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“Border Villages Are India’s ‘First Villages,’ Not the Last”: LG Manoj Sinha

Lays foundation for key projects in Samba’s Regal village

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 6: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday asserted that India's border villages are no longer at the margins but are now being positioned as the nation's "First Villages," reflecting a major shift in development policy under the leadership of Narendra Modi.

Addressing a public gathering during his visit to Regal village in Samba district, the Lieutenant Governor said border communities embody courage, resilience, and a rich national legacy. He emphasized that these regions are now central to the government's development vision.

During the visit, Sinha laid the foundation stone for key projects in Samba's Regal village.



LG inaugurates Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul at Ghagwal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 6: The Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul at the ancient Shri Narsingh Dev Temple in Ghagwal.

He also dedicated a Nakshatra Park and Yoga Dhyana Kendra to the public and laid foundation stone for Shri Narsingh Dev Gurukul.

“Kashmir Can Emerge as a Premier Education Hub with Its Unmatched Beauty”: Omar Abdullah



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

TANGMARG/GULMARG, MAY 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that Kashmir has the potential to develop into a premier education hub, as he inaugurated a multi-purpose indoor sports complex at Government Degree College Tangmarg and a new block of the

CM chairs BoD of J&K Cable Car Corporation at Gulmarg

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GULMARG, MAY 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the meeting of the Board of Directors of Jammu & Kashmir Cable Car Corporation at the Convention Center, Gulmarg. During the meeting, the Managing Director, JK Cable Car Corporation, presented a detailed agenda and gave a comprehensive presentation on key projects and initiatives of the Corporation. The agenda items were discussed threadbare.

The Board deliberated on the upgradation of the Gulmarg Gondola Project aimed at enhancing its carrying capacity.

“War Brings Misery, Not Solutions”: Farooq Abdullah

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: Farooq Abdullah, president of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, on Wednesday said that while "Operation Sindoor" has delivered results, war is not a sustainable solution and only leads to widespread suffering.

Speaking to reporters at the party headquarters here, Abdullah stressed that conflicts bring destruction rather than resolution, citing ongoing crises such as the Russo-Ukrainian War and instability in the Middle East. He warned that continued tensions could further disrupt global energy supplies, noting that countries like Qatar may take considerable time to restore normal gas supply levels.

He said the current global economic climate leaves little room for war, asserting that no country is in a position to sustain further instability. "Economic conditions are already strained, and escalation would worsen the situation worldwide," he said.

On recent assembly election results across the country, Abdullah said he viewed them like any other observer, referring to political developments.

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PM MODI APPRECIATES VIETNAM’S SUPPORT AFTER PAHALGAM ATTACK

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 6: India and Vietnam on Wednesday elevated their ties to an enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership and set a USD 25 billion annual trade target by 2030 as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President To Lam held talks focusing on expanding bilateral ties in areas of trade, defence, and critical minerals in the face of increasing geopolitical upheavals.

Following the Modi-Lam meeting, the two sides signed as many as 13 agreements which will provide for deeper two ways engagements.

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SIA Vows To Dismantle Entire Narco-Terror Ecosystem In J&K

Property of PoJK Based Banned LeT Operative Attached In Kupwara

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Wednesday intensified its crackdown on narco-terror networks by attaching immovable property belonging to a Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)-based operative of the banned outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)

in Kupwara district. The attachment was carried out in connection with FIR No. 03/2023 of Police Station ANTF, a case initially registered by the Anti Narcotics Task Force and later transferred to the SIA after investigators uncovered a wider network involving terror financing and cross-border narcotics smuggling.

Officials said investigations revealed that the accused, Zameer Ahmad Lone, a resident of Mandiyan Keran in Kupwara and currently operating from PoJK, was actively involved in

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“Bombing Will Resume If Iran Doesn't Comply,” Warns Donald Trump

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, MAY 6: The United States has issued a sharp warning to Iran, with President Donald Trump threatening renewed and intensified military action if Tehran fails to reopen the strategically crucial Strait of Hormuz, even as both sides appear to be nearing a potential agreement to end

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YEAR LATER, GRIEF LINGERS IN PAK SHELLING-HIT FRONTIER VILLAGES IN J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Nearly a year after intense Pakistan shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) claimed around 16 civilian lives, families in Poonch, Rajouri and North Kashmir continue to live with loss that has not faded with time.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the

escalation followed the military confrontation after 'Operation Sindoor' in May last year, led to Pakistan resorting to heavy artillery and mortar shelling and hit civilian areas in Uri, Karnah and other forward villages, forcing people to flee and leaving a trail of deaths and destruction.

Among those killed was a daily wage labourer from Uri, whose family says life has not

been the same since that night. "He had just returned home when the shelling started. We thought it would pass, but one shell hit near our house," a Rubeen, a family member said. "We lost him in seconds. Everything ended that night."

In Poonch and Rajouri, where the shelling was reported to be among the heaviest, families

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Op Sindoor Lessons: Experts Urge Stronger Air & Cyber Warfare Capabilities

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 6: Operation Sindoor has not only redrawn red lines when it comes to India's response to acts of terrorism, but also offered some key military lessons, including joint and cohesive use of air power, bolstering of drone technology and building a robust communication system, say experts.

Recalling the decisive military action launched exactly a year ago on the intervening night of May 6-7, several defence and strategic affairs experts concurred that the military operation also emphasised that future conflicts would play out not only in airspace, but also in cyberspace and information and cognitive domains.

And, indeed, the Indian military

wasn't just battling against a barrage of hostile drones that came from across the western border, from Leh to Sir Creek, in multiple waves during the nearly four-day conflict, but also countering an intense misinformation campaign that sought to damage the morale of the forces and the masses.

Air Commodore Gaurav M Tripathi (retired), who also played a role

during the operation, while acknowledging the criticality of air power in deciding the outcome of a conflict, underlined that in any future scenario, "combined air power" of the three services should be leveraged so that it can work cohesively against a "capable adversary."

"During (Operation) Sindoor, we saw a mass of drones used by

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Ladakh Signs MoU With Jal Shakti for Sustainable Drinking Water Supply

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

LEH, MAY 6: In a significant step towards ensuring a sustainable and reliable drinking water supply in Ladakh, the Administration of UT Ladakh, on the initiative of Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, today signed an MoU with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, CR Patil, Hon'ble MoS, Jal Shakti, V Somanna and Secretary, Jal Shakti Ministry, Ashok KK Meena, were present on the occasion.

The MoU would formalise collaboration for the effective implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0, a flagship programme of the Government of India, aimed at providing clean and adequate drinking water through functional house-

hold tap connections to every rural household.

One of the most striking features of this MoU is the 100 per cent Central funding for water connection in each household in Ladakh, as declared by the Hon'ble Minister, Patil. Treating Ladakh as a special case, the Ministry would bear the entire cost of Rs 4 lakh per water connection in Ladakh. Notably, in the case of other states/UTs, 10 to 40 per cent of the cost is borne by the respective state/UT.

The development follows the proactive engagement of the LG, Saxena, with the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, CR Patil, wherein key issues related to water security in Ladakh were deliberated upon. The Lieutenant Governor has

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“Zero Tolerance Against Power Theft,” Says JPDCL After Enforcement Drive in Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 6: The Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) on Wednesday reiterated its "zero tolerance" policy against power theft and unauthorized electricity usage after a major enforcement drive in Sector-02, Channi Himmat exposed multiple violations.

The inspection, carried out under the Sub Division Green Belt of Gandhi Nagar in Electric Division-II, was led by a special enforcement team constituted by the Superintending Engineer of the O&M Circle Jammu.



Headed by Assistant Engineer Vishal Kumar Langleh, the team examined 20 consumers, including domestic and commercial establishments.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

“Border Villages.....

foundation stones for multiple development projects, including a digital library at the Government Primary School, a community hall and recreation centre, development of an Amrit Sarovar with a drainage system, installation of open gyms, and solar street lighting.

He underlined that border villages are the backbone of India and reiterated the administration's commitment to bringing these areas to the forefront of progress. He said families that had long faced neglect are now receiving focused attention as part of a broader development strategy.

Highlighting the Vibrant Villages Programme, the Lieutenant Governor said the government is working on a comprehensive plan to strengthen infrastructure and improve quality of life through better road connectivity, telecommunications, electrification, and livelihood opportunities. He stressed the importance of a coordinated approach to ensure effective implementation of these initiatives.

Directing officials to guarantee access to essential services, Sinha called for ensuring electricity, mobile connectivity, and economic independence for every household. He also set a target to eliminate poverty in border villages of Samba district by 2030.

Responding to local concerns, he reiterated the administration's commitment to providing land ownership rights to displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and other affected groups. He added that the completion of the Shahpur Kandi Dam is expected to significantly boost agricultural productivity in the region.

The Lieutenant Governor commended Regal village for achieving a tuberculosis-free status and urged continued efforts to ensure clean drinking water and tackle drug abuse. He also distributed appointment orders to Special Police Officers and sanction letters to beneficiaries under various government schemes.

Later, Sinha visited the Regal Border Out Post, where he interacted with security personnel and praised their dedication in safeguarding the nation's frontiers.

LG inaugurates.....

Public Library and Open Air Amphitheatre. Addressing a gathering of scholars, students and prominent citizens, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the establishment of Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul is a meaningful reconnection with India's civilizational roots.

“It is a significant step towards cultural renaissance and the strengthening of the ancient Indian knowledge tradition,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the land of Ghagwal has historically been a vibrant center of learning where Vedic teachings flourished and the Guru-Shishya tradition thrived, providing students with guidance in the art of living, critical thinking, and the courage to seek the truth.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted India's rapid advancement in science, innovation and technology. He further emphasised that the nation's true strength lies in its cultural consciousness, with Sanskrit playing a vital role in providing a balanced perspective rooted in ethics and duty.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Sanskrit has been a source of essential values and knowledge systems for humanity for centuries. He also recalled the monumental contributions of ancient scholars such as Kautilya, Charaka, Sushruta, Bhaskaracharya, Brahmagupta, Aryabhata, and Varahamihira, in shaping the global traditions in mathematics, medicine and philosophy.

He stressed the urgent need to make this vast repository of knowledge accessible in simple, modern language to ensure its relevance for the contemporary world.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the Gurukul management to maintain the highest standards of education by integrating the depth of tradition with the breadth of modernity. He emphasized that the institution must go beyond providing degrees to nurture sensitive, ethical and courageous personalities who can lead the country.

“I believe Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul will evolve into a centre of excellence by integrating traditional values with modern education,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the efforts of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Shri Narsingh Dev Temple Management Committee, district administration Samba and congratulated them for their vision, dedication and commitment in establishing the Gurukul.

Shri Surjit Singh Slathia, Member of Legislative Assembly from Samba; Shri Shakti Pathak, Director ACB and President of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Shridhar Patil, DIG JSK Range; Ms Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Samba; and other senior officials, and Vedic scholars attended the inaugural ceremony.

“Kashmir Can.....

Primary Health Centre in Gulmarg. The indoor sports complex, developed at a cost of Rs. 2.75 crore under the capital expenditure budget, has been equipped with

modern facilities for badminton, table tennis, billiards and other indoor games. The facility is expected to promote sports culture and provide students with opportunities to remain physically active throughout the year, particularly during periods of adverse weather.

During his visit, the Chief Minister interacted with students and participated in indoor games, drawing an enthusiastic response. He also launched a signature campaign under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, calling upon young people to play an active role in building a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, Abdullah stressed the importance of youth in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the challenges faced by students due to limited access to quality higher education within the region, noting that a significant amount is spent annually by families on education outside the Union Territory.

He said the government has taken steps to facilitate the establishment of private universities, with the legislative framework already in place and regulations being finalised. Once implemented, reputed institutions will be invited to set up campuses in the region, he added.

The Chief Minister also outlined several initiatives aimed at youth empowerment, including plans to generate between 20,000 and 25,000 government jobs this year, support for entrepreneurship through government-backed financial assistance, and measures to enhance skill development in key sectors.

Later, Abdullah inaugurated a newly constructed block of the Primary Health Centre in Gulmarg, built at a cost of Rs. 203.80 lakh. He reviewed key facilities including outpatient services, emergency care, diagnostic units and patient wards, emphasising the need to strengthen healthcare services for both residents and visitors.

Senior officials, public representatives and members of the administration were present on the occasion.

CM chairs.....

capacity, operational efficiency and safety standards through modernization of critical infrastructure.

The Chief Minister emphasized timely execution of projects, adoption of modern technology and adherence to high safety standards to meet the growing tourist inflow. He underlined the importance of strengthening tourism infrastructure to further boost the local economy.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Ashish Chandra Verma; Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation, Shreya Singhal; Director Tourism Kashmir/Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation, Syed Sajad Qamar; Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta; Director General, Budget; Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority, and other concerned officers.

“War Brings.....

in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam. He also mentioned allegations raised by Mamata Banerjee regarding irregularities in West Bengal.

Responding to questions about revisions in electoral rolls, Abdullah said that multiple factors influence election outcomes and maintained that the opposition INDIA bloc remains strong.

Commenting on reports of blasts in Punjab, he urged the public not to panic, stating that such incidents, while concerning, are not new.

On criticism from opposition parties in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said it was part of the democratic process, adding that his party would continue to function in line with its responsibilities.

PM Modi.....

in a range of areas including digital payments, rare earth minerals, pharmaceuticals, education, banking and culture.

Modi and Lam also deliberated on the situation in the Indo-Pacific amid China's increasing assertiveness in the region, and agreed to continue to contribute to the rule-of-law, peace, stability, and prosperity.

It is understood that China's growing military muscle-flexing in the South China Sea also figured in the delegation-level talks between the two sides.

Elected as president earlier this month, Lam began his first state visit to India on Tuesday, leading a high-level delegation for a three-day trip.

“A decade ago, Vietnam became India's first comprehensive strategic partner in ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). Since then, our relations have made rapid and comprehensive progress,” Modi said in his media statement.

“Building on this strong foundation, today we are elevating our relations to the level of Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We will now advance our partnership to even higher goals,” he said.

“Our cooperation will reach new levels in every area— culture, connectivity, and capacity building, as well as security, sustainability, and supply chain resilience,” Modi added.

He noted that the bilateral trade between

India and Vietnam has doubled in the last decade to reach USD 16 billion and that the target now is to increase it to USD 25 billion by 2030.

Modi also cited a plethora of agreements signed between the two countries to emphasise that the economic engagement is expected to witness a significant upswing going forward.

“The MoU between our drug authorities will now increase access to Indian medicines in Vietnam. Exports of Indian agricultural, fisheries, and animal products to Vietnam are also set to become easier. Very soon, Vietnam will taste India's grapes and pomegranates,” he said.

The two sides also agreed to update the India-ASEAN trade agreement by the end of this year.

“This will provide a new impetus to trade and investment between India and all ASEAN countries. New initiatives in critical minerals, rare earths, and energy cooperation will ensure the economic security and supply chain resilience of both countries,” Modi said.

“To boost financial connectivity, we have today decided to enhance cooperation between our central banks. India's UPI and Vietnam's fast payment systems will soon be linked. Furthermore, we are strengthening state-to-state and city-to-city cooperation between the two countries,” he noted.

Modi said India is grateful to Vietnam for its strong condemnation of the Pahalgam terrorist attack and standing with India in its fight against terrorism.

“In this era of global turmoil and economic challenges, thanks to their talent, good governance, and economic reforms, India and Vietnam are emerging as the world's fastest-growing economies,” he said.

“Now, through our enhanced strategic partnership, we will support each other's rapid growth. As the Buddha's teachings say, ‘If you light a lamp for someone else, it also illuminates your own path,’” Modi said.

He also described Vietnam a key pillar of India's Act East Policy and Vision Ocean.

“In the Indo-Pacific region as well, we share a common outlook. Through our strengthening defence and security cooperation, we will continue to contribute to the rule-of-law, peace, stability, and prosperity,” he said.

The prime minister said India will broaden its relations with ASEAN with Vietnam's cooperation.

In his remarks, Lam said both sides agreed to deepen political trust and elevate security cooperation.

Last year, the two sides inked a pact to set up a framework for submarine search, rescue and support mechanism. They also signed a letter of intent (LoI) to strengthen bilateral defence industry collaboration. (Agencies)

SIA Vows.....

narco-smuggling and terror-related activities aimed at destabilizing peace in Jammu and Kashmir. He has been declared a proclaimed offender by a competent court for evading arrest and continuing unlawful activities from across the border.

Following a detailed application by the SIA, the court ordered the attachment of the accused's property after reviewing the evidence. Acting on these directions, a specialized SIA team, in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and local revenue officials, attached immovable property measuring one kanal and 14.37 marlas under Khasra No. 113 at Mandiyan Keran.

Authorities said the agency had earlier filed a comprehensive charge sheet, citing substantial evidence related to narco-trafficking, terror funding, and militant linkages.

Officials emphasized that the latest action reflects a sustained effort to dismantle the entire ecosystem supporting terrorism, particularly the nexus between narcotics trade and cross-border militancy.

The SIA reiterated its commitment to taking strict legal action against individuals and groups involved in activities threatening national security, adding that efforts under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan are being intensified to combat drug abuse and disrupt narco-terror networks across the region.

“Bombing Will.....

the ongoing conflict.

According to a report by Axios, US and Iranian officials are close to finalizing a one-page memorandum of understanding aimed at halting hostilities and establishing a framework for further negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. The report, citing US officials and other sources, stated that Washington expects a response from Tehran on key issues within the next 48 hours, while emphasizing that no final agreement has yet been reached.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said that if Iran agrees to the proposed terms, the conflict could come to an end and maritime passage through the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened to all, including Iran. However, he warned that failure to comply would result in a renewed bombing campaign at a significantly higher level of intensity.

The proposed framework reportedly includes Iran committing to a temporary halt on nuclear enrichment, while the United States may ease sanctions and release billions of dollars in frozen Iranian funds. Both sides are also expected to lift restrictions affecting

transit through the Strait, a vital route for global oil supplies.

Despite signs of progress, officials cautioned that many elements of the proposed deal remain conditional on a broader agreement, leaving the possibility of renewed hostilities or a prolonged period of uncertainty if negotiations fail to produce a lasting resolution.

Year later.....

recalled how ordinary evenings turned into scenes of panic.

“We were having dinner when explosions began. Children were crying, people were running,” said, Muzaffar Hussain, a resident of Poonch who lost a relative. “By morning, we had lost him. There was nothing left to say.”

Officials had said at least 13 to 16 civilians were killed during the shelling. Dozens were injured, and several homes were damaged or destroyed.

For many families, the loss was not just emotional but also economic.

“He was the only earning member. Now we are struggling to manage even basic needs,” said a woman in Karnah who lost her husband. “Compensation came, but it cannot replace a life.”

In Rajouri, another family said the memories return every time tensions rise.

“Whenever we hear about firing anywhere, we get scared. It feels like that night is coming back,” a relative said.

Residents across Uri, Karnah and Tangdhar said the shelling left deep psychological scars, especially among children who witnessed the violence.

“Children still get frightened by loud sounds. They remember everything,” a local said.

While calm has largely prevailed along the LoC in recent months, families of victims say peace remains incomplete without a sense of security and justice.

“We do not want anyone else to go through this. Peace should stay, not break again,” said a resident in Boniyar.

As border villages slowly rebuild, the names of those lost remain part of daily conversations—quiet reminders of the cost of conflict borne by civilians living along the LoC—(KNO)

Op Sindoore.....

Pakistan. Most of them were harmless, just to engage Indian weapons and munitions so that attack drones could come in later.

“But the enemy is smart. Next time, what they will send will be hardened drones, which will probably be more difficult to jam... have better navigation at the end, might not need GPS, (and) they might have electro-optical homing devices. And, they will probably collaborate as a swarm,” Air Commodore Tripathi told PTI.

The former IAF officer, who took an early retirement last August, has flown multiple kinds of fighter jets and commanded a Hawk Mk 132 squadron, and also served as a chief operations officer of a fighter base.

In the IAF, there has already been some investment in anti-drone capabilities, “but anti-drone capabilities will really have to proliferate, and cover all important points,” he said, on the military lessons learned from the operation.

The former air officer praised the S-400 and Akash weapon systems, BrahMos and other missiles, in securing the Indian skies and dealing a potent blow to the adversary, which also allowed Indian fighter jets to play their role.

“We used them (S-400 system) very offensively; we moved them around very frequently. We camouflaged them as well and used their decoy forms to deceive the adversary. This technique in military parlance is called camouflage, concealment and deception or CCD,” he said.

Sharing his own experience of being part of the operation last year, the former IAF officer underlined that what was “probably pioneered in this operation, and I think it will become part of IAF's concept of operations, is offensive utilisation of long-range surface-to-air missiles”.

Military experts said another lesson from the operation is to “expedite and complete the networking of aerial assets”, which the Indian Air Force would draw from it.

Former Army officer Lt Gen Dushyant Singh (ret'd) said Operation Sindoore has demonstrated that “red lines have been pushed further” when it comes to counter-terrorism stance of India, and New Delhi is ready to “call the nuclear bluff of the adversary.” “One of the major military lessons from Op Sindoore is that we moved from strategic restraint to strategic proactiveness. We have to be prepared to respond in a very, very quick time, in case something like that happens next time,” he told PTI.

The retired army officer, also the director general of Delhi-based think-tank Centre For Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS),

underscored that “speed, depth and level of response, all those red lines have increased” and that requires military preparedness.

In that context, certain structural lessons and military policies have emerged from it. And certain logistic lessons can also be derived from the conflict, he said.

Operation Sindoore was launched to avenge the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces conducting precision strikes on multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK).

After launching the decisive military operation, the Indian Army in a post on X at 1:51 am on May 7 had said, “#PahalgamTerrorAttack Justice is Served. Jai Hind!”

Pakistan later also launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out under Operation Sindoore.

The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, lasting nearly 88 hours, halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

On the first anniversary of the Pahalgam attack, the Army in a post on X said, for acts against India, “the response is assured”, and carried a digital poster bearing an image portraying three armed soldiers in uniform standing next to each other against a backdrop that depicted a large red circle, with a caption “OPERATION SINDOOR CONTINUES...”.

One of the ‘Os’ in the word ‘SINDOOR’ was depicted by a bowl carrying a dash of ‘sindoor’ (vermilion), and a red line at the bottom printed in crimson hue.

Lt Gen Singh (ret'd) underlined that future operations are going to be multi-domain, “from space to undersea”, with a “web of communication” functioning simultaneously and not just as a “chain communication”. (Agencies)

Ladakh Signs.....

consistently advocated for enhanced central assistance and interventions in development projects in Ladakh, tailored to its unique ecological and geographical context.

According to the MoU, a structured framework has been established to ensure the commissioning and handover of piped water supply systems to local institutions, such as Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees. The MoU was signed between the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department of the UT Administration.

The initiative is expected to significantly benefit Ladakh by addressing its unique water challenges arising from difficult terrain, harsh climatic conditions, and limited freshwater resources. By strengthening infrastructure and promoting efficient water management practices, the MoU will play a pivotal role in ensuring year-round access to potable drinking water for rural households, reducing dependence on tanker-based supply and seasonal sources.

“This MoU marks a significant milestone in our journey towards achieving water security in Ladakh. Through strengthened collaboration under the Jal Jeevan Mission and initiatives like Project Him Sarovar, launched recently to harness snow and glacial melt, we are committed to ensuring that Ladakh becomes water self-sufficient. Given Ladakh's unique challenges, this partnership will enable us to build sustainable, resilient and community-driven water infrastructure for the future,” said L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena.

The MoU also seeks to establish a water quality testing and surveillance system, with tagging of water samples collected for testing at household locations. This would enable effective monitoring of remedial actions and ensure long-term water sustainability.

“Zero Tolerance.....

During the drive, three prominent commercial establishments were found using electricity illegally. Authorities immediately disconnected their power supply, citing deliberate attempts to evade legitimate dues and cause loss to government revenue.

Further scrutiny revealed that 10 commercial consumers were drawing electricity beyond their sanctioned load. The department imposed penalties and revised their load capacity in accordance with actual consumption.

The team also detected two cases of meter bypassing, indicating intentional tampering. Officials confirmed that legal proceedings have been initiated against all violators under applicable rules.

Reinforcing its commitment to curb electricity misuse, JPDC stated that such enforcement drives will continue across the Jammu division to ensure compliance and safeguard public revenue.



Sakeena Itoo reviews recruitment process of various departments, SKIMS

Directs for prompt filling of vacant posts, timely deployment of selected candidates

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the recruitment process undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) in various departments like Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, Education departments and Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura.

The meeting was attended by Chairman, JKSSB, Vikas Kundal; Secretary JKSSB, Khurshid Ahmad Sanai; Additional Director SKIMS, Zahoor Ahmad Mir; Controller of Examinations JKSSB, Director Finance, Health and Medical Education department, representatives of various departments and other officers.

During the meeting, the Minister conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the progress made in filling vacancies of different categories in various departments. The review meeting also focused on expediting transparent, merit-based recruitment to address critical manpower requirements across healthcare institutions and allied departments.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized on the government's commitment towards ensuring efficiency, ac-



countability and fairness in the selection process. She stressed on maintaining transparency and adhering to timelines during the recruitment process.

The Minister directed the concerned authorities to accelerate the recruitment process, particularly in Health and Education departments as well as SKIMS. She also stressed on maintaining coordination between the departments and recruiting agency to ensure vacant positions are filled promptly and selected candidates are deployed without unnecessary delays.

"Human resource, particularly in Health department, is vital for improving healthcare access and outcomes, particularly in underserved and remote areas", Sakeena said.

Emphasizing on the impor-

ance of timely recruitment, Sakeena Itoo directed the concerned authorities to expedite the ongoing selection processes while strictly adhering to merit, transparency, and fairness. She expressed satisfaction over the pace of recruitment and stressed that there should be no complacency in meeting future targets.

Highlighting the government's commitment to strengthening the healthcare system, Sakeena Itoo reiterated that filling vacant posts remains a top priority. She added that the government is focused on enhancing institutional capacity and ensuring that healthcare facilities and other departments are adequately staffed to meet growing public demand.

Regarding SKIMS Soura, the Minister directed the Addition-

al Director to maintain constant coordination with JKSSB administration so that the recruitment process of pending posts is finalized timely. She highlighted that SKIMS is a premiere health institution and the government is determined to ensure sufficient manpower in it for constant service delivery of public.

While reviewing various aspects of JKSSB related to recruitment processes, Sakeena Itoo asked the JKSSB administration to explore the possibilities of reducing the application fee for the advertised posts. She directed them to study the fee structure of Government recruiting agencies of other States and UTs, and examine the growing demand of candidates calling for reduction in application fees.

During the meeting, Chairman JKSSB briefed the Minister

on department-wise recruitment status, upcoming examinations and measures being implemented to streamline the selection process.

He informed the meeting that 5789 selections have been finalized in different departments over the past 18 months, marking a major milestone of the Omar Abdullah led Government in streamlining recruitment in Government departments and reducing vacancies in key sectors. He added that these selections span multiple categories, including technical, paramedical, administrative, and support staff roles in health and medical education department, besides other critical posts in education, and other departments, bolstering service delivery capabilities at the grassroots level.

The Chairman also informed the meeting that more than 700 JE selections were finalized in last month, marking a major achievement of Government to boost vital sectors.

He also assured the Minister that selections for more than 150 posts in Health and Medical Education department will be finalised within one and half month.

The Chairman also informed the Minister that around 12997 posts are available with the JKSSB with 6109 un-advertised, 6170 at examination level and 373 at selection stage.

GDC Pulwama Hosts Vibrant Cultural Event

MLA Parra Attends The Event as Chief Guest

■ GULFAM BARJI

PULWAMA, MAY 06: A colorful cultural program was DC organized at Government Degree College Pulwama by Talkul Arts and Media Collective, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir. The event featured a mesmerizing performance of the traditional Bacha Nagma, presented under the leadership of noted folk artist Bilal Ahmad Bhat, which captivated the audience. The program was held under the Cultural Function and Production Grant (CFPG) Scheme for the year 2025-26, approved by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Chairman of Talkul Arts and Media Collective, Rovees Rashid (Raees Wathori), warmly welcomed the guests and participants, and expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Culture for supporting initiatives that help preserve and pro-



mote Kashmir's cultural legacy.

Renowned artist Manzoor-ul-Haq also impressed the audience with his soulful Saazina performance. MLA Pulwama, Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra attended the event as the Chief Guest while the Principal of Govt, Degree College Pulwama, Prof. (Dr.) Bashir Ahmad was present as the Guest of Honour. Other prominent attendees included Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, founder of JKRTI Movement and J&K CAG, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Chairman of All J&K Artists Association; and Shah Jahan Ahmad Bhagat Chairman of All Kashmir Folk Artists Association. Speaking on the occasion, Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra appreciated the initiative taken by the organizers to promote traditional folk music stating that such art forms are an integral part of the region's identity and heritage and must be preserved for future generations. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Munir Ahmad Dar (Munir Speaks). The program concluded with a renewed commitment to safeguarding and promoting the vibrant cultural traditions of Kashmir, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

Kulgam Police Seize Orchard Land of Repeat NDPS Accused Under NMBA Drive

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, MAY 06: In a major action against drug-related activities, Kulgam Police on Tuesday seized immovable property belonging to a repeat offender under the NDPS Act as part of the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA).

The action was carried out in coordination with revenue authorities after following due legal procedure. The property belongs to Irfan Ahmed Raina, son of Mushtaq Ahmad Raina, a resident of Mohammadpora, Arreh in Kulgam, who is currently lodged in Mattan Jail.

Police said the accused is involved in FIR No. 34/2025 registered under Sections 8/21 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Kulgam and has a history of repeated involvement in narcotics-related offences.

The seized property comprises a high-density orchard land measuring 1 Kanal and 3 Marlas, located at Mohammadpora, Arreh, Kulgam, under Survey No. 887, Estate Arreh.

The seizure and retrieval operation was conducted jointly by Kulgam Police, the Tehsildar Kulgam, and officials from the Revenue Department as part of intensified efforts to curb the drug menace in the district.

Officials stated that the accused had developed a high-density orchard on the said land, which has now been sealed under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act in connection with ongoing legal proceedings.

Authorities reiterated their commitment to dismantling the infrastructure supporting the illegal narcotics trade and emphasized that strict action will continue against those involved in drug trafficking.

The move is being seen as a strong step towards breaking the financial backbone of drug networks and reinforcing the administration's resolve to establish a drug-free society.

Khyber Cement Backs IUST That Will Deliver J&K's First Anti-Drug Policy Framework

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: A two-day conclave at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), sponsored by Khyber Cement, has laid the foundation for what will become Jammu & Kashmir's first dedicated policy document on combating drug addiction. IUST will draft the framework based on the workshop's findings and formally submit it to the government in the coming time closing a long standing gap in the region's response to a deepening public health and social crisis.

Held on May 4 and 5, the workshop "Drug-Free Society: Call for Collective Action" was organized by IUST's Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo. Aligned with the national Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, it convened policymakers, medical experts, educators, law-enforcement leaders, youth representatives, civil society organizations, and students. Dr. G.N. Itoo Director of the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis at (IUST) joined senior administrators and dignitaries from across the region to anchor the dialogue.

Drug addiction in Jammu & Kashmir is not solely a health issue it is a social challenge that touches families, schools, and workplaces. Khyber Cement's sponsorship reflects a view that combating it requires



coordinated action from every part of society, including the private sector.

"Our responsibility extends beyond building infrastructure it is about helping build a healthier, more resilient society. Supporting IUST in this initiative is consistent with our values, and we are proud that it will deliver a concrete roadmap the government can act on." - Umar Tramboob, Director, Corporate & Strategy, Khyber Cement

"Our youth are the foundation of the Valley's future, and tackling substance abuse takes a community working in lockstep. By partnering with IUST and other stakeholders, we are putting our weight behind grassroots awareness and an environment where young people can thrive free from the shadows of addiction." - Wasim Ahmed Khan, Chief, Sales & Customer Relations, Khyber Cement

Until now, Jammu & Kashmir has

had no dedicated policy framework to address its rising substance abuse crisis. The forthcoming document is intended to close that gap with actionable recommendations spanning prevention, treatment, enforcement, education, and community engagement a first reference point for sustained, coordinated action by the state.

Khyber Cement's role in this conclave is part of a longer pattern of investment in Jammu & Kashmir that goes well beyond its core business. The company has consistently supported youth empowerment, education, healthcare, and grassroots sports programs across the region. By taking on the cause of a drug free society, Khyber Cement is reinforcing what it has long stood for a Jammu & Kashmir rooted enterprise that sees its success as inseparable from the wellbeing of the people and an invitation to other organizations to commit at the same scale.

KULGAM POLICE DESTROY ILLICIT POPPY CULTIVATION IN DEVSAR, CASE REGISTERED UNDER NDPS ACT

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MAY 06: In a major crackdown on narcotics, Kulgam Police on Tuesday destroyed an illicit poppy cultivation in the jurisdiction of Police Station Devsar, reinforcing its ongoing drive against drug-related activities in the district.

Acting on specific and reliable information, the police received inputs about illegal poppy cultivation

allegedly carried out by Farooq Ahmad Teeli, son of Abdul Salam Teeli, a resident of Qasba Devsar. Responding swiftly, a police team, in coordination with officials from the Revenue Department, reached the site and conducted a thorough operation.

During the raid, the illicit poppy crop was destroyed on the spot, and samples were seized in accordance with legal procedures in the presence

of a Magistrate.

In this connection, a case has been registered under FIR No. 29/2026 at Police Station Devsar under relevant provisions of the NDPS Act, and further investigation has been initiated.

Officials reiterated that Kulgam Police is committed to a zero-tolerance policy against drug-related offences and will continue strict action against those involved in narcotics cultivation and trafficking.

Illegal Structure of Drug Peddler Demolished in Yaripora as Crackdown Intensifies

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MAY 06: In a continued crackdown against drug peddling, authorities on Tuesday carried out a demolition drive at Tantaripora in Yaripora area of Kulgam district. The action was undertaken by joint teams of the Revenue Department and Police as part of sustained efforts to curb the men-

ace of drug abuse and dismantle illegal narcotics networks operating in the region. Officials stated that the drive is part of a broader strategy to take strict action against individuals involved in drug peddling and to send a strong deterrent message.

They reiterated that the administration remains committed to eliminating drug-related activities and ensuring a safer environment for the

public, particularly the youth.

Authorities also urged local residents to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and report any suspicious activities related to drug trafficking. The demolition drive reflects the administration's firm resolve to intensify its campaign against drug abuse and work towards building a drug-free society.

Deputy Chief Minister inspects ongoing infrastructure works at GMC Srinagar

Meets public delegations in Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today inspected the ongoing construction of a new building for upgradation of the Surgery, Medicine and Radiology departments at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

During the inspection, he emphasized the importance of timely completion of the project and strict adherence to quality standards. He stated that the upgradation of these key departments will significantly strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and enhance patient care services in Srinagar.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the government is committed to ensure seamless delivery of healthcare services and is focused on creating equitable health re-



lated infrastructure in both Srinagar and Jammu.

“The administration is priori-

tizing development of healthcare facilities, ensuring quality and timely completion to dedicate such

facilities across all districts,” he said.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister met various public delegations at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

The delegations projected a range of issues and demands concerning public welfare and development.

The Deputy Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised and resolved several issues on the spot. He assured the delegations that all other genuine matters would be actively taken up with the concerned departments for their prompt and smooth redressal.

Reiterating the government's commitment to responsive governance, he said that addressing public grievances and ensuring efficient service delivery remains a top priority.

DC Srinagar inspects progress of ongoing works on Revenue Complex Shalteng, GMS Panzinara

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR MAY 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Akshay Labroo today inspected the ongoing works on new buildings for Tehsil Office Central Shalteng and Government Middle School (GMS) Panzinara.

At the construction site for the new building for Tehsil Office Central Shalteng the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of ongoing work being carried out at a cost of Rs 1.15 crore by R&B Department.

The DC was apprised that the upcoming facility will house key functional spaces including Tehsildar Room, Tehsildar Court Room, Waiting Area, Naib Tehsildar Room, Staff Room, Meeting Room, Computer Room, Establishment Section, Record Room etc.

The DC emphasized the importance of expediting the construction work and directed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work while ensuring adherence to quality standards. He underscored that the project is vital for enhancing public service delivery and strengthening revenue administration in the area.

On the occasion, the DC directed the R&B Engineers to submit a DPR for construction of new office building for Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), West within the same Revenue complex.

Earlier, the DC visited Government Middle School Panzinara-B, where he took stock of the ongoing infrastructure upgradation and development works. It was informed that the construction of the new school building is being carried out by the R&B Department at an estimated cost of Rs 44.13 lakh.

The DC stressed the need for timely completion of the School building, with strict adherence to prescribed quality norms to ensure improved educational facilities for students.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad Reshi, Block Development Officer, Qamarwari, Saima Ahad, Deputy CEO, Anjum Raja, Executive Engineer, R&B, District and other District Officers.

District Admin Bandipora continues Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan Awareness Activities across Educational Institutions

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 06: The ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan continued across Bandipora district on Wednesday with expert talks, guest lectures, pledge ceremonies, plantation drives and awareness programmes organised in various educational institutions to educate students and the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse.



Expert talks and guest lecturers under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan were organised at HS Tarabal, HSS Chuntimulla, HS Panar, HS Kehnusa, BHS Onagam, HS Garoora, HSS Nowgam Bandipora, HSS Gadakhud, GHS Nadihal, GHS Naidkhai, HS Achoora, PM SHRI HSS Shahgund, HS Jurniyal Tulail, GHS Hajin, HSS Sumbal, HSS Madwan and HSS Budoab Tulail.

During the programmes, experts, religious scholars, doctors and officers highlighted the ill effects of drug addiction on physical and mental health, emotional well-being, education, careers and society. Speakers also sensitised students about resisting peer pressure, adopting healthy lifestyles and contributing towards a drug-free society.

Speakers delivered awareness lectures on drug abuse and other social evils, urging students to stay away from harmful practices and lead disciplined lives and emphasised the importance of spiritual and moral values in shaping a responsible society. At PM SHRI Girls High School Sumbal, a plantation drive was organised in collaboration with the Forest Department Bandipora as part of the anti-drug campaign. Staff members, students and Forest Department officials participated enthusiastically in the plantation drive and later took a pledge to stay away from drugs and spread awareness against substance abuse.

The programmes witnessed active participation of students, teachers, officials and community members, reflecting the collective resolve of the district towards building a healthy, aware and drug-free society under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

DC Anantnag extends invitation to diverse range of stakeholders

Says mass participation a strong message against drug menace

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MAY 06: As part of the preparation for upcoming Nasha Mukht J&K Mega Padyatra scheduled in the district on May 09, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today held a series of meetings with a diverse range of stakeholders.

The meetings were attended by ex public representatives, village committee members, sports personalities, social activists, religious leaders and other prominent figures who are expected to participate in the upcoming Padyatra.

Extending formal invitation for participation to the stakeholders, the DC said the aim of the rally is to meaningfully engage all stakeholders in the fight against drug abuse and to build a narcotics-free society. This will be a major moment for the dis-

trict to strengthen its resolve against the drug menace and all stakeholders are coming together to demonstrate their commitment for the 100 day intensified NMJK campaign, he said.

During the interactions, the DC emphasized the importance of unified community action in addressing the growing concern of substance abuse adding the event is intended to raise awareness and strengthen public resolve against drug abuse. He appreciated the proactive role of all these stakeholders in the campaign, noting their participation will make the event vibrant and inclusive besides enhancing community engagement for the collective cause.

Dr. Bilal described the drug abuse a grave threat to the individuals, families and society which needs sincere and concerted efforts by all for its tim-



ly control and eradication. He called for a board based and

holistic approach in combating the menace of narcotics and safeguarding the future of youth through community led initiatives.

Terming the participants as ambassadors of change in their respective communities, the DC said that the success of the rally will depend on active participation of different sections of the society so a strong message is sent against the drug abuse. The rally will provide a great opportunity for the district to unite under one ambition and further its resolve against the menace, he stressed.

The stakeholders on the occasion expressed their support and assured full cooperation to the administration in mobilizing participation from their respective areas and also put forth valuable suggestions to enhance outreach and public involvement.

DC Bandipora hears Public Grievances at Mega Block Diwas in Ketson

Prioritises Developmental needs

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 06: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chibon Tuesday chaired a Mega Block Diwas programme at High School Ketson in Aloosa block, where she reviewed developmental activities and addressed a range of public grievances raised by local residents.

The programme witnessed participation from officers of various departments, local residents, and students, with cultural performances presented on the occasion.

During the interaction session, residents raised several key issues, including ration cards, road connectivity, LPG supply, transport facilities, tourism development, Lolab-Bandipora road, playground facilities, water scarcity, and other public concerns.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said the area has seen considerable improvement in basic infrastructure, noting that the road up to Ketson has already

been macadamised, mobile connectivity is available, Anganwadi Centres are functioning effectively, and the local school has satisfactory infrastructure.

She assured the public that all remaining issues and deficiencies identified during the programme would be taken up on priority.

Regarding the school approach road, the concerned Executive Engineer informed that the road has already been included under the Cities and Towns Plan.

The CAPD department assured that deserving families would be provided ration cards once the quota is received.

The ARTO informed that sumo services are currently operating on the route, while efforts are being made to provide mini-bus services for the area.

Health officials stated that Health and Wellness Centres at Ketson and Binlipora are functioning properly. On tourism-related demands, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged local

residents to submit proposals for tourism promotion and homestay facilities.

Responding to demands for sports infrastructure, she directed the concerned Patwari to conduct a survey for identification of suitable land for a playground and assured that additional sports kits would be provided to local youth.

She also directed the BDO and Tehsildar concerned to work on a proposal for construction of a community hall in the area.

Taking serious note of reports regarding poppy cultivation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned SHO to submit a detailed report within 48 hours.

The event was attended by senior district and sectoral officers, including ACP, CMO, CEO, ARTO, Executive Engineers of PHE, PDD, R&B and PMGSY, Tehsildar and BDO Aloosa, LDM Bandipora, besides officers from Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Agriculture, Labour, Sheep Husbandry, and Food departments.

Commissioner SMC reviews arrangements for Parliamentary Standing Committee

Visit to J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: In preparation for the forthcoming visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs (2025-26) to Jammu and Kashmir from May 10 to 12, Faz Lul Haseeb, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the readiness of all departments and finalize logistical and administrative arrangements for the high-profile programme.



The meeting witnessed detailed deliberations on protocol management, transportation, accommodation, venue preparedness, security coordination, and inter-departmental synchronization to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the parliamentary delegation's study visit.

Emphasizing the significance of the visit, the Commissioner directed all concerned officers to maintain close coordination and ensure that every arrangement is executed in a timely and professional manner. He stressed that the visit is of considerable importance in the context of ongoing urban development and housing initiatives in the Union Territory. During the meeting, designated liaison officers were thoroughly briefed about their respective roles and responsibilities. The Commissioner instructed them to remain fully vigilant and responsive throughout the visit to facilitate hassle-free movement and effective engagement of the visiting committee members.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee's visit is part of its nationwide review and assessment of key issues pertaining to housing, urban governance, infrastructure development, and implementation of flagship urban programmes across the country.

DYSS Ganderbal organises Volleyball, Kabaddi Competitions under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAY 06: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Ganderbal organised volleyball and kabaddi competitions for boys and girls across all four zones—Kangan, Ganderbal, Hariganwan, and Tulmullah—under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan. The activities witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, promoting sportsmanship, teamwork, and physical fitness among youth.



The events were organised with the objective of engaging students in positive and constructive activities while spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse. District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ganderbal, Sheikh Shafiqat Iqbal, appreciated the active participation of boys and girls and the dedicated efforts of the field staff. He emphasized the importance of sports in encouraging a healthy, disciplined, and drug-free lifestyle among youth.

DC Srinagar holds Block Diwas, Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Panzinara

Presides over Registration camp for senior citizens under Vay Vandan Scheme

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Panzinara area in the outskirts of the District and holds a Mega Public Grievance Redressal Camp to bring administration at the door steps of the people to listen their issues and developmental needs as a part of Block Diwas Programme.

The DC also presided over an Awareness-cum-Registration Camp on Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme as a part of District Administration's outreach efforts to ensure maximum coverage of eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above under the scheme providing additional health support of Rs 5 Lakh over and above the

existing cover aimed to strengthen senior citizen health security.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad Reshi, Block Development Officer, Qamarwari, Saima Ahad, Deputy CEO, Anjum Raja, Executive Engineer, R&B, District Manager CSC, Asrar Shirazi and other District Officers.

The Public Grievance Redressal camp witnessed large participation of people from Panzinara-A, Panzinara-B, Mujgund and other adjoining areas of Shalteng Tehsil of Srinagar District during which

local representatives, public delegations and scores of individuals projected various developmental issues and demands before the Deputy Commissioner particularly the long pending issue arising out of jurisdictional dispute with Baramulla and Bandipora Districts.

Besides, they also demanded for updation of settlement records by Revenue authorities, development of play fields, strengthening irrigation canals, macadamization of inner lonk roads, repair of Jhelum embankment, augmentation of water supply infrastructure, provision of bank ATM facility and other development issues.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC assured the people of Panzinara and other adjoining areas that all



genuine demands and issues projected by them will be taken up with concerned authorities on priority particularly with regard to jurisdictional issues.

The DC also gave the spot direction to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner led an Awareness-cum-Registration Camp on Ayushman Vay Vandana (PM-JAY) at Panzinara-B organised by Chief Medical Officer which witnessed enthusiastic participation from elderly residents. The participants were apprised of the benefits and advantages of the Vay Vandana health coverage initiative.

Addressing the gathering, the DC elaborated on the significance of the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card and encouraged

senior citizens to come forward and enroll under the scheme. He stated that the initiative is designed to safeguard elderly citizens aged 70 years and above by offering extensive health coverage and protecting them from the financial burden of medical treatment, thereby promoting dignity and well-being in their later years.

The DC urged all eligible citizens to get registered under the scheme to ensure comprehensive coverage of all eligible beneficiaries under the scheme, so that no deserving senior citizen is left out and the benefits of the initiative reach every eligible individual across the district.

During the programme, the DC also handed over Vay Vandana cards to the eligible beneficiaries of Qamarwari Block of the District.

NMBA continues across Pulwama with wide-ranging outreach Programmes

HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, MAY 06: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of awareness, outreach and sports activities were conducted across Pulwama district by multiple departments to promote a drug-free society and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Pulwama organised a wide range of activities and competitions across various educational institutions, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and youth.

The programmes included expert guest lectures, pledging ceremonies and sports competitions aimed at spreading awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse.

In Zone Pulwama, softball competitions were held at BHSS Pulwama, Kabaddi at HSS Hawl, while expert guest lectures were organised at HSS Karimabad, HSS Hawl, GMS Pulwama and UPS Chewakalan.

In Zone Tahab, volleyball and



chess competitions were conducted at GMS Batpora and UPS Karewa, and guest lectures at HS Naina and UPS Ladermar.

In Zone Pampore, zonal-level badminton and chess tournaments were held at GHSS

Pampore, while BHSS Ladhoo organised skits and awareness lectures as part of the campaign.

In Zone Tral, zonal-level U-17 boys' volleyball competition was conducted at Sports Stadium Bajwani and badminton com-

petition at Indoor Stadium Bajwani, along with awareness programmes across the zone.

Additionally, chess and carrom competitions were organised at HSS Rajpora, while zonal-level Kho-Kho competition was conducted at GMS Lurgam.

Participants across all activities also took part in pledging ceremonies committing to work towards building a healthy, prosperous and drug-free society.

Meanwhile, the Drug Control Department Pulwama carried out inspections of medical shops at Wanpora, Parigam, Nawa and main town Pulwama to ensure compliance with drug regulations.

Besides, a multi-sectoral awareness programme was organised at Panchayat Ghar Ladhoo, Pampore, witnessing active participation from the public. The event was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora, Tehsildar Pampore, Block Development Officer Pampore and officers from the Police and Civil Administration.

The programme featured

awareness sessions on drug abuse prevention, along with cultural performances including nukkad natak and cultural songs, aimed at sensitising the community and reinforcing the message of a drug-free society.

Similarly, awareness sessions were organised at Tral-i-Payen and Bamnoo Ichegoza, where officers from various departments interacted with participants and highlighted the ill effects of substance abuse.

The programmes witnessed participation from local residents, youth and students, and included pledging ceremonies and awareness activities to promote collective responsibility in curbing drug menace.

Furthermore, the Education Department organised special guest lectures across educational institutions in the district as part of the campaign sensitising students on the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The activities form part of the district's continued efforts to involve all sections of society in combating drug abuse and strengthening community awareness.

DC Shopian listens to public development issues at Block Diwas Wachi

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 06: In a continued effort to strengthen grassroots governance, Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, today presided over Block Diwas at Wachi and listened to public issues raised by residents of various villages of Zainapora Sub-Division.

The public from Wachi, Safanagri, Darbugh, Cheermarg, Melhura and adjoining villages flagged key developmental concerns including improvement of road networks, irrigation facilities, canal maintenance, assured and quality water supply, uninterrupted power supply, upgradation of healthcare and transport services, strengthening of horticulture and agriculture support, completion of animal & sheep husbandry works, and strict enforcement of pesticide checking.

Public representatives emphasized the criticality of electricity and irrigation for the agriculture and horticulture sector, and called for equitable distribution of Rural Development resources.

While highlighting public welfare issues, locals also appreciated Jal Shakti for significantly improving water supplies in the area. Residents of Safanagri expressed gratitude to the district administration for establishing a pump shed for irrigation, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the village.

Responding to the issues, DC Shopian assured prompt action. He issued on-spot directions to ACD Shopian for immediate desilting of canals in the area to enhance irrigation facilities and directed that canal maintenance works be taken up during the current season.

Underscoring the importance of a well-maintained irrigation network for the economic health of the farming community, the DC stressed prompt response on works.

To promote sports engagement, the DC instructed RDD to take up construction of a Volleyball Court in Wachi. R&B (PWD) was directed to furnish estimates for village roads in the area.

Other demands, he said, will be taken up with concerned departments and works will be incorporated in priority and improvement in other services shall be made to the satisfaction of the public.

On the platform of Block Diwas, the DC appealed to residents of Wachi, Melhura and other villages to proactively support the administration in the fight against drugs.

He called upon youth to avail benefits of various government-sponsored self-employment schemes and assured that the district administration will facilitate the engagement of youth and victims alike under rehabilitation and livelihood schemes.

On the occasion, all participants took the Nasha Mukht Pledge.

The event was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ACD, Muzafar Ahmad; SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; DIO, Showkat Hussain Ganie; Tehsildar Zainapora, Aijaz Ahmad; Ex. Engineer KPDC, CAHO, BDOs, and other concerned officers and officials, along with hundreds of citizens.

DC Kulgam chairs Mega Block Diwas at Pahloo

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MAY 06: Taking governance to the doorsteps of the people, a Mega Block Diwas was today held at Pahloo under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam.

The programme was attended by ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; JDP, Malik Suhail; Executive Engineers, CEO, Tehsildar Pahloo, BDO, and other district and sectoral officers.

During the event, the DC interacted with a large gathering of residents from Pahloo and adjoining areas, who apprised the administration of various issues and demands related to basic amenities and developmental needs. Key issues highlighted by the public included completion and operationalisation of filtration plants, strengthening of solid waste management systems, development of playfields, and establishment of a public library and children's park.

Residents of Lamad village raised concerns regarding augmentation of staff and machinery at the local health centre, construction of a veterinary hospital building, availability of a dedicated doctor at the animal care centre, and development of playfields at Lamad Grad and Brinal Lamad. They also demanded construction of cowsheds. Several road connectivity issues were projected, including development and widening of Halan road, construction of Lamad-Akhal road, Gasren-Pombay road, and Pahloo-Lankar-Pombay and other roads. The public further sought extension of the flood protection bund at Aadigatnoo, early completion of filtration works, and sanction and distribution of construction wood among beneficiaries in the Lamad area. Residents from Banimulla demanded posting of a Headmaster, augmentation of staff in educational institutions, completion of water supply schemes, and repair of the Banimulla canal. People from various other villages also put forth their demands and developmental requirements of their areas. On the occasion, registration and awareness counters were also set up to disseminate information about various government schemes and facilitate on-the-spot registration of eligible beneficiaries.

The DC gave a patient hearing to all grievances and assured that all genuine demands would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He directed the concerned officers to take immediate action on priority issues. He urged the public to avail benefits under various government initiatives.

Mohammad Younis Malik assumes Charge as Director JKEDI

Warm farewell accorded to Khalid Jahangir

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Mohammad Younis Malik on Wednesday assumed charge as the Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

The charge was handed over in a brief yet dignified ceremony held at the institute's Sempora campus, marking the transition of leadership at the premier entrepreneurship promotion organization of the Union Territory. On the occasion, a warm and heartfelt farewell was accorded to the outgoing Director, Khalid Jahangir who had been holding the additional charge of Director JKEDI alongside his responsibilities as Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department.

Senior officers and officials of JKEDI, along with staff members, were present during the ceremony and acknowledged the contributions made by Khalid Jahangir during his tenure. Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Younis Malik expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to lead JKEDI and reiterated his commitment to further advancing the institute's mission. He emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship, capacity building, and effective implementation of government policies to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth of the Union Territory.

"The employees of the institute are its permanent stakeholders, and our collective strength lies in working together with unity and purpose.

We must function as a cohesive team, moving in tandem to achieve our objectives and take JKEDI to newer heights," he said.

Highlighting the challenges ahead, he added, "Unemployment remains one of the biggest challenges before us today. It is imperative that the goals and initiatives of the JKEDI are closely aligned to address this concern and contribute meaningfully to the betterment of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir."

He further called for a results-oriented approach, stating, "We must all strive to work harder and to the fullest of our capabilities to meet the expectations of our youth and create impactful opportunities through entrepreneurship and innovation."

DJMC IUST marks Press Freedom Week with street theatre

HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, MAY 06: Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), marked World Press Freedom Week by organising street theatre on Wednesday.

The street play "News or Noise?" was performed by IUST's media students and directed by Dr. Haifaa Mohammad, Assistant Professor, DJMC.

Welcoming the guests, Dr. Rabia Noor, Head, DJMC, said that the event aimed at generating awareness among people about the difference between professional journalism and sensational content. "The street play is likely to leave the audi-

ence with a simple takeaway that everything that appears on their mobile screens is not news," she said, adding that news is something which is based on proper verification, journalistic ethics and facts.

Through compelling storytelling, the students highlighted the growing challenges posed by misinformation, sensationalism and the rapid spread of unverified content on digital platforms.

The play drew an engaged audience comprising of Controller of Examinations, Finance Officer, Dean Outreach, Dean of Students, Deans of Schools, Heads of Departments, faculty members, officials, research scholars and students, who responded with appreciation to the thought-provoking performance.



Addressing the gathering, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Afroz Bisati, said, in the current digital age, street theatre plays a vital role in raising awareness among young people, as its messages reach audiences directly and leave a lasting impact.

Dean Outreach, Dr. Ruheela Hassan, said, nowadays, anyone with a mobile phone, claims to be a journalist, which is a huge concern. "This street play has

highlighted why training is essential for media professionals," she said.

Dean of Students, Dr. Monisa Qadiri, said, there are many misconceptions about journalism at present, and it is the time that "we take the charge of the narrative and lead it towards a positive change." Controller of Examination, Prof. Rumaan Bashir said such events are especially important in today's social media landscape to help people distinguish between news and noise.

Prof. Mahmood Ahmad Khan, Head, Department of Education, said the street theatre is a part of experiential learning under National Education Policy, 2020, and a great learning experience for the students.

Finance Officer, Samer Wazir, said, at a time when misinformation spreads rapidly, such creative efforts help audiences understand the value of credible news and encourage more responsible media consumption.

Speaking on the occasion, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Senior Multimedia Journalist, working with Sheharbeen programme of Radio Kashmir Srinagar, said people nowadays choose noise over news, which the street play highlighted accurately. "This street play is a timely and impactful initiative that shall help address the growing misconceptions surrounding journalism," he said.

The event concluded with felicitation of the students and play director.

HT EDITORIAL

Provide quality water in order to avoid water borne diseases

Some of the localities of the Srinagar district reported cases of hepatitis in the recent past with many people falling prey to this disease. There has been an outbreak of this disease in these localities with multiple cases being reported. The health department has somewhat downplayed the occurrence of this disease and have advised the people not to panic in this situation.

Since the outbreak of this disease is linked with the quality of water being supplied by the Jal Shakti department it is quite clear that the water is not up to the standard mark across Kashmir valley. The situation is grim in the areas where cases of hepatitis have surfaced. Over the years multiple complaints about the water quality have come from different parts of the Kashmir valley. People in general complain that the water being supplied to them is not of good quality with the department compromising on the same.

The Jal Shakti department officers and officials have been claiming that the piped drinking water is made available to the majority of the population living across the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. There is no denying the fact that a large proportion of the population has been covered with piped drinking water, but at the same time the issue of quality water has somewhat not been given due importance. This has led to apprehension among the people and they want better results on this front.

The Jal Shakti department officers should understand that mere supply of drinking water is not enough. These responsible people should know that it is their duty to provide clean and potable drinking water that is best quality wise. Once quality water is provided to the people then there are less chances of outbreak of waterborne diseases like hepatitis. There should not be any compromise with the health of the people and in this regard all the people should chip in with the prime responsibility lying on Jal Shakti department officials.

It is imperative that the sufficient stock of alum and other chemicals is made available to the Jal Shakti department. There should not be any compromise in this regard and these chemicals should never run out of stock. Quality of water is compromised only when the requisite chemicals are not available at the water filtration plants of the Jal Shakti department. This needs to be kept in mind by the concerned officers and officials.

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Teacher Retirements Deepen Teacher Deficit in Elementary Schools



■ JAVAID BHAT

The School Education Department is grappling with an intensifying shortage of teaching staff as a wave of continuous retirements sweeps through the system, leaving classrooms strained and students underserved. The impact is being felt most severely at the elementary level, which has increasingly become the first casualty in efforts to manage the growing crisis.

Over the past few years, a significant number of experienced teachers have retired, creating a vacuum that has not been adequately filled through fresh appointments. As a result, authorities are often compelled to redistribute the already limited workforce, with elementary schools bearing the brunt of these adjustments. Human resources are frequently diverted from elementary sections to higher classes to keep secondary and senior secondary institutions functional, rendering many primary schools virtually understaff.

Teachers at the grassroot level are increasingly burdened with multi-grade responsibilities, often handling several classes simultaneously. This not only disrupts the



learning environment but also undermines the quality of foundational education, which is critical for a child's academic growth.

Educationists and stakeholders feel that this trend could have long-term consequences on learning outcomes, particularly for young students who rely heavily on consistent guidance and attention. "Elementary education is the backbone of the entire academic structure. Weakening it means weakening the

future," said a senior educator.

Parents and local communities have also voiced concern over overcrowded classrooms, multi-grade teaching, and declining individual attention to students. In several schools, few teachers are managing multiple classes, raising serious concerns about effective teaching and student engagement.

Experts suggest that without urgent and strategic measures, such as fast-track recruitment, due transfers,

and better workforce planning, the situation may worsen further.

Besides government is making every effort to revolutionise this sector, there is a growing demand for the government to prioritize elementary education interns of manpower and ensure that it is not treated as a buffer to compensate for systemic gaps. Strengthening the elementary schooling is essential for building a resilient and effective education system.

Respecting Parents' Rights Leads to a Happy Family and Prosperous Society



■ ZEHRA BINT ALI

The foundation of every civilized society lies in the strength of its families and the strength of a family depends greatly on the relationship between parents and children. A home built on love, respect, patience and responsibility becomes a source of peace and happiness while such homes together create a progressive and prosperous nation. In today's modern world where lifestyles are rapidly changing family relationships are also undergoing transformation. Material progress, busy schedules, social media and growing individualism have undoubtedly brought convenience, but they have also created emotional distance among family members. In such circumstances, the moral responsibilities of children have become more important than ever before.

Children are one of the greatest blessings bestowed by Almighty God. However with this blessing come duties and obligations. Parents dedicate their entire lives to raising their children, providing them with food, shelter, education, care, and emotional support. They sacrifice their comfort, desires, and personal needs to ensure a better future for their sons and daughters. Therefore it is the duty of children to recognize the rights of their parents and fulfill their responsibilities with sincerity and devotion.

The first and most fundamental responsibility of children is to respect their parents. In every religion, culture, and ethical tradition, parents are given a place of great honor. In Islam, obedience and kindness towards parents are repeatedly emphasized in the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Children should speak to their parents politely avoid raising their voices, and never hurt them through harsh words or rude behavior. Respecting parents is not merely a social custom it is a reflection of good upbringing and noble character. Obedience to parents in lawful and reasonable matters is another major responsibility. Parents possess wisdom and life experience and they always desire what is best for their children. Their advice often protects children from making wrong decisions and helps them choose the right path in life. Young people who listen to their parents and value their guidance are more likely to suc-

ceed and remain safe from harmful influences.

Serving parents, especially in their old age, is among the greatest moral obligations of children. Old age is a stage of life when a person becomes physically weak and emotionally sensitive. At this time, parents need care, love, and companionship more than ever before. The same parents who once held their children's hands and taught them how to walk eventually become dependent on those very children. It is then the duty of sons and daughters to care for them, assist them in daily matters, ensure their medical treatment, and keep them emotionally supported. Nothing reflects gratitude more beautifully than serving aging parents with kindness and dignity.

Financial support is also an important duty when parents are in need. If parents face illness, poverty, or economic hardship, children must stand by them. It is deeply unfortunate when elderly parents feel neglected or helpless despite having capable children. Blessed indeed are those children who support their parents financially and emotionally, for the prayers of parents are among the greatest treasures in life.

The moral responsibilities of children are not limited only to parents. They also extend to the entire family. Maintaining love and harmony with brothers and sisters, showing kindness to relatives, respecting elders, and caring for younger family members are all signs of a responsible child. A child who spreads affection and unity within the home becomes a source of happiness for the whole family. Strong family ties are essential for social stability, and children play a central role in preserving them. Another great responsibility of children is to bring honor to their parents through their own character and conduct. Parents feel true pride not merely when their children become wealthy or famous, but when they become honest, educated, disciplined and morally upright individuals. Pursuing education, becoming responsible citizens, respecting laws, helping others, speaking the truth, and practicing integrity are qualities that make parents proud. Society also benefits greatly when young people grow into ethical and productive citizens. In the modern era, children must learn to balance progress with tradition. Science, technology, and modern education are necessary for advancement but abandoning moral values, family culture and spiritual principles can lead to confusion and emptiness. True progress lies in moving forward while remaining connected to one's roots. Children should embrace modern opportunities while also learning from the wisdom and experience of their elders. Today, mobile phones and social media have become deeply integrated into daily life. While these tools offer many benefits they have

also reduced meaningful family interaction. Many young people spend hours online but fail to spend even a few minutes talking to their parents. Parents often do not seek expensive gifts or luxuries; rather, they long for attention, love, and companionship from their children. Sitting beside parents, asking about their well-being, listening to their concerns, and making them smile are simple acts that hold immense value.

Children should also avoid stubbornness, anger, and disrespectful behavior toward parents. Differences of opinion may arise in every household, but disagreements should always remain within the boundaries of respect. Patience, humility, and calm communication solve problems far better than shouting or insulting language. Harsh words spoken in anger can leave wounds that last for years.

Educated children have an additional responsibility to guide their younger siblings. They should encourage them toward good manners, quality education, discipline, and positive habits. Within a family, elder children often become role models, and their behavior greatly influences younger members. Therefore, their conduct should reflect maturity and responsibility.

If children ignore their duties, disrespect their parents, abandon them in loneliness, or deny them their rights, peace disappears from the home. Such families often suffer from conflict, sadness, and emotional pain. On the other hand, the blessings and prayers of parents open doors of success, happiness, and inner peace. Many people achieve greatness not only through hard work but also through the sincere prayers of their parents. In a wider sense, the moral conduct of children determines the future of society itself. Homes that nurture obedient, respectful, and compassionate children contribute to safer neighborhoods, stronger communities, and more responsible nations. A generation that values family bonds and moral responsibility can overcome many social problems such as crime, neglect, selfishness and division.

In conclusion, the moral responsibilities of children are not limited to formal gestures or occasional acts of kindness. They represent a complete way of life rooted in gratitude, respect, compassion, and duty. If every son and daughter understands their obligations toward parents, family, and society, homes will become places of peace and love, and society will flourish with harmony, dignity, and prosperity. Strong families build strong nations, and responsible children are the cornerstone of both.

The author from Shalina Badgam, Kashmir

Muhammad Hussain Wathori The Guardian of Calligraphy



■ NAWAZ KASHMIRI
■ (SHAHNAWAZ NAZIR)

The Valley of Kashmir has always been a cradle of art, elegance, and cultural refinement. In this valley, in the serene and picturesque village of Kanjigund Wathora in Budgam district, Muhammad Hussain Wathori was born on January 1, 1980. His father, Abdul Rahim Bhat, was a dignified and hard-working man. Their home was filled with simplicity, grace, and sincerity. Though resources were limited, the wealth of respect, courage, and appreciation for skill laid the foundation for Muhammad Hussain's artistic sensibilities.

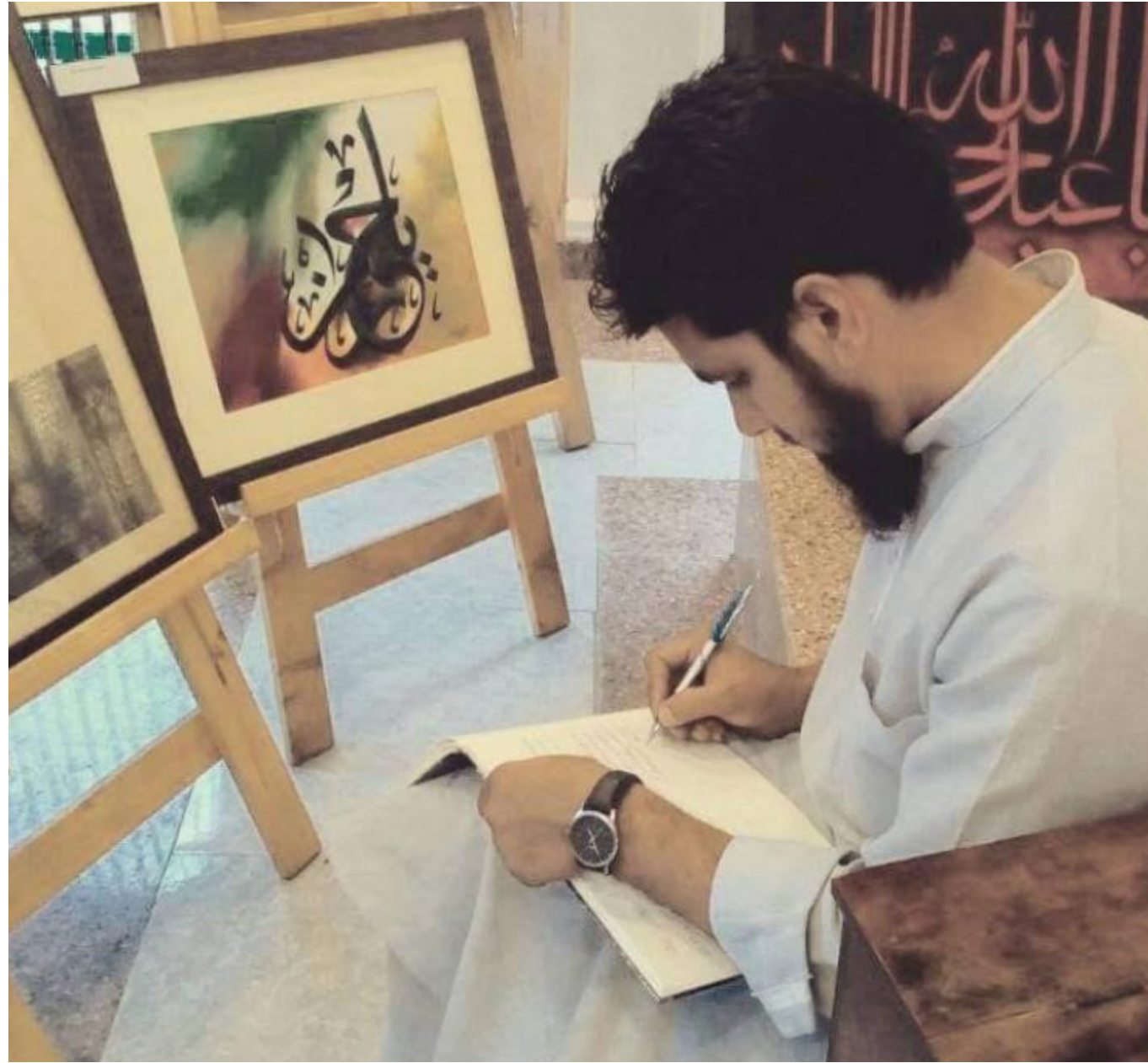
He received his early education at the Government School in Hanjigund Chadoora and later completed his higher secondary education at Nagam Higher Secondary School. From childhood, he displayed an unusual fascination with handwriting and the structure of letters. Whenever he held a pen, even the simplest words would transform into expressions of beauty and meaning.

His true journey into the art of calligraphy began under the guidance of the renowned writer, poet, and master calligrapher Ghulam Mohiuddin Aajiz of Wathora Balpora, who later became his father-in-law. Aajiz was not only a teacher but a guiding light. He would often say:

"Even if this art brings little income, it gives peace to the soul—and peace is the greatest blessing."

This belief became the cornerstone of Muhammad Hussain's artistic journey, a message he continues to pass on to his students.

In 2004, he formally pursued advanced training in calligraphy. Over two years (2004–2006), through dedication and silent perseverance, he



refined his craft and secured the first position across Jammu and Kashmir. This achievement marked a significant milestone, yet he remained humble. For him, the sanctity of art always outweighed recognition.

At a time when calligraphy was considered a declining art, many had abandoned it. But Muhammad Hussain stood firm. During this phase, the late Asadullah Asad of Borwah Chadoora

recognized his potential, encouraged him, and played a crucial role in polishing his talent. His guidance breathed new life into Muhammad Hussain's artistic expression.

Calligraphy, for Muhammad Hussain, is not merely a profession—it is part of his soul. His writing carries flow, clarity, and spiritual depth. His words do not merely settle on paper; they resonate within the heart. As he often says,

"Calligraphy is not just writing—it is the language of the heart."

He has been honored by the Ministry of Culture, the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, and several other institutions. He has been invited to various cultural programs as an expert calligrapher and participated in a training program organized by the Urdu Council of India in Hyderabad.

Beyond calligraphy, Muhammad Hussain is also a respected name in book design and composition. Over the past two decades, he has skillfully designed and composed thousands of books, giving new life to the works of numerous renowned literary figures in Kashmiri, Urdu, and English. Among them are Asadullah Asad, Ali Mohammad Shirazi, Prof. Rahman Rahi, Prof. Shad Ramzan, Sohan Lal Kaul, Kulliyat Janbaz Kishitwari, Wafa Budrawahi, Abdul Ghani Watrehali, Abdul Ghani Parvez, Qayoom Kashmiri, Nisar Dildar, Nawaz Kashmiri, and many other distinguished poets and writers.

He has gracefully balanced tradition and modernity. Whether it is traditional hand calligraphy or digital typography, his command over both is remarkable. Today, he teaches this art to young learners in various institutions and colleges, nurturing a new generation of calligraphers.

For Muhammad Hussain, art is worship, and every letter is like a bead of prayer. He understands that material earnings may be limited, but art endures. This craft will live on—as long as there is a hand to hold a pen and a heart illuminated with light.

Today, Muhammad Hussain Wathori's name stands as a symbol of calligraphy in Kashmir. His students continue to carry forward his legacy across different places. This, perhaps, is his greatest achievement.

He is currently working on a comprehensive curriculum on calligraphy, where he is meticulously documenting his years of experience, skill, and technical insights. This effort is expected to become a valuable resource for students and a significant contribution to the promotion of this art. It is hoped that the book will soon be published and serve as an authentic guide for those devoted to calligraphy.

His journey continues—with every new letter, every new student, every new stroke. He is not only a servant of art but also its guardian.

Indeed, he is an architect of letters in our time.

The author from Zagitpora, Chrar-e-Sharif

Rouff: Where Kashmir Dances in Harmony



■ BHAT AFREEN

Kashmir is famous not only for its natural beauty but also for its rich culture and traditions. One of the most graceful and loved traditions of Kashmir is the folk dance called Rouff. It is simple, elegant, and full of emotions, and it shows the real spirit of Kashmiri life. Rouff is mainly performed by women, especially during happy occasions and festivals like Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha. It is also performed when spring arrives, as this season brings joy and freshness after the long winter in Kashmir. The way Rouff is performed is very unique. Women stand in two rows facing each other and hold hands or place their arms around each other. Then they start moving slowly, stepping forward and backward in a rhythmic way. Their movements are soft and synchronized, which makes the dance look very graceful and peaceful.

One interesting thing about Rouff is that it does not need musical instruments. The women sing traditional songs themselves while dancing. These songs are very meaningful. Some talk about love, some describe the beauty of Kashmir, and others express feelings of happiness, sadness, or devotion. In this way, Rouff is not just a dance but also a way of ex-



pressing emotions. The traditional dress worn during Rouff makes it even more beautiful. Women wear pheran, which is a long traditional dress, often decorated with embroidery. They also wear traditional jewelry, which adds charm to the performance. When many women

dance together in colorful dresses, it creates a very attractive scene. Rouff is also important socially. It brings women together and strengthens their bond. It is a time when they can share happiness, forget worries, and celebrate life together. It also helps in passing traditions from

one generation to another, especially through songs and dance. Even today, Rouff is performed at weddings, cultural programs, and festivals. It represents the identity of Kashmir and reminds people of their roots. However, with modern lifestyles, such traditions are slowly de-

clining, so it is important to preserve and promote them. Rouff is not just a dance but a reflection of Kashmiri culture, emotions, and unity. Its simplicity and beauty make it special, and it continues to hold a strong place in the hearts of the people of Kashmir.

Beat the heat with these Summer friendly foods



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Summer, the hottest time of the year, is already underway, and we can feel the temperature rising. The scorching heat may drain your body and affect how you look and feel.

Staying hydrated is particularly important in sweltering heat and dry hot winds because roughly 50%-70% of our body mass is made up of water. It helps regulate your body temperature, prevent infections, get rid of waste and deliver nutrients to cells. Cells, blood, muscles, tissues, and the brain all rely on water to function properly.

When you lose even 2% of your body mass of water from sweating, you may begin to experience symptoms of dehydration and heat exhaustion, including headaches, fatigue, cramping, low blood pressure, and even confusion or loss of consciousness.

With heatwaves knowing no bounds, it has become quite important to consider how your diet can help you stay healthy, hydrated, and energised.

The food and drink you consume during the summer will play a vital role in helping you get through the heat wave, as even healthy people can succumb to heat-related health issues.

Lots of fruit and vegetables are also great sources of water.

In fact, around a fifth of your daily fluid intake comes from the foods you eat. Proper hydration is essential for

health, but drinking water is not the only way to stay hydrated.

Summer bearings include a lot of green vegetables, melons, peaches, corn, mangoes, and other fresh and fragrant herbs. Local markets are at their best during summer, when fruits are abundant, and vegetables are as fresh as can be.

Are you looking for food to beat the heat this season? Here are a few summer-friendly foods that will help you cool down.

Spinach, 93% water

Spinach is an exceptionally hydrating, nutrient-dense leafy green, made up of around 93% water, so it's good for hydration.

This leafy vegetable is rich in calcium, iron and magnesium. It is a low-calorie food packed with vitamins A, C, and K, iron, and potassium, aiding in hydration, skin health, and blood pressure regulation. Use spinach as the base of a fresh summer salad, sandwiches or add a handful to your smoothies, offering 2.9g of protein per 100g.

Including raw or lightly cooked spinach in your diet helps increase fluid intake, contributing to improved digestion and energy levels.

It contains carotenoids that help boost eye health. It is also good for your bones, heart and immunity.

In India, it grows along the paddy fields, ponds and rivers, and is available around the summer season. It is known as kalmi saag in West Bengal, naari ka saag in Uttar Pradesh, nalichi-bhaji in Marathi and sarkaraivalli in Tamil.

Ridge Gourd

Ridge gourd (turai/luffa), a light and spongy vegetable, is made up of over 90% water content, which helps regulate digestion and hydration.

It is a fibre-rich summer vegetable that cools the body, aids digestion, and is low in calories. It's best enjoyed in

curries, soups, and as a stir-fry

Ridge gourd, which cooks quickly, is one of nature's easiest detox foods. Regular consumption can assist in cleaning the liver, digestion and keeping your body cool from inside – especially during hot and humid weather.

Ridge gourd, the summer-friendly vegetable, has a cooling effect on the body, which can be beneficial in managing heat-related issues.

This vegetable is widely grown in South Asia and is popular for its hydrating qualities.

Ridge gourd is not just naturally hydrating but also very light as a vegetable. The high amount of fibre makes one feel full even after eating a small portion of food, and also at the same time keeps the stomach light throughout the day.

Ridge Gourd can be used in various culinary preparations, including curries, stir-fries, soups, stews, and salads. It can also be juiced or added to smoothies for a nutritious boost.

Locally, it goes by various names like "Turai" in North India, jhinge in West Bengal, beerakaya in Andhra Pradesh, and "Peerkangai" in Tamil Nadu.

Broccoli

Comprised of roughly 91% water, it acts as a food-based hydration source, similar to cucumber or watermelon, that can maintain your energy levels in the scorching heat by keeping your body cool, fresh and energised. It can be steamed, roasted, or added to stir-fries. Add raw broccoli florets to salads and slaws for a crunchy, nutritious boost. Pair it with other fresh vegetables, nuts, and seeds for a delicious and healthy meal. It can be used in salads, creamy soups, or omelettes to keep you hydrated and healthy.

Tender Coconut Water

This is the go-to drink in summer.



The cooling properties, together with its minerals and electrolytes, make coconut water an ideal energy drink provided by Nature.

Coconut water is filled with electrolytes which keep the body hydrated and the skin toned.

The power drink contains vitamins, minerals, calcium, potassium, and magnesium in its natural form to help beat the heat during summer while keeping one hydrated and energetic throughout the day and boosting your digestive capacity. After you drink the water, cut the coconut and eat the soft skin inside. It is tasty and also cooling.

Fruits and Vegetables

So, take a good look at your summer diet. A part of your daily diet must consist of fresh fruits and vegetables, eaten raw, with the skin, as far as possible. Fruit gives you a physical feeling of lightness while also being satisfying. Watermelon, musk melon, pears, papaya, plums, berries, apricots, cherries, mango, and oranges are found abundantly in the summer season. They supply the nutrients that keep our skin and hair healthy and beautiful.

Eat more fresh vegetables, which are light on the stomach and easily digestible. Vegetables should be lightly cooked in summer. The health benefits of replacing a normal meal with a salad are immeasurable. All vegetables are fair game, fruit is welcome, and lean proteins (tuna, hard-boiled eggs, leftover poached chicken) and healthy fats (avocado and nuts) turn it into a meal. They ensure the proper elimination of wastes so that the skin is free from clogged pores and problems like pimples and acne.

Lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, radish, apples, oranges, pineapple, grapefruit, and so on can easily be added to salads. Add nuts and seeds. Lemon juice, mint,

and green coriander to make a low-calorie dressing. Yoghurt is also a wonderful beauty food, while buttermilk and paneer can be included. They supply protein, which is so necessary for healthy hair growth and healthy supportive tissues of the skin, like collagen.

Avoid heavy, spicy, and fried food, especially during summer. Nature provides us with the fruits that are suitable for summer. Melons (Kharbuja), Water Melons (Tarbooz), Cucumber, and "Kakri," are all available during summer. They eliminate toxins from the body and work as an excellent coolant that keeps the skin healthy. They contain more water and help to replenish the water which the body loses through sweating. Instead of having rich desserts, take yoghurt with honey, or fresh fruits. It can be consumed as spicy buttermilk, a sweet lassi, or as cold yoghurt. Rich with Vitamin B and gut-friendly bacteria, curd soothes the body from within. Add flavour to it by mixing it with mangoes, strawberries, and other fruits. These make delicious desserts, too. During summer, you can end your meal with lassi. This is not only cooling but also helps digestion.

Your summer diet should cleanse the body of toxins and wastes. As far as the looks are concerned, this is bound to reflect on the skin and body. The skin will look clearer and fresher, while the hair will look healthy and lustrous. Such foods can help to lose excess weight and maintain a slim figure. Most important of all, it will make you feel better. Beauty is not just a matter of how you look, but also how you feel.

The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the Herbal Queen of India

Papaya Brings Glamour to the Face



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

With the passage of time, the Kashmir Valley is witnessing the availability of high-quality fruits at affordable prices. In the past, only a few varieties of fruits were common—some grown locally, such as apples, pears, and cherries, while others like oranges, bananas, grapes, and melons were imported from other states at higher prices. Thanks to the rapid advancement in cutting-edge technologies, both the horticulture and agriculture sectors are thriving. As a simple rule: more production leads to lower prices, while low production causes prices to rise.

Smart and vigilant individuals take their health seriously, observe any abnormality in their body, and consult doctors when needed. They also maintain a healthy diet, which is essential for well-being.

Why is Diet So Important for Good Health?

Almighty Allah has created human beings and, alongside, everything need-

ed for their survival. Our bodies require a wide variety of foods rich in essential nutrients. Eating the same food every day can lead to nutritional deficiencies and digestive issues.

A human body is composed of around 36 trillion cells—the basic structural and functional units of life. To keep these cells healthy, we need a balanced diet. Different organs in the body—like the skin, eyes, hair, teeth, and stomach—require different nutrients for proper functioning.

No single food item contains all essential nutrients. For example:

Carrots are rich in vitamin A, which supports eye health.

Collard greens are high in fiber and help with digestion.

Fish is loaded with omega-3 fatty acids and supports heart health.

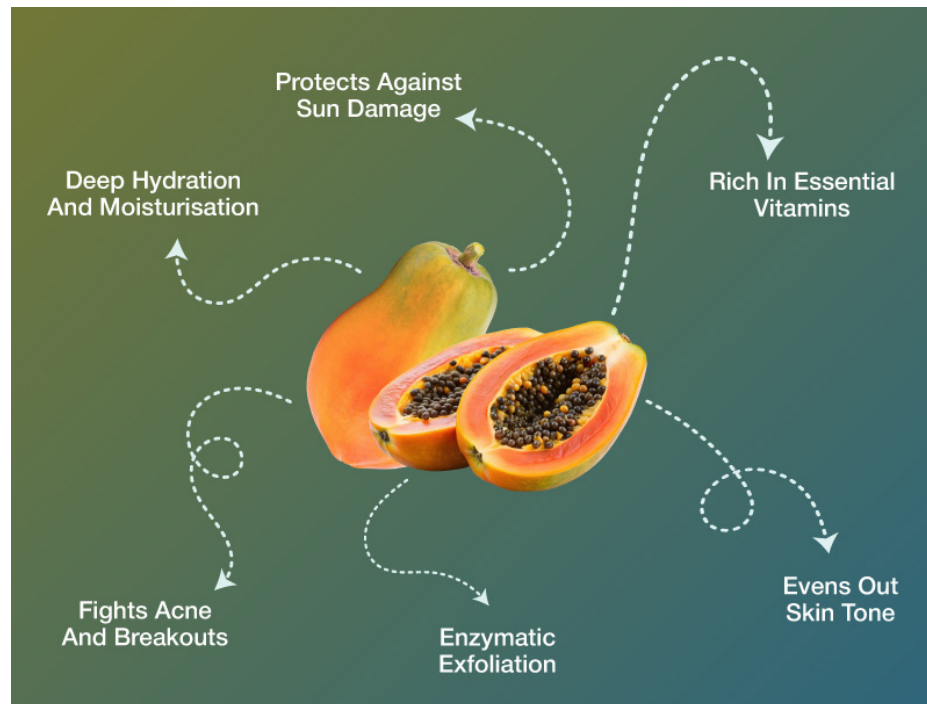
Pulses are rich in protein and support muscle growth.

Water keeps us hydrated and helps with bowel movements.

Let's Talk About Papaya

In recent times, especially after the watermelon controversy in Kashmir, papaya has become a household name. This sweet, tropical fruit is now trending across the Valley and is often sold in poly bags during winter.

Papaya is cultivated in Indian states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat. With increasing awareness of its health



benefits, papaya is becoming more popular than ever.

Top 10 Health Benefits of Papaya

Enhances Skin Health
Papaya is packed with antioxidants like vitamin A and C, which promote collagen production, make the skin radiant, and reduce wrinkles.

Provides Energy

Thanks to its natural sugars and minerals, papaya offers an instant and sustained energy boost—perfect for mornings.

Boosts Immunity

With its high vitamin C content, papaya strengthens the immune system and protects against infections.

Supports Weight Loss

Low in calories and high in fiber, papaya helps you feel full longer, aiding in

healthy weight management.

Improves Mood and Brain Function

Papaya contains folate (vitamin B9), which is vital for brain health and mood regulation. Eating it regularly can enhance cognitive function and emotional well-being.

Protects Eye Health

Rich in beta-carotene and vitamin A, papaya supports good vision and reduces the risk of age-related eye disorders.

Aids Digestion

Papain, an enzyme in papaya, helps break down proteins and promotes smooth digestion.

Reduces Inflammation

Its anti-inflammatory properties help reduce pain and inflammation caused by conditions like arthritis.

Supports Heart Health

Papaya's potassium and fiber content help manage blood pressure and cholesterol, reducing the risk of heart diseases.

Relieves Constipation

High in fiber, papaya promotes regular bowel movements and keeps the digestive system in check.

Papaya truly beneficial, don't just rely on papaya alone include a wide variety of fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables in your diet. Avoid junk food, stay hydrated, and exercise regularly to maintain your health and vitality.

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Expert talks and Guest Lectures under NMBA held at Ganderbal

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAY 06: Under the ongoing "NMBA@100" Days Campaign, a series of inspiring "Expert Talks and Guest Lectures" were organised across educational institutions of District Ganderbal with the noble objective of enlightening young minds about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of moral, mental, and social well-being.

Renowned resource persons, educators, counsellors, health experts, and social activists interacted with students and staff, highlighting that education is not merely the pursuit of academic excellence, but the awakening of conscience, character, and responsibility towards society. The speakers emphasized that the youth are the architects of tomorrow,



and a disciplined mind illuminated with wisdom can never be overshadowed by the darkness of addiction.

The sessions echoed the message that true freedom lies not in harmful temptations, but in purity of thoughts, strength of will, and the courage to choose the righteous path. Students participated enthusiastically and expressed their commitment

towards building a healthy, drug-free, and enlightened society. The programme served as a powerful reminder that schools are sacred centres of transformation where knowledge, values, and humanity together shape the destiny of a nation. Through awareness, counselling, and collective responsibility, the vision of a prosperous and addiction-free society can be achieved.

'Jashan-e-Bahar' Gains Momentum; Push for Outreach in Remote Areas

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, MAY 6: The National Art Workshop "Jashan-e-Bahar," organised by the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust (MSCBMC Trust) in collaboration with 11 Rashtriya Rifles at TRC Chatroo, continued to witness vibrant participation and creative enthusiasm as it entered its third day today.

Students from Government High School Dedpadi, Government Middle School Bandarkoot, and Government Middle School Mughal Maidan actively participated in the workshop, showcasing



their artistic talent through a variety of creative activities. The open-air setting once again provided a unique platform for young minds to express themselves, turning the surroundings into a lively canvas reflecting themes of nature, culture, and harmony.

Renowned artists from across the country, including Shalender Singh (Delhi), Aditya Shankar Prasad (Noida), P. Devaraj (Tamil Nadu), Sharmila Sharma (Delhi), Govind Vishwas (Gujarat), and Apurba Karati (West Bengal), continued to mentor and guide the students, encouraging them to explore new techniques and creative perspectives.

The role of the Army, particularly 11 Rashtriya Rifles, was widely appreciated for their active participation, encouragement, and consistent support in organising such initiatives in remote areas. Their involvement not only boosted the morale of the students but also strengthened the bond between the armed forces and the local community.

President of MSCBMC Trust, Anuradha Rishi, lauded the enthusiasm of the participating students and acknowledged the crucial support of the Army in making the workshop a success. She emphasized that such initiatives are instrumental in nurturing hidden talent among children and providing them with meaningful platforms for creative expression.

She further stressed that more organisations and institutions should come forward to organise similar programmes in remote and far-flung areas like Chatroo, so that the immense talent of local children can be identified, encouraged, and brought to the forefront.

Public Notice

I, formerly known as Syed Shazia Andrabi, do hereby solemnly declare that I have changed my name from Syed Shazia Andrabi to Shazia Andrabi.

Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name Shazia Andrabi for all purposes, including but not limited to legal, official, financial, and personal records. All documents, records, and dealings under my former name shall be deemed to refer to the same person, now known as :-
SHAZIA ANDRABI
W/O SYED FARHAT HUSSAIN

R/O BAHIE, Tehsil KOKERNAG Dist... ANANTNAG

I request all concerned authorities, institutions, and individuals to take note of the above change and update their records accordingly. This name change is effected by way of affidavit duly sworn before the competent authority.

Anybody having any objection should contact the concerned authorities within seven days of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the said time.

SHAZIA ANDRABI
W/O SYED FARHAT HUSSAIN
R/O BAHIE, Tehsil KOKERNAG Dist... ANANTNAG

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of. MOHAMMAD AYOUB BHAT S/O GH AHMAD BHAT R/O PUTHAR RESHIPORA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that KAHTJA BEGUM W/O GHULAM AHMAD BHAT has passed away on 14/01/2026. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... MOHAMMAD AYOUB BHAT Son 38 years Labour married
- 2...HEEMALA BEGUM daughter 55 years Asha worker married
- 3...KULSUMA BEGUM daughter 46 years H/W married
- 4...NASEEMA BEGUM daughter 43 years H/W married

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect. Name shown in Aadhaar: Naureen Jaan, Correct name: Nawreen Jan, Fathers name : Ghulam Mohammad Lone, Address: Batlipora, Tujar Pahilhar Sopore Baramulla Jammu and Kashmir 193201. The above mentioned person (Naureen Jaan) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that her correct and legal name is Nawreen Jan. Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

Public Notice

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

Public Notice

My name in Aadhar Card has been mentioned incorrectly as Safia Begum while as my correct name as per my School documents is Sufaya Habib and now I am applying for correction of name on my Aadhar Card vide Aadhar No. 2312 7671 5636. If any person having any objection he/she may file his objection in Tehsil office Handwara or Aadhar Seva within period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Name : Sufaya Habib
W/o Waseem Fayaz Wani
R/O Badakote Machipora

Public Notice

IT is hereby notified that my daughter's applying Birth certificate in chief executive officer municipal council Baramullah namely Ayesha Shabir DOB 15/11/2017 Aneesa Shabir DOB 13/08/2022 Prantage Shabir Ahmad Dar, R/o Duligund Rafiabab Tehsil Dangiwach District: Baramullah. Bron at GMC Baramullah if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the chief executive officer municipal council Baramullah within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained.

AYESHA SHABIR
DOB 15/11/2017 ANEESA SHABIR
DOB 13/08/2022
S/O, SHABIR AHMAD DAR
R/O DULIGUND RAFIABAD TEHSIL DANGIWACHA
DISTRICT BARAMULLAH

ECONOMIC OFFENCES WING, SRINAGAR CRIME BRANCH KASHMIR

3rd Floor ERA Building, Exhibition Ground, Srinagar-190001, Email: sspcrmkmr@jkpolice.gov.in, Phone/Fax: 0194-2479030.

HUE & CRY NOTICE

Case FIR No. 59/2022 U/S 419, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B RPC is under investigation with Police Station Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir. The individual whose description is given below, is involved in the said case is evading his arrest to scuttle the due process of law.

Case FIR No 32/2023 U/S 419, 420, 465, 467, 468, 471/IPC was registered against him on 10-10-2023 in P/S Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch, Jammu and the final report (un-traced) was submitted before the Honorable Court of Railway Magistrate Jammu on 22-07-2025.

The individual whose photograph and details are reflected in the notice, is involved in the above-mentioned cases and is evading arrest in order to scuttle the due process of law. The general public is requested to keep a sharp lookout, if any person is having any knowledge/information about his whereabouts, he may either be apprehended or detained and inform this investigating agency immediately on phone numbers 01942471836 /9149616270.

The description of the accused is as under:

Particulars of the Person: Mohan Lal Koul, S/o Tara Chand Koul, R/o Baghat lane Mehjoor Nagar Natipora/Chanapora Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir. at present Trikuta Nagar District / Tehsil Jammu.

Aadhar No: NK
Pan No: NK
Election ID No: NK
Date of Birth: NK
Height: 5'7"
Hair: Black
Pin code No: NK



Sd/- Abdul Waheed Shah
Senior Superintendent of Police, Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir

DIPK: 1069/26 | Dated: 06-05-2026

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (MECHANICAL), PW(R&B), CENTRAL KASHMIR

Engineering Complex (PMGSY Building), Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir-190008

DATE EXTENSION-02

Subject: Supply, Installation And Testing And Commissioning, HVAC for staff quarters only for under construction Residential Building for Hon'ble Chief Justice of Jammu And Kashmir At Gupkar, Srinagar, Jammu And Kashmir (Split AC part)

Reference: eNIT No:- R&B/MDCK/NIT/01 of 2026-27. Dated:- 18.04.2026
Due to zero response, the last date of Bid Submission will be 12-05-2026 (16:00 hrs.) & opening of technical bid will be 13-05-2026 (at 12:00 hrs.)

Rest, all other terms and conditions of the said e-NIT (with annexures) shall remain same.

No. XENMC/Sgr/414-16
Dated:- 06.05.2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Mechanical Division
Central Kashmir

DIPK: 1073/26 | Dated: 06-05-2026

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Admission (1st Round)	01 June - 06 June 2026
2nd Merit List	09 June 2026
Admission (2nd Round)	10 June - 15 June 2026
Spot Round	18 June - 25 June 2026

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Rana reviews development works in Shopian, Pulwama districts

Inspects JJM, tribal infrastructure, forest projects

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted an extensive tour of Shopian and Pulwama districts to assess the progress of key developmental initiatives being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Tribal Affairs Department and Forest sector.

During his visit to Shopian, the Minister carried out on-site inspections of several vital projects, particularly those aimed at strengthening the rural drinking water infrastructure under JJM.

He was accompanied by MLA Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Director Tribal Affairs Mohd Mumtaz Ali, Chief Engineer, PHE/I&FC, Showkat Choudhary and other district officers.

At Awneera, Rana inspected the Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Awneera Kralcheck, being implemented by the PHE Division Shopian. The project, completed at a cost of Rs. 671.38 lakh, provides 100 percent Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to 535 households across Awneera and Kralcheck villages.

The officials informed the Minister that the scheme draws water from Sonmann Nallah and includes a 2.00 lakh gallon Pre-Settling Tank, a 0.15 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant, a 0.35 lakh



gallon Ground Service Reservoir and an extensive 28-kilometre distribution network.

Reviewing the project, the Minister noted its significant impact on improving the access to safe drinking water, particularly for women. He directed the officials to ensure regular monitoring, proper maintenance, uninterrupted supply and strict adherence to quality standards, along with prompt grievance redressal and sustainable water management

practices. The Minister also visited the Government Girls Tribal Hostel at Zainapora, where a 100-bed facility is under construction under the Samagra scheme. He instructed the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work while maintaining quality benchmarks.

Interacting with the members of tribal community, he reiterated the government's commitment to their socio-economic upliftment and edu-

cational empowerment. He assured that essential facilities, including tents, solar lighting and other amenities, would be provided to support their welfare.

At Padpawan in Shopian, the Minister reviewed the ongoing works under the Nagar Van Scheme. The park, sanctioned for 2024-25 over 14 hectares at an estimated cost of Rs. 56 lakh, has already seen significant financial progress, with Rs. 35.98 lakh expended so far.

Emphasising the importance of eco-tourism and green spaces, the Minister highlighted that such projects play a crucial role in environmental conservation, tourism promotion and public well-being.

Commending the Forest Department and executing agencies, he directed the timely completion of the remaining works with transparency and quality assurance, saying that such initiatives strengthen ecological balance and encourage community participation.

Earlier, the Minister visited the residence of legislator Showkat Hussain Ganai at Chitragram to offer condolences on the demise of his mother. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family.

Later, in Pulwama district, the Minister inspected the Auhatoora Water Supply Scheme along the Pinglina-Pathan road. He reviewed the pace and quality of works and instructed the officials to expedite the execution while strictly adhering to timelines and technical standards.

He also visited the Forest Development Corporation (FDC) Depot at Kakapora, where he assessed its functioning and issued directions to enhance the operational efficiency, streamline management practices and ensure optimal utilisation of resources.

GDC Basohli, Police Department organise awareness rally under NMBA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BASOHLI, MAY 06: In continuation to the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, Government Degree College Basohli, in collaboration with the Police Department, today organised Unity March to generate awareness about the ill effects of drugs, particularly among the youth.

The event was organised under the patronage of the Principal Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma. The event started with the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan pledge. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to stay away from drugs and to promote a healthy



lifestyle.

Later, the College Principal flagged off the rally from the college premises. Drawing significant public attention, the rally passed through the main Plahi area to Diara, culminating back on the college campus. SDPO Om Parkash Lalhal, along with his team members also joined the students.

Carrying banners and raising slogans "Say No to Drugs & Yes to Life", "Nasha Chodo, Jeevan se Nata Jodo", "Nashe ko Bhagana hai, Desh ko Bachana Hai", the participants actively engaged with the local community across the Plahi area, encouraging collective responsibility in combating substance abuse.

The Principal appreciated the active involvement of police, students and local participants. She highlighted the importance of continuous efforts through education, awareness and community participation to eliminate the menace of drug abuse. However, substance abuse poses a serious threat to this demographic dividend. Therefore, such awareness initiatives are vital steps towards achieving the vision of a drug-free India.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment towards building a drug-free society and ensuring the success of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. About 100 students have participated in the rally.

3-day training for Field Trainers concludes at Doda

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, MAY 06: The three-day training programme for Field Trainers under Census 2027 concluded today at the VC Hall, DC Office Complex Doda.

The initiative marked the first phase of capacity building aimed at preparing over 500 Field Trainers for the upcoming House Listing and Housing Census, ensuring systematic, uniform and efficient data collection across the district.

The training programme was conducted under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal, who is also the Principal Census Officer. It was supervised by ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, District Census Officer and ACR Ashraf Pervez, Nodal Officer Census.

Today's concluding session was chaired by ACR Ashraf Pervez, who reviewed the overall progress



and highlighted the critical role of field trainers in ensuring the credibility of census data.

District Statistics and Evaluation Officer (Additional District Census Officer) along with District Coordinator from Directorate of Census Operations (DCO), ensured smooth coordination throughout the programme.

Master Trainers Dr. Akhter Hussain and Ramesh Kumar imparted detailed training to the trainees on enumeration procedures, household listing formats, use of digital tools and adherence to census guidelines to maintain accuracy and consistency in data collection.

The training also covered key aspects such as confidentiality of data, effective field communication, handling of challenging terrain and remote areas, real-time error checking and the importance of inclusive data capturing covering all sections of society.

Emphasis was laid on transparency, accountability and timely submission of data, which are vital for evidence-based policy formulation, resource allocation and developmental planning. The programme is expected to significantly strengthen grassroots-level data systems and contribute to the successful and credible conduct of Census 2027.

DDC Doda chairs Block Diwas at Dradhu

Reviews public grievances; Leads Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Pledge

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, MAY 06: District Administration Doda today organized a Public Outreach Programme (Block Diwas) at Panchayat Ghar Dradhu, Block Bhaiderwah. The programme was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Krishan Lal.

The event commenced with a rally and a joint pledge ceremony under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, administered by the DDC. A large number of public representatives, including ex-Sarpanchs and former PRI members, participated and projected various issues, demands and grievances before the District Development Commissioner.

Senior officers present on the occasion included ADC Sunil Kumar Bhutyal; CPO Manish Kumar; ACD Din Mohd Afaq; PO ICDS Akhtar Hussain Qazi; DFO Davender Kumar; Joint Director Education Ashfaq Khanji; CMO Dr. Tanveer Ahmed; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Irfan Ali Wani; Tehsildar Kamal Preet Singh; besides other district and sectoral officers.

During the interaction, public representatives and residents raised a wide range of issues,

including the unavailability of a Principal and shortage of lecturers at GHSS Dradhu, requirement of electricity poles and wires in various panchayats, staff shortage under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). They demanded bridge connectivity between Dradhu and Dranga.

The public also demanded construction of a steel bridge over Dradhu Nallah, passenger sheds and opening of a J&K Bank branch along with an ATM facility in the area.

Other major demands included establishment of Animal and Sheep Husbandry Centre at Gutasa, adequate staff in primary schools and Anganwadi Centres, upgrading of the Gutasa road with filling of potholes and installation of crash barriers and construction of a road from Prenka to Gutasa.

Residents also sought upgradation of UPS Middle School, establishment of an Anganwadi Centre in Gutasa, installation of transformers and electricity infrastructure, water filtration plant, sanitation of water tanks and improved road connectivity in Niyita Panchayat.

Other demands included establishment of a health centre, setting up of a Pipe Damage and



Repair Store in the subdivision, construction of a bridge over local nallah at Niyita village and provision of road and irrigation facilities in Lamhote hamlet. An additional Anganwadi Centre was also demanded for Tipri village.

Responding to the issues, the DDC directed J&K Bank authorities to examine the feasibility

of providing an ATM/Khidmat Centre in the area. He informed that installation of crash barriers have been proposed under PMGSY and directed the concerned department to conduct a survey and take necessary action. The Sheep Husbandry Department was instructed to establish a seasonal centre in Gutasa.

The DDC listened patiently to all grievances and assured redressal of the same in a time-bound and transparent manner. He issued several on-the-spot directions to concerned departments for prompt action.

Highlighting the importance of a drug-free society, the DDC emphasized that the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan is a collective responsibility. He urged citizens to actively participate in safeguarding the youth from substance abuse and informed that Panchayat-level committees have been constituted to strengthen the campaign at the grassroots level.

Meanwhile, the line departments set up awareness stalls showcasing government schemes and services for public benefit. Participating departments included Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Industries & Commerce, KVIB, Handicrafts & Handloom, SBDU under Mission YUVA, Social Welfare Department and J&K Bank.

Later, the DDC inspected Khidmat Centre Ghar at Dradhu and interacted with the staff. He also further participated in a plantation drive organized by the Forest Department at Dradhu.

Dragon fruit cultivation gets impetus in Samba villages

DHC conducts field visit to assess plantation progress

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA, MAY 06: The cultivation of Dragon fruit is gaining impetus in Samba district, thanks to the support services being provided to the farmers under the Government Schemes.

The observations were made by a team of officers led by Director Horticulture Jammu (DHC) Gul Sayed during their visit to villages of Salmeri and Dhamore in Vijaypur Zone.

The Director, along with District Level Subject Matter Specialist Samba Raivati Raman Sharma and HDODr. Manmohan Lal, visited the area and inspected dragon fruit orchards established by

the farmers by availing support services being provided by the government under different schemes. During the visit, the Director interacted with the farmers and reviewed the progress of ongoing activities in the 6 Kanal Dragon Fruit Orchard of Neelum Gupta at Village Salmeri being developed under HADP scheme. The Team also inspected the 4.5 Kanal Dragon Fruit farm of Ranjit Singh at Village Dhamore - developed by the farmer by availing the benefits of Revised Modified High Density Plantation Scheme.

Interacting with the farmers, the Director encouraged them to utilize departmental support, including technical guidance, subsidies.

DYSSO Poonch hosts Inter-School Zonal Competitions in Mandi, Balakote

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, MAY 06: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS), Poonch, continues its efforts to promote sports, youth engagement and social awareness, by organizing Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions across the district.

On the third day of competitions at Mandi Zone, held at the BSF Ground Rajpura, a vibrant and energetic sporting atmosphere was witnessed.

The event, organized as part of the department's annual activity calendar, aims to nurture young talent and strengthen grassroots-level sports development.

Students participated enthusiastically

in Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Badminton, Chess, Yoga and Athletics.

In addition, intramural activities were held across different zones with participation from boys and girls, reflecting inclusivity and widespread involvement in sports activities throughout the district.

At the Balakote Zone, the first day of Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions for Under-14 boys and girls witnessed an impressive participation of students.

A major highlight of the day was the mass awareness rally held under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. The rally aimed to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among youth and the general public.

South India emerges as hub for ultra-luxury housing; Hyderabad takes the lead

Services activity expands rapidly in April, PMI rises to 58.8

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 6 : South India's housing market is emerging as a hub for the ultra-luxury segment, moving beyond its traditional mid-income demand.

Three southern cities, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai-recorded 811 ultra-luxury home sales (priced at Rs 10 crore and above) worth a combined Rs 11,246 crore in FY26, according to a joint report by India Sotheby's International Realty and CRE Matrix.

In the region, Hyderabad has emerged as the clear leader in South India's ultra-luxury segment, with 625 units sold, totaling Rs 8,562 crore-constituting 77% of the total ultra-luxury sales across the three cities.

A Tale of Three Cities: Scale, Velocity, and Prestige Hyderabad's



luxury segment has seen a structural transformation, growing 3.5x from Rs 2,447 crore to Rs 8,562 crore in just four years. A defining

feature of the Hyderabad market is the scale of its product; nearly 57% of sales are for apartments larger than 8,000 sq. ft., with vil-

las and row houses accounting for 40% of the FY'26 total value.

According to the report, at Rs 10 crore, buyers can get 6,210 sq ft in Hyderabad as compared to 3,930 sq ft in Bengaluru, and 4,290 sq ft in Chennai.

Hyderabad offers significantly larger homes at similar price points, making it highly attractive for luxury buyers.

Bengaluru recorded 128 units sold at value of Rs 1,957 crore. While volumes are lower than Hyderabad, the city stands out for rising demand for premium living, strongtech-driven wealth creation, and rapid transformation of new micro-markets.

Chennai recorded 58 units sold at the value of Rs 727 crore. Chennai's luxury market remains more conservative, rooted in legacy ownership, and slower to scale compared to peers.UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 6 : The services sector in India has expanded at a rapid pace in the first five months of the fiscal year, supported by stronger domestic demand, higher e-commerce activity, and improved new order inflows, according to the HSBC India Services PMI.

The seasonally adjusted index rose to 58.8 in April, after touching a 14-month low of 57.5 in March. The spike in the HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index signaled a faster expansion in private sector output, as both manufacturing and services activity regained momentum.

The survey highlighted that the growth was driven by stronger domestic demand, new orders, competitive pricing, and increased e-commerce activity, even as export growth weakened and cost pressures remained elevated due to the West Asia war. Services firms reported a sharp increase in operating expenses in April. Although input cost inflation eased from March, it remained among the highest levels recorded since November 2024.

Higher prices for food items, includ-

ing cooking oil, eggs, gas shortages, meat and vegetables along with increases in gas and labour costs, drove overall expenses, the report added.

Services firms remained optimistic about future activity, overall business confidence weakened compared with March, it added. Employment rose across all four broad areas of the services economy tracked by the survey. Stronger growth in new business supported an increase in hiring at the start of the first fiscal quarter. The private sector manufacturing activity growth recovered in April as HSBC's India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, which measures monthly change in manufacturing output, rose to 54.7 in April, up from 53.9 in March. The growth was riding on the back of sharper export growth, after plummeting to a four-year low in March due to West Asia-linked disruption.

A weighted average of new orders, output, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases indices was lower than the Flash India Manufacturing PMI of 55.9, released last month.

AP: Carrier global lays foundation for Rs 1,000 cr chiller manufacturing facility at sri city

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SRI CITY (TIRUPATI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH), MAY 6 : Carrier Global performed the groundbreaking for its advanced chiller manufacturing facility at Sri City on Wednesday.

Andhra Pradesh Minister for IT Nara Lokesh laid the foundation for the proposed facility involves an investment of around Rs. 1,000 crore and is expected to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's growing digital infrastructure manufacturing ecosystem. Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh said Carrier's entry into Andhra Pradesh would further strengthen the ecosystem by bringing advanced cooling technologies essential for next-generation data centres, AI infrastructure and high-performance computing facilities.

He said the state government was focusing on creating a complete value chain for digital infrastructure, including cooling and thermal management systems, power and energy management solutions, precision engineering components, electronics and control systems.

The Minister said the Carrier facility marked a defining moment in the state's efforts to build a full-stack data infrastructure ecosystem covering energy, data centres and component manufacturing.

Lokesh said industrial ecosystems such as Sri City, coupled with supportive government policies and rapid industrial expansion, were helping Andhra Pradesh emerge as a global hub for next-generation manufacturing and digital infrastructure.

He expressed confidence that the Carrier project would attract further investments, deepen global partnerships and accelerate Andhra Pradesh's emergence as India's data centre capital and a key manufacturing backbone for the digital economy.

Stating that the investment reflected Andhra Pradesh's strategic shift from merely hosting data centres to manufacturing the critical components powering the digital economy, Lokesh said the state was positioning itself strongly in the global digital infrastructure value chain.

Sri City has emerged as a major HVAC and electronics manufacturing hub with investments worth Rs. 12,000 crore in cooling and air-conditioner manufacturing, generating around 25,000 direct jobs.

The supplier ecosystem in the region has attracted investments worth Rs. 4,600 crore and is projected to contribute nearly 60 per cent of India's AC production by 2027.UNI

BASF's Global Service Hub operations to commence in Hyderabad in Q2 FY26

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, MAY 6 : BASF, the global chemicals major, will establish a Global Service Hub for its Global Business Services (GBS) division in Hyderabad, with operations scheduled to commence in the second quarter of the current fiscal.

The company submitted a Letter of Intent (LoI) to Telangana IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Tuesday.

The announcement was made in the presence of senior leadership, including Tobias Dratt, President, Global Business Services at BASF; Alexander Gerding, Managing Director, BASF India Limited and Head of BASF Group Companies in India; Michael Hasper, Consul General, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chennai, India.

The hub, to operate under BASF Global Business Services Private Limited, will support

global operations across key functions such as finance, human resources, supply chain, regulatory services, and in-house consulting.

Hyderabad was selected after a competitive global evaluation, with BASF citing the city's strong talent pool, supportive policy ecosystem, and mature enterprise infrastructure as key advantages.

Earlier this year, the company had also announced a Global Digital Hub in the city, marking continued investment in Telangana.

Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad has emerged as one of India's fastest-growing Global Capability Centre (GCC) hubs, adding over 75 GCCs in the past year.

He noted that the state is targeting over 100 new GCCs and more than one lakh jobs this year.

He also highlighted initiatives such as AIKAM, the Young India



Skills University, a proposed 200-acre AI City, a Quantum Hub, and 1BioLab to position the state as a leading innovation and engineering destination.

Tobias Dratt said the new hub will lay a strong foundation for BASF's future Global Business Services operations, adding that

Hyderabad offers the right ecosystem and talent base for scalable, high-quality services worldwide.

Alexander Gerding described the development as a significant milestone in BASF's long-standing presence in India, noting that it aligns with the company's

"Winning Ways" strategy and strengthens its global capabilities. He added that co-locating Global Business Services and Global Digital Services in Hyderabad will enhance collaboration and reinforce the city's strategic importance within BASF's global network.

The Hyderabad hub will complement BASF's existing global service centres in Berlin (Germany), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Montevideo (Uruguay).

Currently, around 2,900 employees work in finance services and 1,500 in HR services within BASF's Global Business Services division.

As of the end of 2025, BASF had 2,455 employees in India with 8 production sites and 45 offices throughout the country.

The Innovation campus Mumbai and the Coatings Technical Center in mangalore are both part of BASF's Global Technology platform.UNI

ITP Aero Breaks Ground on New Hyderabad Facility, Creating 350 Jobs by 2027

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, MAY 6 : ITP Aero on Tuesday announced it has broken ground on a new aerospace manufacturing facility in Hyderabad, expanding its footprint in India and reinforcing a 15-year presence in the region.

The site is expected to be fully operational in 2027 and will create more than 350 skilled jobs over the next five years, the company said in a release.

The new plant will produce commercial aviation engine components, including fabricated and machined parts, to meet growing global demand in the civil aerospace sector.

The expansion marks the next phase of the company's growth in India, strengthening its role in international supply chains.

Telangana IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu said "With this investment, we are building on a trusted partnership and a strong industrial base."

"The facility will boost skilled employment and further develop our aerospace manufacturing ecosystem," he added

Carlos Alzola, Managing Director of ITP Aero Group, said the expansion reflects confidence in the region's capabilities. "Hyderabad has been central to our industrial journey. This milestone underscores our long-term commitment to supporting the growth of commercial aviation worldwide."

The company recently appointed Sandeep Sharma as Managing Director, India. He said the new facility would deepen engagement with local suppliers while enhanc-

ing manufacturing capacity. "Hyderabad offers a strong combination of talent, infrastructure and collaboration, enabling us to scale with confidence," he said.

ITP Aero currently employs around 250 people in its Hyderabad manufacturing operations.

The additional jobs are expected to contribute significantly to regional economic development and advanced manufacturing capabilities.

The announcement comes amid strong financial performance for the company.

In 2025, ITP Aero reported revenues of €1.88 billion, up 17%, and EBITDA of €379 million, up 28%. The company plans to invest €1.2 billion in research, development and capital expenditure across its global operations by 2030.UNI

CCEA clears Rs 1,570 Cr Ship Repair Hub at Vadinar to boost maritime capacity

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 6 : The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs today approved the development of a state-of-the-art ship repair facility at Vadinar in Gujarat, a move aimed at expanding India's maritime infrastructure and reducing dependence on foreign shipyards, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said after the meeting.

Briefing reporters here, Vaishnaw said the project will be implemented jointly by the Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited with a combined investment of Rs 1,570 crore. "This facility will significantly strengthen India's ship repair ecosystem and improve the competitiveness of our



ports," he said.

Planned as a brownfield development, the Vadinar facility will include a 650-metre jetty, two large floating dry docks, workshops, and associated mar-

ine infrastructure.

A government statement further said Vadinar's natural deep draft, connectivity to major global shipping routes, and proximity to key ports such as

Mundra Port and Kandla Port make it a strategic location, particularly for servicing large commercial and foreign-flagged vessels.

According to the statement the project will help bridge a critical gap in India's ship repair capacity, as the country currently lacks sufficient facilities to handle vessels exceeding 230 metres in length. The new facility will be capable of repairing ships up to 300 metres, enabling high-value repair work to be carried out domestically and reducing foreign exchange outflows. The statement further added that improved repair capabilities and faster turnaround times on the western coast are expected to enhance the efficiency and attractiveness of Indian ports. The project is also

expected to generate employment, with estimates of around 290 direct jobs and nearly 1,100 indirect jobs across ship repair, logistics, and ancillary industries.

Beyond infrastructure, the initiative is expected to spur skill development and support the growth of maritime ancillary services and MSMEs in the region, contributing to broader economic activity.

The project aligns with the government's long-term maritime strategies, including Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, which aim to position India as a global maritime hub. Officials said the Vadinar facility will play a key role in strengthening the country's maritime ecosystem while supporting regional economic growth.UNI

DFS clears viability plan 2.0 to improve financial health and competitiveness of RRBs

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 6 : Department of Financial Services (DFS) approved a revised viability plan 2.0 for the next three years from 2025-26 to 2027-28 aimed to enhance financial sustainability and long-term competitiveness of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), said a Finance Ministry statement here on Tuesday.

Earlier, DFS introduced this type of plan covering FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25 to institutionalise performance monitoring and strengthen governance



reforms in RRBs.

In Viability Plan 2.0, there's a defined set of thirty performance parameters centered around four pillars : (i) Operational excellence, (ii) Asset quality, (iii) Profitability, and (iv) Growth. "The key critical metrics across these four pillars include CRAR, credit-deposit ratio, digital adoption, NPA levels, recovery performance, profitability ratios and performance in implementation of Government of India schemes," the statement said.

This plan offers a balanced and comprehensive framework to monitor the health of RRBs. It will foster financial stability across and improve operational efficiency across all twenty-eight RRBs.

This strategy will also ensure the alignment of RRBs with national priorities or rural credit expansion, digital inclusion and financial outreach.UNI



Finch: Samson batting on a different level after quiet start

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: After Chennai Super Kings (CSK) traded Sanju Samson in at the cost of Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran, the wicketkeeper-batter started IPL 2026 with three single-digit scores, all of which were part of losses for his new franchise.

Samson has turned things around so much that he has three fifty-plus scores in seven innings since, including a match-winning 87 not out off 52 balls against Delhi Capitals (DC) on a tricky pitch on Tuesday.

Aaron Finch is impressed with how Samson has dealt with pressure and settled into his new team. "He missed out the first couple of games, didn't he? All of a sudden there was a massive panic that what has CSK done," Finch said. "They've got Sanju Samson and he's not performing. Two games in T20 is nothing. To

go right through a season ultra-consistent is so difficult. You probably can't underestimate the pressure on somebody going into a team like CSK. Being a huge marquee signing particularly when you have traded someone like Jadeja out of the side as well.

"Although he [Samson] had a dream run at the end of the [T20] World Cup and then he's come in [at CSK] and missed out a couple of times, there will still be some pride and pressure and almost some feeling that you can tend to overplay it slightly in your own head that you want to get to a new franchise and really lay down a marker and say 'I'm here'.

"This is what you're traded for and the superstar that you've been crying out for. So, the fact that he's batting on a different level is great to see."

After winning the Player-of-

the-Tournament award at the T20 World Cup, which India defended successfully at home, Samson has been at the forefront of CSK's success with the bat this IPL. He currently has 402 runs in ten innings at an average of 57.42 and strike rate of 167.50.

Even at his previous franchise, Rajasthan Royals (RR), Samson usually started well with the bat, but couldn't maintain his consistency through the season. Deep Dasgupta marvelled at the new version of Samson.

"This is the version of Sanju Samson we've been wanting to see for quite a few years now," Dasgupta said. "So, every season you see couple of those innings and go 'wow, what a player!' but then it would only end up being those couple of innings. But now, starting from the World Cup, he's been so consistent and [in] this season, well, this is the only fifty he's got.

India gear up for stern test against Japan in AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SUZHOU (CHINA): India face a stern test against powerhouse Japan as they look to bounce back from their opening game defeat and revive their campaign in the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2026 here on Tuesday.

The Young Tigresses lost their opening Group B match to Australia 0-2 and find themselves in a situation where every goal will matter after Japan crushed Lebanon 13-0 to garner three points.

Japan, among the most technically refined sides in women's football, bring formidable pedigree into the clash, having reached the final in seven of the nine editions of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup and lifting the title four times.

The Asian giants also underlined their global dominance by clinching the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup crown in 2014.

Though Japan will start as overwhelming favourites, the Young Tigresses remain undaunted, with head coach Pamela Conti asserting that her players will take the field with a clear and focused mindset. "We've just finished training, and we are quite excited because we are going to play against one of the strongest teams in the world.

"Me, as a coach, and the players as well, believe that we need to play a perfect match if we want to win. But beyond that, just being there, experiencing it, and enjoying the game is also important. I will definitely enjoy it," said Conti.

India have prepared diligently for the tournament with more than three months of rigorous training, including exposure trips to Myanmar and Russia. The challenges posed by teams like Russia and Australia have provided valuable lessons, with the focus now shifting to countering Japan's pace and technical precision.

"The message to the players has been clear throughout training. We cannot just defend. If we let them have the ball without pressure, it will be very easy for them to find spaces and create one-on-one situations," Conti said. "We need to stay strong. We know their strengths. They (Japan) will try to push us back as much as possible. But we need to stay higher up the pitch so that we can show that we are there, and not make it easy for them," added Conti. For India, the emphasis is also on building a long-term competitive mentality, regardless of the opposition.

"Our mentality should never change. Whether you play against the best team or the lowest-ranked team, it's always about three points. It's important to build a winning mentality, and you develop that by playing these kinds of demanding matches," said Conti. "It's also important for the players to be able to say in the future, 'I played against Japan back then.' That experience matters," the Italian tactician added. Right-back Divyani Linda emphasised the need for a clear execution-focused mindset following the game against Australia.

"The feeling is good. We are excited because it's our first time playing against a team like Japan. They are a tough side, but we believe we can do well too," said the 17-year-old who has four goals and four assists in her youth international career for India.

Hardik Pandya misses MI's clash against LSG due to back spasm, Rohit returns

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI: An out of form Mumbai Indians' captain Hardik Pandya on Monday missed his team's must-win Indian Premier League match because of a back spasm while Rohit Sharma returned after an injury layoff.

India T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav came out for the toss and informed that he was "going into the shoes" of an unwell Pandya.

A team statement said, "Hardik Pandya is unwell with back spasm, hence Suryakumar Yadav is captain for today's game."

Pandya has had a forgettable IPL 2026 as captain and player, as Mumbai Indians are on the brink of elimination after finishing fourth in the group stage last year. Mumbai have

two wins and seven defeats from their nine matches so far. Pandya has scored 186 runs and taken four wickets in this IPL so far.

An indisposed Pandya had earlier missed an away game against Delhi Capitals with Suryakumar leading the side.

Meanwhile, Rohit was listed in the team sheet among the five impact sub players. Rohit is returning to the team for the first time since April 12 when he had suffered a hamstring injury during MI's contest against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

No Dhoni yet, Gaikwad's return to form a big boost

Ahead of their 10th game of the season, CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan confirmed to PTI that M S Dhoni has not yet regained full fitness, ruling him



out of the game at Kotla.

Like DC, CSK too are walking on a tightrope and if they slip on Tuesday night, it would ensure another premature exit from the tournament, having finished at

the bottom last season.

The lack of runs from skipper Rituraj Gaikwad's bat cost them dearly in the first half of the season with Sanju Samson alone carrying the burden in a rather

young looking batting line up.

But the captain has found a way to get back amongst the runs and goes into the DC game at the back of consecutive half-centuries.

Urvil Patel batting at number three ahead of Sarfaraz Khan after injured Aayush Mhatre's pullout has been debated.

A 12-ball 14 in the win over Mumbai Indians would do wonders for Patel's confidence. Same goes for Kartik Sharma, who struck his maiden IPL fifty on Saturday night.

Two of CSK's four wins have come against a struggling Mumbai Indians while one was against DC at the Chepauk. Gaikwad and Co. would carry the confidence of that performance in the return leg.

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