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Drug Trafficking Finances Terrorism and Drives Radicalisation: LG Sinha

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 02: Asserting that some drug traffickers might be building narco-palaces and becoming economically prosperous, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday reiterated that most of the money generated through this trade ends up fuelling terrorism and radicalisation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to selected group of reporters at Lok Bhawan here ahead of a mega 'padyatra' on Sunday as part of the 'Nasha Mukht J-K Abhiyaan', LG Sinha, "Narcotics trade in Jammu and Kashmir has a direct link with terrorism. The administration is stepping up efforts to dismantle drug networks and curb rising addiction among youth."

"Narcotics proceeds are often channelled into terror activities. Drug traf-



fickers may appear to prosper, but that money ultimately fuels terrorism, violence and radicalization," he said.

LG Sinha said, "We need to build more rehabilitation centres. But those cannot be built immediately, so, in the rehabilitation centres that exist, arrangements are being made for their (victims) treatment. The Health Department has been instructed that both OPD and IPD facilities should be sufficiently available for such people in our hospitals."

He said the administration is working on a three-year monitoring programme for the rehabilitation of victims. "We are also creating a detailed rehabilitation plan, so that if someone gets into drug addiction and then gets out, we can track them for three years and make complete arrangements for their rehabilitation," he added.

LG Sinha said, "Despite sustained

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Srinagar decked up, security beefed for LG-led mega anti-drug Padyatra

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAY 02: With the Padyatra led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha set to take place on Sunday (tomorrow), Srinagar has been fully decked up, while security has been significantly beefed up, with a coordinated effort ensuring foolproof arrangements across the city.

The march, part of the nationwide 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan', is expected to witness unprecedented participation, particularly from youth, students, civil society groups, and government officials.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a comprehensive security grid has been activated by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in coordination with paramilitary forces. Anti-sabotage checks, area domination, frisking, and heightened surveillance have been put in place, especially along vulnerable stretches and gathering points.

Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) and emergency units have been deployed strategically to respond to any contingency. The entire route

has undergone sanitisation and security clearance.

The traffic department has rolled out a detailed mobility plan, including diversions, designated parking zones, and restricted entry for heavy vehicles in certain areas. Commuters have been advised to plan their travel in advance and adhere to official advisories to avoid inconvenience.

Health services have been put on high alert, with ambulances, mobile medical units, and healthcare personnel stationed at regular intervals. Fire and emergency services, along with disaster response teams, will remain on standby throughout the duration of the march.

Municipal teams have carried out extensive cleanliness drives, road repairs, and installation of public facilities such as drinking water stations and mobile toilets. Volunteers and local organisations have been engaged to assist authorities in crowd facilitation and awareness efforts.

Prominent locations, including Lal Chowk and adjoining routes, have been adorned

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West Asia Situation

Govt reviews energy, maritime sectors

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, MAY 02 Amid evolving developments in West Asia, the Government of India on Saturday said it is closely monitoring key sectors including energy supply, maritime operations and the safety of Indian nationals, while asserting that adequate measures are in place to ensure stability.

According to an official update, fuel supplies across the country remain stable, with 100 per cent availability being maintained for domestic LPG, PNG and CNG segments. Citizens have been advised against panic buying of petrol, diesel and LPG, and urged to rely only on official information.

The government said refineries are operating at high capacity with sufficient crude stocks, while retail fuel outlets are functioning normally. To shield consumers from rising global crude prices, excise duty on petrol and diesel has been reduced by 10 per litre.

In a push towards cleaner energy, the government has accelerated PNG expansion. Since March 2026, about 5.96 lakh PNG connections have been

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Jammu-Srinagar Direct Vande Bharat Express Begins Commercial Operation Amid Fanfare

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 2: Amid much fanfare, the commercial operation of the first direct Vande Bharat Express between Jammu and Srinagar commenced on Saturday, two days after its inauguration by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The train with 20 coaches will operate six days a week barring Tuesdays, and reduce the travel time between the two destinations to less than five hours, officials said.

The train previously operated from



Srinagar to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, and now it will go up to Jammu Tawi.

Decorated with flowers, the train chugged off for Srinagar from platform No. 7 at the Jammu railway station, marking a major milestone in enhancing rail connectivity in the region, Uchit Singhal, senior manager, Jammu Division, said.

"Today marks the dawn of a new era with the commencement of the Vande Bharat train service from Jammu to Srinagar — a monumental

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Rain, Gusty Winds To Continue In J&K Till May 4; MeT Warns Of Thunderstorms, Hail

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 2: The Meteorological Department on Saturday said that changing weather patterns will persist across Jammu and Kashmir over the next few days, bringing rain, thunderstorms and strong winds to several areas of the Union Territory.

Director MeT Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that on May 2, scattered places are likely to receive intermittent light rain and thundershowers, mainly during the afternoon, accompanied by gusty winds.

He said that during May 3 and 4, the weather is

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Inauguration Of Holy Relics Of Buddha In Leh Offers Opportunity To Pay Respects: PM

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed the inauguration of the 'Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics of the Tathagata' in Leh, and said it offers a valuable opportunity for people from across Ladakh to pay their respects.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday inaugurated a sacred holy relics exposition of Tathagata Bud-

dha and the 2569th Buddha Purnima celebrations in Leh during his two-day visit to Ladakh.

"It is a matter of immense delight that yesterday, on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the 'Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics of the Tathagata' was inaugurated in Leh," PM Modi said in a post on 'X'.

The prime minister said these revered relics are linked to the Piprahwa Stupa in Kapilavastu

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Dr Jitendra Urges Public Not To Panic Over Hot Weather Forecasts For May

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 2 : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today reassured the common public that there is



no cause for panic regarding the heat conditions predicted or expected during the month of May, and any unwarranted reaction can be avoided by understanding the forecast correctly and by following simple day-to-day precautions.

Briefing the media in his

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LG releases KRSF Road Safety Magazine

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 2: A delegation of the Kashmir Road Safety Foundation, led by its Chairman Nasir Ali Khan, Saturday called on the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, at Lok Bhawan.

During the meeting, the delegation held a detailed discussion on

the ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan in Jammu & Kashmir, with a particular focus on addressing the critical issue of transportation under the influence of drugs.

The Foundation emphasized the urgent need for strengthened awareness, enforcement, and community participation to tackle this growing concern and ensure safer roads across

the region.

The delegation also proposed the creation of dedicated Youth Clubs in educational institutions aimed at curbing drug abuse among young people. These clubs would serve as platforms for awareness, engagement, and behavioral change, empowering students to become ambassadors of a drug-free society.

On the occasion, the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha also released the KRSF Road Safety Magazine, highlighting the Foundation's initiatives, awareness campaigns, and ongoing efforts towards promoting safer roads and responsible driving practices across Jammu & Kashmir.

The members of the Foundation

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India tests nationwide emergency alert system

"Severe" mobile warnings trigger panic among mobile users

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, MAY 2: Mobile users across India on Saturday received a sudden "severe alert" notification accompanied by a loud alarm tone, triggering confusion and concern before authorities clarified that the message was part of a nationwide emergency alert system test.

The alert, delivered directly to smartphones, appeared as a high-priority warning and was pushed simultaneously to users across multiple telecom networks. Many

Residential house attached in Shopian

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 01: As part of its continued crackdown on narcotics-related activities, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Shopian on Saturday said to have attached a residential house of a drug peddler.

'Shopian Police have attached a double-story residential house falling in the Khasra No. 1163 and valued at 2037126/- belonging to Ali Mohd Bhat son of Gh Rasool Bhat resident of Haji Check Keegam. The property was identified as having been acquired through proceeds generated from the illegal trade of drugs and narcotics. Accordingly, the said property has been attached in connection with FIR No. 212/2025 of Police Station Shopian," a police spokesman said.

GoC 15 Corps, other delegations call on LG

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 2: Lieutenant General Balbir Singh, General Officer Commanding (GoC), 15 Corps, called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, on Saturday.

Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, former Vice Chairman District Development Council, Kupwara called on Lieutenant Governor. A delegation of Kashmir Road Safety Foundation led by its Chairman, Nasir Ali Khan called on Manoj Sinha.

Subsequently, Saima Jan, former DDC Member BK Pora, Budgam; Sheikh Inayat Ullah, CEO Reform and Rehabilitation Foundation (RRF) and Saba Zulqurnain, Social Activist also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

A delegation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Forum led by its Founder Chairman Rajnish Goenka, also called on Lieutenant Governor.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Money generated.....

efforts since 2021 under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the scale of drug abuse particularly among young men and women remains a serious concern.

"We have achieved some success, but not to the extent we had hoped. The increasing addiction among youth is worrying and demands collective action," he said.

The LG said the administration has adopted a three-pronged strategy targeting supply chains, expanding awareness at the grassroots and ensuring treatment and rehabilitation of addicts.

LG Sinha said a 100-day intensified campaign launched across J&K has witnessed large-scale public participation, with lakhs of people, including youth, women, religious leaders, civil society members and political groups, joining the movement.

On enforcement, he said strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been put in place, warning that those involved in drug trafficking will face stringent action under the NDPS Act. Measures include cancellation of driving licences, seizure of vehicles, freezing of bank accounts, attachment of properties and recommendations for passport cancellation.

"Lookout notices are being issued against absconders and the entire network is being targeted to break the supply chain," he added.

The LG also said authorities are monitoring de-addiction and rehabilitation centres to ensure proper facilities, warning that non-compliant centres will face closure. He added that hospitals have been directed to strengthen OPD and IPD services for addiction treatment.

Pertinently, LG Sinha launched a 100-day campaign in J&K on April 11 this year from MA Stadium in Jammu. So far, foot marches have taken place in eight districts of Jammu division. "I feel that in 21 days, its widespread impact is visible. Roughly, more than 50-60 lakh people have participated in various campaigns so far. There has also been a significant increase in the registration of cases in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, and these actions are also being carried out very effectively," he said.

Stressing awareness, LG Sinha said the campaign is being taken to every district, village and household, encouraging families to come forward and seek help without stigma.

As part of the campaign, the LG would lead a foot march to Lal Chowk on Sunday from the astroturf football stadium at TRC Chowk in Srinagar. "I urge people from all sections of society to participate in large numbers and make this campaign a success," he said.

Calling it a "people's movement," the LG urged media, community leaders and citizens to actively contribute. "When the strength of society, enforcement of law and administrative resolve come together, we can decisively defeat this menace," he said—(KNO)

Srinagar decked.....

with banners and hoardings carrying anti-drug messages, giving the city a campaign-like atmosphere ahead of the event.

Officials added that educational institutions, sports bodies, and youth clubs have been mobilised to ensure wide participation, turning the Padyatra into a people's movement against the drug menace.

"The administration has urged citizens to actively take part in the march and contribute towards building a drug-free society. Come, join and walk with us in tomorrow's Padyatra," an official appealed, describing the initiative as a united step towards safeguarding the future of Kashmir's youth—(KNO)

Govt reviews.....

gasified, while infrastructure for an additional 2.68 lakh connections has been created. Over 6.66 lakh new customers have also registered for PNG connections.

Authorities have intensified enforcement against hoarding and black marketing, conducting over 1,700 raids recently and penalising several LPG distributors. States and Union Territories have been directed to maintain strict monitoring under the Essential Commodities Act.

On the industrial front, more than 10,000 metric tonnes of propylene and over 1,200 metric tonnes of Butyl Acrylate have been supplied by major refineries to support chemical, pharmaceutical and paint industries since April 9.

Meanwhile, the government said maritime operations remain unaffected, with all Indian seafarers reported safe. Over 2,922 Indian seafarers have been repatriated so far, including 30 in the last 24 hours.

The Ministry of External Affairs said it continues to coordinate with Indian missions and local authorities in the Gulf region, ensuring the safety and welfare of Indian nationals. Flight operations from several West Asian countries are gradually stabilising, with additional services being introduced.

Jammu-Srinagar.....

triumph for modern rail travel and the 'Make in India' initiative," Singhal said.

The semi-high-speed train will cover a distance of around 272 km between Jammu Tawi and Srinagar in 4 hours and 50 minutes, a distance that took 12 to 24 hours to cover by road, depending on road conditions, officials said.

Two pairs of trains will operate daily on the route, offering travel options to the passengers, including tourists and pilgrims from across the country, they said.

According to the schedule, the first train will depart from Jammu Tawi at 6:20 am and reach Srinagar at 11:10 am, with halts at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra,

Reasi and Banihal. On its return journey, the train will leave Srinagar at 2 pm and reach Jammu Tawi at 6:50 pm.

The inaugural train completed its maiden commercial run from Jammu to Srinagar with around 940 passengers on board, while the second train had 995 passengers on board, the officials said.

On the return leg from Srinagar to Jammu, the trains carried over 1,990 passengers, who thoroughly enjoyed their journey, they said.

In Jammu, excited passengers taking the inaugural train termed the service a "dream come true" and a "game-changer" for the region.

A passenger from Banihal said the train will not only save time, but also eliminate the uncertainties associated with highway travel.

"The journey is jam-free, comfortable and affordable at around Rs 600, making it highly beneficial, especially for tourism," he said.

Sunita Sharma from Jammu termed the initiative a major achievement for both regions.

"It is like a dream come true for Kashmiris, and a big milestone for Jammu. It will strengthen connectivity between the two regions," she said.

Murtaza Sharief from Akhnoor highlighted the convenience of same-day travel. "We never imagined that one could travel in the morning and return by evening. This will benefit all sections of people," he said.

Kathua resident Shishir Rajan said the service has improved accessibility, as the highways often remain closed.

"Now travel is faster, smoother and more comfortable," he said. Arvind Singh, a tourist from Amritsar, said the train service instils a sense of safety. He also credited the government for strengthening rail connectivity in Kashmir, calling it a reflection of "changing India".

The pilot of the inaugural train said it is equipped with the latest and most advanced technology available in India.

The launch followed decades of engineering challenges in constructing the Udhampur-Baramulla rail link.

Officials said while the project faced numerous hurdles during its execution, the service is now set to run smoothly, marking a new era in rail connectivity for Jammu and Kashmir. (Agencies)

Rain, Gusty.....

expected to remain generally cloudy with intermittent spells of light to moderate rain or thundershowers at many places. Thunderstorms, hailstorms and strong winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph may occur at a few locations during different parts of the day.

The department further said that on May 5, brief spells of light rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered places, mainly in the afternoon hours. From May 6 to 9, weather conditions are expected to improve, with mostly dry weather likely, although isolated showers may occur.

From May 10 to 12, the weather is likely to remain largely dry, with chances of brief light rain at isolated places during afternoon hours.

Meanwhile, the MeT Department has issued an advisory warning of possible hailstorms and gusty winds in parts of Central and North Kashmir, as well as some areas of Jammu division. It advised suspension of boating and shikara activities during afternoon to evening hours on May 3 and 4.

Residents have been advised to avoid standing near weak structures, electric poles and overhead wires, while farmers have been urged to suspend agricultural activities between May 3 and 5 in view of the expected adverse weather conditions. (KNC)

Inauguration Of.....

and were excavated in the closing years of the nineteenth century. They embody the enduring teachings of Lord Buddha, he said.

PM Modi said this exposition will continue until May 14 and in the coming days, it will also travel to Zanskar.

"It offers a valuable opportunity for people from across Ladakh to pay their respects. It will also boost spiritual and cultural tourism in Ladakh," he said. The revered Piprahwa relics of Tathagata Buddha — ancient sacred remains and associated objects linked to the lord discovered at Pip-

rahwa, near the Nepal border in the present-day Uttar Pradesh — arrived in Leh on Wed

Dr Jitendra.....

office, Dr Jitendra Singh said that while certain regions may witness above-normal temperatures and heat wave conditions, these are not uniform across the country and can be effectively managed through timely preparedness and adherence to advisories issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) from time to time.

Referring to the latest monthly outlook and extended-range forecast issued by IMD, the Minister said that above-normal maximum temperatures are likely over southern peninsular India, parts of the northeast and northwest India, while a large part of the country is expected to experience normal to below-normal temperatures during the month. Minimum temperatures in several regions are also likely to remain above normal.

The forecast indicates that heat wave conditions are expected over the Himalayan foothills, parts of the east coast including Odisha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining Tamil Nadu, as well as Gujarat and Maharashtra, with an increase of about 2-4 heatwave days above normal in these regions, he added..

As per the extended range forecast, Dr Jitendra Singh said, relatively higher temperatures are expected during the second (May 8-14) and the fourth (May 22-28) weeks of May, which may lead to heat wave conditions across parts of Northwest, Central and West India, along with the East Coast. During the first and third weeks (May 1-7 and May 15-21), most parts of the country are likely to experience normal to below-normal temperatures due to rainfall and clouding associated with western disturbances and thunderstorms.

The Minister said that higher nighttime temperatures during certain periods may add to heat discomfort, particularly in urban and coastal areas. Hot and humid weather conditions are also likely along the East Coast, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

On global climate conditions, he said that ENSO-neutral conditions are currently prevailing, and El Niño conditions are likely to develop during the Southwest Monsoon season.

The Minister said that the Government is fully prepared to deal with heat-related conditions and emphasized coordinated efforts at the state and district levels to ensure availability of drinking water, functional cooling arrangements and uninterrupted power supply. Special attention is being given to vulnerable groups including infants, the elderly and outdoor workers.

With regard to agriculture, the Minister said that prevailing conditions remain generally favourable for harvesting of late Rabi crops in northern and northwestern regions. However, localized heat stress in parts of southern and northeastern India may affect certain summer crops such as rice (Boro), maize and pulses. Farmers have been advised to carry out field operations during morning and evening hours, ensure light and frequent irrigation, and take protective measures for livestock.

Issuing a clear public advisory, Dr. Jitendra Singh urged citizens to stay hydrated, avoid prolonged exposure during peak heat hours, and remain attentive to the needs of vulnerable individuals in their surroundings. He said that following IMD's daily updates and impact-based forecasts will help minimise any potential health risks.

The Minister said that India's forecasting capabilities have significantly improved in recent years, enabling more accurate and timely dissemination of alerts, which are crucial for effective response and public safety.

Updated weather information is available on IMD's official website (www.mausam.imd.gov.in), mobile applications including Mausam App, Mausamgram portal, and through various media platforms.

LG releases.....

congratulated the Lt. Governor for the successful launch of the 100 Days Nasha Mukta Abhiyan in Jammu & Kashmir. They appreciated the administration's proactive approach, noting that the campaign is making a significant impact in safeguarding lives and steering the youth towards a healthier and more responsible future.

The Lt. Governor appreciated the efforts of the Kashmir Road Safety Foundation and reiterated the administration's commitment to eliminating the menace of drugs while promoting road safety and youth engagement across Jammu & Kashmir.

India tests.....

recipients initially mistook it for a real emergency due to its intrusive sound and urgent format.

The test was conducted by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in coordination with the Department of Telecommunications to evaluate the country's Cell Broadcast-based emergency warning system.

The system is designed to disseminate

critical alerts during disasters such as earthquakes, floods, or other public safety threats. Unlike SMS or internet-based notifications, the Cell Broadcast technology enables authorities to send messages instantly to all mobile devices within a defined geographical area, even without active data services.

An official from State Disaster Response Force said that Saturday's drill aimed to assess the reach, effectiveness, and reliability of the alert mechanism across different regions and mobile devices.

The alert message included a disclaimer stating that it was a "test" and not linked to any actual emergency. However, the sudden appearance and high-volume alarm led to widespread reactions on social media, with users expressing surprise and confusion.

The exercise underscores the government's efforts to build a robust early warning system capable of delivering life-saving information in real

time. Such systems are already in use in several countries, where emergency alerts are used to warn citizens about imminent threats.

Authorities are expected to continue such drills to improve public awareness and ensure seamless functioning of the alert infrastructure in the event of a real crisis. (KNT)

Residential.....

The attachment proceedings were carried out in the presence of duly constituted police team, Executive Magistrate, Lambardar and Chowkidar, ensuring full compliance with all legal procedures and maintaining transparency, the statement reads.

Shopian Police reiterates its firm commitment to eradicating the menace of drugs by targeting both offenders and the financial assets generated through illicit activities. The general public is urged to come forward with any information regarding drug trafficking or related activities.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress on Digitization of Revenue Records and updation of Backlog Mutations



HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAY 02: A meeting to review the progress of digitization of Revenue Records and updation of backlog mutations was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore.

During the meeting, officers from various tehsils presented updates on pending cases and ongoing digitization work.

The DC directed officials to ensure that all pending corrections are completed within the stipulated timeframe. Emphasis was laid on improving accuracy in land records and ensuring timely updates.

To address the issues faced in updation of backlog mutations, the DC stressed

optimal utilization of manpower and called for strengthening field-level capacity, including better deployment of patwaris. Officials were asked to maintain close coordination and submit regular progress reports.

Progress under the SVAMITVA scheme was also reviewed, with directions to ensure timely sharing and verification of maps in coordination with concerned departments. The meeting also discussed the progress of certificate issuance in case of SVAMITVA surveyed villages and highlighted the need for better coordination among field staff.

The DC directed all officers to work in a mission mode and ensure visible improvement in disposal rates, with a clear focus on accountability and timely service delivery.

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Govt. committed to bridge developmental gaps: Sakeena Itoo

Inaugurates New Primary School Building at Zambalnard Kulgam

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MAY 02: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today inaugurated a newly constructed primary school building at Zambalnard in DH Pora area of Kulgam district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized that education remains a top priority for the government and efforts are being intensified to upgrade infrastructure, ensure quality teaching and improve overall learning outcomes in educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Access to quality education is the cornerstone of a progressive society. This new school building will not only strengthen the educational framework in the area but also encourage higher enrolment and retention of students," the Minister said.

The Minister emphasized the government's commitment towards improving educational facilities and ensuring a conducive learning environment for students, especially in rural and far-flung areas. She highlighted that strengthening primary education remains a top priority for the adminis-



tration.

The Minister also interacted with locals, teachers and students, and assured that all necessary steps will be taken to further enhance educational standards and infrastructure in the district. She highlighted that this newly inaugurated school building, equipped with modern facilities, will provide a conducive learning environment for young students.

Later, the Minister also laid the foundation stone for the Zumbalnard-Baidjhalan road, reaffirming the government's commitment to holistic development and improved connectivity in rural areas.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister reiterated the government's focus on inclusive and equitable development. "We are committed to

bridge developmental gaps and ensure that no area remains underserved. Projects like these reflect our resolve to bring governance closer to the people," she added.

She highlighted that this project is expected to significantly improve connectivity, ease transportation challenges and boost local economic activities. She underlined that improved road infrastructure is essential for ensuring access to essential services like education, healthcare and others.

During the visit, the Minister also held a Public Darbar at Baidjhalan and interacted directly with local residents.

She listened to various public grievances and other issues on various aspects like education, healthcare, and infrastructure, assuring them timely redressal

of genuine concerns.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to take prompt action on the issues highlighted by Public, highlighting on the importance of responsive and accountable governance. She reiterated that public outreach programs like these are vital for strengthening trust between the government and citizens.

"The government is firmly committed to citizen-centric governance. Public Darbars provide an important platform for people to voice their concerns and for the administration to respond effectively," she said. Director School Education Kashmir, senior officers of district administration Kulgam, other officers and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

DC Bandipora chairs 'Maa se Guftagu' at Bankoot under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

Calls for collective fight against Drug Abuse

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 02: Continuing its sustained outreach under the 100-Day Mission Mode Campaign of the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Bandipora today organised another edition of "Maa se Guftagu" at Bankoot, Bandipora aimed at strengthening community participation in the fight against drug abuse.

The programme was attended by District Programme Officer, ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan and witnessed active participation of women, members of Panchayat Samitis, Anganwadi workers, Self Help Groups (SHGs), NRLM representatives, teachers, and local residents, who also interacted with the Deputy Commissioner during the awareness programme.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, stressed the need for collective vigilance and community counselling to curb the growing menace of smoking and substance abuse. The DC informed that strict



directions had already been issued for banning the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products around schools and directed Principal High School Bankoot to ensure proper implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA).

Highlighting the harmful effects of smoking, the DC urged participants to counsel their family members and neighbours about the dangers associated with smoking and passive smoking. She said that addiction not only destroys the health and future of an individual but also affects the entire family and society.

The DC further noted that women too are increasingly becoming victims of substance abuse and, in some instances, are found involved in peddling activities. She called upon women to play a proactive role in safeguarding families and communities from the drug menace. Emphasising parental responsibility, the DC advised parents to remain vigilant about behavioural changes in their children and identify early symptoms of substance abuse. She urged families not to remain silent spectators and instead act as well-wishers by guiding and supporting affected individuals.

DC Shopian reviews progress of Mission YUVA

Emphasizes capacity building & enterprise mentorship to boost youth entrepreneurship

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 02: A review meeting of Mission YUVA was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (Chairman, DLIC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta at Mini Secretariat Shopian to assess progress under the scheme and streamline its effective implementation.

Reviewing bank wise performance, it was informed that 2883 cases have been sponsored, of which 1318 have been sanctioned and 1178 disbursed, while 1057 cases are under process at various stages, underscoring the need for faster credit linkage and timely disbursal.

On capacity building, six internal trainers have been taken on board, conducting 48 training batches and benefiting 787 entrepreneurs. It was also



informed that four batches involving 120 candidates are currently ongoing. Under enterprise mentorship, 15 mentors have been verified, of which 14 have initiated batches, while 70 candidates are undergoing mentorship training. Speaking on the occasion, the DC stated that Mission YUVA is a transformative initiative aimed at

enabling youth to become self-reliant entrepreneurs through financial assistance, skill development, and sustained mentorship.

He directed all concerned departments, banks, and implementing agencies to ensure time bound sanctioning, hassle free disbursal, and zero unnecessary pendency.

The DC further emphasized the need for continuous monitoring, skill enhancement, and improved market access to ensure long term sustainability of the enterprises. He reiterated that special focus must be given to underprivileged and marginalized youth to strengthen their socio economic conditions.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian (Nodal officer, Mission YUVA) Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Assistant Director Employment, Dr. Nida Yousof, Functional Manager DIC Shopian, LDM Shopian along with all Branch Managers, District Programme Manager NRLM along with BPMs, Nodal Officers (Udyam Jagriti) from GDC Shopian/Zainapora and ITI Shopian, resource persons of capacity building trainings, newly hired SBDU/BHD members and others.

Census 2027: 3-day training programme for Field Trainers begins in Shopian

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 02: District Administration Shopian today commenced a three-day training programme for Field Trainers (FTs) in connection with the forthcoming Census 2027 operations.

The training programme is being organized under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Shopian (Principal Census Officer), Shishir Gupta, to strengthen preparedness for Phase I, House Listing and Housing Census (HLO).

As many as 14 Field Trainers drawn from different departments are participating in the programme.

These Field Trainers will further impart training to Supervisors and Enumerators at their respective charge levels to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of census activities across the district.



The training sessions are being conducted by Master Trainers from the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Rohini Pokhryal and Rais Ahmad Dar, along with Naveen Raghav, District Coordinator, Shopian who

are providing detailed guidance on the procedures and operational framework of Census 2027.

The participants are being sensitized about house listing and Housing Census schedules, House-listing block definitions,

use of Mobile HLO application, Data quality and confidentiality, and practical field exposures.

During the sessions, emphasis is being laid on maintaining data accuracy, adherence to prescribed guidelines, and timely completion of census activities.

Interactive discussions are also being held to address participants' queries regarding technical and field-level aspects of the census process.

ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, while speaking, emphasized the crucial role of Field Trainers in ensuring accurate and smooth Census 2027 operations and urged them to carry out their responsibilities with dedication and professionalism.

Among others, the training programme was attended by ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Husain Faz, and DSEO Shopian, Bilkeesa Zahoor.

100-Day Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan Awareness activities, poster exhibitions, Yoga Sessions held across Shopian

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 02: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, multiple awareness and engagement activities were organized across district Shopian today, to sensitize youth and the general public against drug abuse and promote a healthy lifestyle.

A series of poster exhibitions were conducted in various schools and Anganwadi Centres of the district.

Students actively participated by showcasing creative posters highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of making positive life choices.

These exhibitions served as an effective medium to spread awareness and encourage community participation in the anti-drug movement.

In continuation of the campaign, a yoga session was organized at PS School Wachi, Shopian, aimed at promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and discipline among youth. Around 50 participants took part in the session.

The session emphasized the role of yoga in reducing stress, enhancing



concentration, and building self-confidence. The activity was conducted by Yoga Instructor, Qulsooma Akbar.

Students expressed enthusiasm and committed to adopting yoga in their daily routine.

Meanwhile, the Horticulture Department Shopian conducted a series of awareness activities under Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. These included planting ceremonies in different nurseries across the district, awareness campaigns at multiple locations, and distribution of posters carrying the message "Say No to

Drugs, Invest Your Energy in Horticulture Sector" in village Aglar Chirrat.

Sports activities under the campaign included organisation of multiple cricket matches under the ongoing cosco tournament.

The events served as a platform to engage youth in positive pursuits while spreading awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and reinforcing the message of a healthy, disciplined, and drug free society.

Posters were also pasted at many villages as part of the ongoing awareness drive, reinforcing the message of a drug free society.

DYSS Ganderbal organises Zone-Wise Sports Activities under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAY 02: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Ganderbal conducted a series of zone-wise sports activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

The programme commenced with a pledge ceremony, where participants vowed to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a drug-free society. During the session, awareness was also raised about the harmful effects of substance abuse, including its impact on physical health, mental well-being, academic performance, and social life. Students were encouraged to make informed choices, support their peers, and act as ambassadors of a drug-free community.

In Zone Kangan, Kabaddi for U-14 girls and a Cyclothon were organised. Zone Hariganwan hosted Kabaddi competitions, while Zone Tulmullah also conducted Kabaddi events. In Zone Ganderbal, Table Tennis competitions were held.

Students from various institutions participated actively, promoting fitness, teamwork, and awareness against drug abuse.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ganderbal, Sheikh Shafiqat Iqbal, appreciated the efforts of the staff and the enthusiastic participation of students. He emphasized that awareness combined with sports plays a crucial role in steering youth away from substance abuse and towards a healthy, disciplined lifestyle.

The activities concluded successfully, reinforcing the message of fitness, awareness, and collective responsibility towards building a drug-free society.

Zainapora Shopian intensifies Anti Drug Campaign; Vehicle Sticker Drive expands grassroots outreach

Admin targets Awareness, Enforcement and Rehabilitation

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 02: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and the district-wide campaign spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, the Sub-Divisional Administration Zainapora, in coordination with Zainapora Police, intensified its IEC outreach through a large-scale vehicle sticker campaign across the sub-division.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad with active participation from local police units.

Anti-drug awareness stickers were pasted on hundreds of passenger vehicles, commercial transport, and private cars across Zainapora market and adjoining areas.

The initiative aims to transform every vehicle into a mobile awareness platform, ensuring sustained visibility of the anti drug message at the grassroots level.

This effort aligns with the broader vision of taking the message of a drug-free society to every household.

The administration has emphasized that awareness, enforcement, and rehabilitation will continue simultaneously to dismantle the narcotics ecosystem.



As part of strict enforcement measures, illegal structures and assets linked to drug peddlers have been demolished and attached in previous actions.

Authorities reiterated a zero-tolerance policy, stating that action against illegal assets and encroachments connected to drug activities will continue without exception.

Over the past two years, more than 800 kanals of land previously under illicit cultivation have been reclaimed and

converted into productive agricultural use, including oilseeds and paddy. This shift has significantly improved farmers' income and reduced dependence on narcotics-linked activities.

Enforcement efforts remain consistent, with nearly 60 FIRs registered under the NDPS Act in the last six months. Multiple properties of drug peddlers have been attached, and illegal constructions, including shops and encroachments on state land, have been removed.

HT EDITORIAL

Bantalab tragic accident needs to be probe thoroughly

Three labourers lost their lives while the fourth one sustained injuries, after they were trapped under the debris of an under-construction bridge that caved in at Bantalab area in Jammu district on Friday night. The authorities launched a night-long rescue operation to pull out four labourers. The rescue operation concluded in the early hours of Saturday. It was unfortunate that three precious lives were lost in the incident.

Teams of Police, Army, SDRF, NDRF and the civil administration worked together, using JCBs and other heavy machinery to clear the debris and locate the trapped men. The incident is a tragic one and hearts go out to the families that lost their dear ones in the accident. It is imperative that a probe is carried out in the whole episode and reasons responsible for the accident are ascertained. Once the reasons are found out then action under rules can be taken against the guilty.

It is important that action is taken against the people who are responsible for this tragedy. There should not be any compromise in this regard and stern action under rules need to be taken against the guilty. Since human lives have been lost in the incident it would be prudent to take the probe to the logical conclusion. The probe should not be left half-way and it needs to be completed in every respect. The reasons responsible for the incident need to be identified so that corrective action is taken.

As the developmental works are going on across the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir it is important that a regular quality check is carried out. The material being used in such works should be checked for quality and there should not be any compromise in this respect as well. In most of the cases it has been observed that the executing agency compromises on the quality of material and the same becomes the factor for mishaps thus leading to fatal casualties.

The engineers working on the various construction sites should ensure that the proper proportion of sand, cement, iron, stones, bajri and other material is used in construction activities. In other words, it can be said that the construction material should be used according to the requirements of the construction. Once the construction material is used in accordance with the requirements then there are less chances of a mishap and as such human lives can be saved.

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The Paradox of Modern Connectivity

Are We Truly Connected—or Quietly Growing Apart?



■ USUF MIR

In an age defined by instant communication, the promise of connection has never been greater. Yet, beneath this digital closeness lies a quiet and unsettling truth—relationships are drifting apart, loneliness is deepening, and unseen risks are multiplying.

It was a cold winter night. The clock had just struck nine as the fireplace in Sahil's room cast a soft, comforting glow. The room had been thoughtfully arranged—an old friend had returned from abroad after many years. Both men, now past fifty, carried the calm maturity and quiet wisdom that only time can bestow.

Over cups of tea, their conversation began with nostalgia—shared memories, laughter, and stories from distant lands. But as the night deepened, the tone shifted. Inevitably, they found themselves discussing social media.

With a faint smile, Sahil said, "You know, years ago I wrote a story... called 'Offline.'"

His friend leaned forward with interest. "What was it about?"

Sahil began: "It was about a boy who lived alone with his mother after his father's death. She was a simple, uneducated woman whose entire world revolved around her son. Every evening, she would quietly come to his room and say, 'Son, come sit with me for a while... let's talk.'"

But the boy was always absorbed in his phone. Sometimes he ignored her, sometimes he grew irritated. For him, those moments meant little—but for his mother, they meant everything.

As time passed, she stopped coming as often. Her voice softened. Her expectations faded.

One day, she entered his room and saw him laughing and talking as if surrounded by people. Surprised, she asked, "Who are you talking to?"

He replied casually, "Friends... online." That day, the boy decided to include his mother in this world. He bought her a smartphone, taught her how to use it, and created a social media account for her—so she wouldn't feel lonely.

Gradually, she learned. And then... she stopped coming to his room altogether. The house fell silent.

Both were busy. Both were connected. Yet both were alone.

One day, the boy began to feel something strange. The person he spoke to online—the one who always avoided meeting him—felt familiar.



Then came the truth. It was his own mother." Silence filled the room. Sahil spoke softly, "In that moment, he realized what he had lost. He put his phone aside and went to sit with his mother—not online, but in real life. He... went offline." His friend exhaled deeply. "This isn't just a story anymore," he said. "It's becoming our reality." After a pause, Sahil asked, "How can you say that with such certainty?" His friend replied, "Because I studied it." He continued: "I stayed away from social media for a while, then returned with a purpose—to understand it. I started posting actively. On the first day alone, I received nearly two thousand friend requests. Within a week, the number touched five thousand. I accepted them all—without verification. Then the messages began. Some were normal—but many were not. Over 200 people insisted on meeting me. More than 300 asked for my home address or location. Some built trust, only to attempt deception or blackmail. A few foreign profiles asked for money. Others fabricated emotional stories—illness, accidents, deaths—just to seek financial help. And then there were those who crossed all boundaries—inappropriate proposals, paid video calls, and explicit content.

Most profiles were fake. Intentions were questionable. Genuine connections were rare. They weren't looking for friendship—they were looking for opportunity." The room grew heavy. He added, "There's another side to this—unemployment. When young people lack meaningful engagement, they often drift into such spaces. Fake news spreads rapidly, misleading content circulates, and people unknowingly become part of it." Sahil nodded thoughtfully. "What's the solution?" he asked. His friend responded, "We must guide young people toward purpose—skills, self-reliance, and direction. And when it comes to children, we must be even more cautious. At least until the age of twelve, they should be kept away from social media and unrestricted smartphone use." After a moment of reflection, Sahil said, "If we fail to guide them today, we risk losing them tomorrow—to a world we ourselves barely understand." His friend nodded in agreement. Sahil quietly placed his phone aside. "We need to be careful," he said. "Used wisely, social media can connect—but its misuse is already breaking homes." The night had grown deeper. As they parted, Sahil smiled and said, "Tomorrow evening... no phones." His friend replied, "Just conversation." And in that simple decision, they chose something rare—to truly be present.

Transformation Of Indian Hospitals In Digital Era



■ MOOL RAJ

For decades, Indian hospitals relied on paper-driven processes handwritten prescriptions, manually prepared discharge summaries, and physical files that moved slowly across departments. While clinical expertise remained strong, administrative inefficiencies were common. That model is now steadily giving way to digitised, integrated systems that are reshaping how hospitals function.

At the centre of this transformation is the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS), which has evolved from a billing utility into the operational backbone of modern medical institutions.

■ From Records to Real-Time Systems

Early hospital software focused largely on registration and billing. Today's HMIS platforms integrate clinical workflows, pharmacy, laboratory and radiology reporting, insurance processing, inventory, and analytics within a unified digital framework. This shift aligns with broader efforts such as the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, which seeks to build interoperable digital health infrastructure. But the push towards digitisation is not policy-driven alone. Rising patient

loads, expanding insurance coverage, regulatory compliance requirements, and expectations of transparency have made fragmented systems unsustainable. Hospitals increasingly require centralised digital platforms that enable coordination and accountability.

■ Changing Attitudes in Clinical Practice

Digitisation was once met with hesitation among clinicians, who feared increased documentation burdens and disruption to patient interaction. That perception is changing. Automated prescription systems ensure clarity and reduce medication errors. Integrated alerts flag potential drug interactions and dosage inconsistencies. Longitudinal access to laboratory and imaging records enables doctors to assess trends rather than isolated data points. Structured electronic records also facilitate quicker follow-ups, automated reminders for chronic patients, and consolidated case histories.

These systems do not replace clinical judgement; they strengthen it. By reducing clerical workload and improving access to information, HMIS platforms allow doctors to focus more on decision making and patient engagement.

■ Efficiency Across the Care Continuum

The expansion of e-consultations and remote workflows has further accelerated digital adoption. Electronic discharge summaries, online report access, digital billing, and remote consultations reduce repeat hospital visits and administrative

delays. For patients, this means shorter waiting times and greater convenience. For hospitals, it improves bed turnover, documentation accuracy, and audit readiness. Even incremental efficiency gains become significant in high-volume settings. Digitisation, therefore, enhances both patient experience and institutional productivity.

■ AI-Based Clinical Decision Support

The most consequential development is the integration of AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) within HMIS platforms. When patient data are digitised and structured, they generate insights beyond routine record-keeping. AI extensions can highlight abnormal lab trends, flag early warning indicators in critical care, suggest evidence-based treatment pathways, and identify high-risk cases requiring closer monitoring. In resource-constrained environments, such support systems can help standardise aspects of care and reduce preventable errors. Importantly, these tools function as clinical aids rather than substitutes. They provide timely prompts and structured analysis, enabling physicians to make more informed decisions under time pressure. The shift from documentation to predictive analytics marks a structural change in hospital practice.

■ Insurance and Administrative Alignment

Simultaneously, the rapid growth of health insurance in India has increased documentation complexity. Multiple insurers and govern-

ment schemes operate with varying requirements. A dynamic HMIS helps standardise coding, streamline pre-authorisations, and reduce claim rejections. For patients, smoother insurance processing reduces discharge delays and financial uncertainty. For hospitals, it strengthens revenue cycle management and compliance. In this context, digitisation directly influences both care delivery and financial sustainability.

■ A Foundational Shift

An effective HMIS today supports not only daily operations but strategic oversight. Real-time dashboards enable hospital leadership to monitor utilisation rates, infection trends, and performance indicators. Decisions increasingly rely on data rather than retrospective assessments. Challenges remain including data privacy safeguards, interoperability standards, and training of personnel. Yet the direction of change is clear. The movement from paper files to predictive care reflects more than technological adoption. It represents a reorganisation of hospital management around integration, intelligence, and responsiveness. Institutions that effectively combine robust HMIS platforms with AI-based clinical decision support are likely to set new benchmarks in efficiency, safety, and quality of care. The transformation is no longer optional. It is foundational to the future of health-care delivery in India.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

The Economy Through a New Lens: Understanding India's GDP Base Revision



■ SH. SAURABH GARG

Gross Domestic Product or GDP, is a way to measure the size and health of a country's economy, more like a report card for a nation, it tells us how much the country is producing in terms of goods and services. When GDP is growing, it usually means businesses are producing more goods and services, more people are getting jobs, and incomes are rising. GDP also matters on the global stage. India currently ranks among the world's top five economies and is projected to become the third largest by 2030.

GDP, as an instrument to measure the economy, needs regular calibration to capture the economy's accurate pulse and this is achieved through updating the base year of GDP at regular intervals to keep pace with a changing economy. As the economy reshapes itself, new industries emerge, consumption patterns change and new data sources evolve, revisions help the official data catch up with the realities and make the estimates more accurate and robust.

Availability of new data sources since the last base revision have helped us view the sectoral and regional contributions to GDP more clearly and adopt better methods, for instance, to estimate the value added by the unincorporated sector broadly covering the informal



sector also.

In the intervening period since the last base revision, among others, some new data sets like Management & Administration related data (MGT-7/7A) for companies has become available that provides information on the number of business activities undertaken by the enterprise, description of business activity as per NIC2008 and percentage turnover from each business activity (industry) for each year. So, while rebasing, for multi-activity enterprises, value added is now allocated across activities based on newly available MGT-7 data rather than entirely to the major activity as was done earlier. This change allows us to capture sectoral contributions more accurately, providing a clearer view of

how each business activity drives the economy.

Just as new company-level data helps us measure sectoral contributions more accurately, enhanced use of GST data in the new series allows for a finer, more precise view of regional contributions of GDP by inter alia, improving regional allocation pertaining to private corporate sector and through better compilation of expenditure-side estimates at state level.

Availability of annual data from surveys like ASUSE and PLFS that wasn't available earlier has also allowed us to adopt a better methodology for estimating value added by unincorporated sector annually, instead of inferring its contribution to GDP indirectly from

other indicators, as was done before. This matters because this sector, comprising of millions of household businesses, small shops, and self-employed workers, forms a huge part of the economy and plays a vital role in jobs and livelihoods.

The base revision is more than just use of new data sources, it is also about improvements in methodology as well, and in this regard, the new GDP series has seen a number of methodological improvements.

Earlier, double deflation, a detailed method to adjust the GDP for changing prices was applied only to agriculture sector. In the new 2022-23 series, double deflation has been expanded to manufacturing sector where sufficient

data is now available and single extrapolation/volume extrapolation is used in all other sectors. This approach makes the best use of the data at hand, keeping the estimates as accurate and reliable. Double deflation is very data-intensive, as it requires detailed information on prices for both outputs and inputs. As more of this data becomes available over time, we will be able to expand its use to more sectors.

A notable methodological improvement is the alignment of estimates of the economy based on what is produced (production side) and what people and businesses spend (expenditure side). The two often don't match perfectly, a common occurrence in countries around the world, especially in quarterly GDP. To address this issue, in the new series, the framework of 'Supply & Use Tables' is being used to ensure that discrepancies are limited in the early estimates and finally eliminated when full set of data becomes available at the time of final estimates.

The updated GDP is like looking at the economy through a sharper lens. Every economic activity, big or small, comes into clear focus, accurately revealing its contribution to the nation's growth. By using better data, refining methods, and aligning with international best practices, the Ministry has brought the economy into sharper view. For citizens, this means that policies and public services are guided by an accurate understanding of how the economy works, making growth something that is felt in everyday life, not just on paper.

The Author is Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Views are personal

Who can forget Kanpur!



■ M S NAZKI

By the way, it all started from here! I mean the fight for Indian Independence!

The Kanpur (Cawnpore) Mutiny of 1857 was a pivotal, violent episode in the Indian Rebellion, where Nana Sahib led rebel forces to besiege British troops and civilians. It involved a treacherous massacre at Satti Chaura Ghat (June 27) and the subsequent, brutal killing of ~200 women/children at Bibighar, provoking fierce British vengeance.

The Siege (June 1857): Following the outbreak of the rebellion, Indian sepoys in Kanpur rebelled. British forces, led by General Wheeler, took refuge in a hastily fortified, overcrowded entrenchment.

Satti Chaura Ghat Massacre (June 27, 1857): Nana Sahib promised safe passage to Allahabad for the British in exchange for surrender. However, as they boarded boats at Satti Chaura Ghat, firing broke out, resulting in the deaths of most British men.

Bibighar Massacre (July 1857): Surviving women and children were taken to a house called Bibighar. As British relief forces approached, these captives were killed, and their bodies thrown into a well.

Retaliation: British forces, upon retaking Kanpur, engaged in brutal reprisals against rebels and locals. The event became a rallying cry for the British, often recalled with the phrase "Remember Cawnpore!".

The city was eventually recaptured by the East India Company, but not before it became one of the most infamous and violent locations of the entire 1857 uprising.

Operational Readiness Frameworks for Complex Projects

Operational readiness is the comprehensive process of ensuring an organization, system, or asset is fully prepared to launch, operate, and maintain new projects

safely and efficiently from Day One. It bridges the gap between construction and operations by training staff, validating procedures, and preparing resources to minimize risks.

Key Aspects of Operational Preparedness
Definition: It is the capability of an organization to perform its designed functions or missions without significant, high-rated risks or operational challenges.

Key Components: It involves preparing people (training), processes (documentation), and technology (assets/infrastructure) to ensure a seamless handover.

When It Occurs: It is not a final check but a continuous process that should start early in the project lifecycle, not just at the end, to ensure long-term sustainability.

Benefits: It ensures increased reliability, enhanced efficiency, improved safety, reduced costs, and faster return on investment.

Common Challenges: Typical issues include communication gaps, limited resources, and resistance to change.

Key Stages in an Operational Readiness Plan:

Preparation: Defining roles, responsibilities, and training needs.

Implementation: Testing systems, setting up maintenance routines, and documenting procedures.

Handover: Safely transitioning from project team to operational team.

Assurance: Ongoing monitoring to ensure performance meets goals.

Operational Readiness is the comprehensive process of preparing an organization to safely and efficiently operate a new facility o...

Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Cdr NC, visited Kanpur Military Station to review operational preparedness of the formation in the prevailing security scenario. The Army Commander interacted with all ranks and emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of training, adaptability and mission readiness to effectively meet evolving challenges. He commended the troops for their unwavering professionalism, dedication and high morale.

Here we will quote General Patton Commander of the Third Army of the USA and

the scenario was World War-III!

Germans were supreme at that time! They were almost all of Europe and Africa!

General George S. Patton's 1944 speeches to the Third Army, often called his Patton's Speech, are considered among the best for boosting morale through raw, aggressive motivation. He emphasized duty, courage, and action, pushing soldiers to be "murderous" against the enemy, which effectively ignited fighting spirit.

Key Themes: Unwavering aggressiveness, duty regardless of fear, and the imperative of constant forward movement.

Impact: Though filled with profanity and often considered unprofessional by some, the speech profoundly connected with inexperienced troops, giving them the confidence to face imminent combat.

Other Notable Mentions:
Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw: Known for focusing on moral courage, stating, "A 'yes man' is a dangerous man... He can never make a leader".

Admiral William McRaven: Focused on perseverance and the importance of daily discipline (e.g., "Make Your Bed") to overcome hardships.

General Mark Milley: Emphasized fighting for principles, famously stating, "We take an oath to the Constitution, and we're willing to die to protect it".

These speeches, ranging from historical, profanity-laced, to stoic, were designed to create a sense of purpose and invincibility among their troops.

Patton's speech to the Third Army was a series of speeches given by General George S. Patton to troops of the United States Third Army in 1944, before the Allied invasion of France during World War II. The speeches were intended to motivate the inexperienced Third Army for impending combat.

Patton urged his soldiers to do their duty regardless of personal fear, and he exhorted them to aggressiveness and constant offensive action. His profanity-laced speaking was viewed as unprofessional by some officers but the speech resounded well with his men. Some historians have called the oration one of the greatest motivational speeches of all time.

Background

Patton delivers an address in Northern Ireland, April 1944 In June 1944, Lieutenant General George S. Patton was given command of the Third United States Army, a field army newly arrived in the United Kingdom and composed largely of inexperienced troops. Patton's job had been to train the Third Army to prepare it for the upcoming Allied invasion of France, where it would join in the breakout into Brittany seven weeks after the amphibious landing at Normandy.

Patton began delivering speeches to his troops in the United Kingdom in February 1944. The extent of his giving the particular speech that became famous is unclear, with different sources saying it had taken this form by March, or around early May, or in late May. The number of speeches given is also not clear, with one source saying four to six, and others suggesting that every unit in the Third Army heard an instance. The most famous and well known of the speeches occurred on 5 June 1944, the day before D-Day.

Though he was unaware of the actual date for the beginning of the invasion of Europe (as the Third Army was not part of the initial landing force), Patton used the speech as a motivational device to excite the men under his command and prevent them from losing their nerve. Patton delivered the speech without notes, and so though it was substantially the same at each occurrence, the order of some of its parts varied. One notable difference occurred in the speech he delivered on 31 May 1944, while addressing the U.S. 6th Armored Division, when he began with a remark that would later be among his most famous: No bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country. Men, all this stuff you hear about America not wanting to fight, wanting to stay out of the war, is a lot of horse dung. Americans love to fight. All real Americans love the sting and clash of battle. When you were kids, you all admired the champion marble shooter, the fastest runner, the big-league ball players and the toughest boxers. Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser.

This was the time of the Second World War but now it is 2026!

Kanpur Cantonment (popularly referred to as Kanpur Cantt) is a military cantonment in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India. The Kanpur Cantonment was established in the year 1811 and is situated on the right bank of river Ganges and is bound by Kanpur city area on the remaining three sides. Kanpur Cantonment is the largest cantonment in India, by population and not by area. The area of the Cantonment is approx. 4243.0084 acres (17 km²) out of which the Bungalow Area is 3899.1784 acres and the Civil Area is 334.83 acres. As per 2011 Census, the population of Cantonment is 108,035 which is 453rd largest city of India (See the point 2 on external links).

The historical reasons necessitating the formation of individual cantonments are different for different cantonments depending upon the prevailing political and military realities of the times.

For example, Secunderabad cantonment was established to assist the Nizam of Hyderabad, militarily against his local adversaries, whereas Lucknow Cantonment was established to maintain pressure on the Nawab of Oudh and to finally capture that state. Similarly, the need for cooler climate for the British troops and strategic importance of Doab dictated the setting up of hill cantonments and cantonments in modern-day Uttar Pradesh respectively.

However, irrespective of the local factors, the paramount consideration in setting up all these cantonments was the need for military camps in various strategic locations of India to establish, maintain and consolidate the rule of a foreign power.

Spread of diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, and venereal diseases among the troops necessitated the cantonment (insulation) of these military camps from the local population.

The records of 19th-century British India reveal that health and hygiene of the troops was one of the major areas of concern which the rulers of the day had to contend with. This consideration coupled with the desire of an alien ruling elite to distance itself from the native population led to the development of an insulated type of character in all these cantonments which continues today.

SKUAST-K launches Student Rural Exploration in 300 villages across Kashmir

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 02: In a landmark move to redefine the landscape of agricultural education and extension in India, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Kashmir today launched the Student Rural Exploration Program (SREP) under the framework of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP-20).

This pioneering initiative, launched under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, saw a massive grassroots outreach this weekend as more than 3000 students ventured into more than 300 university adopted villages across the Kashmir Valley. By transitioning from the traditional classroom setting to immersive field experiences, the university is bridging the critical gap between advanced scientific techniques and traditional indigenous practices, ensuring that the next generation of agricultural professionals is deeply rooted in the realities of rural livelihoods.

Speaking at the occasion, Prof Ganai said, "The Student Rural Exploration Program is not just an academic initiative—it is a transformational movement. By placing our students directly in villages for sustained engagement, we are creating a living bridge between science and society. This program will generate real-time rural intelligence, empower communities with knowledge, and shape a



new generation of socially committed professionals."

The program is structured as a sophisticated, multidisciplinary engagement where students from various faculties, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary Sciences, Fisheries, Sericulture, Forestry, and Agriculture Engineering, work in specialized cohorts. Each group typically consists of four undergraduate students, two postgraduate students, and one PhD scholar, all operating under the direct guidance of a scientist mentor. This collaborative model allows for a tiered

level of learning and field execution, marking a historic first in the country as a university-led effort to engage with the farming community at the panchayat level on such a significant scale. These teams are conducting Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)-cum-survey exercises, providing students with hands-on exposure to the complexities of the rural economy in diverse terrains.

The impact of the initiative is designed to be mutually beneficial for both the academic and farming communities. While students collect vital

data and gain a firsthand understanding of grassroots challenges, farmers receive expert technical advisories, diagnostic services, and updated information regarding various government schemes and agricultural interventions.

With this program, SKUAST-K shall strengthen the bonds with the farming community by gaining their trust and enlightening them with the latest technologies, whether in the form of high-quality seeds, improved varieties, resilient rootstocks, or superior breeds.

Furthermore, the initiative acts as a catalyst for entrepreneurship, startups, and innovation within the rural sector. The Vice Chancellor, alongside the university's Deans, Directors, and Associate Deans, actively monitored the rollout across multiple districts, interacting with students to ensure the internship provides real-time field exposure that translates academic theory into practical solutions.

Hailed as a game-changer for the national agricultural landscape, the Student Rural Exploration Program is now set to become a permanent fixture of the university's academic calendar, with exploration visits scheduled to take place every fortnight. The strategic outreach transforms students into empathetic innovators who can advocate for sustainable and climate-resilient practices.

By documenting local issues and assessing needs as they arise, SKUAST-K is creating a robust feedback loop that ensures university research remains relevant and impactful for the people it serves. By fostering a profound sense of responsibility toward the farming community, SKUAST-K is not only empowering local growers but also equipping its graduates with the practical skills and field exposure necessary to lead the global shift toward sustainable rural development.

The initiative underscores a future where scientific intervention meets the wisdom of the land, ultimately strengthening the bond between the laboratory and the farm.

Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Campaign intensified in Ramban IEC awareness material displayed across public, tourist places



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, MAY 02: In a sustained effort to strengthen the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, has intensified awareness activities across the district to spread the message against drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society.

As part of the campaign, a series of informative IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials including posters highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse and advocating for a drug-free lifestyle, have been prominently displayed by the Municipal Committees of Ramban, Batote and Banihal at several strategic locations.

The awareness drive has also been extended to prominent tourist destinations of the district, particularly Sanasar, where hoardings carrying anti-drug messages have been installed to sensitize both visitors and local residents to the dangers of substance abuse.

To maximize outreach, the IEC material has been strategically displayed at public spaces across the district including behind auto-rickshaws and public transport to ensure visibility among daily commuters.

In a unique initiative, anti-drug awareness posters have also been affixed on Shikaras at Sanasar, further amplifying the campaign's reach among tourists and the local populace.

The initiative aims to engage all sections of society in the collective fight against drug abuse and reinforce the message of shared responsibility in building a safer and healthier Ramban.

The District Administration has urged citizens, particularly the youth, to stay informed, make positive life choices and actively contribute towards realizing the vision of a drug-free Jammu & Kashmir.

DDC Kupwara reviews preparations for conduct of Census 2027

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, MAY 2: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today chaired a review meeting of concerned officers to assess the preparedness for the conduct of Census 2027 across the district.

During the meeting, the DDC took a detailed appraisal of the progress achieved under various preparatory components essential for the smooth and accurate execution of the census exercise. Special focus was laid on the status of House Listing Blocks (HLB) operations, which form the foundational stage of the census process. Officers apprised the chair that ground-work for HLB listing is underway, with emphasis on ensuring complete coverage and accuracy of data.

The meeting also reviewed the demarcation of enumeration blocks, a critical step to facilitate systematic data collection. The DDC stressed the importance of precise demarcation to avoid overlaps or omissions, directing officers to strictly adhere to the



prescribed guidelines and timelines.

Further, discussions were held regarding the deployment of enumerators and supervisors.

The DDC emphasized the need for selecting competent and trained personnel to ensure the integrity of the census process. He directed the concerned departments to expedite the nomination process and ensure that adequate training and orientation programs are conducted well in advance.

Highlighting the significance of Census 2027 as a vital national exercise, the DDC called for co-ordinated efforts among all departments. He urged officers to maintain close monitoring, ensure timely completion of tasks, and address any bottlenecks proactively.

ADC Kupwara, DSEO Kupwara, Charge Officers (Tehsil-dars, Executive Officers of MCs) Statistical Officers and other concerned officials were present in the meeting.

DC Kupwara reviews HPV Vaccination progress

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, MAY 2: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, chaired a meeting today to review the progress and implementation of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Programme in the district. A detailed assessment focused on coverage, awareness, and outreach strategies, with the DC stressing timely vaccination for the targeted age group to prevent cervical cancer.

He directed Health, Education departments to intensify coordinated efforts, enhancing parent and student awareness on vaccine benefits while prioritizing remote, underserved areas to achieve maximum coverage without leaving any eligible beneficiary behind. The DC also scrutinized logistical aspects, including vaccine availability, cold chain management, and vaccination team deployment, instructing officials to promptly address bottlenecks and maintain accurate records.

Legal awareness camps organised in different parts of Reasi

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, MAY 02: Under the visionary leadership of Khalil Choudhary, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge) and the able guidance of Pooja Gupta, Secretary, awareness programme on Drug Abuse was organized today at Reasi and the Court Complex Mahore. The programme was conducted by the PLVs from TLSC and DLSA.

The PLVs highlighted the physical, mental and social consequences of substance abuse. They also informed the participants about the legal provisions related to drug related offences and the availability of free legal aid services for needy individuals.

Emphasis was laid on community participation in eradicating the menace of drugs and encouraging individuals to seek



help and rehabilitation. The participants appreciated the efforts of the Legal Services Authorities in spreading awareness on such a crucial issue and urged for more such programmes in the future.

Meanwhile, an awareness programme to encourage dispute resolution through National Lok Adalat was organized at Neoch-Dewal and several other places of Tehsil Mahore by PLVs.

The Para Legal Volunteers

(PLVs) interacted with the local residents and spread awareness regarding the significance and benefits of National Lok Adalat.

The PLVs also educated the public about the types of cases that can be taken up in Lok Adalat, including matrimonial disputes, motor accident claims, bank recovery cases and other civil matters. Emphasis was laid on the fact that decisions taken in Lok Adalats are final and binding, with no appeal, thus saving time and resources for the litigants.

Power Shutdown by KPDCCL

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 02: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 KV Shamsipora Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Shamsipora, Sudsanoo, Turka, Tachloo and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 AM to 03 PM on 04 & 06 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 132/33 KV, 100 MVA GIS Khanyar will be observed due to which power supply to Nowshera,

Raja Colony, Industrial Estate BAMK, Zadibal, Hawal, Botakadal, BSNL, Gilkadal, Kathi Darwaza, Rainawari Psychiatric Hospital, PHE, Central Jail, Saida Kadal and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 04 PM on 04 & 06 May 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV KP Bagh line and 33 KV Exhibition line will be observed due to which power supply to KP Bagh, Saiteng, PHE, Kursoo Rajbagh, Rajbagh bund, Goglibagh, Museum, Jawahar Nagar, Mehjoor

Nagar, Rambagh, Old Barzullah and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 AM to 3 PM on 05, 11 & 14 May 2026. Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Nehalpora Markundal line and 33 KV Nihalpora HMT line will be observed due to which power supply to Markundal, Naidkhai, Sumbal, Gund Boon, Shadipora, Trigam, Mirgund, Singhpora, Kalsari, HMT, SKUAST, SSM college and adjoining areas will be affected from 9:30 to 3:30 PM on 05 May 2026.

Rana reviews annual action plan 2026-27 for Poonch; emphasizes timely project completion

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 02: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting to review the annual action plan for the financial year 2026-27 for Poonch district.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from various departments including tourism, planning, public works, forest, Jal Shakti, health, education, rural development and power.

During the meeting, detailed discussion was held on sector-wise priorities, ongoing projects and proposed new

works under the plan.

The Minister stressed the need for realistic planning, timely execution and optimal utilisation of resources. He directed the officers to ensure that the plan reflects the actual needs of the people, with a focus on improving the basic infrastructure, drinking water supply, road connectivity, healthcare facilities and education services.

Emphasising transparency and accountability, Javed Rana asked the departments to maintain close coordination and adhere strictly to the set timelines for projects completion. He also underscored



the importance of involving the elected representatives in the planning process to ensure inclusive and need-based development.

The Minister called for prioritising the works that have

maximum public impact, particularly in remote and underserved areas of the district. He further directed the officers to closely monitor the progress on key projects and resolve the existing bottlenecks in a time-

bound manner.

During the meeting, the departments presented their proposed outlays and highlighted the achievements and challenges.

The Minister reviewed the proposals in detail and issued necessary directions for refining and consolidating the plan. Reiterating the government's commitment to balanced and equitable development, Javed Rana said that the annual action plan should serve as a road map for accelerating the development and improving the quality of life of the people in the district.

DC chairs meeting on GIS-Based Master Plan for Kulgam Town under AMRUT Mission

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MAY 02: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a meeting to review and discuss the GIS-based Master Plan for Kulgam town under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), with a focus on sustainable and planned urban development.

During the meeting, a detailed deliberations were held on key components of the Master Plan, with special emphasis on solid and liquid waste management systems to ensure efficient sanitation and environmental sustainability across the town.

A comprehensive transport plan was also discussed, aimed at improving road connectivity, easing traffic congestion, and promoting safe and efficient mobility.

The economic development framework also formed a major area of focus, with discussions centered on identifying growth sectors



and enhancing livelihood opportunities.

The meeting further reviewed proposed land use patterns, strengthening of public infrastructure, and strategies for optimal utilization of state land.

Future planning aspects were also deliberated upon to ensure balanced urban expansion in line with projected population growth.

Special attention was given to the development and preservation of green zones to maintain ecological balance, alongside planned industrial

activities to boost local economic growth.

The GIS-based Master Plan is expected to provide a structured roadmap for the sustainable and integrated development of Kulgam town, aligning with the broader objectives of the AMRUT Mission.

The DC emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among departments to ensure effective plan and implementation to transform Kulgam into a well-planned, resilient, and citizen-friendly urban center.

Sports a powerful tool to build discipline, eradicate drug menace: DC Anantnag

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MAY 02: As part of the intensified 100-day Nasha Mukt J&K Campaign, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, visited Marhama today and inaugurated the 'Marhama Premier Cricket League'.

ADC, Dr. Muzamil Maqbool, ACR, Tariq Ahmad Malik, SDM, Bijbehara, Tanveer Ahmad, SDPO Bijbehara, Dr. Mudasar Farooqi and other key officials were present during the inaugural ceremony. Local cricket stars and players besides scores of youth, sports enthusiasts, and spectators also attended the event, marking the commencement of a major sports initiative. The primary purpose of the ceremony was to use such platforms to promote sports and guide youth toward a healthy lifestyle, away from the scourge of drug abuse. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the administration's commitment and priorities regarding the goals of

the ongoing 100-day "Nasha Mukt Abhiyan" (Drug-Free Campaign). He interacted with the players and urged them to serve as active community ambassadors, creating awareness and providing counseling to their peers to enhance the campaign's impact. To emphasize the essence of the campaign, the DC administered the Nasha Mukt pledge to the gathering, exhorting them to contribute actively toward eliminating the menace of drug abuse from society. He remarked that the initiative seeks to engage youth in positive activities and channelize their energy in a meaningful and constructive manner.

Describing the benefits of extracurricular activities, the DC termed sports a powerful tool to promote discipline, teamwork, competitive spirit, and resilience, especially among the youth. He noted that the district has the great advantage of having recognized sports stars mentor youth to improve their skills and develop into better athletes.

Real cost of Iran war likely up to \$50bn say US officials, double the original \$25bn figure

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, MAY 2: The true cost of the Iran war is now estimated to be closer to \$50 billion, according to US officials familiar with internal assessments, double the original \$25 billion figure cited by the Pentagon this week.

In testimony on Capitol Hill, Pentagon officials put the cost of the US military operation codenamed 'EpicFury' at around \$25 billion.

However, that figure did not fully account for the damages to equipment, repair, and maintenance cost of military installations struck during the war, reports CBS News.

A large part of the gap

comes from munitions already used and the growing bill to replace them.

The US has also lost over 24 MQ-9 Reaper drones - each costing upwards of \$30 million - underscoring how the losses have piled up to such an extent.

As Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine, appeared before lawmakers this week to defend the Pentagon's sprawling \$1.5 trillion budget request, US officials familiar with internal assessments suggested the war's price tag is closer to \$50 billion so far.

Pentagon acting comptroller Jules Hurst acknowledged the uncertainty when pressed



by senators, saying "We don't know what our future posture is going to be or the future

construction of those bases." Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware expressing doubts

over the figure presented said "I am frankly certain that that is low," suggesting that figure

did not include the cost of deploying and holding forces in theater for two months and other expenses.

Mark Cancian, a senior adviser for the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Defence and Security Department who worked in the Office of Management and Budget, said that while munitions is the biggest price tag in a war like this, there are lots of other unseen costs, too, including fuel expenditure, alternate transportation, intelligence and cyber operations, as well as maintenance of the naval blockade.

Cancian further said it could take Washington "several years" to rebuild its munitions stock

to its original levels, which were already under pressure before the war began.

The financial impact is also reaching households. During a congressional hearing, Representative Ro Khanna asked how much the war would cost Americans through higher prices.

Hegseth pushed back, replying "I would simply ask you what the cost is of an Iranian nuclear bomb," accusing him of "playing gotcha questions".

Estimates from the American Enterprise Institute suggest rising fuel and fertiliser costs alone could add about \$150 a month to the average US household.

Iran's population faces longest, most stringent internet curbs with online economy totally crushed

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

TEHRAN, MAY 2: Iran's population of 90 million has been facing massive internet restrictions since the beginning of 2026 including an ongoing two-month blackout, marking one of the world's longest and strictest net curbs.

The shutdown has devastated the nation's online economy which had long defied government restrictions and international sanctions.

The internet shutdown has affected the incomes of all small and medium business across multiple sectors, ranging from fashion to fitness, to advertising and retailers, all of whom have seen their incomes evaporate.

Despite its volatile and fragile truce with the US and Israel, Iran's rulers have refused to reverse the shutdown that they have depicted as a wartime necessity.

However, the decision is facing a major public outcry as it is further exacerbating the already significant job losses the country has been facing from the government's attack on key industries, and the US naval blockade of Iranian ports, reports CBS News. Before January, Iranians had good -- albeit stringently regulated -- access to net services, as authorities blocked a large amount of content, but now all access to the global web has been curbed. While, some workarounds exist, they are enormously expensive, and mostly out of reach for majority Iranians.

The internet cutoff has cost Tehran's economy losses estimated at \$30-40 million daily, with indirect losses likely twice that much, a member of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Afshin Kolahi, told local media.

About 10 million people have jobs that depend on internet connectivity, according to the communications minister, Sattar Hashemi. UNI

White House says US "not at war" with Iran as War Powers deadline dispute intensifies

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, MAY 2: The Trump administration on Friday said the United States is "not at war" with Iran, even as debate grows over whether a 60-day limit on military operations under the War Powers Resolution has expired, raising fresh legal and constitutional questions involving US Congress. House Speaker Mike Johnson said Congress does not currently need to authorise the operation, arguing there is no active combat.

"I don't think we have an active, kinetic military bombing, firing, or anything like that. Right now, we are trying to broker a peace," he told NBC News, adding, "We are not at war."

The War Powers Resolution of 1973 requires presidents to withdraw US forces within 60 days of initiating hostilities unless Congress approves continued action. President Donald Trump reportedly notified Congress on March 2, setting May 1 as the disputed deadline. However, lawmakers are divided over whether that timeline has been met or whether the pauses in the war affect the count of 60 days. The White House has argued that a ceasefire has effectively paused the clock. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth told a Senate hearing the 60-day period may be "paused or stopped" during a ceasefire, though he deferred final interpretation to White House counsel.

Democrats strongly reject that position. Senator Tim Kaine said the law does not allow such a pause and warned that the administration could be in violation if the deadline has passed without authorization. Trump himself has used shifting language to describe the operation, variously calling it a war, a military operation, and a "little excursion," at one point saying, "I had to go to a war," while also suggesting the term "war" carries legal implications requiring congressional approval.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT HAJIN

Subject: Tentative Merit cum Provisional Selection List of Candidates for the posts of Sahayikas (AWHs) and invitation of objections thereof.

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance to the Govt Order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023 and approval conveyed by Mission Director, Mission Poshan J&K vide No. MD/Poshan/Recruitment/2025-26/47128-34 dated: 24-12-2025, and posts Advertised by this office vide Advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2026 dated 21-01-2026, published through department of information vide DIP No. #DIPK-10263/25 in daily news paper Kashmir Images, Srinagar Times & The Counsellor Magazine on 23-01-2026 for selection of (09) Sahayikas (AWHs) for (09) Anaganwadi Centers of Poshan Project Hajin.

In response to the said advertisement notice, (28) application forms were received from (09) Panch Wards within Cut-off date and after proper scrutiny of application forms by District Level Selection Committee (DLSC) constituted vide Govt Order No. 222-Jk(SWD) of 2022 Dated:- 30.11.2022, the tentative merit cum Provisional selection list for 04 Posts out of 09 has already been published vide #DIPK-615/26 in daily news papers Kashmir Observer, Brighter Kashmir, Kashmir Express and Chattan on 22-04-2026 for inviting of objections and now the merit list of candidates for remaining 05 posts of Sahayikas (AWHs) is given below as (Annexure A) and provisional selection list is annexed as (Annexure-B), which is hereby published for information of general public and inviting of objections (if any).

The objections (if any) against the merit cum selection list, shall be filed in the office of CDPO Hajin against proper receipt within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of last date for filing of objections. Annexure "A"

| S. NO | Name of the candidate | Father/Husband's Name | D.O.B | Name of location applied for | Marital Status | Marks obtained in Class 10th | Percentage | Remarks |
|-------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|------------|---------|
| 1 | Qurat Ul Ain | W/o Irshad Ahmad Bhat | 01-03-1998 | Matipora (B) Ajas Ward No. 02 | Married | 222/500 | 44.40% | |
| 2 | Maryama Bano | W/o Rayees Ahmad Bhat | 04-03-1993 | Matipora (B) Ajas Ward No. 02 | Married | 189/500 | 37.80% | |
| 3 | Fehmeeda Bano | W/o Bilal Ahmad Buhroo | 12-03-1991 | Matipora (B) Ajas Ward No. 02 | Married | 184/500 | 36.80% | |
| 4 | Nadiya Bashir | D/o Bashir Ahmad Lone | 05-03-1998 | Matipora (B) Ajas Ward No. 02 | Un Married | 258/500 | 51.60% | |
| 5 | Asmat Ara | D/o Gh Mohd Lone | 15-01-1996 | Matipora (B) Ajas Ward No. 02 | Un Married | 226/500 | 45.20% | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|---------|--------|--|
| 1 | Munazah Manzoor | W/o Ajaz Ahmad Sheikh | 01-01-2005 | Sadur Mohalla S.K.Bala Ward No. 7 | Married | 292 | 58.40% | |
| 2 | Rukhsana Rashid | W/o Hilal Ahmad Dar | 06-06-2003 | Sadur Mohalla S.K.Bala Ward No. 7 | Married | 205 | 41.00% | |
| 1 | Rukhsana Bano | W/o Saif Ud Din Ganie | 10-03-1992 | Ganie Mohalla Ajas Ward No. 07 | Married | 245/500 | 49.00% | |
| 2 | Toibah Subhan | W/o Waseem Ahmad Ganaie | 20-02-2002 | Ganie Mohalla Ajas Ward No. 07 | Married | 235/500 | 47.00% | |
| 3 | Muskaan Fayaz | D/o Fayaz Ahmad Rather | 26-06-2004 | Ganie Mohalla Ajas Ward No. 07 | Un Married | 318/500 | 63.60% | |
| 4 | Shazia Shabir | D/o Shabir Ahmad Ganaie | 10-04-2005 | Ganie Mohalla Ajas Ward No. 07 | Un Married | 312/500 | 62.40% | |
| 5 | Tabasum Ara | D/o Mohammad Akbar Ganaie | 15-03-2006 | Ganie Mohalla Ajas Ward No. 07 | Un Married | 287/500 | 57.40% | |
| 6 | Shazada Akhter | D/o Abdul Rehman Ganie | 16-04-2001 | Ganie Mohalla Ajas Ward No. 07 | Un Married | 215/500 | 43.00% | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------|--------|--|
| 1 | Roza Bano | W/o Tahir Ahmad Wani | 27-12-1995 | Andergam (B) ward No 04 | Married | 184/500 | 36.80% | |
| 2 | Ishrat Akbar | D/o Mohammad Akbar Hajam | 01-04-2001 | Andergam (B) ward No 04 | Un-Married | 268/500 | 53.60% | |
| 3 | Rukhsana Akbar | D/o Mohd Akbar Hajam | 10-02-1997 | Andergam (B) ward No 04 | Un-Married | 217/500 | 43.40% | |
| 1 | Ruksana Rasool | W/o Shahid Ahmad Wani | 17-05-1999 | Goshbugh (B) Ward No. 07 | Married | 456/600 | 76.00% | |
| 2 | Nuzhat Sonallah | W/o Manzoor Ahmad Wani | 12-04-1998 | Goshbugh (B) Ward No. 07 | Married | 218/500 | 43.60% | |

Annexure-B

| S. NO | Name of the candidate (with Spouse Name) | D.O.B | Name of AWC against which provisionally selected | Marital Status | Marks obtained in Class 10th | Percentage | Remarks |
|-------|--|------------|--|----------------|------------------------------|------------|---------|
| 1 | Qurat Ul Ain W/o Irshad Ahmad Bhat | 01-03-1998 | Matipora (B) Ajas Ward No. 02 | Married | 222/500 | 44.40% | |
| 2 | Munazah Manzoor W/o Ajaz Ahmad Sheikh | 01-01-2005 | Sadur Mohalla S.K.Bala Ward No. 7 | Married | 292/500 | 58.40% | |
| 3 | Rukhsana Bano W/o Saif Ud Din Ganie | 10-03-1992 | Ganie Mohalla Ajas Ward No. 07 | Married | 245/500 | 49.00% | |
| 4 | Roza Bano W/o Tahir Ahmad Wani | 27-12-1995 | Andergam (B) ward No 04 | Married | 184/500 | 36.80% | |
| 5 | Ruksana Rasool W/o Shahid Ahmad Wani | 17-05-1999 | Goshbugh (B) Ward No. 07 | Married | 456/600 | 76.00% | |

No: CDPO/H/Rec/2026/205

Dated: 02-05-2026

DIPK: 978/26

Dated: 02-05-2026

Sd/- Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Hajin

Gujarat Titans beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 4 wickets

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD: Skipper Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler played useful knocks to help Gujarat Titans chase down defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru's modest total, securing a four-wicket win in their Indian Premier League match here on Thursday.

Despite RCB pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/28) tormenting the hosts, opener Gill scored a belligerent 43 off 18 balls, while Buttler smashed 39 off 19 to power Gujarat to their fifth win of the season and take their points tally to 10. They chased down a modest 155 in 15.5 overs for the loss of six wickets.

Earlier, RCB were dismissed in 19.2 overs with their batters struggling against the bowling attack led by Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj.

RCB, who are placed second on the points table, could not stitch together a fruitful partnership, losing wickets at regular intervals as Siraj (1/38) and Rabada (1/44) reduced them to 35 for 2 in the fourth over, from where they could not recover.

Left-arm pacer Arshad Khan (3/22) took the wickets of RCB skipper Rajat Patidar (19), Krunal Pandya (4) and Venkatesh Iyer (12), while Jason Holder (2/29) and Rashid Khan (2/19) also grabbed two wickets each.

Devdutt Padikkal was the highest run-getter for RCB, scoring 40 off 24 balls.



Efficient psychological, technical makeup helps Sooryavanshi excel: Ian Bishop

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has dazed the cricketing world with his batting blitz, and noted commentator Ian Bishop reckoned strong mental and technical faculties have helped the teen sensation to dominate top-class bowlers in the IPL.

Sooryavanshi has poleaxed some top-of-the-draw bowlers like Jasprit Bumrah, Trent Boult, Josh Hazlewood etc in the ongoing edition of the IPL.

"I think his psychological makeup is efficient, enough to take on the best bowlers in the world. He took on Jasprit Bumrah. Technically, he's kind of unique with his bat swing, more like a baseball sort of swing," Bishop, an ESPNcricinfo expert, told the media. Bishop said there is no tangible weakness in Sooryavanshi's batting, forcing seasoned bowlers to frantically look for alternate plans against the 15-year-old.

"It's very hard to see exactly what his weakness is because the back of a length delivery has worked against him, for example, in the under-19 World Cup and against Sunrisers Hyderabad. But then if you don't get that back-of-a-length delivery where he pulls and top edges early, those same deliveries disappear out of the park.

"So, I think, technically, he's set up very well. He has a number of world-class bowlers in this tournament going through plan A, plan B, plan C, plan E, F, and G. And that's a good sign that he has all these veterans of the game, having to go through a whole host of plans as they try to go yorker, yorker, at him in the previous game. So I think he's set up well," he added. On that note, the former West Indian fast bowler hoped that the pitches will continue to give equal opportunities to batters and bowlers, adding more variety into the tournament.

"I like the mix of pitches that a tournament can produce. I want to see some of those good batting surfaces where the batsmen hold sway. But I also want to see the surface like Delhi produced, the surface that LSG produces, that offers fast bowlers something.

"The Mumbai vs CSK game where the ball ripped at the back end and (spinners) Akeal Hossain and Noor Ahmad came into the game big time. So, you don't want the pitches to be homogenous. So, you want a nice mix as you go through the tournament," he said. Irrespective of the venue, five-time champions Mumbai Indians have struggled to make an impact in IPL 2026, languishing at ninth place with just four points. Bishop said MI bowlers will have to pull up their socks for the team to make a turnaround. "If I had to identify one area, I would think it is from a bowling perspective because when I go through the numbers, Mumbai are at the bottom of the ladder of all the teams stacked by order of success from a bowling perspective.

"And that, to me, is problematic because I know we're having a paradigm shift in the way T20 cricket and the IPL is played. I think Mumbai are still capable of getting runs. But I feel that their bowling needs to live up to its potential and ability to win games.

Playing one format affects rhythm but Ro-Ko will manage: Dhawan

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Having himself been an ODI-only player towards the end of his career, Shikhar Dhawan understands how lack of match frequency can disrupt rhythm but feels it won't be an issue for Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as they will have enough games under their belt heading into the 2027 World Cup.

Drawing from his own experience of transitioning into a one-format regular, Dhawan acknowledged that reduced match frequency can disrupt a

player's flow.

"Yes, when you play one format at the International level, your flow does get disrupted," Dhawan told PTI during an interview. "So players focus on fitness because you are not playing too many games. You are talking about Rohit and Virat and they are matured individuals. It is a challenge but they know how to convert challenge into an opportunity.

"If you look at their fitness, Virat was always fit but Rohit has undergone tremendous transformation," the man with nearly

7000 ODI runs said.

Reflecting on how scheduling dynamics shape preparation, he pointed out that the lead-up to the next ODI World Cup will offer ample opportunities for the senior duo to be in rhythm.

"Now with 2027 WC round the corner, they will get to play a lot of ODI matches. If you look at the time when I became a one format player, there were back to back T20 World Cups (2021 and 22) and I was playing ODIs which were few and far between. So matches won't be a problem for Rohit and Virat and there's

enough time for the event."

Turning his attention to emerging talent, Dhawan stressed that performances at the highest level should outweigh concerns about age, citing the fearless approach of young Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

"If Vaibhav is doing brilliantly at the senior level then that has to be counted and not his age. Yes he is a kid but it's astonishing the way he hits Bumrah and Arshdeep for such huge six-es.

"A lot of big guns haven't done what he has at such small age. Obviously his time will come.

It's bound to come."

He underlined the difficulty of breaking into a settled top order, drawing parallels with his own long stint alongside Rohit and Kohli. "Look if top order is doing well you can't readily replace them. When me Ro and Virat were playing, we nearly played for a decade and it wasn't easy to replace us.

"It is up to the individual how they take it. It can pinch you a bit but ones shouldn't be disheartened if the chance doesn't come along readily. Vaibhav has so much blessings at this young age.

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