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OPERATION SINDOOR ANNIVERSARY:

India's Firm Response Against Terror Reflected in Operation Sindoor: PM Modi

Prime Minister Says Nation Remains Resolute to Eliminate Terrorism, Hails Armed Forces' Courage and Coordination

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that Operation Sindoor stands as a clear reflection of India's firm response to terrorism and its unwavering commitment to safeguarding national security.

Marking the first anniversary of the operation, the Prime Minister that India remains steadfast in its resolve to defeat terrorism and dis-

mantle the networks that support it. He noted that the Indian armed forces displayed exceptional courage, precision and determination during the military offensive conducted in May last year.

Recalling the circumstances that led to the operation, Modi said the forces delivered a decisive response to those responsible for the attack on civilians in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025, which claimed 26 lives, most of them tourists. He said the entire



nation salutes the armed forces for their valour and dedication.

In a message posted on X, the Prime Minister highlighted that Operation Sindoor demonstrated the professionalism, preparedness and coordinated strength of India's defence forces. He also pointed to the increasing synergy among various security agencies as a key factor behind the mission's success.

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Operation Sindoor a Defining Testament to India's Unwavering Resolve Against Terrorism: President

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



NEW DELHI, MAY 7: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said that Operation Sindoor stands as a defining testament to India's unwavering resolve against terrorism, asserting that the country remains vigilant, united, and

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Operation Sindoor Sets Benchmark for Modern Warfare: Rajnath Singh

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



NEW DELHI, MAY 7: Marking the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday described the mission as a benchmark for modern warfare, citing its exceptional precision and seamless coordination among the armed forces.

In a message issued on the occasion, Singh

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"Shelling Did Not Spare Religious Places": Prayers Mark Anniversary of Poonch Tragedy

HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH/JAMMU, MAY 7: Special prayers were held at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha on Thursday to commemorate those killed in cross-border shelling that followed Operation Sindoor, with locals recalling the scale of destruction and loss suffered by civilians.

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LG Sinha hails valour of armed forces

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 7: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has hailed the valour and sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces on the anniversary of Operation Sindoor.

In a statement, the Lieutenant Governor has said:

"As we mark the anniversary of Operation Sindoor, we bow in reverence to the men and women in uniform whose unwavering resolve and ex-



traordinary courage, delivered a fitting response to the en-

emy who targeted innocent civilians at Pahalgam.

Operation Sindoor is a declaration etched in resolve that our brave armed forces are committed to protect country's sovereignty and integrity at any cost. It is testament of India's firm resolve and we are committed to dismantling the terror network and securing a terror-free J&K".

'Response to Terror Will Be Delivered at the Enemy's Doorstep': Yogi Adityanath

HT NEWS DESK

LUCKNOW, MAY 7: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday underscored India's hardening stance against terrorism, declaring that responses to terror attacks will now be delivered "at the enemy's doorstep," as the nation marked the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor.

In a symbolic move, Adityanath updated his social media display picture with the Operation Sindoor emblem and featured the BrahMos



missile in his cover photo. The gesture, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was widely interpreted as a signal of India's increasingly assertive counter-terrorism policy.

The anniversary commemorates the events of May 7, 2025, when Indian armed forces carried out coordinated strikes on nine terrorist hideouts in Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack. The operation, conducted jointly by the Army, Air Force and

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No Terror Sanctuary Is Safe, Says Indian Military In Stark Warning To Pak On Op Sindoor Anniversary

HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

JAIPUR, MAY 7: No terror sanctuary across the frontier is safe, and India will continue to dismantle terrorist infrastructure under the "new normal" enunciated following the Pahalgam attacks, the Indian military said on Thursday in a clear

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"Operation Sindoor Will Always Remind Enemies of India's Infallible Striking Power": Amit Shah

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



NEW DELHI, MAY 7: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday described Operation Sindoor as a defining moment in India's fight against terrorism, stating that it will continue to serve as a powerful reminder to adversaries

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Indian forces call out Pakistan nuclear bluff at all: Army

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAY 07: Senior military officials on Thursday said 'Operation Sindoor' marked a decisive shift in India's counter-terror doctrine, asserting that the tri-services action not only destroyed terror infrastructure across the border but also neutralised Pakistan's nuclear brinkmanship and exposed its military vulnerabilities.

Marking the first anniversary of the operation, top commanders from the Indian Navy, Army and Air Force, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) detailed the scale, coordination and outcomes

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Timely Execution of Budget Commitments Key to Equitable Development: Omar Abdullah

Chief Minister orders faster implementation, strict monitoring of welfare initiatives across J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 7: Omar Abdullah on Wednesday directed all departments to ensure timely execution of Budget commitments, stating that consistent follow-up and strict adherence to timelines are essential for achieving equitable development across Jammu and



Kashmir.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, the Chief Minister assessed the progress of Budget announcements for the 2026-27 financial year during the second round of departmental reviews aimed at accelerating implementation of key initiatives.

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"Indus Waters Treaty Stands in Abeyance Over Cross-Border Terrorism": MEA

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 7: India on Thursday reiterated that the Indus Waters Treaty remains suspended, citing Pakistan's continued support for cross-border terrorism as the primary reason behind the decision.

Addressing a press briefing in the national capital, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the move followed the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives.

"The Indus Waters Treaty stands in abeyance in response to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. Pakistan must credibly and irrevocably end such support," he said.

The treaty, which governs the shar-

ing of waters of the Indus river system between India and Pakistan, has long been regarded as a key agreement between the two countries. Its suspension marks a significant shift in bilateral relations.

Officials confirmed that India continues to exercise control over critical water infrastructure, including the Baglihar Dam, where all gates remain closed a year after the decision.

The remarks came as the country marked the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, launched in response to the Pahalgam attack. The operation involved coordinated military action targeting terror infrastructure across the Line of Control.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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Strict Action Against Drug Peddlers Will Continue: SSP Kulgam

Police Retrieve State Land Worth ₹1 Crore from Alleged Drug Trafficker in Devsar

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MAY 7: In a major enforcement action under the anti-drug campaign Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, police in Kulgam, in coordination with Revenue authorities, have retrieved State land valued at nearly Rs. 1 crore from the possession of an alleged drug trafficker in the

Devsar area of south Kashmir. Officials said the land, measuring approximately 5 kanal and 12 marlas and located in Malwan village, had been under illegal occupation. The accused, Shahzad Ahmad Paddar, a resident of the area, is linked to a case registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act at Police Station Devsar.

The property, consisting of orchards, has an estimated market value of around Rs. 1 crore. Authorities said the action is part of a sustained effort to dismantle the financial networks supporting drug

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India's Firm.....

Modi further stated that the operation underscored the benefits of India's push for self-reliance in the defence sector, strengthening the country's national security framework.

Operation Sindoor was carried out from May 7 to May 10, 2025, by the Army, Navy and Air Force in coordination with the Border Security Force. The joint operation targeted terrorist infrastructure and military facilities across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir along the western border, in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack.

Operation Sindoor.....

prepared to respond firmly to any threat to its sovereignty and citizens.

In a message marking the first anniversary of the operation, the President highlighted the "extraordinary success" of the mission, attributing it to the unmatched courage, determination, and professionalism of the armed forces.

She said the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives, was met with a precise and decisive response through Operation Sindoor.

"Those who seek to threaten the nation must know that India stands vigilant, united, and prepared to respond with strength," the President said, while paying tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of the soldiers.

Operation Sindoor was conducted from May 7 to 10, 2025, during which Indian defence forces carried out targeted strikes on terrorist infrastructure and military positions in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The operation was launched in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack, reinforcing India's firm stance against terrorism and its commitment to national security.

Rajnath Singh.....

said the operation reflects India's firm resolve and preparedness to tackle national security challenges. The mission was launched on May 7 last year in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces carrying out targeted airstrikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, reportedly eliminating more than 100 terrorists.

"On the anniversary of Operation Sindoor, we salute the valour and sacrifices of our armed forces, whose courage and dedication continue to safeguard the nation," Singh said.

He noted that the operation demonstrated a high level of precision and effective jointness among the Army, Navy and Air Force, setting a new standard for coordinated military action.

The Defence Minister described the mission as a strong symbol of national resolve, emphasizing that the armed forces remain prepared to act decisively when required.

Singh also said the operation highlights India's steady progress towards self-reliance in defence, strengthening both capability and resilience.

Later in the day, he is scheduled to review the country's national security challenges and the military's combat readiness at a joint commanders' conference in Jaipur. The meeting will assess emerging threats in areas such as cyber, space and cognitive warfare, and outline strategies for building a future-ready force.

Amit Shah.....

of the country's military strength and determination.

Commemorating the first anniversary of the operation, Shah said it represented a rare convergence of precise military capability, accurate intelligence, and firm political leadership. He that the mission demonstrated India's readiness to respond decisively to threats against its citizens.

He said the operation would be remembered as a day when the armed forces, supported by intelligence agencies and guided by strong political will, acted in unison to dismantle terror infrastructure across the border following the deadly attack in Pahalgam.

"This day will continue to send a clear message to our enemies that no matter where they hide, they cannot escape. They are always within our sight and the reach of our firepower," he said, saluting the exceptional courage and dedication of the armed forces.

Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7 last year in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, most of them tourists. The operation involved targeted airstrikes on nine terror facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan administered Kashmir.

The strikes triggered a brief escalation in tensions, with Pakistan initiating retaliatory actions that were largely intercepted by Indian forces. The situation deescalated on May 10 after both sides agreed to halt military operations following communication between senior military officials through established channels.

'Response to....'

Navy, was publicly acknowledged by the Government of India with the message "Justice is Served," drawing global attention to India's military response.

Senior leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, also changed their profile pictures to mark the occasion, while citizens across the country shared similar images in tribute to the armed forces.

Officials noted that the Chief Minister's choice of imagery carried strategic significance. The BrahMos missile, regarded as one of India's most advanced supersonic cruise missiles, has become a symbol of the country's growing military capability and deterrence.

The development also highlights Uttar Pradesh's expanding role in defence manufacturing. The UP Defence Industrial Corridor, with a key node in Lucknow, is positioning the state as a major hub in India's drive for self-reliance in defence production.

Reaffirming his position at a recent public engagement, Adityanath described Operation Sindoor as more than a military exercise, calling it "a declaration of national resolve" to confront terrorism with decisive action rather than prolonged diplomatic measures.

The Chief Minister's message and digital outreach gained significant traction on social media, with supporters describing it as a reflection of national resolve and military strength, while also drawing attention in political circles.

"Shelling Did....."

Devotees assembled at the gurdwara to offer prayers for peace and pay tribute to the victims, while strongly condemning the targeting of civilian areas and places of worship during the hostilities. The memorial coincided with the first anniversary of the incident, which left a lasting impact on the border district.

According to officials, twelve people were killed and 34 others injured in heavy artillery and mortar shelling in Poonch, making it the worst-affected area during the escalation. The shelling followed India's strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

A gurdwara official recalled that the shrine itself was struck during the shelling, sustaining major damage though no lives were lost there. However, nearby residential areas were hit, resulting in civilian casualties.

He emphasised that the shelling affected all communities equally, with religious sites including the gurdwara, temples, and mosques coming under fire. "The shelling did not spare religious places," he said, adding that the attacks failed to disrupt the long-standing communal harmony of the region, where different communities have lived together peacefully for generations.

Among those killed were children and other civilians, highlighting the indiscriminate nature of the shelling. Residents also acknowledged government support provided to affected families, though they noted that the loss of lives could never be fully compensated.

Hostilities between the two sides subsided on May 10 following military-level talks, bringing a halt to the escalation after several days of intense cross-border exchanges.

Indian forces.....

of the strikes carried out in response to the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead.

The briefing was attended by Director General Naval Operations Vice Admiral AN Pramod, former Director General Military Operations Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, and Deputy Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti.

"NUCLEAR BLUFF CALLED OUT": NAVY OPERATIONS CHIEF

Vice Admiral AN Pramod said Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's capability to conduct deep precision strikes inside Pakistan and effectively challenged what he described as "nuclear blackmail".

"By striking terror hubs in the heart of Pakistan using long-range precision weapons, India effectively called the bluff on Pakistan's nuclear threats," he said.

He added that the operation reflected clear strategic direction from the national leadership, coupled with operational freedom to the armed forces.

Pramod said personnel from the Navy participated alongside the Army and Air Force in the strikes carried out on the night of May 6-7, 2025, highlighting the level of jointness achieved during the mission.

He also noted that forward deployment of Indian naval assets forced Pakistani naval and air units into a defensive posture near their coastline and harbours, limiting their operational movement during the conflict.

"JOINT OPERATIONS WITH FULL FREEDOM": AIR MARSHAL BHARTI

Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti said the operation was executed with "complete clarity of objectives" and full operational freedom granted to the forces.

He said Indian strikes targeted terror infrastructure across Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and deep inside Pakistan.

"When the first weapon hit its target on

May 7, 2025, it represented the resolve of the Indian people and partial justice for the victims of the Pahalgam attack," he said.

Bharti added that the Indian Air Force, Army and Navy operated in seamless coordination under a unified command structure.

He said Indian forces struck 11 Pakistani airfields and destroyed 13 aircraft, including a high-value airborne asset at long range.

"They have not been able to inflict any major damage on our side. Victory is measured by hard facts, not narratives," he said.

Bharti further said Pakistan's retaliatory drone and UAV attacks were effectively neutralised by India's layered air defence systems, including indigenous platforms deployed across multiple sectors.

"PAKISTAN REQUESTED CEASEFIRE": LT GEN RAJIV GHAI

Former DGMO Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai said Operation Sindoor achieved its objectives within a calibrated framework, after which Pakistan sought cessation of hostilities.

He said intelligence inputs and award records indicated significant losses on the Pakistani side, including more than 100 terrorists neutralised across nine camps.

"Pakistan suffered more than 100 casualties in exchanges along the Line of Control and in targeted strikes on terror camps," he said.

Ghai also remarked that Pakistan should focus on strengthening combat capability rather than narrative building.

"If they invested as much in warfighting as they do in narratives, they would have fared better," he said.

INDIGENOUS CAPABILITY AS FORCE MULTIPLIER

Highlighting India's defence preparedness, Ghai said Operation Sindoor demonstrated the effectiveness of indigenous systems, including missiles, surveillance platforms and electronic warfare equipment.

He said over 65 per cent of the equipment used in the operation was domestically manufactured, describing it as a "force multiplier" for the armed forces.

He added that coordinated action across intelligence agencies, cyber units and border forces ensured precision targeting and minimal collateral damage.

MULTI-DOMAIN COORDINATION AND ESCALATION CONTROL

Officials said the operation involved integrated planning across land, air, sea, cyber and electronic warfare domains, making it one of the most coordinated military responses in recent years.

The Navy maintained maritime dominance, the Air Force executed precision strikes and air defence operations, while the Army managed ground-based counter-response and border security.

According to the officials, India's response included nine major standoff strikes—seven by the Army and two by the Air Force—targeting terror hubs across Pakistan and PoJK.

OPERATION SINDOOR OUTCOME

Launched on May 7, 2025, Operation Sindoor was initiated after the Pahalgam terror attack. Indian forces targeted terror infrastructure linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen, killing over 100 terrorists.

The confrontation continued for four days before both sides agreed to a ceasefire on May 10, 2025, following military-level communication between the two countries.

Officials said the operation has since been recognised as a benchmark in joint military planning and precision counter-terror action—(KNO)

No Terror.....

warning to Pakistan on the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor.

Detailing what is now considered India's most significant combat mission in five decades, the then heads of military operations, at a media briefing here detailed the strategic successes of the massive tri-services campaign and asserted that the window for military action against cross-border terrorism has not closed.

"No sanctuary across the Line of Control is safe. We will hit everything. We will go after everything and that has been made clear in the new normal that the prime minister said last year. But the conditions, the timing and the method will be ours," said Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai.

In his capacity as the Director General of Military Operations of the Indian Army, Ghai had played a key role along with his counterparts from the Indian Air Force and Navy in execution of Operation Sindoor.

"Operation Sindoor was not an end and it was just the beginning," Lt Gen Ghai, currently serving as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) said.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year carrying out airstrikes on nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir eliminating at least 100 terrorists.

The strikes triggered a rapid escalation in tensions with Pakistan launching retaliatory strikes though most of them were thwarted by the Indian military. The hostilities ended with an understanding on halting the military actions on May 10 following

talks over the hotline between army officials of the two sides.

Lt Gen Ghai noted that several terror camps have been shifted from the border region to depth areas, but made it clear that distance offers no sanctuary from India's precision capabilities.

The senior Army officer also highlighted how India quickly ended the conflict after achieving Operation Sindoor's strategic objectives.

"In an era of prolonged conflicts around the world, we struck hard, achieved clearly defined objectives and then decided to cease hostilities when the Pakistanis were compelled to negotiate and requested us to stop," he said.

"The objectives were achieved through a calibrated shot and sharp shock that altered the enemy's risk appetite and disrupted his command and control without locking India into a long-drawn war or conflict," he added.

Lt Gen Ghai said the Operation Sindoor showcased capabilities of India's indigenous weapon systems and platforms and made a mention of BrahMos and Akash, missiles, homegrown surveillance and targeting systems and ammunition.

"Operation Sindoor was not an end. It was just the beginning. India's fight against terror will go on. A year on, we remember not just the operation but also the principle behind it. India will defend its sovereignty, its security, and its people decisively, professionally and with the utmost responsibility," he said.

In his remarks, Air Marshal A K Bharti, who too play a crucial role as Director General of Air Operations in implementation of Operation Sindoor, highlighted the "primacy of air power" in achieving desired results.

He said India's military might is being strengthened significantly and that the India Air Force has been constantly monitoring the activities of China and Pakistan.

"We are continuously factoring in whatever they are (up to)," he said.

"We struck and decimated their nine terrorist camps. The proof is there for everybody to see. We struck 11 of their airfields. We destroyed 13 of their aircraft either on the ground or in the air, including one high-value airborne asset at a record distance of more than 300 kilometres," he said.

Air Marshal Bharti, currently serving as Deputy Chief of the IAF, however, did not mention about losses of assets by his force.

"They (Pakistan) have not been able to inflict any major damage on our side; neither any military infrastructure nor much of the civilian structures," he said.

"Whatever they may say, remember narratives and rhetoric do not give you victory. Victory is measured by hard facts," he added.

The senior official said India achieved its objectives by carrying out Operation Sindoor.

"When the Pakistani establishment decided to side with terror and make it their own fight, we had no choice but to respond in kind. It was about self-defence, much beyond a counter-terror operation. When we responded, it was lethal and ruthless," he said.

Director General of Naval Operations Vice Admiral AN Pramod said Operation Sindoor underscored the strategic vision of India's approach in combating terrorism.

He said the forward deployment of the Indian Navy assets compelled Pakistani naval and air units to enter in a defensive posture and it largely confined the Pakistani Navy to harbours.

"Operation Sindoor validated India's ability to respond to asymmetric provocation with deliberate, precise and proportionate force. It demonstrated that terror infrastructure and supporting military enablers can be targeted swiftly and effectively," he said.

"The operation also highlighted the decisive role of indigenous cutting-edge technologies, platforms, systems and equipment, including drones," he noted. (Agencies)

Timely Execution.....

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javid Dar and Satish Sharma, along with Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Dheeraj Gupta, and other senior officials.

At the outset, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar presented a detailed status report on the implementation of Budget announcements across departments. Administrative Secretaries outlined the progress achieved and measures taken to implement various proposals.

Key departments including Revenue, Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, Tourism, Forest, Labour and Employment, Higher Education, Rural Development, Youth Services and Sports, Transport, Tribal Affairs, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Skill Development, Science and Technology, and Cooperatives shared updates on ongoing initiatives.

Emphasizing the need to translate policy into tangible outcomes, the Chief Minister instructed departments to enhance coordination, improve efficiency, and maintain transparency in execution. He also announced that another review meeting will be held in June to evaluate further progress.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to public welfare, the Chief Minister said that all promises made in the Budget must be fulfilled in a time-bound and accountable manner to ensure visible benefits for the people.

"Indus Waters....."

said the operation reflected India's firm response to terrorism and reaffirmed the government's commitment to safeguarding national security, while praising the armed forces for their precision and professionalism.

India has maintained that it will continue to take necessary steps to defend its sovereignty and contribute to the global fight against terrorism.

Strict Action.....

trafficking in the region. Senior Superintendent of Police Kulgam, Anayat Ali Choudhary, said that strict measures against drug traffickers will continue, with a focus on identifying and confiscating illegal assets linked to the narcotics trade.

Police have appealed to the public to provide information related to drug trafficking or illegal land occupation, assuring confidentiality and firm legal action against offenders.

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Divisional Commissioner Kashmir reviews Eid-ul-Adha arrangements

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 07: In preparation for the forthcoming Eid-ul-Adha celebrations, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Thursday convened a high-level meeting to review and finalize arrangements for the smooth and peaceful observance of the festival across the Kashmir Division.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner directed the KPDCCL officers, to ensure uninterrupted power supply at prominent religious shrines including Hazratbal Shrine, Kalashpora, Jenab Sahab Soura, Ziyarat Sharief Kabamarg and Khiram in Anantnag, Ziyarat Sharief Makhama, and Aham-i-Sharief in Bandipora.

He further instructed the concerned departments to maintain adequate and uninterrupted supply of potable drinking water and to address any water-related issues promptly.

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring availability of essential commodities during the

festive days, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned authorities to maintain sufficient stocks of rice, atta, sugar, and other daily essentials throughout the Valley.

To meet the anticipated demand for sacrificial animals, the Director Sheep Husbandry was asked to ensure adequate availability across Kashmir Division ahead of Eid-ul-Adha. Wakf authorities were also directed to properly regulate designated sale locations for sacrificial animals to prevent traffic congestion and inconvenience to the general public. The Divisional Commissioner stressed the need for extensive market inspections to curb overpricing and prevent the sale of substandard goods. He called for close coordination among enforcement agencies to ensure fair pricing and adequate availability of essential commodities, particularly mutton and poultry.

In order to maintain cleanliness and create a festive atmosphere, special sanitation drives were directed to be carried out in and around mosques, shrines,



marketplaces, and residential areas. The Srinagar Municipal

Corporation was instructed to deploy adequate manpower for door-to-door collection of animal hides.

For smooth vehicular movement during the festival, traffic authorities were directed to implement effective traffic management plans around major mosques and marketplaces.

The Divisional Commissioner also instructed the Health Department to deploy medical teams at major shrines and mosques to provide immediate healthcare assistance in view of the expected large gatherings.

To ensure safety and security at congregation sites, directions were issued for deployment of fire tenders and adequate security personnel to facilitate the peaceful celebration of the festival.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, and senior officers from various departments including Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, FCS&CA, Health, KPDCCL, PHE, SMC, PWD, Fire Services, ULB, Wakf Board, and Legal Metrology.

Kulgam Police Retrieve State Land Worth Rs. 1 Crore from Drug Peddler in Devsar

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, MAY 7: In a significant action under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Kulgam Police, in coordination with the Revenue Department, on Wednesday retrieved State land measuring 05 Kanal and 12 Marlas from the unauthorized possession of an alleged drug peddler in Devsar area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

According to officials, the land situated at Village Malwan under Khasra No. 697 min was illegally occupied by Shahzad Ahmad Paddar, son of Gull Mohammad Paddar, a resident of Malwan, who is involved in FIR No. 40/2020 registered under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Devsar.

The retrieved property, comprising orchard land,



is estimated to be worth nearly Rs. 1 crore in the current market.

Police said the action was carried out jointly by Kulgam Police and Revenue authorities as part of sustained efforts to dismantle the illegal infrastructure and financial networks of drug traffickers operating in the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police Kulgam, Anayat Ali Choudhary (IPS) reaffirmed the police department's commitment to combating the drug menace and stated that strict legal action will continue against individuals involved in narcotics trade.

He said all illegal assets, encroachments, and proceeds of crime linked to drug peddling will be identified and dealt with strictly in accordance with law.

Kulgam Police also appealed to the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by sharing information related to drug peddling and illegal encroachments, assuring complete confidentiality and prompt action against offenders.

Kulgam Police Seize Drug Peddler's Orchard Land Under NDPS Act

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, MAY 07: In a major action against narcotics-related activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), Kulgam Police, in coordination with the Revenue Department, have seized immovable property belonging to a habitual offender currently booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The seized property belongs to Irfan Ahmed Raina, son of Mushtaq Ahmad Raina, a resident of Mohammadpora Arreh in Kulgam district. The action was carried out after completing all legal formalities under the provisions of the NDPS Act.

According to officials, the accused is involved in FIR No. 34/2025 registered at Police Station Kulgam under Sections 8/21 of the NDPS Act. He is presently lodged in District Jail Mattan, Anantnag, in connection with the case.

The property attached by the authorities comprises high-density orchard land measuring 1 Kanal and 3 Marlas situated at Mohammadpora, Arreh, Kulgam, falling under Survey No. 887 of Estate Arreh.

The seizure and retrieval operation was conducted jointly by Kulgam Police, the Executive Magistrate Kulgam, and Revenue officials as part of intensified efforts to dismantle the network supporting illegal drug trafficking in the district.

Police said that the property has been seized in connection with ongoing legal proceedings under the NDPS Act. Officials further revealed that Irfan Ahmed Raina has been arrested multiple times in various NDPS-related cases, indicating his repeated involvement in narcotics trafficking.

Reaffirming its commitment towards eradicating the menace of drugs from society, Kulgam Police stated that stringent legal action will continue against individuals involved in drug peddling and related illegal activities. The police also urged the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in making society drug-free under the broader vision of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

Local Theatre Community Welcomes CU Jammu's Decision to Introduce Performing Arts Courses

Demands Introduction of Theatre and Performing Arts Programmes in Kashmir Universities

GULFAM BARJI

SRINAGAR, MAY 7: Members of the theatre community, student organisations, cultural activists and young artists from Kashmir have jointly urged universities in the Valley to introduce structured undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Theatre and Performing Arts. Welcoming Cluster University Jammu's decision to launch Performing Arts courses, the signatories described the move as a positive and much-needed step towards strengthening arts education in the region.

In a joint statement they said it is unfortunate that despite Kashmir's rich cultural and artistic heritage universities in the Valley still lack dedicated academic programmes in theatre and performing arts. The statement highlighted that the National Education Policy (NEP) strongly emphasizes creative learning, arts education, and experiential teaching methods. It added that theatre has emerged as an important educational tool that helps students develop communication skills, creativity, confidence and critical thinking.

The theatre fraternity further stated that educational institutions in the future will require professionally trained theatre teachers, practitioners, and artists. They warned that if universities in Kashmir fail to take timely initiatives, local students may miss valuable academic and professional opportunities in the field. The signatories appealed to the University of Kashmir, Cluster University Srinagar, Central University of Kashmir and the Higher Education Department of J&K to establish dedicated departments for Theatre and Performing Arts at the earliest. They emphasized that the demand is not merely about introducing degree programmes, but about creating spaces for expression, creativity, cultural preservatio and meaningful engagement for the younger generation.

SKUAST-K Distributes Seeds, Toolkits Among Tomato Growers in Kupwara's Hachmarg

Scientific Farming Transforms Hachmarg Into Major Tomato-Producing Village

DR. AB GAYOOM

KUPWARA, MAY 07: Hachmarg village in the Ramhal area of Kupwara is fast emerging as one of Kashmir's leading tomato-producing villages, where nearly 99 percent households are associated with tomato cultivation and vegetable farming. The transformation of the village into a major tomato cultivation hub has been made possible through the continuous efforts and scientific guidance provided by (SKUAST-K) and the Agriculture Department, which have been actively promoting modern and scientific farming practices among local farmers. Continuing its farmer outreach initiatives, the Division of Vegetable Science, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K, in collaboration with (KVK Kupwara), organised an impressive input and seed distribution programme at Hachmarg village under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) project titled "Transforming Tribal Agriculture in Kashmir: A Comprehensive Vegetable Development Initiative." During the programme, vegetable seeds and agricultural toolkits were distributed among around 150 farmers to promote scientific vegetable cultivation and strengthen the livelihood of tribal farming communities in the remote Ramhal area.

The scientists and experts present on the occasion encouraged farmers to adopt improved and scientific vegetable production technologies for enhancing productivity, better income generation and sustainable livelihood security.

The programme was attended by Prof. Ishfaq Abidi, Head Division of Vegetable Science; Mohammad Iqbal Choudhary, CEO Seeds SKUAST-



K; Prof. G.M. Bhat, Head KVK Kupwara; Dr. Asima Amin, Assistant Professor and Principal Investigator of the TSP Project; Dr. Mohammad Mudasar Magray, Assistant Professor, besides other teaching and non-teaching staff members from SKUAST-K and KVK Kupwara.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Mohammad Iqbal Choudhary and other experts spoke in detail about scientific farming techniques, modern cultivation tools and the importance of adopting advanced vegetable farming practices. The speakers also highlighted the role of SKUAST-K Vice Chancellor Prof.

Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth and Prof. Haroon Rashid in implementing various developmental projects under TSP, JKIP and other farmer welfare schemes in Kupwara district. Farmers of the village appreciated the continued support and regular field visits by SKUAST-K scientists and officials. They expressed gratitude for the timely distribution of quality seeds, farming tools and technical guidance, especially during difficult and crucial farming periods, and hoped for more developmental projects for the tomato-growing village in future.

BMS Sharkoot Students Lead Horse Rally Against Drug Abuse

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, MAY 07: Under the nationwide Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, the young students of BMS Sharkoot Vilgam Kupwara organized a remarkable horse-riding rally to spread awareness against the menace of drug abuse. Holding placards and raising slogans promoting a drug-free society, the students rode through different areas with great enthusiasm and determination, drawing the attention of the public towards the importance of stay-



ing away from narcotics and other harmful substances. The rally witnessed active

participation from the students, teachers, and members of the local community. The unique initia-

tive not only showcased the talent and confidence of the young participants but also carried a strong

social message aimed at safeguarding the youth from the growing threat of drug addiction.

People from different walks of life highly appreciated and hailed the awareness drive. Locals applauded the students for their courage, discipline, and dedication towards such a noble cause. Many termed the programme as inspiring and impactful, stating that such activities play a vital role in educating society and motivating the younger generation to contribute towards building a healthy and drug-free nation.

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for NCC National Integration Camp under “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat”

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 07: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a high-level meeting to review preparations for the “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” Special National Integration Camp being organised by the NCC from May 14 to 25 at BB Cantt, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Tourism, Director Floriculture, Director Archives, Archaeology & Museums, SSP Traffic, and officers from Police, SKICC, Information Department, Kashmir University, and NCC.

While reviewing the arrangements, the Divisional



Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure comprehensive facilitation and seamless coordination for the visiting cadets, particularly during their transit from Jammu to Srinagar and their visits to prominent religious sites, parks, and tourist destinations across the Valley.

Emphasising the importance of efficient inter-departmental coordination, the Divisional Commissioner instructed the Floriculture Department to facilitate smooth entry of cadets into the renowned Mughal Gardens during their scheduled visits.

He also directed the concerned authorities to ensure hassle-free transportation and traffic management for excursions to popular tourist destinations, including Gulmarg and Sonamarg.

Further, the Divisional Commissioner advised NCC officials to share detailed event schedules with related departments to enable timely arrangements and effective execution of the programme.

He also instructed officials from Kashmir University and the Police Department to nominate subject experts for delivering guest lectures on various themes during the camp.

The SSP Traffic was directed to ensure smooth traffic regulation and route management for the proposed “Run for Fun” event scheduled from SKICC to Nishat Garden.

Census 2027: Three-day Training Programme for Supervisors, Enumerators concludes in Pulwama

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, MAY 07: District Administration Pulwama today concluded the three-day training programme for Supervisors and Enumerators for Census 2027 Phase-I (House Listing and Housing Census).



The training programme aimed to equip the field functionaries with the necessary knowledge and skills for smooth, systematic and effective conduct of the forthcoming Census operations.

During the training sessions, participants were imparted detailed orientation regarding procedures for House Listing and Housing Census, data collection methodology, use of digital tools and adherence to census guidelines and protocols. The trainees were also sensitized about their roles and responsibilities in ensuring accuracy and transparency during the census exercise.

The programme was conducted in batches for all charges at various centres including Government Degree College Pulwama, Government Degree College Tral, Government Degree College Awantipora, Government Degree College Pampore, High School Aripal, Government Higher Secondary School Kakapora, Government Higher Secondary School Rajpora, Government Higher Secondary School Litter, Town Hall MC Pulwama, Town Hall MC Pampore, Town Hall MC Awantipora, Town Hall MC Khrew and Town Hall MC Tral.

During the programme, Master trainers and concerned officers interacted with the participants and addressed their queries to ensure better understanding of the census procedures and field-level implementation.

DDAC Bandipora organises Holistic Wellness cum Counselling Session under

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 07: Continuing its sustained efforts against drug abuse under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Centre (DDAC) Bandipora on Thursday organised a holistic wellness cum counselling session for indoor patients admitted at the Centre in collaboration with the Department of AYUSH Bandipora. The programme was organised under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Ban-



dipora, Bashir Ahmad Malik, with the aim of promoting physical wellness, mental stability, emotional healing, and positive lifestyle transformation among the recovering beneficiaries undergoing treatment and rehabilitation at the Centre.

During the session, noted Yoga Expert Irshad Ahmad conducted various yoga and relaxation exercises focusing on stress management, breathing techniques, concentration, flexibility, and inner peace. The participants actively participated in practical yoga demonstrations and mindfulness activities organised within the rehabilitation hall of the Centre. A motivational and psycho-social counselling session was also conducted under the guidance of District Nodal Officer AYUSH Bandipora, Dr. Firdous Ahmad Malik.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Irfan Ahmad Bandy, Medical Officer AYUSH, highlighted the importance of self-discipline, mental resilience, healthy routine, and community support in overcoming substance dependence. He encouraged the beneficiaries undergoing treatment and rehabilitation to adopt a positive outlook towards life and emphasised that recovery is achievable through determination, counselling, and continuous support.

Experts and counsellors from DDAC Bandipora also interacted with the beneficiaries and stressed the importance of holistic rehabilitation through psychological counselling, social reintegration, physical fitness, and behavioural transformation.

Director FCS&CA reviews PDS functioning in Baramulla

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, MAY 07: Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Kashmir, Nazim Zia Khan, accompanied by Joint Director FCS&CA Kashmir, Shaheena Khan, today conducted a comprehensive review of the functioning of the department in Baramulla with focus on strengthening Public Distribution System (PDS) service delivery and ensuring effective implementation of welfare schemes.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Director FCS&CA Baramulla Sheikh Tariq, Tehsil Supply Officers and Smart-PDS operators of the department. During the meeting, the Director was apprised of various achievements and developmental initiatives undertaken by the department in the district. Detailed discussions were held regarding distribution of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System, implementation of departmental schemes, stock position, grievance redressal mechanisms, beneficiary coverage and measures aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability and efficiency in service delivery. The Director was informed about the initiatives being undertaken to further strengthen the Public Distribution System and im-



prove service delivery mechanisms across the district through improved infrastructure. Operational challenges concerning ration distribution and consumer services were also discussed during the meeting.

While interacting with officers and officials, the Director stressed the importance of maintaining efficiency, accountability and transparency in the functioning of the department. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely and hassle-free distribution of food grains and other essential commodities to all eligible beneficiaries.

He further instructed the officers to ensure completion of the ongoing three-month “One-Go” ration sale for April to June 2026 well before Eid-ul-Azha so that beneficiaries do

not face any inconvenience during the festive occasion.

During the meeting, it was informed that against the total allocation of 1,72,128.32 quintals of rice and 6,603.45 quintals of atta for District Baramulla for the three-month period, 1,25,217.80 quintals of rice and 4,761.35 quintals of atta have already been lifted and distributed among beneficiaries, accounting for nearly 72 percent distribution.

The Director directed officials to complete lifting and distribution of the remaining food grains within the next ten days ahead of Eid. He also issued directions for expeditious completion of 100 percent e-KYC verification of beneficiaries to ensure transparency and accuracy in the database.

SMC Commissioner conducts on-site inspection of Regal Chowk Shopping Complex

Orders immediate upgradation, expansion of Public Facilities

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 07: In a significant outreach aimed at strengthening civic infrastructure and addressing the concerns of the business community, Faz Lul Haseeb, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), today conducted an extensive visit to the SMC Shopping Complex at Regal Chowk and held a detailed interaction with members of the Traders Association. During the visit, the Commissioner undertook a comprehensive assessment of the civic amenities and infrastructure available within the commercial complex and listened to various issues projected by the traders. Demonstrating a responsive and

proactive approach, the Commissioner resolved several genuine grievances on the spot and issued immediate directions to the concerned officers for their time-bound redressal.

A key issue highlighted by the traders was the need for extension and upgradation of the existing lavatory block to cater to the growing footfall of traders and visitors in the busy commercial hub. Taking swift cognizance of the demand, the Commissioner directed the Joint Commissioner (Works) to initiate immediate measures for the extension of the lavatory block and ensure early execution of the project in the interest of public convenience.

Reaffirming SMC’s commit-



ment towards improving urban infrastructure, the Commissioner further instructed the concerned engineering and civic wings of the Corporation to prepare and undertake a comprehensive upgradation plan for the SMC Shopping Complex at Regal Chowk. The proposed measures shall focus on enhanc-

ing civic amenities, improving sanitation, upgrading public infrastructure, and creating a better environment for traders, shoppers, and visitors alike.

As part of the visit, the Commissioner also inspected the offices of the Executive Engineer, City Drainage Civil Division, and the Executive Engineer, Right River Works Division. He reviewed the functioning of the departments and emphasized the need for efficient drainage management, timely execution of developmental works, and strengthened monitoring mechanisms to ensure improved civic service delivery across the city. The Commissioner reiterated that Srinagar Municipal Corporation remains steadfast

in its commitment to responsive governance, stakeholder engagement, and sustained improvement of civic amenities through regular field inspections and prompt grievance redressal mechanisms. The concerned officers were directed to ensure immediate follow-up action and effective implementation of all directions issued during the visit for the overall enhancement of civic facilities in the area.

The Commissioner was accompanied by the Joint Commissioner (Works), Superintendent Engineer (Drainage), Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, Chief Revenue Officer, Chief Sanitation Officer, and other senior officers of the Corporation.

Budgam continues intensive Awareness Drive under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, MAY 07: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of awareness and outreach activities were organised across district Budgam today to intensify the fight against drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, youth, civil society members, officers and officials of various departments, besides members of local communities.

Awareness rallies, interactive sessions, pledge ceremonies and public outreach programmes were conducted at different locations across the district with the objective of sensitising people,

particularly the younger generation, about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Participants reiterated their commitment towards building a drug-free society and pledged to work collectively for eradication of the drug menace from the district.

Speakers during the programmes highlighted the importance of community participation, parental guidance and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders in combating drug addiction.

The activities were organised under the broader 100-day Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan launched across the Union Territory to strengthen awareness, prevention, rehabilitation and enforcement measures against narcotics abuse.

DC Shopian reviews Eid-ul-Azha preparedness

Directs seamless civic, security arrangements across district

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 07: In view of the forthcoming auspicious festival of Eid al-Azha, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review and finalize arrangements for smooth celebration of the festival across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the availability and supply of essential commodities including meat, poultry, vegetables and other daily use items in markets.

Directions were issued to ensure uninterrupted availability



of quality essentials at notified rates for the convenience of the general public.

Threadbare discussions were held on security arrangements, smooth regulation of traffic, uninterrupted power and drinking water supply, sanitation measures, healthcare facilities, fire and emergency preparedness besides mar-

ket checking across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed arrangements regarding establishment of mandis for sale of sacrificial animals and stressed upon proper management and monitoring at all designated locations. To ensure cleanliness and hygiene during the festival days, the concerned departments were directed to identify suitable sites for scientific disposal of qurbani animal waste and maintain proper sanitation in urban as well as rural areas.

The meeting further discussed coordination with Auqaf Committees to facilitate smooth conduct of congregational prayers

and related arrangements at Eidgahs and major mosques across the district.

Officers were instructed to remain available in the field, work in close coordination and ensure prompt response to public grievances so that people celebrate the festival in a peaceful, smooth and hassle-free manner.

Among others the meeting was attended by SSP, Shopian, Mush-taq Ahmed Choudhary; ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed and officers from Civil Administration and Police.

DC Srinagar convenes District Capex meeting for 2026-27

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 07: In order to discuss the plan proposals for District Capex Budget for the financial year 2026-27 and to ensure timely initiation of physical execution of proposed developmental works, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today convened a meeting of all Executing Agencies at Banquet Hall Conference Complex here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Circle North, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Circle South, Tatheer Manzoor, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Er Anbreen, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din, Executive Engineers of R&B,



PHE, PDD, SMC, UEED and all other District & Sectoral Officers.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the plan proposals under the District Capex Budget for 2026-27 and sought updates regarding preparation of estimates for works proposed under the District Capex. He emphasized the need for prioritization of developmental works in accor-

dance with public demands and projects having visible and meaningful impact on the ground.

The DC directed all Executing Agencies to ensure timely submission of estimates so that administrative approvals are accorded without delay, enabling early tendering, allotment and execution of works for the benefit of the people of the district, keeping in view the limited working sea-

son. He further stressed that all developmental works proposed under the Capex Budget 2026-27 must be executed in a time-bound and transparent manner to achieve the desired outcomes and strengthen public service delivery across sectors.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the status of completed works under District Capex 2025-26 and instructed the concerned departments to furnish requisite details in a timely manner and ensure uploading of completed works on the e-compendium portal.

The DC also stressed the importance of improved coordination among the line departments, adherence to timelines, maintenance of quality standards and proactive planning to facilitate smooth, optimum utilization of resources and effective execution of developmental works across the district.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar scheme

Directs time-bound disposal of pending cases

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAY 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

During the meeting, a detailed review of SRT installation, registration, sanction and disbursement of cases under the PM Surya Ghar scheme was conducted. Officers/Officials of KPDCI informed the chair that a total of 911 SRTs have been installed in the district. It was further informed that 437 cases are presently pending with banks for processing and disbursement.

Expressing concern over the pendency and gap in progress in some areas, particularly Kangan, Manigam and other pockets, the DC stressed the need for expeditious disposal of all pending applications. He directed all concerned officers to work in close coordination with banks and ensure that the existing gaps are bridged within a fixed timeframe.

The DC instructed officers to maintain close liaison with the bank branches, monitor the status of pending cases on a daily basis and facilitate speedy resolution of genuine issues faced by beneficiaries.

He emphasized that the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Scheme is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at promoting clean energy adoption and reducing the electricity burden on households, and therefore its implementation must be taken up in mission mode.

The DC further directed all concerned officers to intensify field monitoring, ensure better public outreach and remove bottlenecks hampering progress so that eligible beneficiaries receive timely benefits under the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Superintending Engineer KPDCI, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer KPDCI, Cluster Head J&K Bank, Assistant Executive Engineers and other concerned officials.

MP Assembly's Committee on Govt Assurances calls on Speaker JKLA; stronger inter-state legislative ties emphasised

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 7: A delegation of the Committee on Government Assurances of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly today visited the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly and called on the Speaker, J&K Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather.

The Committee was comprised of its Chairman Harishankar Khatik and members including Gourav Singh Pardhi, Rajan Mandloi, Ramnivas Saha besides other senior officials.

The high-level visit focused on a bilateral exchange of knowledge, aiming to deepen the mutual understanding of legislative work culture and the specific procedural functions of their respective committees. The visit marks a significant step in fostering inter-state cooperation between the legislative bodies.

During the interaction, the delegates shared best practices and discussed the evolving mechanisms used to ensure government accountability through the assurance process.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker, J&K Legislative Assembly, highlighted the important role of the Committee on Government Assurances in ensuring accountability and transparency in governance. He stated that engaging with the committees from other states is essential to understand the diverse legislative landscapes across our country. It is through this collaborative spirit that all assemblies can work together to uphold and strengthen the democratic values of the nation, he added.

The engagement highlighted the shared commitment of both Jammu & Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh to enhance the efficacy of legislative oversight. By studying the work culture and functioning of their counterparts, the committees aim to implement more robust frameworks for tracking and fulfilling the government promises made on the floor of the House. The visiting delegation appreciated the functioning of the J&K Legislative Assembly and expressed satisfaction over exchange of knowledge and best practices during the visit.

The Speaker concluded the session by emphasizing that such parliamentary exchanges are the bedrock of a healthy, unified democratic system, encouraging continued dialogue between the two regions.

DC Shopian reviews Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan activities in district

Issues strict directions for intensified grassroots outreach

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 07: Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a comprehensive review meeting regarding the ongoing activities under the 100 Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan and issued strict instructions to all concerned departments for intensifying awareness and outreach programmes across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed that the menace of drug abuse poses a serious threat to society and called for a coordinated, mission-mode approach involving every stakeholder at the grassroots level and directed all departments to ensure visible and result-oriented interventions in every village, Panchayat and educational institution of the district.

The DC emphasized active participation of youth volunteers in every Mohalla and Panchayat and said awareness activities must reach every household

through sustained community engagement.

He further instructed the concerned departments to ensure active involvement of Mahila Panchayats, civil society members, traders, market associations and community representatives in spreading awareness regarding the harmful effects of substance abuse and strengthening community-level outreach across the district.

The Revenue Department was directed to mobilize Lambardars and Chowkidars for extensive awareness campaigns in villages, while Anganwadi Workers were told to strengthen door-to-door educational and awareness activities at the grassroots level.

Highlighting the role of educational institutions in combating drug abuse, the DC instructed the Education Department to conduct daily awareness programmes in schools and ensure regular student participation in anti-drug activities.

The DC also called for the



organisation of class-wise sports competitions and youth engagement activities to channelise the energy of students towards constructive and positive pursuits. Departments including MVD,

Municipal Council, KPDCI, Health, Youth Services & Sports and other stakeholder departments were asked to further enhance their field-level involvement and ensure maximum public par-

ticipation under the Abhiyaan. Sub Divisional Magistrate Zainapora was directed to involve civil society members, religious leaders and local representatives to strengthen awareness campaigns and community outreach mechanisms at the grassroots level. During the meeting, DSWO Shopian (District Nodal Officer Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan) highlighted the importance of proper documentation and timely uploading of activities on the NMBA portal.

He urged all departments to upload only relevant and verified data related to awareness programmes and field activities to ensure accuracy, accountability and effective monitoring of the campaign progress.

The meeting was attended by SSP Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Chaudhary, ADCC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, GM DIC, ACD, ACR, SDM Zainapora, CEO, CAO, Tehsil-dars, BDOs and all district and sectoral officers.

DC Ganderbal oversees Randomization process for allotments of tents and shops for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026 along Baltal Axis

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAY 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today presided over the randomization process for allotment of tents and shops along the Baltal Axis for the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026, reaffirming the district administration's commitment towards ensuring a fair and transparent allotment mechanism.

The randomization process was conducted in the presence of concerned officers, applicants and all stakeholders to ensure transpar-

ency and equal opportunity for all eligible applicants.

Giving details, Additional Deputy Commissioner informed that more than 5000 applications had been received. After due scrutiny, tents and shops were allotted to various applicants through draw of lots at various spots along the Baltal Axis including Baltal Base Camp, Domail, Railpathri, Brarimarg and Sangam.

During the interaction, participants also raised various issues and concerns being faced by them regarding facilities and operational

arrangements.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the participants and assured them that all genuine issues would be addressed in a timely manner through coordinated efforts of the concerned departments.

He emphasized that the administration remains committed to facilitating smooth arrangements for pilgrims and stakeholders during the Yatra period.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, District Informatics Officer, and other officers and officials attended the meeting.

Awareness, Sports, Enforcement Activities continue across Pulwama

HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, MAY 07: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of enforcement, awareness, outreach and sports activities were conducted across District Pulwama today by multiple departments to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy and drug-free society.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Pulwama organised a wide range of activities and competitions across various educational institutions of the district, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and youth. The programmes included pledge-taking ceremonies, rallies and

sports competitions aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

In Zone Pulwama, zonal-level badminton tournament was organised at CHS Pulwama, while awareness programmes were conducted at BHS Payer and UPS Chewakalan. In Zone Tabab, chess and badminton competitions were held at HSS Arihal while awareness programme was organised at HSS Panzgam and volleyball competition was conducted at UPS Ladermar.

In Zone Kakapora, zonal-level badminton tournament was conducted at GMS Kakapora. In Zone Tral, zonal-level U-17 girls volleyball competition was organised at Sports Stadium Bajwani, while badminton com-

petition was held at Indoor Stadium Bajwani.

Similarly, chess and carrom competitions for girls were organised at HSS Rajpora in Zone Shadimarg, while zonal-level Kho-Kho competition for girls was conducted at GMS Lurgam in Zone Lurgam.

At the culmination of each sports event, the participants also took pledge to work collectively towards building a healthy, prosperous and drug-free society. The best performers in various zonal-level tournaments were awarded mementos and certificates for encouragement.

Meanwhile, under the ongoing campaign, the Drug Control Department, in coordination with Police Awantipora, intensified enforcement activities to curb drug abuse and prevent

misuse of controlled substances.

Continuing its inspection and surveillance drives, the department today ordered the closure of two retail medical shops for violation of prescribed laws and regulations. Officials stated that strict compliance with record-keeping provisions under drug laws is essential to ensure transparency and prevent illegal sale and misuse of medicines. They warned that any deviation from prescribed norms would invite strict legal action.

Besides, the Ayush Department organised awareness programmes at Ayush Health and Wellness Centre Reshipora Kakapora, Government Middle School Bagendar Sangarwani and Higher Secondary School Drubgam Pulwama. During the programmes, participants were

sensitized about the harmful effects of drug abuse, preventive measures and the importance of collective responsibility in creating a drug-free society. The programmes concluded with pledge-taking ceremonies, while NCD screening and free medicines were also provided among the participants.

Meanwhile, as part of the campaign, an awareness programme was also organised at Aripal, Tral bringing together officers from multiple departments and witnessing enthusiastic public participation.

During the session, officers and resource persons highlighted the adverse impact of substance abuse and stressed the importance of coordinated community efforts in tackling the menace.

Javed Rana expresses grief over passing of Executive Engineer Harish Chander Sharma

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 07: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the sudden demise of Harish Chander Sharma, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department.

In his condolence message, the Minister de-



scribed the departed officer as a sincere, dedicated and committed officer who served the department and the people with utmost professionalism and integrity. He said that the contributions and services rendered by Harish Chander Sharma towards public welfare will always be remembered with respect and gratitude.

The Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, colleagues and loved ones in this hour of immense grief and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. He also prayed for strength to the family to bear the irreparable loss.

HT EDITORIAL

For a change government wants to spend funds in regulated manner

Over the past few days chief minister Omar Abdullah has been carrying out meetings with respect to the budget announcements made by the union territory government during the budget session of the assembly. Omar, who is also the finance minister, concluded the discussions in the follow-up meeting held to review the budget announcements for implementation during 2026-27. The discussions were held with a focus on the timely delivery of welfare measures for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Shailendra Kumar, briefed the Chief Minister and presented the status of various budget announcements across departments under different grants, along with progress reports submitted by the departments. The administrative secretaries apprised the CM of the progress achieved so far and the action taken by their respective departments towards implementation of the budget proposals. Discussions were held with regards to the budgetary proposals of the various departments. These were threadbare with the aim to ensure that things take place at the right time.

The departments which presented their progress during the meeting included Revenue, Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare, Tourism, Forest, Labour & Employment, Higher Education, Rural Development, Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Tribal Affairs, DMRRR, Skill Development, Science & Technology and Cooperatives. During the deliberations, the CM issued directions for expediting implementation, strengthening inter-departmental coordination and ensuring strict adherence to timelines. He said that a similar exercise would be conducted again in the month of June to review the progress achieved on the budget announcements.

Over the years it has been observed that the budgetary announcements are referred to as mere announcements and no follow-up action is taken in this regard for months together. For a change this year the government has taken a proactive step in this regard by holding meetings at an earliest. This would ensure that the budgetary announcements would be taken care of by the concerned officers and officials. At the same time, it can be expected that the funds would be utilized in a regulated manner.

It has been observed that the funds are utilized in the last few months of the financial year with virtually very little work taken up during most of the months of the financial year. In other words, it can be said that the funds are rushed through in a hush-hush manner with the quality being compromised at the end of the day.

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Every hand has a microphone, every voice is not a journalist



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

In today's digital age, the flow of information has become faster and more widespread than ever before. Smartphones and cheap internet have given everyone a platform for expression. While this is a positive sign for democracy, it also poses serious challenges. Especially when some people, armed with a microphone and camera costing just 100-200 rupees, declare themselves "journalists" and begin disseminating information without any responsibility. This problem isn't just about individuals, but about the mindset that transforms journalism into a game of views and likes rather than a responsible social obligation.

Digital media has democratized journalism. Large media houses are no longer the sole purveyors of information; ordinary citizens can also record events and bring them to public attention. Often, this citizen journalism highlights issues that mainstream media ignores. This shift is also a source of strength for democracy, as it increases the diversity of voices and strengthens the demand for accountability at all levels of power. However, when this openness is used recklessly, this very strength turns into a weakness.

Today, going "viral" on social media has become the yardstick for success. In this race, some people try to gain popularity through controversy, sensationalism, and incomplete information. They know that harsh language, accusations,



and provocation attract attention, so they focus more on inciting emotions than on facts. The biggest downside is that confusion spreads in society and the line between truth and falsehood becomes blurred. People accept any information as true without verifying it, causing rumors to spread rapidly and their impact to deepen.

This also directly impacts government institutions. Government institutions are the administrative backbone of any nation, and their purpose is public service. If false or misleading information spreads about them, public trust is undermined. This trust is eroded not by a single news item, but by the continuous spread of incomplete or misleading information. As a result, people begin to doubt the system, which can lead to unnecessary conflict and discontent. It is equally true that government institutions are not infallible, but the approach to exposing their shortcomings must be factual and responsible, not

merely sensational.

Calling every person with a small microphone a "fake journalist" is as wrong as assuming every viral news is true. The value of journalism is determined not by equipment, but by perspective, honesty, and responsibility. Often, it's small and independent journalists who uncover the ground truth, while even large organizations sometimes err under pressure. Therefore, it's more appropriate to understand the problem as "responsible versus irresponsible" rather than "small versus big." The real crisis is the decline in journalistic values, where haste and popularity have replaced ethics and fact-checking.

The solution doesn't lie in a single step; it's only possible through collective effort. First, society must become media literate, so that people don't accept every piece of information without verifying it. They must understand that the credibility of a news story is determined by its source, evidence, and context,

not by its virality. Furthermore, strict and impartial action is essential against those spreading fake news, so that a clear message is sent that freedom of expression does not mean anarchy. Digital platforms must also understand their responsibility and develop effective mechanisms to control misleading content.

The need for training and ethical standards in journalism is felt more than ever. While a formal degree may not be mandatory to become a journalist, a basic understanding, a grasp of fact-checking procedures, and a sense of responsibility to society are essential. It is equally important to encourage those who work with integrity and balance to set positive examples.

The greatest need today is balance. It's not right to dismiss every small journalist, nor to blindly believe every news story. We must recognize that this new age of information brings both opportunities and dangers. It cannot be stopped, but it can certainly be channeled—and this direction is possible only when society, media, and government understand their respective responsibilities.

Ultimately, journalism isn't just about the microphone or the camera, but rather a commitment to truth. If this commitment weakens, the entire system is affected. Criticism of government institutions is necessary, but it must be based on facts and balance. At the same time, society must understand that not every voice can be viewed with the same perspective. The real struggle is not "fake versus real," but "truth versus sensation"—and in this struggle, only those who base their efforts on responsibility, honesty, and discretion will thrive.

The author is a PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker

Raksha Triveni Sangam

North Tech Symposium 2026



BY M S NAZKI

Modern warfare is no longer determined merely by troop strength and conventional firepower. The battlefield has transformed into a technologically driven arena where artificial intelligence, autonomous drones, cyber operations and precision-guided systems dictate the course of conflict. Military strategy today is increasingly based on capabilities generated through advanced technology rather than sheer numerical superiority.

This transformation reflects a major shift in thinking. Earlier, military planning focused on what nations intended to achieve. Today, planning often revolves around the technologies already available and how they can be deployed rapidly across multiple domains. The technological revolution has fundamentally altered warfare, but technology alone is never enough without strategic vision, human leadership and innovation.

The nature of conflict is rapidly changing through the integration of AI, drones, hypersonic weapons and space-based surveillance systems. Drone warfare has emerged as one of the defining aspects of modern combat, with unmanned aerial vehicles accounting for a significant share of battlefield damage in recent conflicts. Low-cost drone swarms have enabled even smaller actors to challenge powerful conventional militaries.

Artificial intelligence is now being used for target identification, threat analysis and autonomous operations. Precision-guided munitions allow militaries to conduct long-range strikes without exposing troops to direct risk. Simultaneously, cyber warfare and satellite disruption have become crucial elements of strategic conflict, while hypersonic missiles travelling at speeds

above Mach 5 are posing new challenges for traditional air defence systems.

Despite technological progress, modern warfare presents serious ethical and security concerns. Autonomous weapons systems raise questions regarding accountability and human control. Cyber attacks can cripple military communication networks and civilian infrastructure alike. Hybrid warfare, combining misinformation campaigns, cyber operations and physical combat, further blurs the distinction between state and non-state actors.

Dependence on digital systems also creates vulnerabilities. Nations increasingly recognise that technological superiority must be matched with robust cybersecurity and indigenous innovation to ensure long-term strategic stability.

Security and stability remain essential pillars for national prosperity. Stable societies attract investment, encourage innovation and create conditions necessary for sustainable economic growth. Nations lacking security face disrupted economic activity, instability and widening inequality.

A secure environment fosters confidence among citizens and businesses, enabling long-term planning and development. Political and social stability also strengthens national cohesion, which is critical for economic resilience and progress.

Against this backdrop, the North Tech Symposium 2026 emerged as a major platform for India's defence and technological aspirations. Held in Prayagraj from May 4 to May 6, the three-day symposium was organised jointly by the Northern Command and Central Command of the Indian Army in collaboration with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and UPEIDA.

The symposium carried the theme "Raksha Triveni Sangam - Where Technology, Industry & Soldiering Converge." It brought together more than 284 firms, including MSMEs, startups and innovators, to showcase indigenous defence technologies and field-ready solutions for modern warfare.

The event strongly emphasised the principles of jointness, Atmanirbharta and Innovation. Key exhibits included AI-powered surveillance systems, heavy-lift logistics drones, robotics, counter-drone systems and advanced weaponry designed for border security and high-altitude operations.

The symposium aimed to fast-track the procurement and deployment of indigenous technologies under the broader vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. It also highlighted India's transition from importing defence technologies to developing and manufacturing its own systems.

One of the defining concepts discussed during the symposium was the Triple Helix Model, which promotes collaboration between academia, industry and government institutions. This framework seeks to transform knowledge into practical defence applications by encouraging innovation and resource-sharing among universities, private industries and the Armed Forces.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Central Command, Lt. Gen. Anindya Sengupta, praised this collaborative model and expressed confidence that the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor would emerge as a major knowledge and technology hub.

The symposium also showcased the growing importance of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC), spread across six nodes - Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Agra, Aligarh and Chitrakoot. The corridor is being developed as a major defence manufacturing ecosystem aimed at reducing foreign dependence in aerospace and defence production.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted that investment proposals worth over Rs 35,000 crore are currently being implemented within the corridor. He reiterated that India's defence capabilities are being strengthened not for aggression, but to ensure security, peace and prosperity.

India is rapidly expanding its surveillance, communication and cybersecurity capabilities. Indigenous systems such as DRDO's AI-powered surveillance platform "Praja," quantum communication networks and advanced AI-driven defence systems demonstrate the country's growing technological strength.

Projects like NATGRID, NETRA and indigenous communication platforms underline India's determination to ensure technological sovereignty and reduce dependence on foreign systems. Simultaneously, advancements in 5G, 6G and cybersecurity frameworks are creating a strong foundation for future defence preparedness.

PERSONALITY

Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo

A Physician Beyond the White Coat

Where Medicine Meets Leadership, Education, and Social Purpose

There are doctors who heal illness, and then there are doctors who quietly reshape how society understands health itself. Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo belongs to the latter—a physician whose journey reflects not merely a career in medicine, but a larger calling rooted in public service, education, and human impact.

From the picturesque valleys of Jammu & Kashmir, India, Dr. Itoo has emerged as a respected medical professional whose work bridges clinical medicine, public health advocacy, medical education, and community leadership. His growing profile in national and international medical circles is built not on spectacle, but on substance—years of dedication to learning, service, and meaningful contribution.

What makes his story compelling is that it is not confined to the symbolism of the white coat.

Behind the physician is an educator who believes knowledge should be shared. Behind the clinician is a communicator

who understands that medicine must be spoken in a language people can understand. And behind the professional accolades is an individual deeply committed to the idea that healthcare is, above all, about empowering lives.

With affiliations that span globally respected institutions—including professional recognition from organizations in the United Kingdom, Belgium, and the United States—Dr. Itoo represents an increasingly rare blend of international perspective and local commitment. Yet, despite the global reach of his professional journey, his focus remains firmly grounded in community well-being, preventive health awareness, and strengthening public understanding of medicine.

His voice has extended far beyond clinics and conferences. Through health writing, educational outreach, and initiatives centered on diabetes awareness, preventive healthcare, patient guidance, and mentorship, he has become an ad-

vocate for a more informed and healthier society. His work reflects a belief that medicine is not only about treating disease—it is about creating systems of awareness that prevent illness before it begins.

Colleagues recognize in him a thoughtful professional. Students and younger doctors see a mentor. Patients see a physician who listens, educates, and advocates. Communities see a voice for health literacy and meaningful change.

In an age where medicine increasingly demands compassion alongside competence, leadership alongside learning, and service alongside success, Dr. Itoo stands as an example of what modern medical professionalism can look like—global in outlook, grounded in ethics, and driven by purpose.

Because sometimes, the most remarkable doctors are not defined by the coat they wear—but by the lives they touch beyond it.



■ **SHAH ZUBAIR**

Rather Toiba

A Promising Young Voice in Modern Literature

In every generation, literature introduces voices that carry sincerity, emotion, and the courage to express the unspoken realities of human life. Among the emerging young writers of today, Rather Toiba stands out as a promising literary voice whose work reflects emotional depth, sensitivity, and a thoughtful understanding of relationships and human feelings.

Born on 20 November 2006, Rather Toiba began her literary journey in 2022. Though still very young, she has already shown remarkable dedication toward writing and has steadily built her place in the literary world. Her passion for literature is evident in the maturity of her thoughts and the emotional honesty present in her work.

In a short span of time, she has co-authored six anthologies, contributing poetry that beautifully captures the complexities of human emotions. Her poems often revolve around themes of love, loss, loneliness, emotional pain, and broken relationships. However, what makes her writing truly special is the simplicity and sincerity with which she expresses these emotions. Her words do not feel artificial or exaggerated; instead, they appear natural and heartfelt, allowing readers to connect deeply with her work.

Rather Toiba writes about emotions that many people experience but often struggle to explain. Through her poetry, she gives voice to silent feelings hidden within the human heart. Her writing carries a soft emotional intensity that leaves a lasting impression on readers. She portrays love not as perfection, but as a deeply human experience filled with vulnerability, misunderstandings, hope, and healing.

One of her most significant achievements is her upcoming novel, which is expected to be published this month. The novel explores the silent emotional damage caused by family conflicts and broken relationships within homes. Through fiction, she attempts to show



how emotional neglect and misunderstandings can slowly hollow a person from within. Instead of focusing only on external events, she highlights the inner emotional struggles that many individuals silently endure.

The novel also beautifully emphasizes the healing power of friendship. Sometimes, friendships provide comfort and understanding that people fail to receive even from their own families. Through her story, Rather Toiba presents

friendship as a source of emotional strength capable of healing wounded hearts and rebuilding broken individuals.

Another remarkable aspect of her writing is the way she handles emotional complexity. She understands that

relationships are delicate and can easily suffer due to silence, distance, and misunderstandings. Her storytelling reflects the fragile nature of human connections while also reminding readers that love and compassion still possess the power to heal emotional wounds.

Despite dealing with painful themes, her writing never loses hope. Beneath the sadness and emotional struggles, her work carries a message of resilience and emotional recovery. She believes in love in its most realistic form—imperfect, wounded, yet capable of restoring broken lives. This emotional realism makes her work relatable and meaningful for modern readers.

For someone so young, Rather Toiba demonstrates an impressive level of emotional maturity and literary understanding. Many experienced writers spend years trying to achieve the emotional honesty that naturally appears in her work. Her ability to observe human emotions closely and transform them into meaningful literature reflects both talent and dedication.

Her journey also represents the rise of young voices in contemporary literature. Today's young writers are not merely creating stories for entertainment; they are exploring emotional and social realities that deeply affect people's lives. Rather Toiba belongs to this new generation of writers who use literature as a medium to express truth, pain, healing, and hope.

As she continues her literary journey, there is little doubt that her voice will grow stronger with time. Her writing already carries the qualities of a thoughtful and impactful author. Readers are naturally drawn toward writers who make them feel understood, and Rather Toiba possesses this rare ability.

Through her poetry and fiction, she is not only telling stories but also creating emotional connections with readers. She writes about the silent wounds people carry, the beauty of friendship, and the healing power of love and understanding. Her words remind readers that even in pain, there is hope, and even in brokenness, there is the possibility of healing.

Rather Toiba is undoubtedly a young writer with a bright future ahead. With her emotional depth, sincerity, and literary passion, she is steadily emerging as a meaningful voice in modern literature—a voice capable of touching hearts and leaving a lasting impact on readers.



HEADACHES AND PREVENTION



DR TASADUK HUSSAIN ITOO

Headache is one of the most common health complaints, affecting people of all ages. It may occur on one or both sides of the head, remain confined to one area, or radiate from one point across the head. The pain may feel sharp, throbbing, dull, or pressure-like, and can develop gradually or suddenly—lasting from less than an hour to several days.

Headaches are more complex than many realize, with over 150 recognized types. Among the most common are tension headaches, migraine headaches, cluster headaches, and sinus headaches—each with distinct symptoms, triggers, and treatment approaches.

Common Types of Headaches

Tension Headaches: Often called “stress headaches,” these cause dull, aching pain, pressure around the forehead, or tightness in the neck and scalp—often described as a band squeezing the head.

Migraine Headaches: Characterized by throbbing or pulsating pain, often accompanied by nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light, sound, or smell, and loss of appetite. Migraine attacks can last from 4 hours to 3 days.

Cluster Headaches: Considered among the most severe headaches, cluster headaches cause intense burning or piercing pain around one eye, often with tearing, nasal congestion, redness of the eye, and restlessness.

Sinus Headaches: Caused by inflammation or infection of the sinuses, these produce deep, constant pain around the forehead, cheekbones, or bridge of the nose, usually accompanied by nasal discharge, fever, or facial swelling.

Common Headache Triggers Headache triggers vary from person to person, but common causes include:

- Physical factors: sleep deprivation, fatigue, poor posture, strenuous exercise
- Emotional factors: stress, anxiety, depression
- Environmental factors: bright lights, excessive screen time, loud noise, strong smells, smoking, weather changes

- Dietary factors: dehydration, skipped meals, excess caffeine, alcohol, certain foods (chocolate, aged cheese, smoked meats)
- Medication overuse: frequent use of painkillers can lead to rebound headaches

How to Prevent Headaches Prevention often starts with recognizing triggers and making healthy lifestyle changes:

- Stay well hydrated
- Eat regular balanced meals
- Maintain a consistent sleep schedule
- Exercise regularly
- Reduce screen time and eye strain
- Limit caffeine and avoid smoking/alcohol
- Manage stress through meditation, breathing exercises, yoga, or counselling
- Consider therapies such as massage, acupuncture, physical therapy, or biofeedback
- Keep a headache diary to identify personal triggers
- Seek medical evaluation for persistent or severe headaches

Recognizing triggers, documenting patterns, and adopting healthy habits remain among the best strategies to reduce headache frequency and improve quality of life.



There is Nothing More Important Than Health



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

This requires continuous efforts from the police, senior citizens, and family cooperation. This evil has no place in our pious society.

Kashmir's renowned doctor, Mr. Mohammad Sultan Khuroo, recently highlighted that during the last fifteen years, cases of fatty liver and Helicobacter pylori have increased due to people's lifestyle. This is very alarming. We must seriously reflect on our lifestyle and improve our diet.

Today, young people are becoming victims of obesity, which is very unfortunate. Youth should be physically fit because they are the future of the nation. We live in an era of awareness and cutting-edge technology, yet we lack a basic understanding of how important physical fitness is and how dangerous junk food and an unhealthy lifestyle can be. Fast food is not entirely bad, but we must take every health-related matter seriously and never be careless in this regard.

During the 1990s, the Kashmir Valley suffered for various reasons, and young people did not have enough opportunities to explore their interests and careers. Today, however, we have numerous opportunities to fulfil our dreams and live comfortably. Our parents, teachers, relatives, and well-wishers have great expectations of us. We must keep our promises and do our best for the nation and for humanity.

Routine Exercise Reflects Discipline

Routine exercise reflects discipline and keeps us fit and healthy. Therefore, regular exercise is vital for good health. Today's era is full of stress and anxiety, and people often complain about fatty liver, high cholesterol, obesity, and many other health issues. To overcome these problems, we need discipline in our lives. We must follow a balanced diet, exercise regularly, and go for routine



medical check-ups.

Healthy People, Healthy Nation

Today, people face severe health problems such as obesity, gastrointestinal disorders, fatty liver, heart disease, orthopedic issues, and many other health risks. Our body performs countless functions such as digestion, blood circulation, and waste removal. When we observe these processes, we realize how perfectly they work. We are blessed with intelligence to study and research what already exists in the universe. We should always be grateful and hopeful for the future.

Unfortunately, even in the age of advanced technology, we still lack complete treatments for certain diseases like cancer, AIDS, and several genetic disorders. This reminds us that every part of the universe has value and that we must remain humble.

Health Comes First

Today, people are motivated to achieve success and wealth but often forget to prioritize health. In reality, health comes before money, buildings, and fame.

Workers and labourers are fortunate because their jobs involve physical activity, which keeps them fit, although their income is often low. They deserve appreciation and better support. Sportspeople are also fortunate because regular physical activity keeps them healthy while bringing recognition and financial stability.

Many people complain that they do not have time for exercise. For them, a home gym is a great solution.

Importance of a Home Gym

A home gym means setting aside a room or a small space with basic equipment to exercise daily. You can gradually add equipment as your financial condition improves. You may even request friends and relatives to gift fitness equipment on special occasions.

Benefits of Exercise

I started gym exercises in the 8th class. In Kashmir, it is often called the “iron game.” During this journey, I met kind and supportive people who motivated me. I experienced great positivity, increased energy, and improved confidence. Exercise helps remove fatigue and brings freshness to daily life.

I encourage young people to join gyms, stay away from drugs, develop an interest in sports, and become confident and disciplined individuals. Before starting a home gym, consult a trainer for proper guidance. Involve your parents and siblings to make fitness a family habit.

Schools should establish mini gym centres to create awareness among students. Colleges should open gym facilities for students to reduce stress and promote healthy activities. In villages, many youngsters fall into harmful habits such as smoking and drug use. It is our collective responsibility to replace these habits with healthy activities. Regular exercise keeps us happy, healthy, and energetic.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Silent Storm Within



SURINDERPAL SINGH

In today's fast-paced, materialistic and distraction-filled world, the ability to concentrate has become increasingly difficult for people of all age groups. Restlessness, forgetfulness and lack of focus are often dismissed as laziness or indiscipline. However, for millions of children and adults across the world, these struggles are not simply habits or personality flaws but symptoms of a medically recognized neurodevelopmental condition known as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Beneath what appears to be ordinary distraction lies a silent internal battle that deeply affects daily life, emotions and relationships.

ADHD is a brain-based disorder that influences how an individual pays attention, controls impulses and manages activity levels. Though it usually begins during childhood, its impact can continue well into adulthood. The condition is generally identified through three major characteristics: inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity. Individuals often find it difficult to stay focused, complete tasks, remember instructions or sit calmly for long periods. Many act impulsively without fully considering consequences, while others constantly experience restlessness and excessive mental activity. These symptoms are persistent and interfere with performance at school, work and social settings.

Medical science has not identified one single cause behind ADHD, but researchers across the globe believe that a combination of genetic, neurological and environmental factors contributes to its development. Genetics play a significant role, as ADHD often runs in families. Children with a parent suffering from ADHD are more likely to develop the condition themselves. Scientific studies also indicate differences in brain structure and function, particularly in areas responsible for attention, self-control and dopamine regulation. Dopamine, a chemical messenger in the brain, is closely linked with motivation, concentration and emotional balance.

Environmental influences may also increase the likelihood or severity of ADHD. Exposure to toxins such as lead, premature birth, low birth weight and maternal stress or substance use during pregnancy are believed to contribute to the condition. Although modern lifestyle factors are not direct causes, excessive digital stimulation, constant screen

exposure and shrinking attention spans in today's technology-driven society can significantly worsen symptoms and make focus even more difficult.

The effects of ADHD extend far beyond simple hyperactivity. In academic settings, children often struggle to follow instructions, remain seated, organize tasks or complete assignments. Many are misunderstood as careless, disobedient or uninterested, which can negatively affect confidence and learning outcomes. Adults with ADHD frequently encounter workplace challenges such as poor time management, disorganization, missed deadlines and difficulty maintaining consistency in professional responsibilities.

Social and emotional difficulties are equally serious. Repeated misunderstandings in relationships, criticism from others and frequent failures can gradually lower self-esteem. Individuals may begin to feel isolated, inadequate or incapable despite their intelligence and potential. Over time, untreated ADHD can trigger deeper psychological complications. Constant pressure to behave “normally” often creates stress and anxiety, while fear of failure and repeated disappointment may eventually lead to depression, especially among adolescents and adults.

An emotional cycle quietly develops in many individuals with ADHD. Failures and criticism damage confidence, weakened confidence creates stress and anxiety, and prolonged emotional strain can ultimately result in depression. If ignored, this silent cycle can severely affect mental well-being and quality of life.

Although ADHD does not have a permanent cure, it can be effectively managed through supportive and healthy approaches. Mindfulness practices, meditation and deep breathing exercises help improve focus, self-awareness and emotional control. Proper nutrition also plays an important role in supporting brain health. Diets rich in omega-3 fatty acids, proteins and whole grains can positively influence concentration and mood stability. Regular physical activity boosts dopamine levels in the brain, improving attention span and reducing restlessness. Good sleep hygiene is equally essential, as adequate sleep helps stabilize brain function and emotional balance.

Behavioural therapy and counselling further assist individuals in developing coping skills, structured routines and positive habits. In moderate to severe cases, stimulant medications and medical treatment under the supervision of qualified healthcare professionals may become necessary. Early diagnosis and proper guidance can significantly improve long-term outcomes.

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

Tehsil Administration Kreeri holds Self-Enumeration Awareness Program at Govt Hr Sec School Kreeri for census 2027

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KREERI, MAY 07: Tehsil administration Kreeri holds self Enumeration awareness program at Kreeri While addressing the general public and students at this program, Naib Tehsildar Shah Nissar along with other officials effectively explained the process of Self_Enumeration for the 2027 census to ease the process in which now people have to fill some details and the desired process will be carried out.

Furthermore, it was also pointed clearly to the people that no sensitive details like Otp, account details or other personal details should not be given out to any official. The Tehsil administration saw the opportunity to hold this awesomeness program at Heigher Secondary



School Kreeri While Students participating can carry forward the same information to the parents so that The effectiveness of this program meets its aim.

HYDERYA CLUB CLINCHES U-16 GIRLS TITLE IN THRILLING KYFT FINAL

CRPF initiative revives football culture in Downtown, boosts girls' participation

■ HT SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR, MAY 7: The U-16 Girls Final of the Kashmir Youth Football Tournament (KYFT), organized by the 161 Battalion CRPF, concluded on a high note in Downtown with enthusiastic participation and a strong display of sporting spirit.

In a closely contested final, New Hyderya Football Club edged past Tawheed Tigers Soura with a narrow 1-0 victory. The decisive goal was netted by Ulfat, who also earned the Player of the Tournament title for her exceptional performance throughout the competition.

The event was attended by Commandant Balihar Singh as the Chief Guest, along with Second-in-Command Sanjay Kumar. Senior officers Amit Kumar Singh, Assistant Commandant, and Kiran Sonawane were also present and applauded the players for their efforts.

The tournament marks a significant step in reviving football in Downtown, an area once known for its strong sporting culture. It has played a key role in encouraging youth participation, particularly among girls, and fostering a renewed interest in sports.

A large crowd turned up to witness the final, includ-



ing students from Government Girls High School Narwara, Eidgah, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for sports among young girls in the region.

Local residents appreciated the efforts of the 161 Battalion CRPF in developing the football ground at Eidgah and promoting sports activities. The initiative has been widely praised for creating a positive environment and engaging youth constructively.

On the occasion, the Commandant distributed volleyballs and nets among the students and extended financial assistance of 5,100 to a specially-abled Class 12 student, Ghulam Hussain, as a gesture of encouragement.

Medals, trophies, and cash prizes were awarded to the winning, runner-up, and third-place teams.

Addressing the gathering, the Commandant urged young girls to actively participate in sports and strive to bring pride to the region and the country. He emphasized the importance of staying away from drugs and adopting sports as a constructive path for personal growth. The initiative, one of the first of its kind in Downtown, witnessed overwhelming participation and highlighted growing trust and cooperation between the local community and security forces. Officials expressed hope that such efforts will continue to channel youth energy in a positive direction and contribute to a progressive future.

Balihar Singh assured that similar tournaments would be organized in the future to further promote sports culture and nurture young talent in the region.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Block Development Officer (BDO) pattan has forwarded the case file for issuance of date of Birth certificate in favour of MISRA BEGUM D/O GH QADIR MALIK R/O PALHALLAN A/P DOWLATPORA with Date of Birth 1

06/01/1967
Objection if any regarding the details furnished by the applicant may be submitted in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar PALHALLAN within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

If no objection are received within the stipulated time, the case shall be processed for issuance of the Birth certificate as per rules in vogue.

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

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application MEHAQ BASHIR S/O BASHIR AHMAD BANDAY R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI for Issuance of EWS Financially weakened section in favour of his Words

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of (Ews) in favour of MEHAQ BASHIR S/O BASHIR AHMAD BANDAY this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KREERI of Tehsil KREERI and having annual income 120, 000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..BASHIR AHMAD BANADAY Father 51 years shopkeeper
- 2... REHANA BEGUM 50 years H/W
- 3..MEHAQ BASHIR self (applicant) 24 years student
- 4....MURSLEEN BASHIR sister 22 years student

According to report of patwari concerned that applicants family has not more than 5 acres of Land and does not have greater 1000 residential House...

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

It is hereby informed to the general public that I, Naseema Hassan, wife of Ghulam Hassan Ganie, resident of Kalantra Pain, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, am the registered consumer of electricity connection bearing Consumer ID: 0212040017492 under the jurisdiction of AEE, JKPD Sub-Division Watergam Wagoor.

In the official electricity records, my husband's name has been incorrectly recorded as "GH Rasool Wani" instead of the correct name "Ghulam Hassan Ganie." I have applied for correction of the same.

Any person having an objection he/she may file his/her objection in office of the AEE, JKPD Sub-Division Watergam Wagoor within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After this period, no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Naseema Hassan

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I intend to apply for the registration of an Adventure Tour Operator (ATO) license under the name SANG E SAFED ADVENTURES, located at Kalantra Bala, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, at the Office of the Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg.

If anyone has any objection in this regard, they may file their objection at the Department of Tourism, Office of the Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

DANISH MEHRAJ
S/o MEHRAJ-UD-DIN THOKER
R/o KALANTRA BALA, KREERI, BARAMULLA

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Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops
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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Floriculture Officer District Srinagar

DEPARTMENT OF FLORICULTURE KASHMIR
GIST OF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE: 02 Of 2026-27 | DATED: 07/05/2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, sealed tenders affixed with Rs.6/- (Rupees six only) Revenue Stamps are invited through Registered/speed post/Courier/by hand from Government approved suppliers/contractors on the prescribed tender form for:

S.No	Name of job	Tentative quantity	Start and last date for issue of tender document	Last Date for receipt of sealed bids	Amount of Call Deposit Receipt	Tender document fee
01	Providing of Sweet Garden Soil free from stones, pebbles, chemicals and other unwanted substances for Wonder Garden Pologround Srinagar.	50 cum	11/05/2026 to 16/05/2026 Upto 4.00PM	18/05/2026 Upto 4.00 PM	3000/-	200/-
02	Providing of Riverbed sand free from stones, and all unwanted substances for Wonder Garden Pologround Srinagar.	25 cum	11/05/2026 to 16/05/2026 Upto 4.00PM	18/05/2026 Upto 4.00 PM	1000/-	100/-

The tenders accompanied with CDR for amount as mentioned above from any recognized bank pledged to Floriculture Officer District Srinagar should reach this office by or before 18/05/2026 upto 4.00 PM. Tender documents along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 11/05/2026 to 16/05/2026 upto 4.00 PM against Non-refundable cash payment as document fee.

The tenders will be opened on the same day or next working day convenient to tender opening committee (Local Purchase Committee Central Kashmir). However, in case of any eventuality, the tender issue, receipt and opening date will be considered the next working day without any change of fixed time and venue.

No: FOS/NIT-01/2026-27/481 | Dated: 07/05/2026

Sd/- (Mubashir Ahmad Wani)
Floriculture Officer,
Department of Floriculture District, Srinagar

DIPK: 1116/26 | Dated: 07-05-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office of the Child Dev. Project Officer Poshan Batwara

Publication of Final Merit list of AWWs(Sangnis) 5th phase

It is to submit that 3 vacancies of Sangnis have been identified in different AWCs of ICDS Project Batwara These vacancies were advertised vide notification no;72 of 2025 dated: 30.12.2025 in prominent local dailies viz Srinagar Times and Iqbal e Kashmir to receive applications from the eligible candidates of respective wards within the given time of 15 days. In response to said advertisement notice 18 applications were received by this office against 03 vacancies .The tentative merit list was framed by this office and after approval by the District Level Selection committee the tentative merit list was published in 3 local dailies i.e. Kashmir Observe, Srinagar News and Street Times, besides uploaded on District and Departmental website. To invite objections, no objection has been received by this office within stipulated time. Accordingly final merit list has been framed by this office in light of the marks obtained by the candidates in 12th class examinations and got approved by the District Level Selection Committee. Hence the Final merit list is hereby published in local dailies for inviting objection within 10 days from the date of publication.

S.No	Name and No. of Ward	No. of Vacancy	Name of AWC	Name with parentage	Residence	Date of birth	Qualification	Maximum Marks in 12th	Marks obtained	Points on the basis of marks obtained
1	Ward 67 Danihama	1	Danihama B	Bisma Jan D/o Abdul Gani Rather	Mulfaq Burzuhama	21.08.2004	Graduate	500	420	84%
1	Ward 3 Brein	2	Manzgam G	Iqra Hilal D/o Hilal Ahmad Ganai	Ganai Mohalla Manzgam Brein	26.05.2006	12th	500	485	97%
2			Sheikh Mohalla A	Shahida Mushtaq D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat	Pahloo Brein	03.04.2004	12th	500	452	90.4%,

Sd/ D P O ICDS Srinagar

DIPK: 1109/26 | Dated: 07052026

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IMPORTANT DATES

Registration & Preference Filing	09 May - 27 May 2026
1st Merit List	30 May 2026
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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• Summer Zone Colleges: 15 July 2026

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Space Devoted by Headlines Today in Public Interest

DC Srinagar inspects renovation & upgradation works on Vicharnag Temple, Khankah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA) under Heritage conservation scheme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, May 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing upgradation and renovation works at Vicharnag Temple and Khankah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA) being executed under the Heritage Conservation Scheme of the Government to preserve the rich cultural, spiritual and architectural heritage in the District.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Superintending Engineer, R&B,

Circle North, Shabir Ahmad, Executive Engineers of R&B, SMC, PHE, PDD, UEED, Tehsildar, Eidgah, Officers of Archives & Archaeology and other concerned Departments.

At the ancient Vicharnag Temple, a site of immense historical and religious significance located in Nowshera area of the District, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed on-site appraisal of the revival, restoration, and conservation works being undertaken under the Government scheme to preserve the heritage character of the monument.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the different project components at the site and directed the Officers to ensure strict adherence to set time-



lines and quality of the work as envisioned under the project guidelines.

He directed the Officers to further expedite the pace of works and take technically feasible measure for efficient drainage mechanism at the important heritage site.

The DC was informed that substantial progress has been achieved on various components of the project, including land filling, construction of gate, boundary wall, toilet block and security quarter. It was further informed that underpinning works of the two main temple structures and restoration of the main springs are nearing completion. In addition, works related to levelling of ground, development of pathways and allied components have been initiated at the site.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to prescribed timelines and maintenance of high-quality standards as envisioned under the project guidelines. He further directed that the pace of work be expedited and technically feasible measures be adopted for establishing an efficient drainage mechanism at the heritage site.

At Khankah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA), Khawaja Bazar Nowhatta in the Shahr-e-Khaas area of Srinagar, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the ongoing preservation works being executed under the Heritage Conservation Scheme.

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the officers to

accelerate the pace of work on the project and ensure its timely completion with adherence to prescribed quality. He was informed that the project includes structural conservation while retaining the original exterior appearance, restoration of wooden architecture and intricate ornamentation, restoration of wooden elements on the exterior façade, and installation of khatamband ceiling with traditional papier-mâché work in the central hall.

The DC emphasized that both projects are of significant heritage importance and are aimed at preserving and restoring the original architectural aesthetics of centuries-old spiritual and cultural landmarks of Srinagar.

Empowering Champion: Rajouri Administration backs Orphan Boxer Yasir

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, MAY 07: In a commendable gesture to support local sports talent and as part of the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Rajouri, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, has extended financial assistance to a promising young boxer Yasir, who has recently been selected to represent India at an international boxing event in Uzbekistan.



Yasir, an orphan who has faced significant hardships, has emerged as a symbol of determination and resilience. Despite limited resources and challenging living conditions, he has excelled in boxing, bringing pride to the district with his achievements.

Currently residing with his family in modest conditions at the ITI building near the Sports Stadium Rajouri, Yasir's journey reflects both his grit and the need for collective support to nurture such talent.

Recognizing his potential and dedication, the district administration, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, initiated efforts to assist the young athlete in pursuing his sporting aspirations.

In response to these efforts, the Animal Husbandry Department, under the guidance of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Khalid Najeeb Khan, extended financial support to the young boxer.

The assistance was provided in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar, District Social Welfare Officer Abdul Rahim and Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Dr. Shah Riaz Ahmed Chowdhary.

The District Administration reaffirmed its commitment to encouraging and supporting talented youth, particularly those overcoming socio-economic challenges and urged society to come forward in uplifting such inspiring individuals.

JMC's 'Wall of Shame' Initiative: Transforming Red & Yellow Spots into Clean Public Spaces

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 07: Under its innovative "Wall of Shame" initiative, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has intensified its efforts to transform Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs) and identified red and yellow spots across the city into clean, accessible and dignified public spaces.

The initiative is aimed at discouraging open urination, preventing waste dumping and improving sanitation standards while simultaneously beautifying the urban landscape.

As part of this campaign, around 30 public urinals are being established at prominent locations across Jammu city. Alongside the construction of new facilities, JMC is also undertaking extensive renovation and upgradation of existing public toilets to ensure better hygiene, accessibility and convenience for citizens.



The renovation and development works are presently being carried out at several important locations including Shahidi Chowk, Railway Station, Gumat, Prade Ranbir Higher Secondary School, Dogra Chowk, near the passenger shed at Bus Stand, BC Road near the Estate Department quarters, Jhullaka Mohalla, near

the DC Office and Jewel Chowk near Abhinav Theatre.

To further enhance these spaces, walls around vulnerable points are being decorated with creative wall paintings, awareness messages and sanitation-themed artwork to discourage misuse and inspire civic responsibility among the public.

Issuing directions to field functionaries and sanitation teams, Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner, JMC emphasized the need for continuous monitoring and proper maintenance of these facilities.

He directed officials to ensure timely completion of works, regular upkeep, cleanliness and

strict vigilance to prevent vandalism or recurrence of red and yellow spots.

In his public message, Dr. Yadav appealed to citizens to actively support the initiative by maintaining cleanliness and using public facilities responsibly.

"These public amenities are being developed for the convenience and dignity of citizens. Their protection and proper use is a collective responsibility. Public cooperation is essential to sustain cleanliness and make Jammu a healthier and more beautiful city," he stated.

JMC has urged residents, shopkeepers, transport operators and visitors to refrain from littering, damaging public property, or indulging in open urination. Citizens have also been encouraged to report misuse of facilities and actively participate in maintaining sanitation standards in their localities.

DDC Reasi holds Block Diwas at Sungari

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, MAY 07: To strengthen grassroots governance and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances, District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today conducted a Block Diwas at Sungari in Mahore Sub Division.

A large number of residents from adjoining panchayats participated in the programme and projected their demands related to basic amenities, including road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare and other developmental issues.

Representatives from Bhagodas, Balmankot, Channa and Tulli Banna highlighted demands, seeking adequate staff in PHCs and schools, speedy completion of PWD and PMGSY roads, renewal of arms licences, upgradation of electric transformers and the need for an ambulance facility.

Additional demands included the establishment of a Degree College



at Chassana, construction of a protection wall for the sports stadium and survey of BPL families in the area.

The District Development Com-

missioner gave a patient hearing and assured redressal of genuine issues in a time-bound manner. He directed the concerned officers present on the occasion to take immediate action for on-the-spot redressal of the issues needing urgent attention, while instructing that other matters be taken up on priority and resolved at the earliest.

The DDC also urged KKGs to come forward and apply for seed and fertilizer licences to strengthen agricultural activities in the region.

A pledge under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan was also administered during the Block Diwas, wherein all present officials and public reaffirmed their commitment to making society drug-free.

MLA Gulabgarh Er. Khurshid Ahmed; ADDC Krishan Lal' ACD Mukesh Sharma; CPO Narinder Kumar; SDM Mahore and other concerned officers were present.

DC Udhampur reviews implementation of PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana scheme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, MAY 07: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the implementation and progress of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore; PO Poshan Subash Dogra; Chief Planning Officer Utam Singh and other concerned officers.



During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to expand the scheme's coverage among unorganised sector workers to ensure that maximum eligible beneficiaries are brought under the ambit of social security benefits. He highlighted that the PM-SYM scheme is designed to secure the future of workers who lack access to formal social security mechanisms.

The DC issued necessary directions to all concerned line departments to intensify grassroots-level awareness and mobilisation activities to ensure wider outreach in the district.

"Departments should identify eligible beneficiaries within their respective jurisdictions and facilitate their enrolment through focused field-level initiatives," he stressed.

Emphasising coordinated and dedicated efforts, the Deputy Commissioner urged all officers to work in close synergy to achieve full saturation under the PM-SYM scheme within the stipulated timeframe.

DDC Poonch reviews formulation of action plans under Vibrant Village Programme-II

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, MAY 07: District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the progress made in the formulation of Action Plans under the Vibrant Village Programme-II in the district. Detailed discussions were held regarding the implementation of developmental activities in the identified villages under the Vibrant Village Programme-II. The District Development Commissioner directed all concerned officers to conduct a thorough analysis of gaps in the implementation

of different schemes and programmes and ensure timely preparation and submission of Action Plans at the earliest.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Superintendent Engineer PWD(R&B), Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Executive Engineers of PMGSY, JPDCL, Jal Shakti Department & Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Block Development Officers, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, besides other



concerned officers.

The District Development Commissioner also reviewed the works being executed by different departments under the first phase of the programme and assessed the progress achieved so far. He emphasized the need for co-ordinated efforts among all departments for effective execution of developmental initiatives in the Vibrant Villages.

The concerned officers briefed the chair regarding the developmental activities being carried out in their respective jurisdiction villages under the programme.

ODOC Will Empower Local Vendors and Boost Economy : Hema Malini

Mathura's traditional sweets brought under state scheme; stakeholders welcome move

■ HT NEWS DESK

MATHURA, MAY 7: Uttar Pradesh government's decision to include Mathura's traditional sweets Peda, Chappan Bhog, Makhan Mishri, and Tarauli's Rabri under the One District One Cuisine (ODOC) scheme has evoked mixed reactions from political leaders, traders, and local stakeholders.

Mathura Member of Parliament Hema Malini described the initiative as a significant step towards revitalizing the local sweets industry. She said the move would particularly benefit small vendors who are struggling with rising costs, competition, shortage of raw materials, and issues related to adulteration. According to her, the scheme will not only strengthen the local economy but also enhance the branding and market reach of these traditional products.

Welcoming the decision, Bharatiya Janata Party legislator Rajesh Chaudhary said traditional sweets have been facing stiff competition from modern food trends. He termed the scheme a timely intervention that would support hundreds of businesses



while also ensuring product quality through the establishment of testing facilities.

Trade representatives also expressed optimism. Rajeev Agrawal noted that Mathura's sweets enjoy widespread popularity among visitors and residents alike. He said the scheme could help address key challenges such as financial constraints and raw

material shortages, while also enabling expansion into wider markets. Bharatiya Janata Party district leader Kunj Bihari Chaturvedi said the initiative would allow small vendors to access larger platforms, including priority display at organised retail spaces.

Deputy Industry Commissioner Chandrabhan Singh said the scheme is expected to di-

rectly benefit around 500 confectioners and nearly 2,000 people associated with the trade. He added that participants would receive financial incentives, including a 25 percent subsidy on loans and a 75 percent waiver on stall fees during exhibitions.

However, opposition leaders questioned the effectiveness of the scheme. Senior Samajwadi Party leader Pradeep Chaudhary expressed scepticism, stating that similar initiatives in the past have remained largely on paper. He said the success of the scheme would depend on its implementation.

Congress leader Yatendra Mukkadam also raised concerns, pointing out that some of the listed items are not commonly available in the market and are prepared mainly on special occasions. He suggested that more widely consumed local products should have been included to ensure broader impact.

The ODOC scheme aims to promote regional specialities while strengthening local economies, though its effectiveness in Mathura will be closely watched in the coming months.

CITI highlights decline in FY26 textile exports, flags key cotton policy measures

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 7: The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) on Thursday released a report stating textile and apparel exports declined 2.2 per cent in dollar terms year-on-year (Y-0-Y) in FY26 to USD 35.79 billion, focusing on cotton production, pricing, and its supply.

The study "Economic Analysis of Cotton Supply, Pricing and Trade Policy in India", jointly prepared by Gherzi and the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), flagged the adverse impact of 11 pc import duty on cotton during supply gaps to highlight the long-term competitiveness of India's textile and apparel sector.

Commenting on the report, Ashwin Chandran, chairman of CITI, said, "The Gherzi-ICAC report presents a detailed and implementable roadmap for stakeholders to realise the ambitious USD 350 billion target that we have for the textile and apparel industry by 2030, including exports worth USD 100 billion by the end of this decade."

Chandran noted that the key takeaway from the report is its central message: a thriving textile and apparel industry can be the farmer's strongest customer in keeping with the 5F vision.

The report recommended enhancing the fibre quality and alignment of domestic market conditions with global benchmarks to support farmers' livelihoods and industry growth.

The Gerzi-ICAC report states that ad-hoc relief from import duty has had a limited impact.

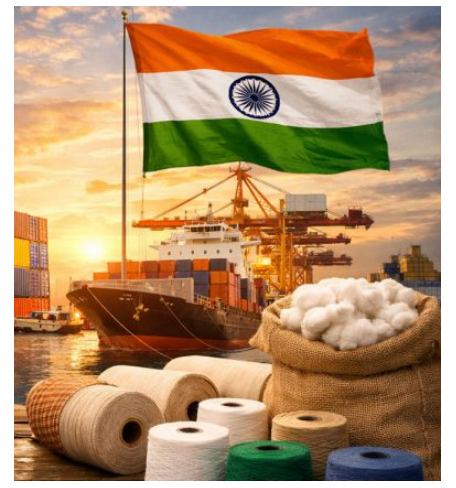
"Most recently, the import duty on cotton was temporarily waived from August to December 2025. It was reinstated on January 1, 2026," it said.

"A stable and predictable policy is imperative to allow the mills to sustain their operations and fulfil the market demand."

There is a need to withdraw the import duty on cotton and allow the mills to have access to cotton at competitive prices," the study said, pointing out that India's competitors in Asia have free access to international cotton without any import duty. The import duty put India at a significant disadvantage.

The report recommended that the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), as a nodal institution, needs to be empowered to supply cotton to mills at internationally competitive prices.

Pointing towards some urgent needs, the report said, "In budgetary terms, the CCI would require a buffer of approximately Rs 1,500 crores annually to supply about 100 Lakh bales of cot-



ton (Shankar-6) representing about one-third of the crop, to the local textile mills at an international parity price (offsetting import duty disadvantage of 11pc) which is USD 4/lb below the international price."

"Shankar-6" refers to a premier, widely traded variety of long-staple Indian cotton mainly grown in Gujarat. It's widely popular for high tensile strength 28-30mm staple length, and low contamination.

The joint study further pointed out that the CCI may consider the feasibility of keeping a strategic inventory of about three months of consumption to be used to cushion volatility.

These steps would be similar to the cotton reserve policy adopted by other major cotton-producing states, such as China.

"There would also be a need for the CCI to sustain a dynamic selling policy to meet the current requirement of the mills through its warehouses in upcountry locations near major textile clusters," it added.

On boosting productivity, the report said, "The long-term policy considerations should address the fundamental constraints faced by the cotton sector for improving productivity to ensure economic viability of this strategic crop for the growers."

It suggested that the policy framework for an industrial crop such as cotton will need to take into account the interests of the entire value chain.

Lastly, the report recommended that there is a need for an institutional mechanism to stabilise cotton prices for reducing the impact of price speculation on the value chain.

"A Cotton Price Stabilisation Fund scheme with 5pc interest subvention may be considered to mitigate working capital during peak season, for cotton procured during November-March," it concluded.

Emirates posts record AED 24.4 billion profit in FY26

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Hyderabad, May 7: Dubai-based Emirates Group on Thursday reported record financial results for the 2025-26 financial year, posting a profit before tax of AED 24.4 billion (US\$ 6.6 billion), a 7 percent increase year-on-year, despite operational disruptions during the final month of the fiscal year.

The Group also recorded all-time high revenue of AED 150.5 billion (US\$ 41 billion), up 3 percent from the previous year, while cash assets rose 12 percent to AED 59.6 billion (US\$ 16.2 billion).

In a release, the airline reported a standalone pre-tax profit of AED 22.8 billion (US\$ 6.2 billion), with a profit margin of 17.4 percent. Revenue grew 2 percent to AED 130.9 billion (US\$ 35.7 billion), while cash reserves reached a record AED 54.9 billion (US\$ 15 billion). Group EBITDA stood at AED 41.1 billion (US\$ 11.2 billion), underlining strong operational profitability across aviation, travel, cargo and airport services businesses.

Airport and travel services provider dnata also delivered record performance during the year.

The company posted pre-tax profit of AED 1.6 billion (US\$ 437 million), up 2 percent year-on-year, while revenue increased 12 percent to AED 23.6 billion (US\$ 6.4 billion).

Cash assets for dnata rose 28 percent to AED 4.7 billion (US\$ 1.3 billion).

The Emirates Group declared a dividend of AED 3.5 billion (US\$ 1 billion) to its owner, the Investment Corporation of Dubai.

Commenting on the performance, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates airline and Group, said the results reflected the resilience of the Group's long-term business strategy.

"These outstanding results reaffirm the strength and resilience of the Emirates Group's business model, which is rooted in safety, excellence, innovation, people and partnerships," he said.

The Group noted that military activity in the Gulf region from late February significantly disrupted commercial aviation operations, impacting air traffic across the UAE and neighbouring regions.

Despite the disruptions, Emirates and dnata maintained operational continuity while gradually restoring passenger and cargo services.

During FY26, the Emirates Group invested AED 17.9 billion (US\$ 4.9 billion) in new aircraft, advanced technologies, infrastructure, facilities and equipment to support future expansion. UNI

Gulf NRIs shift from Indian real estate to equities amid West Asia uncertainty: Report

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 7: Amid the ongoing Iran War, the Indian expatriates in the Gulf region are rapidly shifting their investment preferences away from traditional real estate purchases in India and towards equities, mutual funds, and structured financial planning, according to a new report by Equirus Wealth.

The study, based on responses from 8,300 non-resident Indians (NRIs) across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain, points to a structural transformation in how overseas Indians are approaching wealth creation amid rising geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia.

According to the report, 73 per cent of GCC-based NRIs have increased their exposure to Indian equities and mutual funds, while 42 per cent said they are

willing to deploy fresh capital into Indian equities going forward. Indian equities emerged as the single most preferred asset class for future investments, significantly ahead of fixed income and global markets.

The survey showed that 42 per cent of respondents preferred Indian equities as their primary future investment avenue, followed by fixed income and debt instruments at 23pc. Around 15pc of investors preferred to remain in a "wait-and-watch" mode, while 11pc favoured international equities. Gold and cash/liquid assets each attracted 4pc preference, while Indian real estate accounted for just 2pc.

The findings mark a sharp departure from historical investment patterns among Gulf NRIs, who traditionally channelled remittances into property purchases, second homes, land, and other real estate-linked assets in India.

ITC expands PwD skilling programme across 7 cities, to create over 2,300 jobs

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 7: ITC Limited is expanding its skilling initiative for persons with disabilities (PwDs) across multiple Indian cities and helping over 2,300 differently-abled youth secure formal employment opportunities.

The programme has now expanded to seven cities, including Bengaluru, Mysuru, Lucknow, Howrah, Kolkata, Pune and Bhubaneswar through eight centres operated in partnership with organisations such as Youth4Jobs, Anudip Foundation, Cheshire Disability Trust, Sarthak Educational Trust and Dr. Reddy's Foundation.

Over 2,370 differently-abled youth have been trained under the initiative in less than four years, with women accounting for over 30pc of the participants. Trainees have secured employment across sectors, including

retail, hospitality, logistics, IT-enabled services, customer support and back-office operations, the company said.

Among the beneficiaries is 33-year-old Kavali Jyothi from Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district, who lives with 65pc locomotor disability. After years of limited employment opportunities due to mobility constraints, she now works as a Customer Support Associate at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, earning Rs 16,000 per month.

Similarly, Jayram Ramesh Sonune, a visually impaired youth from Pune district's Shikrapur village, secured employment at Pune Airport after receiving training in computer proficiency, workplace communication and professional readiness.

He now earns Rs 25,000 per month. In Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki, Sunil Kumar, who has 90pc locomotor disability, works as



an accountant earning Rs 15,000 per month.

The programme focuses on industry-relevant training and workplace preparedness, covering spoken English, financial literacy, digital literacy and soft skills. It also provides mentorship and sign-language interpretation support wherever required.

The initiative comes at a time

when employment opportunities for persons with disabilities remain limited in India, especially in rural regions. According to estimates cited by the company, nearly 69pc of persons with disabilities live in rural India, while literacy levels among the specially-abled stand at 54.4pc. Employment participation also remains low, with only one in

four PwDs engaged in employment.

Commenting on the initiative, Prabhakar Lingareddy, Executive Vice President and Head - Social Investments at ITC Limited, said the programme aims to nurture dignity and self-belief among differently-abled individuals while enabling long-term social and economic inclusion.

The company has also introduced specialised interventions such as the Mangaldeep Sixth Sense programme for visually challenged individuals. Launched in December 2021, the initiative trains participants in fragrance evaluation by leveraging enhanced olfactory abilities and has already covered 210 individuals across five cities.

ITC said its overall vocational skilling programme has so far reached nearly 1.45 lakh youth across India, reflecting a broader industry push towards inclusive workforce participation. UNI

Carlton London enters India's luxury furniture market with EBG group; Plans 600 stores in 5 years

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, MAY 7: EBG Group, a multi-sector Indian conglomerate, on Thursday announced its partnership with British lifestyle brand Carlton London to launch Carlton Luxury Furniture in India, marking the brand's entry into the country's premium and luxury furniture segment.

Speaking on the occasion, EBG Group Founder and CEO Dr. Irfan Khan said the company plans to establish 600 showrooms across 300 major cities over the next five years

as part of its aggressive nationwide expansion strategy.

The company will invest nearly US\$100 million, equivalent to around 800-850 crore, to scale up operations, manufacturing, retail infrastructure, and customer experience centres across India.

As part of the first phase of expansion, EBG Group plans to launch 50 to 60 experience centres by the end of the current financial year, followed by nearly 200 centres by the end of next year.

The initial launches are planned in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.

Dr. Khan said each experience centre would require an investment of nearly US\$1 million, or approximately 8-9 crore. The company plans to adopt a hybrid retail model comprising company-owned company-operated (COCO) stores, franchise outlets, and investor-led centres.

"Initially, we will operate the stores ourselves to standardise customer experience and operational processes. Once we establish around 100 to 150 stores, franchise partners can adopt our SOP-driven model

independently," Dr. Khan said.

The company said the furniture products are designed in London while manufacturing will be carried out in India through facilities in Hyderabad and other locations, supported by contract manufacturing partnerships.

"The products are designed in London but manufactured in India to suit Indian consumer preferences and customisation requirements," he said. According to the company, the furniture range will focus on lightweight, structurally engineered, highly cus-

tomisable products with faster delivery timelines.

Highlighting its focus on innovation and intellectual property, Dr. Khan said EBG Group currently holds nearly 364 patented products, of which more than 100 products are expected to be launched during the current phase.

"These are IP-driven and protected products. The designs and engineering cannot be easily copied," he said.

Beyond furniture, the company also plans to expand into modular kitchen cabinets, bar units, and interior design ser-

vices under the Tartan brand.

The expansion is expected to generate significant employment opportunities across retail, logistics, manufacturing, and backend operations.

Dr. Khan said the company's expansion could create nearly 16,000 to 17,000 jobs over the next few years. To improve affordability for customers, EBG Group has partnered with banks and NBFCs to offer financing support for purchases. The company is also introducing sustainability-focused initiatives including furniture buy-back programmes, recycling

solutions, and resale channels for pre-owned furniture.

Under the proposed model, customers will be able to sell back furniture after a few years of usage, provided the products remain in good condition.

According to EBG Group estimates, India's furniture market is expected to grow to nearly US\$45 billion by 2030. The company expects the premium and luxury segment, which currently accounts for around 13 percent of the market, to expand to nearly 18-19 percent over the next few years. UNI



IAN BELL ON IPL COACHING 'ROLLERCOASTER' LIFE

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: "The highs and lows are extreme," Ian Bell says, reflecting on his first experience at the IPL. As Delhi Capitals' (DC) assistant coach, Bell has witnessed history, both good and bad: the franchise's highest total (264), immediately followed by the league's highest run chase (265); the league's lowest powerplay total (13 for 6) followed by DC's highest successful chase (222).

"It's been a rollercoaster," Bell says, albeit one with more downs than ups to date. "That's the skill, isn't it? You want to stay as level as possible. There's a lot of emotion flying around, but it's important as a coaching staff that, whether we're in the dugout, or reviewing things, it's not emotional. It has to be really clear. We've had some incredible games."

For those that remember him primarily for his cover drive in Test whites, Bell might seem an unlikely presence in an IPL dugout. But he has spent the last five years putting together a deliberately eclectic coaching CV, which has included stints with Sri Lanka, New Zealand, England Lions and Derbyshire, alongside several different franchise leagues.

He has been involved with the GMR Group, who co-own the Capitals franchise, for a couple of years, initially at the IIT20 and later Major League Cricket. He has since struck up strong relationships with

Venugopal Rao (director of cricket) and Hemang Badani (head coach), and will also work with both men in the Hundred this year at Southern Brave.

Bell makes clear that he went through a full interview process before his appointment as Delhi's assistant coach, replacing Matthew Mott, but his involvement with GMR's other teams has made his first taste of the IPL feel like a natural fit. It is the fulfilment of a long-held ambition: "When I retired, IPL was certainly the number one [league] that I wanted to experience," Bell says.

He describes it as an "incredible" experience, and has been struck by how closely the level of interest and scrutiny replicates international cricket: "Until you are here in India during IPL season, you probably don't quite get it. It is everything everyone's talking about, wherever you go... You can see why every player and coach wants to be here, really."

Bell was a stylist as a player, and has particularly enjoyed working with another in KL Rahul, who is DC's leading run-scorer. It was not long ago that Rahul seemed like an anachronism in the IPL, playing an anchoring role even as the Impact Player rule prompted a surge in scoring rates. But he has taken his T20 game to a new level this season, scoring at a strike rate above 180.

Bell says that Rahul's clarity when he trains reminds him of Joe Root. "They

come with a purpose and they train with specifics: what they need to win the next game, and real clarity on the surface that they're about to play on... He's clear on his tactics, and he's such a professional. He will come and tell me exactly what he wants, and that's easy.

"There's a lot of talk about strike rates, and we see a lot of modern-day young players and watch the way that Sunrisers [Hyderabad] have come out and been so aggressive. We've talked a lot about that: we want to win powerplays, we want to be aggressive in the powerplay. I suppose the key for anyone in that is to do it your way.

"What KL has managed to do this season - certainly in that 150 [152 not out vs Punjab Kings] - was to score at a high strike rate, but still playing his way; still playing proper cricket shots, not going away from his strengths. For a guy who has played [so much] and done so well in the IPL to keep adapting, keep looking to get better, is a great role model for the rest of our squad."

Bell has watched and admired the new generation of Indian batters - Abhishek Sharma, Priyansh Arya, and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi - scoring with strike rates above 200 this season, but believes there is still room for "intelligent" players in the mould of Rahul and Virat Kohli at the IPL, using the example of Punjab Kings' recent defeat to Gujarat Titans on a tricky surface.

India retain No.1 position in ICC T20I rankings

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DUBAI: Three-time World Cup winners India on Tuesday retained the top spot in the ICC T20I rankings followed by England and Australia at second and third respectively.

India had created history by becoming the first team to successfully defend their T20 World Cup title and also win it for a record-extending third time in March, when they co-hosted the tournament with Sri Lanka.



"The latest rankings rate all matches played since May 2025 at 100 per cent and those of the previous two years at 50 per cent," the ICC said on its website.

"Sitting at 275 points, India see their lead over England (262 points) trimmed by merely one point, while Australia are placed closer to England at the third place with 258 points," it added.

While two-time winners England have 262 rating points, one-time champions Australia have 258 points.

In all, there is no change in ranking for the top seven teams in the ICC T20I rankings with New Zealand (247), South Africa (244), Pakistan (240) and the West Indies (233) remaining at the following spots.

However, Sri Lanka (221) have lost six rating points and subsequently slipped to the ninth position while Bangladesh (225) have moved up one place to be at eighth. Afghanistan (220) are at 10th with a close margin of gap with Sri Lanka.

Zimbabwe and Ireland are ranked 11th and 12th respectively. "Cricket's rising force in North America, the USA have leapfrogged two spots after gaining six points, and see themselves rise to the 13th place, overtaking Netherlands and Scotland who are at 14th and 15th ranks respectively," the ICC said.

"Namibia was unchanged at 16th place while Nepal (17th) and Oman (19th) jumped a spot each, overtaking UAE (18th) and Canada (20th) respectively."

The ICC informed that the number of teams being ranked are down from 102 to 98.

"The number of teams in the rankings is down from 102 to 98 as Fiji, Gambia, Greece and Israel didn't make the cut as they did not play the requisite eight T20Is in the past three years," the ICC said.

MI would have won a game or two had Rohit Sharma been available earlier: Harbhajan Singh

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI: Mumbai Indians might not have been in such a precarious position as far as IPL playoffs qualification is concerned had former skipper Rohit Sharma recovered earlier from his hamstring injury, rued Harbhajan Singh. Rohit returned to action following an injury-enforced layoff with a strokeful 84 in MI's highest-ever successful run-chase in the IPL in pursuit of 229 when they beat Lucknow Super Giants by six wickets here on Monday. The former Mumbai Indians' skipper had missed in all five matches since leaving the field after suffering a hamstring injury

while batting against Royal Challengers Bengaluru here on April 12. "It's important to be in the middle. You can do only so much sitting in the dugout. But you can make a difference by being in the middle, and Rohit Sharma did exactly that," Harbhajan told JioHotstar.

"You needed that foundation to chase down that many runs and he didn't just lay the foundation, but built a couple of floors on it as well, leaving very little for the rest to do. It would have been even better if he had got his hundred, but for the time he was there, he played exceptionally well."

"I wish his injury had healed



a little earlier. Who knows, they might have won a game or two during that losing streak and would have still been alive in the competition?" the former India spinner added.

Harbhajan, who played for

MI from the inaugural edition in 2008 to 2017, hoped the five-time champions would keep fighting hard in their remaining matches. With three wins and seven defeats in 10 matches, MI only have six points and need to win each of their remaining four to remain alive.

"They will give themselves a chance if they win every game from here and get to 14 points. Who knows, if other teams start losing, there could be a net run-rate situation at 14 points, anything can happen," Harbhajan said. Meanwhile, former India head coach Ravi Shastri said LSG paid a price of being inconsistent. "The problem with LSG is that

when their bowling unit performs, the batters fail to back it up, and when the batters score runs, the bowlers go for plenty. There's no consistency," Shastri said.

"Six losses in a row can really dent a side's confidence, and even in games where you are in a comfortable position, there are thoughts like, 'Will we win, won't we?' You are 100 for one in 7 overs, and in the next 13 overs, you score less than 130, which means you have faltered."

"You won't get better batting conditions than this. They'll have to sit down and think about what went wrong in the last three overs while batting, and how they can tighten up their bowling."

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