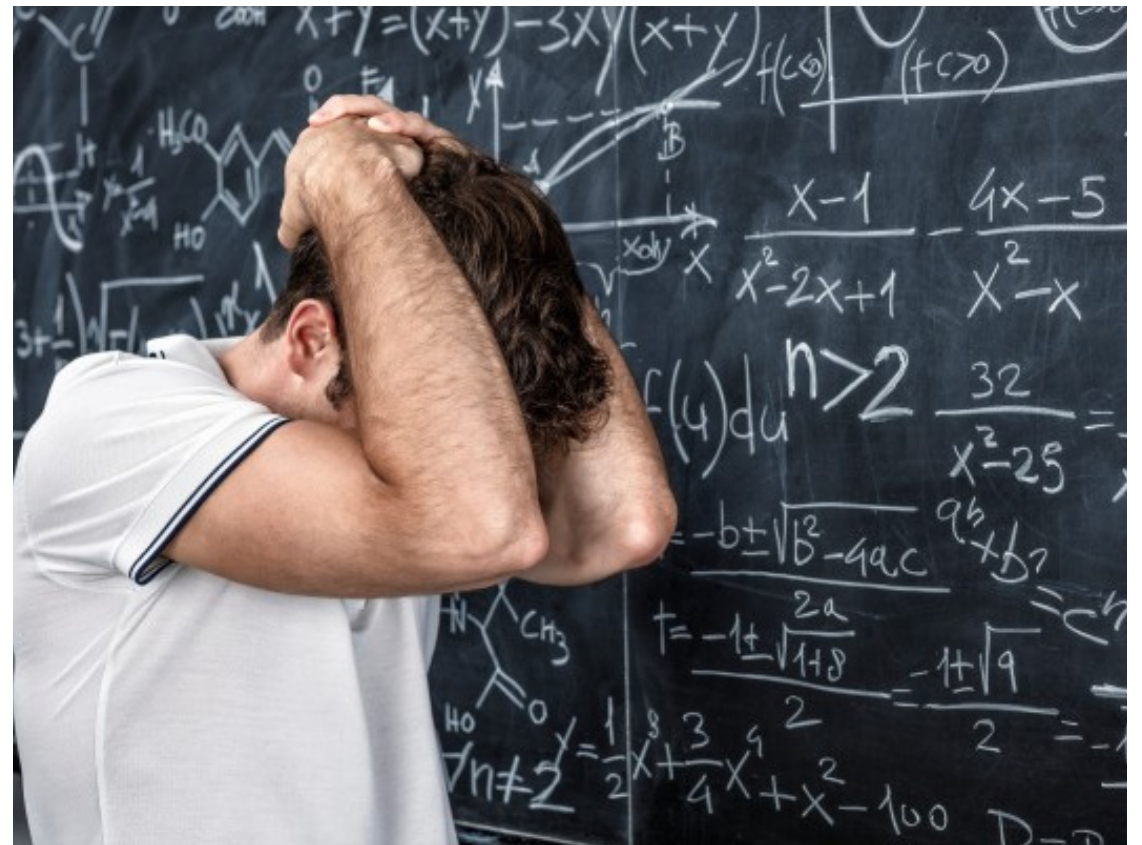
SAHIL MANZOOR

Most of us are afraid of mathematics. Mathematics is considered the father of all subjects. Only a few students are good at mathematics and perform fundamental operations and solve equations in a joyful manner. As mathematics requires full concentration from the learner during an active class, one who learns it keenly will never develop a fear of mathematics in the future.

Mathematics is a subject that we use in our daily lives while purchasing household commodities, measuring the size of house windows, calculating the area of land or a house, and so on. It has a great influence on our day-to-day lives. Therefore, we must learn it properly so that we do not face difficulties in the future. Knowledge always boosts our confidence and enhances our personality. We update our knowledge every day through various mediums such as reading newspapers, accessing the internet, and discussing current issues with others.

No one is superior or inferior. The Almighty has bestowed various qualities upon us. We must be thankful for what we have and never feel inferior. Always live with dignity in society and think about the betterment of others, including family, neighbours, relatives, and friends.

In this article, I would like to share my personal opinions on the importance of strong basics for school students. Everyone wants to become rich or achieve great success as a doctor, engineer, pilot, designer, teacher, or businessman. However, only a few turn their goals into reality by working hard with perseverance and dedication throughout their learning journey.



God has blessed us with intelligent minds. We have the capacity to make the impossible possible and bring revolutionary changes to the world through our ideas and hard work. Never suppress your opinions unnecessarily. Always uplift yourself. Nothing is impossible; as the word itself says, "I'm possible."

As far as the basics of mathematics are concerned, we must properly learn fundamental operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, place value, face value, and the concept of BODMAS (Brackets, Of, Division, Multiplication, Addition, and Subtraction). It may take days or months depending on our level of interest.

We are all capable, but sometimes we lack interest and confidence.

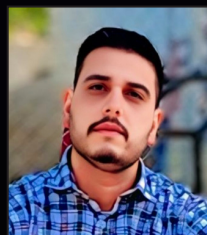
"Rest is rust." Always engage your mind in productive activities like problem-solving. Think about how to tackle problems and enjoy learning. The government is highly concerned about the education sector because it shapes the future of the nation.

Never be discouraged. Always tell yourself, "I can do it. I have potential. I can change the world, and I will bring positive and effective changes to society."

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A BETTER TOMORROW WITHOUT DRUGS



JAWAID IQBAL

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan is an important initiative started by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to make the country free from drug addiction and to create a healthier and safer society for everyone, especially the youth, who are the future of the nation, because drug abuse has become a serious problem in many parts of India where young people, due to curiosity, stress, peer pressure, or lack of proper guidance, sometimes fall into the trap of harmful substances which slowly destroy their physical health, weaken their mental strength, break their confidence, and disturb their family life as well, and once a person becomes addicted, it becomes very difficult to come out of it without support and strong willpower, which is why this campaign focuses on spreading

awareness among people so that they understand the dangers of drugs before it is too late, and it encourages individuals to make wise choices by saying "no" to drugs and "yes" to a healthy lifestyle, while also providing help and support to those who are already suffering from addiction through counselling, treatment, and rehabilitation programs, because instead of ignoring or punishing such people, society needs to support them and help them return to a normal and respectful life, and in this mission, students, teachers, parents, and communities all have a very important role to play, as students must stay away from bad company and focus on their studies and goals, parents must create a friendly and understanding environment at home where children feel comfortable sharing their problems, and teachers should guide and educate students about the harmful effects of drugs through discussions, activities, and awareness programs in schools, while society as a whole must come together to spread positive messages and remove the stigma attached to addiction so that more people feel encouraged to seek help, because often fear of judgment stops individuals from opening up about their struggles, and along with this, the government is also working to

control the supply of drugs and to reach out to different parts of the country, including rural and remote areas, where awareness may still be low, as it is important that every citizen, regardless of where they live, understands the importance of staying drug-free, and although there are many challenges such as lack of awareness, easy availability of substances in some areas, and social pressures, the combined efforts of the government and society can bring a positive change, because real change begins when individuals take responsibility for their own actions and influence others in a good way, and the message of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan is very clear and simple that a life without drugs is a life full of health, happiness, and success, and if we all make small but meaningful efforts in our daily lives, such as spreading awareness, supporting those in need, and making healthy choices, we can together build a strong and bright future for our country, where every young mind is free to dream, grow, and achieve without the burden of addiction, and in the end, a drug-free India is not just a goal of the government but a shared responsibility of every citizen, because a better nation is built by better individuals who choose the right path and inspire others to do the same.

HT PERSONALTY

Abdul Majeed Shah (Majeed Masroor): A Voice of Kashmiri Consciousness, Culture, and Continuity



■ SHAHNAWAZ NAZIR

■ **Introduction: A Literary Presence Rooted in Identity**

Abdul Majeed Shah, widely known by his pen name Majeed Masroor, stands as one of the most influential contemporary literary figures of Jammu and Kashmir. Born on 5 January 1962 in Khansahib, Budgam, and a permanent resident of Iqbal Colony, Khansahib, his journey reflects not merely personal success but a lifelong commitment to preserving and promoting Kashmiri language, culture, and thought. Over more than four decades, he has emerged as a poet, essayist, intellectual, Columnist, broadcaster and public voice whose work bridges tradition with evolving modern realities. His writings are deeply rooted in cultural consciousness and spiritual depth, offering both reflection and direction to society.

■ **Early Life: Cultural Soil and Creative Awakening**

Growing up in the culturally vibrant region of Budgam, Masroor was surrounded by oral traditions, poetic gatherings, and spiritual storytelling that formed the backbone of Kashmiri social life. This environment played a decisive role in shaping his literary sensibilities. From an early age, he displayed an inclination toward artistic expression, which soon translated into public recognition. At just sixteen years old, he earned acclaim as a talented actor, receiving Best Actor awards from the Jammu and Kashmir Cultural Academy in 1978 and again in 1982. These early accomplishments reflected not only his artistic versatility but also hinted at a deeper creative potential that would later find its fullest expression in literature.

■ **Struggles and Education: Determination Beyond Circumstances**

Masroor's journey was not without its challenges. After completing his 10th standard, he entered professional life early, taking on responsibilities that required maturity and resilience. Despite these circumstances, he remained committed to education and intellectual growth. Through private study and personal dedication, he pursued further learning and ultimately attained the Adeb-e-Fazil (BA). This achievement stands as a testament to his perseverance and belief in the transformative power of knowledge, illustrating how determination can overcome limitations of circumstance.

■ **Mentorship and Literary Formation: Shaping a Voice**

The evolution of Masroor's literary voice was significantly influenced by his uncle, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Shah, whose intellectual insight and spiritual depth guided his early development. Alongside this mentorship, the quiet strength of his parents' prayers and as well as Brother's support played an essential role in his journey. His association with Radio Kashmir further enriched his perspective, bringing him into contact with distinguished literary personalities such as Dr. Rafiq Masoodi and Ghulam Rasool Daruili. This exposure expanded his understanding of language, narrative, and public communication, helping him refine his craft while connecting him to a broader literary community.

■ **Literary Beginnings: Emergence of a Distinct Voice**

Masroor's formal literary journey began in 1984 with the publication of Lolik Aalow, a work that introduced his poetic voice to a wider audience. From the very beginning, his writing carried a unique blend of emotional sincerity and intellectual depth. Over time, he developed a style that resonated strongly with readers, reflecting both personal introspection and collective experience. His ability to capture the essence of Kashmiri identity through language set him apart as a distinctive voice in contemporary literature.

■ **Major Works: Cultural Impact and Popular Resonance**

Among his most celebrated contributions are Nagrad Part-1 and Nagrad Part-2, which achieved remarkable popularity and became deeply embedded in the cultural consciousness of Kashmir. These works were not only widely read but also memorized and recited by people, reflecting their



profound emotional and linguistic impact. In later years, his works such as "Taashouq Chanay" and "Waave Grayo Meanz Pokus" demonstrated a matured literary vision, while "Kak ti Kayinaat" explored philosophical questions about existence, bridging poetry with metaphysical inquiry. His upcoming works promise to further expand his already significant literary legacy.

■ **Urdu Contributions: Expanding Intellectual Horizons**

In addition to his contributions to Kashmiri literature, Masroor has made significant strides in Urdu through works like Parvaaz-i-Shaoor and Faizan-e-Nazar. These writings delve into themes of consciousness, perception, and spiritual awareness, reflecting his engagement with both individual and collective realities. His Urdu essays reveal a thinker deeply concerned with understanding the human condition, while his forthcoming work Kuch Aur Bee Hai is expected to continue this exploration.

■ **Poetry Among the People: Living Words**

Masroor's poetry is not confined to books; it lives among the people. His lines, such as "Gat zalin yaiti Gaashrawan chui alim, Balharan sholnawan chui alim," have become widely cherished and are often heard in gatherings and everyday conversations. His popular ghazals, including "1. Galli zaiv gasan yaith shehras manz, Tammi shehruk batti chus rozan vol," and "2. Kail watak mainis mazaras paith vai patti fairi, 3. Az ti rodus intiziras aak maa," "4. Madanwarus laghow patee sung by Ustaad Gh Hassan Sofi Sahab resonate deeply with audiences. His poem, "Walow hakashrou broun kun panin pehchaan pida kar" His naat poetry, such as "1. "Madeeni ki laali aeis che intizaaras, 2. Dilas chum akh mudda Madinas manz," 3. Mohammad poshvan sait doun jahanan.. reflects spiritual longing and devotion. Through these works, he has created a body of poetry that speaks directly to the hearts of people.

■ **Writing for Youth and Social Awareness**

A significant aspect of Masroor's contribution lies in his efforts to guide younger generations. He has written numerous compositions for school-going students, focusing on moral values and intellectual growth. His work addressing social issues, particularly drug addiction, reflects his

concern for the future of society. Through writings such as "Jawana Qadam Traw Pagah Thaw Achain Tal," which is also translated in English by Shah Nawaz Nazir. Masroor sahib highlights the dangers facing youth and calls for awareness and change. His verses displayed on signboards in various schools in Handwara serve as a constant reminder of the power of words to inspire and educate.

■ **Media Engagement: A Voice Beyond Print**

Masroor's influence extends beyond literature into media and public discourse. He is widely recognized as the host of the literary program Qadawar on Voice TV Urdu, where he engages audiences through meaningful discussions and poetic expression. Earlier, he co-hosted the program "Ghar Baar khatirih" on Radio Kashmir Srinagar for two years alongside the late Abdul Ahad Farhad, & Gami bayen hidi khari with Shamshad Kralwari & A R Bhat. contributing significantly to cultural broadcasting. His roles as a literary coordinator for Gulistan News and Voice TV Urdu further reflect his commitment to promoting literature through modern platforms.

■ **Journalistic Contributions: Presence in Print Media**

His writings have appeared in a wide range of newspapers and magazines, including Srinagar Times, Qomi Sahafat (Lucknow), Urdu Magazine (Delhi), Urdu Times (Mumbai), Gawah express, Shairbeen, Tamili Irshaad, New State reporter, Gadyall, Nidayay Kashmir, Aaftab and Kehwat and many more. Through these platforms, he has addressed social, cultural, and philosophical issues, reaching a diverse readership. In addition to these publications, his columns have been featured in numerous other outlets, establishing him as a respected voice in contemporary discourse. His consistent presence in print media underscores his ability to engage with current realities while remaining rooted in cultural tradition.

■ **Recognition and Awards: National and Regional Honors**

Masroor's literary excellence has been widely acknowledged through numerous awards and recognitions. In 2023, he was declared the Best Poet in Kashmiri from the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, one of the highest literary honors in India.

Prof Zaman Azurda, Prof Shad Ramzan & Dupty Secretary Sahitya Akademi were present. This recognition marked a significant milestone in his career, affirming his contribution to the promotion of Kashmiri language and literature at the national level. Alongside this, he has received several regional honors that reflect the deep respect he commands within cultural circles.

■ **Academic Recognition: Preservation for Future Generations**

His works have been preserved in major academic institutions, including the Maulana Azad Library at Aligarh Muslim University, as well as the libraries of Kashmir University, Jammu University, the Directorate Libraries & the Directorate of Education Kashmir. This inclusion ensures that his writings remain accessible to students, scholars, and researchers, securing his place in the academic and literary heritage of the region.

■ **Social Commitment: Literature as Responsibility**

Beyond his literary achievements, Masroor has demonstrated a strong commitment to social service. He has actively participated in initiatives related to cancer awareness and has been associated with human rights and anti-corruption efforts. His role as a patron of the Shamas Faqeer Cultural Welfare Society reflects his dedication to preserving Kashmiri cultural and spiritual heritage. His professional experience as a former Panchayat Inspector further highlights his connection to grassroots governance and community development.

■ **Spiritual Influence: Sufi Thought and Inner Journey**

A deeply spiritual individual, Masroor's experiences of Hajj and Umrah have profoundly influenced his writing. His works often reflect themes of divine love, humility, and inner awakening, resonating strongly with Sufi philosophy. His writings on revered saints, including Sheikh Hamza Makhdum, emphasize the enduring relevance of spiritual teachings in contemporary life. This spiritual dimension adds depth to his literary work, making it both reflective and transformative.

■ **Legacy and Vision: Language as Identity**

Abdul Majeed Shah, known as Majeed Masroor, represents a rare synthesis of poet, thinker, and social reformer. His lifelong mission to preserve and promote the Kashmiri language stands as both a cultural and existential endeavor. He believes that language is not merely a means of communication but a reflection of identity and heritage. His message, that to love one's language is to love one's identity and to write in it is to keep it alive, captures the essence of his vision.

■ **Mentorship and Nurturing New Voices:**

Beyond his own literary achievements, Majeed Masroor has quietly built a legacy as a mentor and guide for emerging poets and writers. With hundreds of students learning under his influence, he has played a crucial role in shaping new voices in Kashmiri and Urdu literature. He does not merely teach the craft of writing but instills a deeper understanding of expression, authenticity, and responsibility toward language and society. Through personal guidance, thoughtful feedback, and consistent encouragement, he identifies potential in young writers and helps them refine their abilities. His engagement extends beyond formal settings, as he actively supports and uplifts new talent, ensuring that the literary tradition continues to evolve through fresh perspectives. In an era where genuine mentorship is rare, his dedication to nurturing the next generation stands as one of his most meaningful and lasting contributions.

■ **Conclusion: A Living Legacy**

With over four decades of literary and social contribution, Majeed Masroor continues to stand as a towering figure in contemporary Kashmiri literature. His journey from a village environment rich in tradition to national recognition serves as an inspiration for future generations. He is not merely a poet but a custodian of culture, a guide for emerging voices, and a bridge between past and present. His words continue to echo across the valleys of Kashmir, living not only in books but in the hearts and voices of people, ensuring that his legacy remains vibrant and enduring.

The author from Zagitpora, Chararsharif

Nail Care Tips For Hot Weather



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Vacation season is here with sun, sand, and rising temperatures.

Whether you're heading off on a beach holiday, enjoying a picnic, or simply lounging by the pool, stylish nails can add an extra touch of glamour to your look.

High temperatures, UV exposure, salt, water, chlorine, sand, and even air conditioning can cause nails to become dry, brittle, and prone to breakage.

Moreover, the nailbeds tend to be more susceptible to dryness and flaking during hot weather.

This season is also when many of us indulge in more frequent polish changes or artificial nail applications, which can weaken nails if not properly maintained.

When you prioritise nail health, every manicure or pedicure looks more polished, lasts longer, and supports overall hand and foot hygiene.

It's best to adopt a summer-specific nail care routine designed to deliver long-lasting protection and deep hydration for your nails and cuticles.

■ **Opt for Breathable Polish**

If you're someone who constantly wears nail polish on your fingernails and toenails, it may be time for you to swap your regular nail polish for a breathable nail polish formula. Breathable nail polish is a type of nail coating designed with a unique formulation that allows minute amounts of water and oxygen molecules to pass through the polish layer and onto your nails by using advanced polymer technology that creates tiny microscopic gaps in the polish.

Breathable nail polish is a better option than traditional formulas for those who can't go without a manicure or pedicure.

It minimises nail dehydration, brittleness, and yellowing, often acting as a one-step treatment without needing a base or top coat.

While nails do not require oxygen to "breathe," water and air permeability help maintain a healthier environment for the nail bed, potentially preventing issues like brittleness or fungal growth.

With these water-permeable polishes, your nails have the potential to stay more hydrated and moisturised, even with product on top.

Breathable polishes tend to contain fewer harsh chemicals when compared with their more traditional counterparts.

As oxygen can permeate through the breathable polish as it dries, you're likely to experience a shorter wait time for your nails to dry completely.

■ **Use Cuticle Oil Daily**

Cuticle oil is essentially any oil treat-

ment used to restore the natural moisture of your cuticles and to keep the skin around your nails hydrated. Most cuticle oils contain a combination of different oils, such as jojoba oil, flaxseed oil and safflower oil.

Depending on the product you're using, you can either dab your cuticles with a cotton ball or brush the oil on.

You'll only need to use a few drops on each cuticle and then massage them in for a few minutes, because most oils work best in small amounts. It soothes irritation and promotes faster healing of any cuts, cracks, or hangnails.

Cuticle oil is also beneficial from an aesthetic standpoint, since it helps make your nails into a solid canvas for your nail polish or nail art.

Consistent application of cuticle oil can strengthen the nails by providing essential nutrients that support healthy nail growth.

Cuticle oil keeps the nail plate flexible and hydrated, helping your manicure last longer. Apply cuticle oil right after your shower and wash your face in the morning, as your skin is softened with water exposure and more likely to absorb the vitamins and antioxidants from your cuticle oil.

Apply daily, especially after sun exposure or swimming, and your nails will thank you.

To ensure your cuticles are fully hydrated and healthy, you can apply cuticle oil after washing your hands throughout



the day, too. You can even keep a small bottle in your purse for on-the-go application anytime you're feeling a little dry.

■ **Cute Short Nails**

Long nails are pretty but not always practical—especially during summer.

Long nails may look glamorous, but they can be more prone to breakage and damage in the summer months.

So, keep your nails short and well-groomed to prevent any damage. You can do this yourself or go to a salon to get it done. It will help maintain nail hygiene as well.

Short nails in the summer offer superior comfort, cleanliness, and durability, making them ideal for active lifestyles while reducing the risk of splitting, breakage, and dirt accumulation. They are lower maintenance, allowing for quick, easy manicures using bold colours or pastels that complement summer fashion. They keep the nail plate protected, balanced, and less vulnerable during everyday movement.

Cute short nails are less likely to hold bacteria and can get stronger naturally. So, they're not just good-looking but also good for your nail health.

■ **Don't forget to exfoliate:**

Exfoliating nails and cuticles in summer removes dead skin, boosts circulation, and prevents hangnails caused by heat and dryness, ensuring healthy, smooth nail beds.

This will also help to prevent ingrown nails and keep your cuticles looking healthy.

Use a gentle scrub or soft nail brush on cuticles, then apply oils to hydrate after sun/chlorine exposure.

Gently exfoliating can stimulate blood flow to the nail area, which can contribute to stronger and healthier nails. Healthy, well-exfoliated nails provide a better base for nail polish, helping it last longer. Plus, it can create a smooth canvas for traditional nail polish application. Nail exfoliation can help loosen cuticles that have become attached to the nail plate and soften ridges in the nail, allowing for a smoother, shinier finish.

A FATTY LIVER CAN BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEART

'Fatty Liver' commonly finds mention in an ultrasound examination report and is often passed off as an incidental finding, it may not be innocuous after all, suggest recent studies in reputed medical journals.

Japanese and European scientists were the first to report a strange four-fold increase in heart disease in these patients compared to those of the same age and sex who had normal livers. And their observations are proving true across the world.

Using sophisticated techniques, doctors have found the wall of arteries to be thicker and the lumen narrower, causing reduced flow of blood to their heart muscles and brains, in these patients. Their findings support the clinical observation that those with excess fat in their livers are more vulnerable and die earlier from heart problems.

The appearance of a 'bright' and swollen liver suggesting excess fat deposition is a common finding on ultrasound examination. While it is commonly seen in drinkers, it is often seen in tee-totalers too, and is referred to as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease or NAFLD in them. Although the risk of liver damage due to this fat is modest and occurs in only 20 per cent when present for over 20 years, proneness to heart attacks grossly increases.

If a fatty liver is detected or suspected, a reliable simple way to find out "how much fat" and "how bad the liver's condition is" can be answered by a test called Liver Fibroscan (with CAP), a simple, painless, non-invasive test that takes only 10 minutes and gives you the important answer.

NAFLD is usually associated with obesity, diabetes, hypertension or high amounts of circulating fats in the blood, and is often called a "Lifestyle Disorder". Lack of adequate exercise and consumption of excess calories have been shown to lead to obesity and excess fat deposits in the liver. The mechanism underlying this disorder called Insulin Resistance, is like that which occurs in diabetics of the Type 2 variety or the common adult type, in which patients have high circulating levels of insulin that prove ineffective in driving sugar into cells. Insulin Resistance also causes excess accumulation of fat in liver cells, as well as thickening of arteries that cause heart or brain disease.

Regular exercise and reduction of weight form the fulcrum of treatment for this disorder. Apart from helping reduce weight, aerobic exercise up-regulates a protein (glut-4) that restores the sensitivity of cells to circulating insulin. Hence insulin and sugar levels both come down, fat gets mobilised from the liver, buttocks and abdomen, and the increased risk of heart disease is restored to normal levels.

India is in the eye of an emerging global epidemic of diabetes and heart disease. While our genes may be partly accountable for our misfortune, the greater share of blame lies in our reluctance to exercise regularly. While vagaries of weather and unsafe roads may come as handy excuses, we Indians, more than any other race, need to shake off our laziness and indulge ourselves in far more and regular exercise than what we are doing at present. And we need to start quite urgently if we need to live longer and healthier lives.

Effective medications are now available to help you shed fat from your liver. But much depends on your motivation and will power to adhere to a "diet-and fitness" regime to get your liver and heart into good shape.

Courtesy Healthline

Heart Health: 5 Tips You Should Follow To Boost Cardiovascular Health

Taking care of the heart is important as it is one of the most vital organs in the body. It is the heart that keeps one alive by pumping blood to all the other organs. The incidence of heart diseases has majorly risen over the years due to factors such as diabetes, hypertension, unhealthy diet and obesity, sedentary lifestyle, and consumption of alcohol and tobacco. It is vital to take immediate action and bring about modifications in your lifestyles to reduce the burden of heart diseases. One must lead a heart-healthy lifestyle, as the benefits of a healthy heart can also have a positive impact on overall well-being. Having a strong heart can protect against complications linked with several chronic conditions. While age has been a primary risk factor for heart diseases, over the years, more and more youth are getting detected with heart ailments due to the evolution of lifestyles. Therefore, it is important to start taking care of the heart from early on in life to prevent fatalities at a later stage.

Steps to have a healthy heart:
1. Making healthy food choices -

- **Whole Grains -** It is recommended to include at least one type of whole grain



- in daily meals such as cereals and millets
- **Omega 3-rich foods -** Seeds like flaxseed and chia seeds are best sources for omega-3
- **Green leafy vegetables -** Include more greens in daily diet as they are excellent sources of vitamins and minerals, especially, heart-friendly vitamin K
- **Herbs -** Avoid table salt and add herbs to add flavour to the food
- **Olive and mustard oil -** Use olive and mustard oil to cook as they contain healthy fats, which are good for the heart

- **Nuts and seeds -** A handful of almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, walnuts etc. every day must be consumed

2. Hydrate yourself -

Besides drinking water throughout the day, keep yourself hydrated with other healthy drinks like coconut water, lemon, smoothies and homemade drinks with low sugar and salt content.

3. Exercising regularly -

Exercise can lower the risk of developing plaque in the arteries which reduce blood flow. The

key is to get up and move, go for a walk, or do some push-ups or sit-ups. As per WHO, it is recommended to do at least 150-300 minutes of physical activity/workout every week.

4. Managing stress and mental well-being -

Managing stress can help reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke. Stress is often associated with high blood pressure and exposes the body to elevated levels of stress hormones. There are breathing exercises and meditation which can help manage stress.

5. Controlling blood pressure -

High blood pressure is a common ailment and one of the leading causes for heart diseases such as heart attacks, failure, and others. One must keep a regular check on the blood pressure and consume a diet that helps reduce hypertension.

Importance of monitoring the heart:

While the above precautionary measures can help keep heart health within check, it is important, especially for heart patients to monitor their heart regularly. The advent of medical technologies like remote monitoring has now made it possible for patients to monitor their heart within the comfort of their home and transmit information about the same to their doctor remotely. Early reaction also helps improve patient outcomes.

When to consult a doctor?

Most people might avoid consulting a doctor due to the commonality of the symptoms experienced in heart diseases, however, it is important to seek medical help if experiencing symptoms like shortness of breath, palpitations, dizziness, chest pain, shortness of breath, pain in the neck, jaw, throat, rapid or irregular heartbeat. **Courtesy Healthline**

Natural Vs Refined Sugar: Nutritionist Decodes The Difference

Simply put, sugar is a form of simple carbohydrate that the body converts into glucose and uses for energy. But the effect on the body and overall health depends on the type of sugar one is eating, either natural or refined. Natural sugars are found in fruit as fructose and as lactose in dairy products, such as milk and cheese. They contain essential nutrients that keep the body healthy and help prevent disease. The natural sources of sugar are digested slower and help you feel full for longer. It also helps keep your metabolism stable.

Natural vs refined sugar

Refined sugar such as: white sugar, brown sugar, cane sugar, coconut sugar, palm sugar, high-fructose corn syrup, etc. All these sugars mainly come from plants but have been processed in some way to a simple, sweet form, thus they are processed or refined. Due to which an increase in the consumption of refined sugar has led to the rise in obesity rates, which is associated with higher risks of cancer.

Fibre is a huge key. When sugar from fruit is taken



up, the fiber that comes with it slows down the absorption rate of sugar. This is so, because natural sugars found in whole foods don't increase blood sugar levels as fast as refined sugar. Adding up, to help slow down the absorption of the fruit even more is to pair your fruit with a meal, including a protein.

Berries such as strawberries, raspberries and blackberries are lowest in natural sugar, while the highest are dried fruits, bananas, and mangoes. Fruit juices are also high in sugar, so opt for whole fruit instead. Even though if one consumes the same number of calories from whole fruit and juice, the metabolic effects are very different. Thus, metabolically speaking, juice is more or less similar to soda than it is to whole fruit.

Metabolism Matters

The way body metabolizes the sugar in fruit and milk differs from how it metabolizes the refined sugar added to processed foods. The body breaks down refined sugar rapidly, causing insulin and blood sugar levels to skyrocket. Because refined sugar is digested quickly, one doesn't feel full after you're done eating, no matter how many calories you consumed. Hence, the fiber present in fruit brings down metabolism, as fruit in the digestive tract expands to make you feel full.

To understand better about added and natural sugar, the best piece of advice we have now is to simply eat less sugar, with the whole fruit as a notable exception to this rule. Ideally, our diets should be low in sugar and high in fibre, consisting primarily of fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

Thus, there is not much difference between sugar that is present in food naturally and the one that is added. Yet, how it's presented to the body, what comes with it, and the quantity is masks much, much difference.

Courtesy Healthline

This human molecule is helping Covid virus escape antibodies

A natural molecule called biliverdin present in human body is helping SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, escape antibodies - a discovery that can help explain why some Covid patients become severely ill despite having high levels of antibodies against the virus, report researchers.

When SARS-CoV-2 infects a patient's lungs, it damages blood vessels and causes a rise in the number of immune cells.

"Both of these effects may contribute to increasing the levels of biliverdin and bilirubin in the surrounding tissues. And with more of these molecules available, the virus has more opportunity to hide from certain antibodies," said Annachiara Rosa, first study author at the Francis Crick Institute in the UK.

"This is a really striking process, as the virus may be benefiting from a side-effect of the damage it has already caused," Rosa said in the paper published in the journal Science Advances.

In their research, teams from the Francis Crick Institute, in collaboration with researchers at Imperial College London, Kings College London and UCL (University College London), found that biliverdin and bilirubin, natural molecules present in the body, can suppress the binding of antibodies to the coronavirus spike. As vaccines are rolled out globally, understanding immunity to SARS-CoV-2 and also how the virus evades antibodies is critically important.

The ability of the immune system to control the infection and the quality of the antibody response are highly variable, and not well correlated, between individuals. The scientists discovered that the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein strongly binds to biliverdin, a molecule which was giving these proteins an unusual green colouration. **Courtesy Healthline**

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

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect. Name shown in Aadhaar: Sayara Shareef, Correct name: Sairah Begum, Husband's name : Mohd Shareef Beig, Address: Guloor Langate Jammu and Kashmir 193302. The above mentioned person (Sayara Shareef) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that her correct and legal name is Sairah Begum . Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect. Name shown in Aadhaar: Sunayat Rasool, Correct name: Sanobar Jan, Fathers name : Ghulam Rasool Ahanger, Address: Pohrupeth Langate Jammu and Kashmir 193302.

The above mentioned person (Sunayat Rasool) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that her correct and legal name is Sanobar Jan . Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect. Name shown in Aadhaar: Imran Ahmad Seer, Correct name: Mohammad Imran Seer Gujjar, Fathers name : Ghulam Ud din Seer Gujjar, Address: Doggar B Wulrama Kralgund Kupwara Jammu and Kashmir 193302. The above mentioned person (Imran Ahmad Seer) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that his correct and legal name is Mohammad Imran Seer Gujjar. Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

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 GUFOR 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 27years 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 Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

My name has been written in my School records as Aayat-Ul-Firdose D/O Firdose Ahmad Bhat Mothers name as Nilofar Jan while my actual Name is Aayat -Ul- Firdouse D/O Firdouse Ahmad Bhat Mother's name Nilofar Jan According to my Adhaar card bearing adhaar No:- 8769 -1627-5468 .Now I have applied for Correction according to my adhaar card.

if any body have any objection He/She can contact ZEO office Tral within a period of Seven days .After that no objection will be entertained.

Name :-Aayat -Ul- Firdouse
D/O:- Firdouse Ahmad Bhat
Mothers name :- Nilofar Jan
R/O Kavil Shikargah Tral

Public Notice

This is certify that Abdul Hameed Dar S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/o Aarath tahsil budgam. has applied for the insurance of Birth certificate of his son Zeeshan Hameed S/o Abdul Hameed Dar . The applicant intends to register the D O B of his son as per school records 27_ 08_ 2013 . Any one has objection, contact tahsil office within seven days . After said no objection will be entertained.

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect.

Name shown in Aadhaar: Imran Ahmad Seer
Correct name: Mohammad Imran Seer Gujjar
Fathers name : Ghulam Ud din Seer Gujjar
Address: Doggar B Wulrama Kralgund Kupwara Jammu and Kashmir 193302

The above mentioned person (Imran Ahmad Seer) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that his correct and legal name is Mohammad Imran Seer Gujjar. Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect.

Name shown in Aadhaar: Sunayat Rasool
Correct name: Sanobar Jan
Fathers name : Ghulam Rasool Ahanger
Address: Pohrupeth Langate Jammu and Kashmir 193302

The above mentioned person (Sunayat Rasool) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that her correct and legal name is Sanobar Jan . Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect.

Name shown in Aadhaar: Sayara Shareef
Correct name: Sairah Begum
Husband's name : Mohd Shareef Beig
Address: Guloor Langate Jammu and Kashmir 193302

The above mentioned person (Sayara Shareef) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that her correct and legal name is Sairah Begum . Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that the name of my 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

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/OFRESTHAR KREERI
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

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/OWATERGAM, BLOCK.... WAGOORA

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 GUFOR 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 Tehsild 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 MUSAIB AHMAD GANAIE & AIMAN JAAN D/O FAROOQ AHMAD GANAIE R/O. HAIL Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 11/06/2016 & 11/09/2015 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

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 GAFFAR 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 Tehsild 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 Distt. 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 (UT)
OFFICE OF THE ZONAL
EDUCATION OFFICER GUREZ

AUCTION NOTICE

In compliance with the order issued by the District Development Commissioner Bandipora vide No.: DDC/Bpr/Education/2025-26/6992-97 dated: 24-11-2025 and the communication of the Chief Education Officer Bandipora (Chairman Auction Committee) vide No.: CEO/Bpr/Plg/Auction/2025-26/2089-94 dated: 24-03-2026, sealed short-term tenders are hereby invited by and on behalf of the Chairman Auction Committee (Chief Education Officer Bandipora) from eligible agencies/tenderers for the auction of an old dilapidated school building of High School Buglinder Tulail, District Bandipora.

The minimum reserve price, as assessed by the Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) Division Gurez of District Bandipora, is: ₹44,260/- (Rupees Forty-Four Thousand Two Hundred & Sixty Only)

Submission of Tenders

The CDR of ₹5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) pledged in favour of the Zonal Education Officer Gurez must reach the office of the undersigned by or before the due date. The standing auction shall be conducted as per details below.

Auction Details

- Date of Auction: 30 / 04 / 2026
- Time: 11:00 AM
- Venue: High School Buglinder Tulail.
- Minimum Bid Amount: ₹44,260/-
- Mode of Auction: Open Bidding (On-the-spot Standing Auction)
- Dismantling Responsibility: Successful bidder

Terms & Conditions

1. Site Inspection: Interested bidders must inspect the site/material beforehand.
2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Bidders must carry valid ID proof and deposit an EMD of ₹5,000/- in the form of CDR on or before 28th of April 2026 in the office of Zonal Education Officer Gurez. No CDR shall be accepted after the last date.
3. Dismantling & Clearance: The successful bidder shall be responsible for dismantling, lifting, and clearing the site at their own cost and risk within the time specified by the Auction Committee.
4. Auction Committee Presence: The auction will be conducted in the presence of:
 - o Chief Education Officer Bandipora – Chairman
 - o Tehsildar Tulail – Member
 - o Zonal Education Officer Gurez – Member
 - o Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Gurez – Member
 - o Headmaster, HS Buglinder – Member
5. Payment Terms: The successful bidder must deposit the full bid amount immediately or within 24- hours of the conclusion of the auction.
6. Right of Authority: The auctioning authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Contact: For any queries, contact the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Zonal Education Officer Gurez

DIPK: 647/26 | Dated: 22-04-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY KASHMIR
(GOWKADAL SRINAGAR - 190001)

No: 57/DAHK/Estt/ 788-90 | Dated: 22-04-2026

Sub: Selection of candidates for the post of Junior Assistant in Animal Husbandry Department.
Ref: Adm. Deptt's letter NO. ASHF-AHONGAZ/52/2025(7644991) dated 22.04.2026.

NOTICE

Pursuant to Waiting List notified by J&K SSB for the post of Junior Assistant, received through Administrative Department vide aforesaid reference, Mr. Rajat Kumar S/o Om Parkash R/o Sungal Lehar, Akhnoor Jammu 182101 pertaining to this Department is directed to submit his V-roll on prescribed format, within week's time positively, for seeking required character & antecedents report in his favour. Besides, he shall also share his Contact Number along with email ID to enable this Department to proceed further:

Sd/- Dy. Director (C)
Animal Husbandry Deptt. Kashmir

DIPK: 664/26 | Dated: 22-04-2026

Sakeena Ito reviews implementation of key academic, student welfare initiatives of DSEJ

Endorses recommendation of 445 BPL students for availing free coaching facilities

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 22: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting at Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) to review performance of the department as well as assess implementation of key initiatives related to academic planning and student welfare.

Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javid Choudhary; senior officers of the DSEJ and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the Education Minister held comprehensive assessment of all the ongoing initiatives of DSEJ and also reviewed the finalisation of BPL students for availing free coaching in registered and reputed coaching centres for



competitive exams.

Sakeena Itoo endorsed the recommendation of 445 BPL students for availing free coaching facilities for the Academic Session 2026-27 in registered coaching centres, highlighting the Omar Abdullah led Government's

commitment to inclusive and equitable education.

She highlighted that the initiative aims to bridge the opportunity gap and empower deserving students to compete effectively in various competitive examinations, ensuring equitable access to quality education,

particularly for students from economically weaker sections.

The Minister on the occasion also launched the Uniform Academic Calendar for the Academic Session 2026-27, aimed at streamlining academic activities, ensuring institutional consistency, and improving the quality of education delivery.

She issued directions for effective policy implementation, adherence to academic calendar and timely service delivery, emphasizing coordinated efforts to strengthen the education system and ensure that benefits reach deserving students.

The Minister also appreciated the Director School Education, Jammu, for improving the Class 10th result to 89%, as compared to the previous year 79%.

Mega Drug Awareness Programme held at Women's College Pulwama

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, APRIL 22: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a mega awareness programme was jointly organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Department of Information & PR Pulwama, A.R. Azad Memorial Foundation J&K, and Government Degree College for Women, Pulwama.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote cultural consciousness among the youth.

Eminent poet and critic Prof. Shad Ramzan attended the event as the Chief Guest. The programme was also attended by Principal GDC for Women Pulwama, Prof. Sumi Jan; Syed Shaikat Ghayoor; Muntazir Mohi-ud-Din; and noted writer Mohi-ud-Din Farooq Trali.

Speakers on the occasion highlighted that drug abuse has emerged as a serious societal challenge, adversely affecting the future of the younger generation.

They stressed the urgent need for collective awareness and institutional interventions to curb the menace.

Emphasising the role of educational institutions, the speakers emphasized that colleges must not only impart academic knowledge but also cultivate moral and social responsibility among students to steer them away from negative influences.

The programme also featured cultural performances, including skits and recitations highlighting the menace of drug abuse. Students also presented skits and cultural performances conveying powerful messages about the ill effects of drug addiction and the importance of prevention. The performances were widely appreciated by the audience.

The event concluded with a grand Mushaira presided over by Mohammad Subhan Shooqeen, with Majid Masroor and Muntazir Mohi-ud-Din. Poets recited verses reflecting social issues, particularly raising awareness against drug abuse.

Ganderbal gears up for Civil Defence Mock Drill

ADC finalises arrangements

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, APRIL 22: In preparation for the Civil Defence Air Raid and Blackout Mock Exercise scheduled for Thursday, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Syed Faheem Bhaqi, on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to finalise arrangements for the upcoming drill.

The meeting brought together senior officers from various departments to coordinate logistics, personnel deployment, and emergency response protocols.

During the deliberations, it was

decided that the mock drill, simulating an air raid scenario, will be conducted at Government Degree College Ganderbal as the primary target site.

The exercise will include a simulated blackout across the district. The Executive Engineer, KPDC, has been directed to ensure shutdown of electricity supply upon the designated signal to be issued by the PCR.

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has been tasked with leading the air raid simulation and will deploy necessary equipment. First Responder Teams (FRTs) will manage on-ground

operations, while ambulances will facilitate the evacuation of simulated casualties to the District Hospital.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has been directed to deploy an ambulance at the venue along with necessary staff and to oversee all medical arrangements. Doctors and paramedical staff will be stationed at the District Hospital to ensure prompt response.

Volunteers trained by SDRF, along with NCC cadets, will also be mobilised to support the exercise. The District Youth Services and Sports Officer has been tasked with ensuring their participation.

Traffic Police have been instructed to keep the designated corridor clear to facilitate smooth movement during the drill.

Later, the ADC also reviewed arrangements for a cyclotron scheduled to be held on April 24, from Clock Tower to GCOPE Gadoora. The event will be flagged off at 7:00 AM and is expected to witness participation from a large number of people.

The District Youth Services and Sports Officer has been nominated as the Nodal Officer for the cyclotron. The Chief Medical Officer was directed to deploy medical and paramedical staff along with

an ambulance for the event.

Other concerned officers and officials were also assigned duties for smooth conduct of the Cyclotron.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Superintendent of Police, Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council, Executive Engineer KPDC, District Information Officer, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police SDRF (DAR), Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic Rural, and other officers and officials.

Census 2027: 3-Day Training Programme for Enumerators and Supervisors commences in Baramulla

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, APRIL 22: As part of the ongoing preparations for Census 2027, a three-day training programme for the first batch of Enumerators and Supervisors commenced today at the DC Office Meeting Hall, Baramulla.

The training programme was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, Chief Planning Officer, Nisar Ahmad, District Coordinating officer for Census, H.C. Chouhan, Nodal Officer for Census 2027, Baramulla, Rohini Pokhrel and all the enumerators and supervisors as part of the first batch of training.

The training programme is aimed at equipping the field functionaries with the necessary skills and knowledge required for the smooth and efficient conduct of the upcoming census exercise.

On the first day, the Master Trainers imparted extensive training to the participants, focusing on key aspects such as enumeration procedures, use of technology, data accuracy, and adherence to prescribed guidelines.

During the sessions, emphasis was laid on ensuring clarity regarding roles and responsibilities of Enumerators and Supervisors, along with practical demonstrations to enhance their understanding of field operations.

The participants were also sensitized about the importance of accurate data collection, confidentiality, and timely submission of information.

The training is being conducted in a structured manner, with interactive sessions and hands-on exercises to address queries and strengthen the overall preparedness of the field staff.

Government Polytechnic Reasi hosts Police-Community awareness meeting under NMBA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, APRIL 22: As a part of 100 Days Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan launched by the district administration Reasi, the Government Polytechnic College Reasi today organized a high-impact Police-Community Meeting under the aegis of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) in the college campus. The session was held aimed to sensitize students and faculty about the escalating dangers of substance abuse and the collective responsibility of the community in its prevention.

The proceedings commenced with a welcome address by Principal Dr. Arun Bangotra, who formally received the distinguished guests. He emphasized that educational institutions play a pivotal role in the "Nasha Mukht" campaign, noting that awareness is the strongest shield against the menace of drug addiction.

He stressed the importance of awareness, early intervention and collective responsibility in addressing the pressing issue.

The event featured a distinguished panel of speakers, including law enforcement and medical experts.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Reasi Iftexkar Ahmed graced the occasion as the keynote speaker. He highlighted the critical role of the police-community partnership in identifying and dismantling drug networks. He urged students to act as catalysts for change and to remain vigilant within their local surroundings.

Dr. Bilal Ahmed and Dr. Minali provided clinical insights into the psychological and physiological toll of drug addiction. They detailed the signs of substance abuse and the various medical and counseling resources available to those seeking help.

The program saw enthusiastic participation from the student body and concluded with a solemn Nasha Mukht Pledge.

Wall painting, awareness activities under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan held across Shopian

Students lead creative awareness drives, promoting drug free society

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, APRIL 22: In continuation of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, awareness and wall painting activities were extensively conducted across various schools in District Shopian.

Students actively participated in painting walls and creating impactful visuals carrying strong anti drug messages such as "Say No to Drugs" and "Choose Life, Not Drugs."

The initiative provided a creative

platform for students to express their views on the harmful effects of drug abuse while reinforcing awareness through art.

The activities witnessed enthusiastic participation and effectively engaged youth in spreading the message of a drug free society.

Meanwhile, at GDC Shopian, NSS units organized a dedicated wall painting programme under the theme "Drug-Free Messages."

Students and volunteers showcased their artistic skills

through vibrant and meaningful artwork highlighting the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of prevention.

In addition, an awareness camp was organized at MC Shopian where participants were sensitized about the ill effects of drug abuse and the importance of community participation in addressing the issue.

The programme focused on spreading awareness among the general public and encouraging collective responsibility towards achieving a drug free Shopian.

DC reviews preparations for civil defence Air Raid mock drill scheduled on April 24

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 22: The Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the upcoming Civil Defence Air raid mock drill, scheduled to take place on 24th April, 2026 at 8 pm.

The drill is a crucial exercise aimed at evaluating the district's preparedness and response systems in the event of an air raid.

The mock drill will include a series of coordinated activities, starting with the activation of the Air Raid Early Warning System.

This will involve the sounding of sirens to alert the public and test the effectiveness of early

warning systems in the district. Following this, Blackout Measures will be implemented, demonstrating how the community will respond by reducing visibility and ensuring safety during an air raid scenario.

The drill will also include a key focus on Evacuation Procedures. These procedures will test the district's ability to efficiently evacuate civilians, provide shelter and deploy rescue measures. Special attention will be paid to the mobilisation of vehicles and ambulances for evacuation, ensuring the smooth movement of people to safe areas.

In addition, the exercise will involve a Medical Response and Casualty Evacuation phase. This will test the district's readiness

to identify emergency medical evacuation routes and ensure the swift treatment of casualties. Search and Rescue Operations will also form part of the exercise, allowing the district to assess its ability to carry out search and rescue efforts during an air raid situation.

The drill will further evaluate the identification of Shelters and the coordination of Emergency Services. Key emergency services, including the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), local health departments will be engaged to ensure a coordinated response to the mock air raid.

Participation from 21 wards in the Municipal Council will be a crucial aspect of the exercise, with volunteers from each ward

being trained as first responders. This initiative aims to ensure that local communities are actively involved in disaster response efforts. The drill will also focus on Accurate Information Dissemination and ensure that the public is well-informed about emergency contact numbers and procedures.

The meeting also discussed the need to identify the location for the simulation exercise and highlighted the importance of conducting a Tabletop Exercise to raise awareness and enhance preparedness.

The Civil Defence Air Raid Mock Drill is a vital step in strengthening Udhampur's disaster management protocols. The district administration

urged all involved agencies to work in close coordination to make the exercise a success and ensure the safety and well-being of residents in the event of an actual emergency.

The meeting was attended by the Station Commander of the Air Force Station Udhampur, Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Additional Superintendent of Police, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Commandants from CRPF, Besides Executive Engineer (JPDC/JSD), NDRF and SDRF officials, as well as representatives from GMC Traffic/Telecom, Fire & Emergency Services, BSNL and STC BSNF, along with government officials were also present.

Legal awareness programmes conducted across Reasi district

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, APRIL 22: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Reasi conducted an awareness programme on Mediation, directed by Chairman Khalil Choudhary and Secretary Pooja Gupta.

A separate awareness session on Lok Adalats and ADR mechanisms was held at Panchayat Majrakund by PLVs of the Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Mahore, deputed by Chairman Himanshu Atri. Connected with the Legal Aid Clinic Kunderdhan, the program highlighted the advantages of Lok Adalats, mediation, conciliation

and arbitration for efficient dispute resolution. PLVs also provided information on free legal aid services provided by the Legal Services Authorities to ensure equal access to justice.

Similarly, TLSC Katra organized a "Save Girl Child" awareness programme at Panchayat Akhli. Led by a PLV deputed by Chairman Siddhant Vaid, the initiative focused on protecting the rights of the girl child and addressing issues such as gender discrimination and female foeticide.

District Police Poonch organizes awareness programme under Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, APRIL 22: In continuation of its sustained efforts to combat drug abuse under the ongoing "Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan", the District Police Poonch organized a public awareness programme at Bus Stand Poonch, aimed at sensitizing the general public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a drug-free society.

The programme was attended by

Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain, along with other senior officers of civil administration and police.

The event featured an engaging cultural programme, including a Nukkad Natak (street play), presented by artists from Saraswati Sangeet Kala Kendra, highlighting the dangers of drug addiction and its far-reaching consequences on individuals, families and society.

Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries emphasized the need for active public participation in the ongoing anti-drug campaign and urged citizens to contribute towards making it a grand success. They highlighted the ill effects of drug abuse and called upon the public to remain vigilant. The gathering was also encouraged to report any instances of drug peddling or substance abuse to the authorities, with assurance of strict action against those found involved.

India-Sweden collaboration boosts industrial decarbonisation at ISIA Workshop in Hyderabad

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 22 : The India-Sweden Innovations Accelerator (ISIA) hosted its 27th workshop in Hyderabad on Wednesday, bringing together industry leaders, sustainability experts, and cleantech innovators to accelerate the adoption of clean technologies across Indian industries.

The ISIA-Sweden's flagship bilateral initiative with India is supported by the Swedish Energy Agency and implemented in partnership with Business Sweden and the CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre under the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The programme promotes Swedish cleantech solutions in India while enabling domestic industries to deploy globally proven sustainable technologies at scale.

The Hyderabad workshop saw participation from 40 Indian companies and seven Swedish cleantech firms, showcasing



innovations in energy efficiency, smart grids, IoT-enabled systems, clean mobility, advanced materials, and resource optimisation.

In his welcome address, Gaurav Maheswari, Vice Chairman of CII Telangana and Managing Director of Signode India Limited, noted that the global sustainability agenda has shifted from commitments to implementation, stressing the need for scalable and cost-effective

decarbonisation solutions.

Delivering the theme address, Pawan Tahlani highlighted the strong alignment between India's growing energy demands and Sweden's clean technology capabilities, calling for deeper collaboration to accelerate the green transition.

Edgar Darbinyan reaffirmed Sweden's commitment to international partnerships, emphasising initiatives like ISIA and

LeadIT 2.0 in supporting India's energy transition.

In his concluding remarks, K. Muralikrishnan underscored the need for large-scale execution backed by proven technologies and industry partnerships, urging participants to convert discussions into actionable projects.

The workshop featured technical presentations from Swedish firms including Candela, ECAPS, Lixea, Waltero, Plexigrid, and Affectus. It also highlighted successful collaborations such as Krahn Specialty Fluids and Metalex Cryogenics Limited.

A key highlight was the B2B meetings, which enabled direct engagement between Swedish technology providers and Indian companies to explore pilot projects and long-term partnerships.

The ISIA platform continues to serve as a critical bridge between global innovation and India's industrial ecosystem, reinforcing both nations' commitment to sustainable growth and a low-carbon future. UNI

BITS Pilani turns Bengaluru into Industry 4.0 live lab

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, APRIL 22 : India's factory future took a decisive step forward on Wednesday as BITS Pilani transformed Bengaluru into a "live lab" for Industry 4.0 with the inauguration of its Smart Manufacturing Competency Centre (SMCC).

Moving beyond conventional classrooms, the Centre is designed to simulate real factory conditions, allowing companies, engineers and students to test, validate and deploy advanced manufacturing solutions before taking them to the shop floor.

The initiative signals a shift from theory-led learning to industry-driven problem solving, at a time when India is pushing to strengthen its global manufacturing competitiveness.

The SMCC, launched under BITS Pilani's Work Integrated Learning Programmes (WILP), is the second such facility in a nationwide network planned for 2026. It builds on the earlier Automotive Competency Centre in Chennai and aims to create a distributed innovation ecosystem aligned with industry needs.

Positioned in Bengaluru's dense industrial and technology landscape, the Centre brings together sectors such as aerospace, defence, electronics and automotive, enabling direct collaboration between academia and industry. This convergence is expected to accelerate adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies, particularly among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which often face cost and capability barriers.

At the heart of the facility is a "learning factory" environment where real-world manufacturing challenges can be recreated and addressed using integrated technologies such as industrial automation, Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), artificial intelligence and machine learning, digital twins, and advanced robotics. Companies can prototype solutions, assess returns on investment, and minimise risks before full-scale deployment.

A key thrust of the initiative is to



democratise access to advanced manufacturing tools. MSMEs will be able to experiment without heavy capital investment, collaborate with domain experts, and co-develop scalable solutions—bridging a critical gap in India's industrial transformation journey.

The Centre is equipped with specialised laboratories in mechatronics, machine vision, Industry 4.0/5.0 systems, robotics, extended reality, and rapid prototyping, enabling an end-to-end innovation pipeline from concept to execution.

Speaking at the launch, V. Ramgopal Rao said the initiative aligns academic rigour with real industrial challenges and will contribute to India's push for self-reliance in advanced manufacturing. Prof. G. Sundar, Director of the WILP Division, emphasised that the Centre is designed to create job-ready skills that evolve with industry demands.

Industry leaders from Wipro, Tata Advanced Systems Limited, ELCIA and Walvoil Fluid Power India Pvt Ltd attended the inauguration, underscoring strong industry backing for the initiative.

With over 50,000 working professionals enrolled annually, BITS Pilani's WILP continues to expand its role as a bridge between higher education and industry, now positioning Bengaluru at the centre of India's next manufacturing leap. UNI

L&T inks 3-Lakh Tonnes Per Annum Green Ammonia Deal With Itochu Of Japan

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, APRIL 22: L&T Energy GreenTech Ltd (LTEGL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro, announced here on Wednesday that it has signed a long-term supply agreement with Japan's Itochu Corporation to deliver 300,000 (3 lakh) tonnes per annum (TPA) of green ammonia on a captive take-or-pay basis.

Green ammonia is emerging as a viable alternative marine fuel, though large-scale adoption hinges on reliable supply and long-term contracts that can support capital-intensive projects. It is produced by combining hydrogen, generated by splitting water with renewable energy, with nitrogen separated from the air. The green ammonia will be produced at Kandla in Gujarat, by LTEGL.

Itochu plans to deploy the green ammonia for marine bunkering, with Singapore, which is a major global marine fuel hub. The move is part of Itochu's broader push to build a green ammonia supply chain across key maritime trade routes as shipping lines seek to cut emissions.

For L&T, the agreement supports its ambition to position Kandla as a major export hub for low-carbon fuels, in alignment with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission. India's National Green Hydrogen Mission envisions a production capacity of at least 5 MMTPA by 2030, attracting investments exceeding USD 100 billion. The initiative is expected to catalyse industrial innovation, create green jobs, and reinforce India's energy security.

The deal advances the two companies' relationship beyond the Joint Development Agreement they signed in July 2025, moving from development-stage collaboration to securing committed long-term offtake.

The agreement was signed in Tokyo at Itochu's corporate headquarters by LTEGL CEO & MD Derek M. Shah and Itochu Executive Vice President Hiroyuki Tsubai. L&T Chairman & MD S N Subrahmanyam and Deputy MD Subramanian Sarma were present at the signing.

L&T Deputy MP Subramanian Sarma said, "By securing long-term demand through a reputed global partner like Itochu, we are strengthening the commercial foundation of our green ammonia platform".

He added that the agreement is a significant step in translating the company's clean energy ambitions into "large-scale, bankable projects," adding that securing long-term demand through a global partner strengthens the commercial foundation of its green ammonia platform while contributing to global decarbonisation efforts.

Itochu Executive Vice President Hiroyuki Tsubai said, "Establishing a reliable and scalable supply of green ammonia is critical for its adoption as a marine fuel. The partnership provides a strong supply base to expand bunkering operations and support the transition towards low-carbon shipping". UNI

Redwood Software opens global centre in Hyderabad, bets big on AI-led innovation

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APRIL 22 : Redwood Software on Wednesday launched its global centre in Hitech City, marking a major expansion of its India operations and strengthening Hyderabad's position as a leading global technology hub.

Speaking at the inauguration, Telangana Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub CEO Phani Nagarjuna said the development

reflects Hyderabad's emergence as the GCC (Global Capability Centre) capital of India, with a strong ecosystem of over four lakh professionals, world-class infrastructure and a proactive policy framework.

He noted that the state is actively promoting AI innovation through initiatives in talent development, startups, data infrastructure and global partnerships.

India's marine exports hit record Rs 72,326 Cr in FY26 despite US tariffs, West Asia disruptions

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, APR 22 : India's marine product exports touched an all-time high of Rs 72,325.82 crore (USD 8.28 billion) in FY 2025-26, overcoming geopolitical tensions in West Asia, tariff pressures in the United States, and volatile global trade conditions.

According to provisional data released by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the country exported 1.93 million tonnes of seafood during the fiscal year, marking a record in both value and volume.

The strong performance comes amid multiple global headwinds,

including shipping disruptions linked to the prolonged West Asia crisis, elevated freight costs and uneven demand across key markets.

Frozen shrimp once again emerged as the undisputed engine of India's seafood export growth.

The segment contributed Rs 47,973.13 crore (USD 5.51 billion), accounting for more than two-thirds of the country's total marine export earnings. Shrimp exports also rose 4.6 per cent in volume and 6.35 per cent in value.

Southeast Asia emerged as another major growth centre, registering an increase of 36.1 per cent in value and 28.2 per cent in volume.

Japan also remained a stable

market, with imports rising 6.55 per cent in value. In contrast, exports to West Asia saw a marginal decline of 0.55 per cent, largely attributed to regional instability and logistical uncertainties during the fag end of the financial year, according to a MPEDA statement.

The United States (US) retained its position as India's largest seafood market, importing marine products worth USD 2.32 billion. Exports to the country registered a decline of 19.8 per cent in volume and 14.5 per cent in value due to the impact of reciprocal tariff measures and changing buying patterns. However, exporters were able to offset the slowdown in the American market through stronger penetration into

other regions.

Exports to China, the second-largest destination, recorded impressive growth, with imports from India rising 22.7 per cent in value and 20.1 per cent in volume. The European union also posted robust gains, with exports jumping 37.9 per cent in value and 35.2 per cent in volume, indicating stronger demand recovery and widening acceptance of Indian seafood products.

Exports of frozen fish, squid, cuttlefish, dried marine items, and live products registered positive growth, while chilled products declined.

Surimi, fishmeal, and fish oil also reported improved performance. However, chilled

products witnessed a decline, likely due to shorter shelf-life constraints and higher transportation costs, the MPEDA said.

Notably, imposition of a 50 per cent tariff by the United States since August 2025 on Indian seafood imports had posed a significant challenge to the sector.

As per the data, in FY25, India exported 3,46,868 tonnes of seafood worth USD 2.71 billion to the US, accounting for 36.4 per cent of total seafood exports.

The steep tariff had created a substantial duty disadvantage for Indian exporters, especially in comparison to key competitors such as Ecuador, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. UNI

"Hyderabad chosen for talent, AI growth," says Redwood India Head

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 22 : Redwood Software selected Hyderabad for its global centre due to the city's strong talent pool, infrastructure and innovation-driven culture, said Rajkumar Paulraj, Vice President (Engineering) and Country Head of Redwood India.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the launch, Paulraj said the company aims to build an AI-

driven software products ecosystem in Hyderabad, highlighting that artificial intelligence will significantly enhance productivity, capacity and employment opportunities in the region.

He explained that Redwood specialises in enterprise automation and orchestration, enabling companies to integrate multiple systems and execute complex, mission-critical operations seamlessly.

"We bring together diverse

platforms and automate end-to-end workflows that businesses depend on for efficiency and compliance," he said.

Paulraj noted that the Hyderabad centre currently has 106 employees and is expected to scale up to around 300 by the end of 2027.

He added that a significant portion of Redwood's product engineering work is already being handled from the city, with further expansion planned in the coming years.

Tata Power launches EZ Home automation in Hyderabad

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 22 : Tata Power, a leading integrated power company and a part of the Tata Group, launched its 'EZ Home Solutions' here on Wednesday, introducing smart home technologies aimed at enhancing convenience, security, and energy efficiency for urban households.

Speaking on the occasion, Kaushik Sanyal, National Head-Group Captive and Enterprise Accounts, Tata Power, said home automation plays a key role in reducing energy consumption while enhancing convenience and safety for households.

He said that its solutions enable users to automate appliances such as air conditioners, heaters, and fans through compact converter devices installed within existing electrical systems.

He noted that these plug-and-play converters, priced around



2,000- 2,500, allow even small households to adopt automation without major infrastructure changes, making the technology accessible to a wide range of users.

Highlighting the benefits, he said the system offers built-in safety features, including protection against electrical faults, sparks, and overloads, while also helping

reduce energy misuse.

He said that such automation can deliver around 15-20% energy savings annually.

Saving energy is equivalent to generating power, he said, adding that with rising electricity demand, efficient usage is becoming increasingly critical for sustainable growth.

He further said the solutions provide app-based controls, allowing users to remotely manage appliances, set timers, and optimise usage — such as pre-setting air-conditioner temperatures before reaching home.

He said that the products are designed for both affordable housing and high-end residential

or commercial buildings, with advanced smart switchboards available for larger installations without requiring major rewiring.

According to the company, a typical urban household using multiple appliances can reduce electricity consumption by around 15 per cent annually, saving over 1,300 units of power and approximately 10,000 per year.

A key contributor to these savings is intelligent air-conditioning optimisation, which reduces unnecessary runtime through automated scheduling and usage monitoring.

The Hyderabad launch is part of Tata Power's 'EZ Home - 100 Cities, 1 Purpose' initiative, aimed at making smart, energy-efficient living accessible across metros as well as Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities in India, the company added.

Vudata Vasudeva, EZ Home Marketing, Tata Power also present. UNI

Revanth Reddy reviews industrial investments, pushes fast-track clearances for MoU projects

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 22 : Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday evening held a high-level review meeting on the Industries Department at his residence in Jubilee Hills, directing officials to expedite clearances and ensure early grounding of investments.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed during the Davos summit and the 'Telangana Rising' Global Summit, including details of companies that have already commenced operations and those with pending proposals.

Reviewing land allocation, the Chief Minister asked officials to prioritise allotment of land parcels in 'Future City' and other regions, and to complete all pending land acquisition processes at the earliest for companies that have signed MoUs.

He also directed officials to adopt a systematic approach in providing infrastructure and to anticipate future requirements of industries. Stressing sustainability, Revanth Reddy instructed that data centres should utilise treated water from Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for their needs.

The Chief Minister further asked officials to categorise investing companies into three groups and accord top priority to reputed global and established firms. He emphasised that all efforts must be made to ensure that companies begin operations quickly with full government support.

The meeting was attended by IT and Industry Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, CM's Special Secretary Ajith Reddy and other senior officials, according to an official statement. UNI

Bumrah Bowls the First Over, and 'It Just Kicks Belief' into MI



■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD: In the five IPL 2026 matches Mumbai Indians (MI) had played before their demolition of Gujarat Titans (GT) on Monday, their first overs had been bowled by Deepak Chahar (three times) and Trent Boult (twice). MI had won just one of those games and Jasprit Bumrah didn't have a wicket against his name.

On the three occasions Chahar had opened the bowling, Bumrah had bowled the second overs - and the fifth and fourth on the other occasions. It's still opening the bowling if you send down the second over, you'd think, but overs work differently in T20s these days. The second over is quite different from the first. Which is what Bumrah bowled against GT, and voila! The first wicket. Of B Sai Sudharsan. Off his first delivery. Enough for Faf du Plessis to joke: "You feel like it's going to be a recurring thing now for the rest of the games."

"[If Bumrah bowls the first over] you can afford to, with three other pace-bowling options, not have a powerplay specialist per se," Abhinav Mukund said. "They tried Boult. They tried Chahar. And for the first time since 2022, Jasprit Bumrah gets to bowl the first over, and not when teams are 40 for no loss, 50 for no loss, 60 for no loss. It's been no loss throughout the season [except against Delhi Capitals] every time he's come on to bowl."

"[On this occasion, it was] 0 for 0, he comes in, and then suddenly he strikes and you end up seeing a difference. I'm not saying the first-over wicket was the turning point of the game, but I'm just saying the affordability to do that against a side like Gujarat Titans, who aren't so great in the middle [overs] against spin - so you decided to go with two spinners - sort of adds up for this game." For du Plessis, the best bowler in the side getting a wicket early on in a defense of 199 worked to lift the side.

"We talk about this as a momentum [shift] in the field. Everyone comes out, 'come on boys', you know, 'today is the day', and then the first over goes for 13-14 and the wind just gets knocked out of you a little bit," du Plessis said. "You just feel like straightaway in the field the body language drops a little bit. So the fact that Bumrah - we all agree is the greatest bowler of this generation in white-ball cricket - [bowled the] first over and it just kicks belief into that team that today is the day that we can have a good day."

MI haven't won the IPL title after their fifth triumph in 2020, and giving Bumrah the ball first up felt like a throwback of sorts. Even though Bumrah had taken the new ball on only 15 occasions in his T20 career, and only six times in the IPL before Monday.

Charlotte Edwards: 'This will be one of the hardest England squads to pick'

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHELMSFORD: One year into the job as England head coach and 52 days away from a T20 World Cup on home soil, Edwards believes she and her players are "as prepared as we can be".

"When I first took on this job, I knew exactly what was ahead of us," Edwards. "Home World Cup, and I've said it to the players: this comes once in your lifetime, in terms of career. You can really sense that from the players, that they know this is super special and something everyone wants to be a part of."

So what has changed over the past 12 months, when Edwards took over from Jon Lewis following a bleak Ashes tour of Australia and, before that, a group-stage exit from the 2024 T20 World Cup?

Edwards has seen her squad grow in confidence, cohesiveness and depth with a 30-strong party travelling to Pretoria last month for training and a series of intra-squad T20 practice matches. The size of the touring party indicates that the growing talent pool touted as a result of increased professionalisation over the past five years is coming to fruition.

That has left Edwards with some potential selection dilemmas as she looks to balance a squad which has a long-established core of experienced players with some very green but excitingly talented youngsters.

Among the latter group, Edwards singled out uncapped teens Davina Perrin and Tilly Corteen-Coleman along with 21-year-old allrounder Jodi Grewcock for standing out during the South Africa trip.

Perrin initially put herself in the frame with a 42-ball century in last year's Hundred Eliminator while left-arm spinner Corteen-Coleman played every match in Pretoria on an exercise billed as the players' big chance to push for selection despite being only 18 years old. Meanwhile, Grewcock, who bowls legspin, answers a gaping hole in England's line-up as a left-handed batter.

"It's probably going to be one of the hardest teams, certainly, I'll have to pick, or we'll have to pick as the selection group," Edwards says ahead of the first assignment of the summer, two white-ball series against New Zealand in May.

"But equally, what England have probably had to pick over the last sort of 10 years, there is a real depth of talent now and players performing week in, week out. That's where we wanted to be coming into this. It certainly makes our jobs as selectors really, really hard. But I'd certainly rather it be like that than having easy calls to make going into a World Cup."

Ayush Mhatre ruled out of IPL 2026 with hamstring injury

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) batter Ayush Mhatre has been ruled out of IPL 2026 with a left hamstring injury. The 18-year-old suffered the injury while batting during CSK's previous game against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on April 18.

"Ayush's injury will require a rehabilitation period of 6-12 weeks. We wish Ayush a speedy recovery," CSK posted on social media. They are yet to name a replacement.

Mhatre walked into bat as Impact Player for fast bowler Gur-



japneet Singh in the second over of CSK's chase of 195 against SRH. He was on 30 off 12 balls when

he clutched his left hamstring after completing a two on his captain Ruturaj Gaikwad's call.

He immediately looked in pain and was tended to by the CSK physiotherapist. Mhatre resumed his innings after the on-field treatment but hobbled for a single next ball. He was dismissed on the following delivery.

"It looks pretty bad, unfortunately. And he's going to be a big, big loss because he's been in really nice touch for us," Mike Hussey, the CSK batting coach, said after the game. Mhatre is CSK's leading run-scorer so far this tournament with 201 runs in six innings at a strike rate of 177.87. CSK have Urvil Patel

in the squad who could come in and bat at No. 3. The wicketkeeper-batter played three games last season and scored 68 runs, striking at 212.50.

CSK have already faced a string of injury setbacks this season. MS Dhoni is yet to play a game due to a calf strain, fast bowler Nathan Ellis was ruled out of the entire season due to a hamstring injury, while his replacement Spencer Johnson is also working his way back from an injury and hasn't joined the team as yet. Just last week, fast bowler Khaleel Ahmed was also ruled out due to a right quadricep injury.

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