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LG Declares War On Drug Networks, Warns Of Major Crackdown On Narco-Terror

Manoj Sinha Says Narcotics and Terrorism Are Closely Linked; Thousands Join Massive Anti-Drug Rally at Kupwara

■ DR ABDUL QAYOOM
■ HT CORRESPONDENT

KUPWARA, MAY 13: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday issued a stern warning to drug traffickers and peddlers, announcing that security agencies would launch an intensified crackdown against narcotics networks in Kupwara district in the coming days.

Addressing a massive anti-drug rally in north Kashmir's Kupwara, the Lieutenant Governor said the administration was determined to dismantle the entire ecosystem of drug trafficking, which he described as a direct source of funding for terrorism and violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We will cut every oxygen line sustaining this network. Fast and strong action against drug peddlers will be witnessed in Kupwara very soon," Sinha



declared before a large gathering participating in the anti-drug awareness march.

The rally, organised as part of the nationwide anti-drug campaign, drew participation from thousands of people, including students, traders.

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LG Visits Vibrant Village Trehgam in Kupwara

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today visited Vibrant Village Trehgam in Kupwara. During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated and laid foundation stones for various projects. He also discussed needs and concerns of the villagers.

Addressing a public gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Government of India is fully committed to the all-round

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"Spend Wisely, Cut Fuel Costs": PM Modi To Ministers

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday directed Union ministers to adopt stricter financial discipline and reduce avoidable expenditure, with a particular focus on fuel consumption, official convoys and foreign travel, amid growing economic concerns linked to the ongoing West Asia crisis.

During a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Modi

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"Reduce Fuel Use, Improve Efficiency": LG Sinha Cuts Official Convoy Size by 50%

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for

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"Assembly Cannot Be Turned Into A Party Headquarters": LoP Slams House Panel Allocation

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: A major political controversy erupted on Wednesday over the constitution of House Committees in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, with Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar

● Turn on Page 2

"We Will Ruthlessly Crush Drug Networks": SSP Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: GV Sundeep Chakravarthy on Wednesday declared an intensified and uncompromising



crackdown on narcotics networks across Srinagar, warning smugglers and peddlers to stay away from the youth or face strict legal action.

Speaking on the completion of one month of the anti-drug campaign launched under the leadership of Manoj Sinha, the Senior Superintendent of Police said the drive has evolved into a broad public movement against drug abuse and trafficking.

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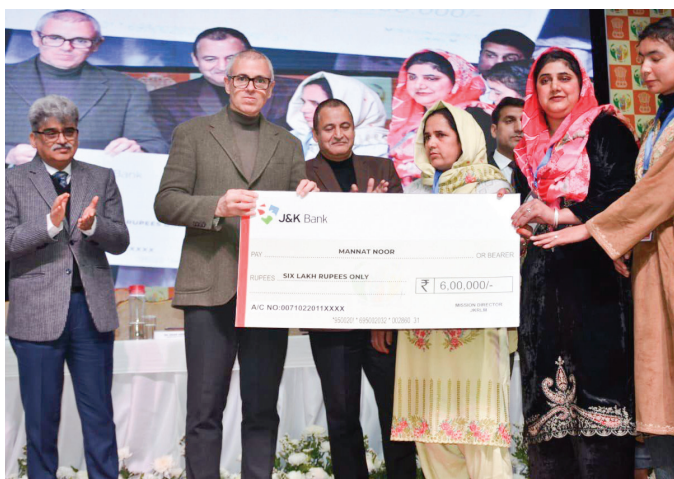
"J&K Will Continue To Set Benchmarks In Women Led Rural Development": Shivraj Chouhan

Omar Abdullah Hails UMEED Mission as Over 2.3 Lakh Rural Women Achieve Annual Income Above ₹1 Lakh

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Union Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday

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"Over 93% Revenue Records Digitised Across J&K"

Ramban, Shopian and Ganderbal Achieve 100% Completion

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, MAY 13: Jammu and Kashmir has achieved more than 93 per cent progress in the digitisation of revenue records, marking a major milestone in the Union Territory's land record modernisation programme aimed at enhancing transparency, accuracy and efficiency in governance.

According to official data, approvals have been completed for 64,06,641 khasras out of a total of 68,59,915 revenue records across Jammu and Kashmir, taking the overall completion rate to 93.39 per cent.

Officials said the digitisation initiative is one of the flagship reforms un-

dertaken under the modernisation of land records programme and is being monitored on a daily basis by divisional commissioners and the Financial Commissioner (Revenue).

The government had issued comprehensive guidelines on December 26, 2025, for rectification of errors, entry of backlog mutations, public verification and final freezing of Jamabandis to streamline the process and ensure accuracy in records.

Among the districts, Ramban, Shopian and Ganderbal emerged as the top performers by achieving 100 per cent completion with no pendency reported.

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CS reviews progress under PM-SYM scheme in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir, with emphasis on expanding social security coverage for unorganised workers through sustained awareness and registration drives.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar; Commissioner Secretary, Forests;

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Youth Must Fight Drugs: Satish Sharma

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today called upon the youth of the nation to become torchbearers of a drug-free, progressive and empowered India. He was speaking at the closing ceremony of Aarohan 2026.

Addressing the participants, dignitaries and youth delegates from across the country, the Minister

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NEET Shockwaves Across India: Re-Test Relief Fails To Ease Anguish Of Lakhs

Swift Move From Govt to Order Fresh Examination Protects Merit, But Recurring Paper Leak Cases Renew Demand for Stronger Deterrence

■ JEHANGIR BUKHARI
■ HT NEWS ANALYSIS

SRINAGAR MAY 12: The cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) after allegations of a paper leak has sent shockwaves across the country, leaving lakhs of aspiring medical students grappling with uncertainty, anxiety and emotional exhaustion even as the government moved quickly to safeguard the credibility of the examination system through a re-test announcement.

The National Testing Agency's (NTA) decision to cancel the examination and conduct a fresh test within days has largely been viewed by educationists and parents as a necessary intervention aimed at protecting deserving candidates and ensuring that merit is not compromised.

Yet, the development has once again exposed the vulnerability of high-stakes competitive examinations to organised malpractice, intensifying calls for stronger institutional safeguards and exemplary punishment against those involved in examination frauds.

For more than two million students across the country, NEET is not merely an entrance test but a gateway to one of the most sought-after professional careers. Any disruption in the process



inevitably carries deep academic and psychological consequences. "Cancelling the examination was essential to preserve fairness for genuine candidates," said a senior faculty member associated with medical entrance coaching. "But unless those behind these organised leaks face strict and time-bound punishment, such incidents may continue to recur."

Students who had spent months preparing for the examination described the cancellation as mentally draining, especially for candidates who believed they had performed exceptionally well in the original test.

"We studied continuously for months and finally felt relieved after the

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG Declares.....

transporters, civil society members, government employees, elected representatives, and police and civil officers. The march commenced from Government Boys Higher Secondary School Kupwara and culminated at the town's main square amid heightened public enthusiasm.

In a strongly worded address, the Lieutenant Governor asserted that narcotics trafficking and terrorism were inseparable threats confronting society and said the government would not allow drug syndicates to operate unchecked.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had overwhelmingly supported strict measures against drug smugglers and stressed that public unity had become the strongest force in the campaign against narcotics.

"The people are clear in their demand for decisive action against drug traffickers. Once society stands united, no force can obstruct this mission," he said.

Referring to his recent interaction with women from Dardpora village, Sinha said local residents had narrated painful accounts of how money generated through drug smuggling was being used to fuel violence against innocent civilians.

"That is why drug traffickers and terrorists are partners in crime," he remarked.

Highlighting the progress of the ongoing anti-drug drive, the Lieutenant Governor said authorities had seized properties worth crores, confiscated illegally acquired assets, and recommended cancellation of passports of 15 alleged smugglers. He further disclosed that more than 730 drug smugglers and peddlers had been arrested during the campaign so far.

Sinha also underlined the importance of steering youth towards education, sports, and constructive activities to safeguard society from the growing menace of substance abuse. On the occasion, he unveiled trophies for sports competitions organised under the anti-drug campaign to encourage youth participation and awareness.

During his visit to Kupwara, the Lieutenant Governor reiterated the administration's commitment to the development of border villages and said several infrastructure projects had been inaugurated in frontier areas, including Trehgam.

"Every village deserves modern infrastructure, better roads, quality education, and opportunities for the younger generation. Our objective is to transform border villages into model villages," he said.

The rally concluded with participants taking a collective pledge to support the campaign against drug abuse and contribute towards building a safer and healthier Jammu and Kashmir.

LG Visits.....

development of border villages. "Every village deserves All-weather roads, modern schools & abundant opportunities for the youth that is the vision driving us to transform Kupwara's border villages into model villages post-2019. Together, we will turn our resolve into reality," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said that it is central government's commitment to ensure that every child of Trehgam receives the same quality education available in J&K's cities.

I want farmers here to access superior seeds, reliable irrigation, and strong market linkages. Trehgam has made remarkable strides in self-employment, with 205 self-help groups and 85 units under Mission Youth already operational. The revival of the historic Sharda Temple in Teetwal has breathed new life into tourism sector. In 2018-19, only 6,900 tourists visited Kupwara, however, in 2024-25, that number surged to 3,77,000. I'm confident that in the next one or two years, every border village will script its own story of prosperity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor recalled that he had visited Machil on 5th October, 2020, and Keran and Machil areas were connected with Grid Power after 70 years of waiting.

"At that time, reliable power reached about 70% of families in Kupwara's other villages. In just four years, we have extended it to nearly 95% of households. Telecom connectivity in border villages now stands at 88%. Concerned officials should ensure 100% coverage by the end of this year. Every family in border villages is serving the nation, and that service deserves honor in a transformed quality of life. Through PMGSY and PWD, we have already provided all-weather roads to 15 out of 16 Vibrant Villages in the past. Funding for the last one has arrived from the central government, and work will commence soon. We had planned grid power for every household in all 16 Vibrant Villages and so far 95% saturation has been achieved," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Vibrant Village Phase-2 program outlines three key pillars for holistic growth. First, securing livelihoods by launching new cooperative societies, self-help groups, tourism circuits, and cottage industries, especially empowering women and youth. Second, ensuring physical and digital connectivity to every Vibrant Village, while building strong educational infrastructure. Third, ensuring full saturation of all central government and UT administration schemes. The infrastructure focuses on 4 thematic areas- all-weather road connectivity, telecom, television access, and electrification.

The Lieutenant Governor said through a Whole of Government Approach, officials should dedicate themselves to achieve the target and link villages like Trehgam to the national mainstream.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the administration is looking beyond the government

schemes and programmes to create sustainable opportunities for the youth of the villages like Trehgam.

He emphasized that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds are being channeled into building stadiums and playgrounds across the region.

The Lieutenant Governor also reiterated that the Government of India is committed to complete rehabilitation of terror victims and flood affected families.

The project inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor include establishment of 26 Smart Classrooms in 6 Vibrant Blocks under Aspirational District Programme. The projects for which the foundation stones were laid today are- development of Hill Top Playground, Trehgam, Kupwara at a cost of Rs 1.60 crore and development, renovation/construction and preservation of Cultural Heritage site Shiv Temple at Trehgam, costing Rs 1.94 crores.

The Lieutenant Governor handed over appointment letters to SPOs, jobs and sanction letters to local youth and beneficiaries under various schemes. He also flagged off mobile tuberculosis (TB) Diagnosis and Awareness vehicle.

Shri Mir Saifullah, Member of Legislative Assembly Trehgam; Shri Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Shri Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Shri M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Shri Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries; Shri VK Birdi; IGP Kashmir; Ms R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Planning and Information; Shri Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank; Shri Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, senior officials, and people from different walks of life in large number were present.

Spend.....

urged ministers to spend public resources carefully and consciously reduce unnecessary costs. Sources said the Prime Minister stressed that government functionaries must lead by example in conserving fuel and ensuring efficient use of resources.

The Prime Minister's remarks came shortly after his public appeal calling for lower fuel consumption, reduced dependence on imported goods and careful management of foreign exchange outflows to ease pressure on the country's import bill.

According to sources, Modi also asked ministers to reduce the size of their official convoys and avoid non-essential foreign visits. Following the Prime Minister's direction, several ministers and senior leaders are understood to have initiated measures to scale down official expenditure.

Officials said Modi himself has already reduced the size of his convoy during recent visits to Gujarat and Assam while ensuring that all mandatory security arrangements under the Special Protection Group protocol remain intact.

Sources further disclosed that the Prime Minister directed officials to include electric vehicles in his convoy wherever feasible, without making additional purchases.

Government sources clarified that the measures should not be interpreted as an austerity drive or spending cuts in development programmes. They maintained that there would be no reduction in welfare schemes, subsidies or capital expenditure, and emphasised that the focus remains on prudent and efficient utilisation of public resources.

"Reduce Fuel....."

responsible fuel consumption and efficient use of resources, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has ordered a 50 per cent reduction in the size of his official convoy, officials said on Wednesday. Senior officials at Lok Bhavan said the decision was aimed at lowering unnecessary fuel consumption and improving operational efficiency without affecting governance or security arrangements.

Following the Lieutenant Governor's decision, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Inspector General of Police Kashmir V K Birdi and several other senior officers have also reduced the size of their official convoys by half.

Officials described the move as part of a broader initiative to encourage prudent use of resources at a time of international uncertainty and rising concerns over global fuel markets. They said the reduction in convoy strength would help save fuel and ensure smoother movement, particularly in security-sensitive areas where large convoys have traditionally been maintained.

Clarifying the government's position, officials said the Prime Minister's appeal should not be interpreted as a sign of economic austerity or a reduction in public expenditure.

"There is no proposal to cut welfare programmes, infrastructure projects or development spending. The focus is on responsible consumption and efficient resource management," an official said.

Prime Minister Modi had recently urged citizens to avoid unnecessary fuel use, adopt public transport wherever feasible and rely more on virtual meetings or work-from-home practices to reduce avoidable travel.

Officials said the appeal comes against the backdrop of volatility in international crude oil markets and continuing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which have increased the need for careful and efficient utilisation of resources.

Assembly....

Sharma accusing Speaker Abdul Rahim Rath-

er of bias in allocating committee chairmanships to members of the ruling alliance.

The Speaker constituted 13 House Committees, including three financial panels, through official notifications issued on Wednesday. While the Speaker will serve as ex-officio chairman of four committees, nine committees are to be headed by legislators from various political parties.

Of these nine MLA-led committees, five have been allotted to legislators belonging to the ruling Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, while one each has gone to the Bharatiya Janata Party, Indian National Congress, Communist Party of India (Marxist) and an Independent MLA supporting the alliance.

According to the notifications, NC legislators Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, Mir Saifullah, Hasnain Masoodi, Farooq Ahmad Shah and Ali Muhammad Sagar have been appointed chairpersons of the Estimates Committee, Public Undertakings Committee, Privileges Committee, Petitions Committee and Assurances Committee respectively. The remaining committees will be headed by BJP leader Surjeet Singh Slathia, CPI(M) legislator Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Independent MLA Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Congress legislator Nizamuddin Bhat, who will chair the Public Accounts Committee, Environment Committee, Subordinate Legislation Committee and Ethics Committee respectively.

Reacting sharply to the allocations, Sunil Kumar Sharma alleged that the Speaker had ignored the principle of proportional representation and favoured the ruling alliance in distributing key positions.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly belongs to the people and not to any particular political party, adding that the opposition would oppose any attempt to convert the institution into the "headquarters" of the ruling party.

"We Will....."

Describing narcotics as a major social, economic and national security threat, Dr Chakravarty said the fight against drugs cannot be won by police alone and called for collective participation from parents, teachers, religious leaders, educational institutions and civil society.

Highlighting the achievements of the campaign over the past month, the SSP said Srinagar Police registered 101 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and arrested 143 drug peddlers during a series of operations conducted across the city.

He said authorities attached properties worth more than 23 crore linked to narcotics trafficking, demolished illegal constructions allegedly built using drug money and froze several bank accounts connected to the trade.

"Our objective is not limited to arrests alone. We are dismantling the entire narcotics ecosystem by targeting supply chains, financial networks and organised structures operating behind the scenes," Dr Chakravarty said.

The police chief said investigations have now expanded beyond street-level peddlers and are focusing on hawala channels, handlers and illegal assets linked to drug syndicates.

He further said authorities are taking additional measures, including cancellation of licences, action against identity documents and impounding passports of those involved in narcotics trafficking.

Dr Chakravarty said awareness programmes are being conducted in schools, colleges and residential areas across Srinagar to prevent youth from falling victim to substance abuse.

Appealing to young people to focus on education, sports and careers, he warned that drugs destroy lives, families and society.

"J&K Will....."

said Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a national example of inclusive women-led rural transformation and would continue to set benchmarks in rural development through the UMEED mission.

In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Union Minister commended the Jammu and Kashmir Government and the J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission (UMEED) for achieving significant progress in empowering women, strengthening self-help groups and expanding livelihood opportunities across rural areas.

Chouhan said the programme's continued focus on high-value enterprises, stronger market linkages and convergence of welfare initiatives would further accelerate economic growth and women's empowerment in the Union Territory.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah welcomed the recognition from the Union Minister and congratulated the Rural Development Department and the UMEED mission for bringing visible socio-economic transformation in rural Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the mission has played a vital role in promoting entrepreneurship, financial inclusion and sustainable livelihoods among rural women through self-help groups.

According to official figures, more than 8.10 lakh women have been mobilised into over 96,000 self-help groups across Jammu and Kashmir under the programme.

The government has facilitated more than 3,106 crore in bank credit and 820 crore in capitalization support for women-led initiatives, significantly boosting rural economic activity.

Officials said more than 2.30 lakh women have already crossed the annual income mark of 1 lakh under the government's income generation initiative aimed at strengthening household economies in rural areas.

During the 2026-27 Budget presentation, the Chief Minister had announced that over two lakh women had already achieved the targeted income level, while the remaining identified households would be covered by June 2026.

"Over 93% Revenue....."

completion with 2,58,135 approvals out of 2,58,221 khasras, achieving 99.97 per cent progress. Budget followed closely with 99.96 per cent completion, while Poonch and Udhampur recorded 99.95 per cent and 99.73 per cent progress respectively.

Kathua, Kupwara, Samba and Rajouri also crossed the 98 per cent mark, reflecting rapid progress in digitisation efforts. Baramulla, one of the largest districts in terms of khasra volume, registered 98.70 per cent completion with more than 6.69 lakh records approved.

Bandipora and Kulgam too reported over 98 per cent progress, while Kishtwar achieved 94.11 per cent completion.

Jammu district, which has the highest number of khasras at 8,26,563, recorded 91.64 per cent completion with more than 7.57 lakh approvals. However, over 69,000 cases are still pending at different stages.

Doda, Pulwama and Anantnag lagged behind the Union Territory average, recording 84.58 per cent, 80.54 per cent and 74.65 per cent completion respectively.

Reasi recorded the lowest progress among all districts with only 39.38 per cent completion, as more than 88,000 cases remain pending.

Officials said 5,989 villages across Jammu and Kashmir have been completely approved, accounting for 87.87 per cent of total villages. Grievance collection has also been initiated in 3,311 villages as part of the public verification process.

CS reviews.....

Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh and other concerned officers, while Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the Labour Department to make dedicated efforts for reaching out to all eligible unorganised workers for their registration under the scheme so that they are able to avail the benefits envisaged under it. He asked the Labour Commissioner to furnish weekly progress reports indicating district-wise registrations and the incremental achievements made from today onwards.

Highlighting the significance of the scheme, the Chief Secretary observed that the benefits enshrined under PM-SYM are highly attractive for workers engaged in the unorganised sector. He said that the scheme, along with other social security initiatives such as PM Kisan Maandhan and the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons, guarantees old-age financial security to vulnerable sections of society. He also called upon the Finance Department to closely monitor the implementation of these schemes and directed the Deputy Commissioners to assist in increasing registrations in their respective districts to ensure saturation of benefits.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shaileendra Kumar, on the occasion, stated that Jammu and Kashmir possesses immense scope for the successful implementation of such schemes as a large section of the population is associated with the unorganised sector. He stressed the need for widespread awareness regarding the benefits of these schemes so that more eligible workers are encouraged to enrol themselves.

Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh, while apprising the meeting about the scheme, informed that PM-SYM is a flagship pension scheme of the Government of India launched in 2019 to provide old-age social security to workers in the unorganised sector, including street vendors, construction workers, domestic workers, agricultural labourers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, hotel industry workers and other vulnerable categories earning up to Rs 15,000 per month.

He further informed that a total of 99,722 unorganised workers have so far been registered under the scheme across all the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, reflecting significant expansion in pension coverage among vulnerable sections of society. Srinagar district recorded the highest number of registrations with 10,312 beneficiaries, followed by Poonch with 9,251 and Pulwama with 7,180 registrations.

The meeting was informed that 23,119 fresh registrations were achieved during the special enrolment drive launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, in January 2026, resulting in nearly 30 per cent growth in registrations within a short period.

As part of the intensified outreach campaign, 637 special registration camps were organised in coordination with Urban Local Bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Common Service Centres across the Union Territory, the meeting was apprised.

Youth Must.....

lauded the Department of Youth Services & Sports for organising the national-

level event which brought together more than 300 young participants from nine States and Union Territories in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the theme of the festival, "Rise, Shine and Conquer", the Minister said that Aarohan 2026 had emerged as a vibrant platform showcasing the energy, innovation and leadership potential of India's youth. He highlighted that through initiatives like the Young Leaders Dialogue, Cultural Track and Hackathon, the festival successfully channelised the creativity and aspirations of young minds towards nation-building.

Satish Sharma expressed deep concern over the growing menace of drug abuse, describing it as one of the greatest challenges confronting the society today. He said that substance abuse was no longer a distant issue but a harsh reality affecting the schools, colleges and neighbourhoods across Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

"Drugs do not offer escape; they offer destruction. One moment of curiosity or peer pressure can derail a lifetime of promise," the Minister remarked, while urging the youth to safeguard their lives, ambitions and talents from the trap of addiction.

The Minister appreciated the inclusion of drug de-addiction as a key theme in the Aarohan 2026 Hackathon. He said that innovative youth-led solutions and awareness campaigns can play a transformative role in combating the crisis. He appealed to young people to become ambassadors of awareness in their homes and communities and to support those struggling with addiction by guiding them towards help and rehabilitation.

Emphasising the importance of sports and constructive engagement, Satish Sharma described sports as the most powerful weapon against addiction. He said sports instill discipline, resilience, self-confidence and teamwork among youth. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards strengthening sports infrastructure across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir to ensure that every young person has access to opportunities for growth and healthy living.

NEET Shockwaves.....

examination," said a student from Srinagar. "Now we are under pressure once again because we have to restart the preparation cycle within a very short period."

Academic experts observed that while the government's decision to order a re-examination may have prevented compromised results from affecting deserving aspirants, the incident underlines the urgent need for stronger monitoring systems, tighter digital security and faster enforcement mechanisms.

"The immediate response has protected the integrity of the examination process," said an education policy analyst. "However, the larger challenge is to create a system where paper leaks become nearly impossible and where offenders know they will face severe consequences."

Mental health professionals also highlighted the emotional toll such developments inflict on students preparing for highly competitive examinations under immense pressure.

"These students carry enormous expectations from families and society," said a psychologist working with adolescents in Jammu. "A sudden cancellation after the examination can trigger stress, uncertainty and loss of confidence, especially among high performers."

Parents across several states voiced concern that repeated controversies surrounding national-level examinations could weaken public trust unless accompanied by visible and decisive legal action against the culprits.

Legal observers noted that the involvement of central investigative agencies reflects the seriousness with which authorities are treating the case. However, many believe the larger public expectation now centres on ensuring swift prosecution and exemplary punishment to deter future offences.

In Jammu and Kashmir, where medicine continues to remain among the most preferred career choices for students, the cancellation has had a particularly strong impact. Thousands of students from the region compete every year for limited MBBS seats across the country, while many families spend substantial amounts on overseas medical education when domestic opportunities remain out of reach.

Teachers in the Valley said the present crisis should become a catalyst for long-term reforms in examination management and security architecture.

"The credibility of competitive examinations is directly linked with the confidence of the youth in the system," said a senior teacher from Anantnag. "The re-examination may restore fairness for now, but lasting reforms alone can restore complete confidence."

As lakhs of students prepare once again for one of the country's toughest entrance examinations, the focus has now shifted from the controversy itself to whether the system can emerge stronger, more secure and more accountable in the aftermath of the crisis.



DC Srinagar takes onsite review of proposed fencing, allied works along Budshah, Noor Jehan Bridges

Safety measures remain priority for Admin amid rising incidents along bridges: DC

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today conducted an onsite review of the proposed fencing along the sides of Budshah Bridge and Noor Jehan Bridge (Cement Kadal) to review measures aimed at enhancing public safety along the bridges.

The DC assessed the planned infrastructure upgradation works to ensure improved safety for pedestrians and commuters using the bridges.

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

Hazari, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah and other concerned.

While reviewing the plan of fencing of the bridges, the DC was informed that the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been formulated for fencing the sides of both these bridges. He was briefed on the status of the works, project timelines and measures being undertaken to ensure public safety.

Emphasizing quality execution, durability and timely completion, the DC directed the concerned executing agency to ensure that the fencing not only strengthens safety measures but also maintains the aesthetics, surrounding visibility and heritage value of the structures.

The DC further instructed the executing agencies to incorporate all necessary safety measures and complete the works within the stipulated timelines while



minimizing inconvenience to commuters.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC underscored that public safety remains a top priority of the administration and said that the proposed fencing of bridges is being undertaken as a preventive safety measure in view of rising concerns over suicide incidents from bridges, as well as in response to public demand.

He added that the District Administration Srinagar has already taken several similar measures, particularly at vulnerable bridges over the river Jhelum including New Zaina Kadal, Aali Kadal, Old Zaina Kadal, Nawakadal and Safakadal in the Shahr-e-Khaas areas of the District, aimed at creating a safer environment for pedestrians and commuters by ensuring the installation of necessary safety safeguards.

Three Shops Closed in Kulgam During Intensive Inspection Drive Over Licence Violations

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, MAY 13: As part of the ongoing enforcement measures to ensure adherence to licensing norms and regulations, authorities on Tuesday conducted an intensive inspection drive across



various areas of Kulgam district.

During the drive, inspection teams inspected several business establishments to verify compliance with prescribed rules and licence conditions. Acting against violations, the authorities ordered closure of three shops found operating without proper licence compliance.

Officials said the drive was carried out to curb unlawful business practices and ensure that commercial establishments function strictly within the legal framework.

The authorities reiterated that such inspection drives will continue across the district and warned that strict action will be taken against violators found flouting rules and regulations.

Kulgam Police, District Administration Retrieve State Land Worth Rs. 18 Lakh from Drug Peddler in Qaimoh

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MAY 13: In continuation of the ongoing drive against drug trafficking and illegal encroachments under the "Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir" initiative, Kulgam Police and the District Administration on Tuesday retrieved State land worth approximately Rs. 18 lakh from an alleged drug peddler in Qaimoh area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

According to officials, a police team from Police Station Qaimoh, in coordination with officers of the district administration, retrieved six marlas of State land falling under Survey No. 303 at Wanpora village in Kulgam district.

The authorities said that the land had been illegally encroached upon by one Mohd. Ramzan Sheikh, son of Juma Sheikh, a resident of Wanpora, who is allegedly involved in multiple cases registered under the NDPS Act at Police Station Qaimoh.

Police said the accused is involved in FIR No. 69/2023 under Sections 8/20 NDPS Act and FIR No. 20/2023 under Sections 8/21 NDPS Act.

Officials stated that the retrieved land has been taken into possession by the concerned authorities under relevant provisions of the J&K Land Revenue Act and other applicable laws. Necessary notices have also been pasted on the spot, while further legal proceedings are underway.

Senior Superintendent of Police Kulgam, Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), said that Kulgam Police will continue its intensified crackdown against drug peddlers and anti-social elements, particularly those attempting to illegally occupy State land or generate proceeds through unlawful activities.

He also appealed to the general public to cooperate with the police by sharing credible information regarding drug trafficking and other criminal activities to help ensure a safer and drug-free society.

Wadoora SKUAST-K Promotes Scientific Cultivation of Niche Crops Through Awareness Programme

Experts Stress Climate-Resilient Farming During Niche Crop Programme

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

SOPORE, MAY 12: In a significant initiative aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and enhancing farmers' income through crop diversification, the Division of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir organized a one-day interaction-cum-Demonstration Programme on "Production Technologies of Niche Crops" under HADP Project No. 2 titled "Promotion of Niche Crops in UT of Jammu & Kashmir." The programme was held at the Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura with the objective of creating awareness among field functionaries of the Agriculture Department regarding scientific production technologies, improved management practices, and the economic potential of niche crops in the Kashmir Valley. More than 40 field functionaries from the Agriculture Departments of Baramulla, Bandipora, and Kupwara districts actively participated in the programme.

Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Mir attended the event as the Chief Guest. Addressing the participants, he highlighted the growing importance of niche crops in enhancing farm income, ensuring nutritional security, promoting crop diversification, and strengthening sustainable agricultural development in the region. He stressed the need for adopting modern and climate-resilient technologies to improve productivity and profitability. The programme was coordinated by Prof. Bashir Ahmad Alie, who elaborated on the objectives and significance of



HADP Project No. 2. He emphasized the role of scientific agronomic interventions in promoting niche crop cultivation among farming communities across Jammu and Kashmir. During the programme, experts conducted field demonstrations on various aspects of niche crop production, including improved crop varieties, nutrient management, irrigation practices, weed management, and sustainable crop production technologies. Participants actively interacted with scientists and experts, discussing several field-level challenges and opportunities associated with niche crop cultivation. The par-

ticipants appreciated the efforts of the Division of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura for organizing such awareness and interaction-oriented programmes that facilitate the dissemination of innovative agricultural technologies among stakeholders. The organizers also expressed gratitude to Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-K, along with the Directorate of Extension Education and other concerned departments for their support and encouragement in conducting the programme successfully. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Rayees Ahmad.

SEVERE HAILSTORM DEVASTATES APPLE ORCHARDS ACROSS KASHMIR, GROWERS DEMAND CROP INSURANCE SCHEME

■ FAROOQ RATHER

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers-cum-Dealers Union, Bashir Ahmed Bashir, has expressed deep concern over the massive damage caused to apple orchards across several parts of North and South Kashmir following severe hailstorms, gusty winds, thunderstorms and lightning over the past few days. According to the Union, intense hailstorms accompanied by strong winds struck the areas of Tangmarg, Pattan, Wagoora, Kreeri, Rafiabad, Sheeri, Baramulla and the Kangan belt of North and Central Kashmir during the evening hours of May 12, causing widespread destruction to apple

orchards and other fruit crops. Similar storms had also hit the orchard belts of Shopian and Kulgam in South Kashmir three to four days earlier, severely affecting fruit growers in those districts.

Fruit growers from the affected areas stated that the hailstorms and stormy winds continued for nearly five to eight minutes, causing extensive damage to orchards and resulting in huge financial losses. They said that the sudden weather calamity has shattered the hopes of thousands of orchardists who are solely dependent on horticulture for their livelihood. The Union said that the horticulture sector forms the backbone of Kashmir's economy and provides livelihood to nearly 90

percent of the population directly or indirectly associated with fruit cultivation, transportation and marketing. However, repeated climate-related disasters and the absence of a proper Crop Insurance Scheme or Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) have left fruit growers vulnerable and helpless.

The growers alleged that despite repeated demands and budgetary provisions, the Crop Insurance Scheme has not been effectively implemented in Jammu and Kashmir so far. They also demanded the immediate reintroduction of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to provide relief to orchardists during natural calamities.

The Union stated that pre-

mium quality apples are produced in the belts of Tangmarg, Pattan, Wagoora, Kreeri, Rafiabad, Baramulla and other parts of the Valley, but this year a large number of orchards in these areas have suffered extensive damage due to the recent storms.

Expressing anguish over the losses, fruit growers said that small and marginal orchardists are the worst affected as they entirely depend on income generated from their orchards to meet household expenses, education costs and other necessities. They added that repeated natural disasters without any insurance support are pushing growers into severe economic distress.

In light of the recent calamity,

the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers-cum-Dealers Union has appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to immediately implement a comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme for the horticulture sector and revive the Market Intervention Scheme to safeguard the interests of fruit growers.

The Union also urged the authorities of SKUAST-Kashmir, the Horticulture Department and the Marketing Department to conduct an immediate assessment of the losses caused by the hailstorm and strong winds on May 12, 2026, and ensure adequate compensation and relief for the affected orchardists.

KU screens documentary on drug addiction across campuses under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan

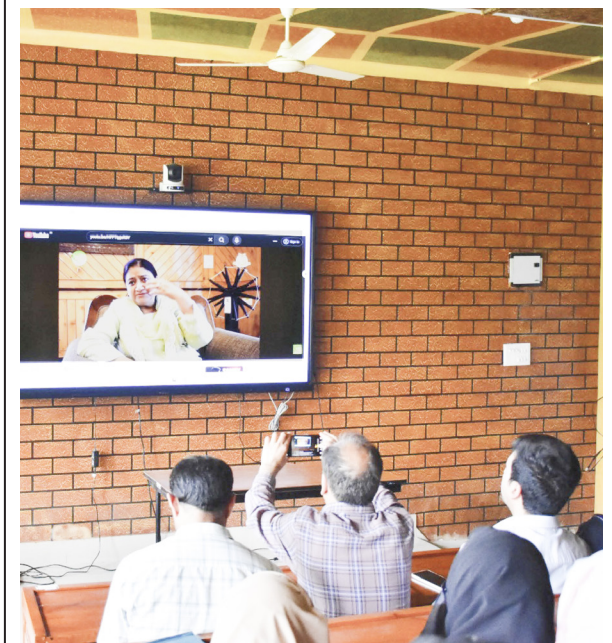
■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: The University of Kashmir (KU) organised screenings of the documentary film "Drug Addiction - A Threat to Life" across its various teaching departments and satellite campuses as part of the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan.

Coordinated by the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), the initiative witnessed participation from students and faculty across the campuses, who viewed the documentary with keen interest.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan in her message said, "Awareness and education are essential in preventing substance abuse among young people. Universities must continue to create platforms that encourage informed choices, emotional resilience, and healthy lifestyles among students."

She added that meaningful engagement through educational initiatives can play an important role in helping students develop confidence, responsibility,



and a sense of social awareness.

Produced by Er. Abdul Rasheed, Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC) KU, the film presents the social and personal consequences of substance abuse and highlights the need for collective efforts to address the growing problem of drug addiction among youth.

The screenings were organised under the broader campaign launched under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Chancellor of the University, Shri Manoj Sinha.

The programme aimed to sensitise students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage responsible and positive engagement within society.

Govt would provide additional food grains during Eid, Muharram festivities: Satish Sharma

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness and ensure seamless availability of essential commodities and public services ahead of the forthcoming Eid and Muharram observance across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat, VC LCMA, MD RTC, RTO Kashmir, Senior officers of the administration, officers of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, representatives of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Legal Metrology Organization (LMO), Food Safety Department, PDD, R&B, PHE, SMC, district administration and other concerned agencies.

During the meeting, the Minister stressed the importance of maintaining uninterrupted supply of essential commodities. He directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination to ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience during the festive period.

The Minister directed that



adequate stock of food grains and other essential commodities under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and FCI be maintained at all depots and distribution points across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that timely distribution and proper monitoring mechanisms should be put in place to avoid any shortage or disruption in supply.

Satish Sharma further stated that an additional quota of food grains would be made available in view of the increased demand during Eid and Muharram festivities so that people across Jammu and Kashmir receive adequate supplies without any

inconvenience. Reviewing the availability of LPG, the Minister instructed Oil Marketing Companies and allied agencies to ensure sufficient stock of both domestic and commercial LPG cylinders. He further directed the agencies to streamline the supply chain and distribution process to effectively meet the increased demand during the festive season.

The Minister also instructed the concerned authorities to explore the possibility of reducing the waiting period for booking and refilling domestic LPG cylinders in order to facilitate consumers during Eid and Muharram. Directing for strict vigilance

in markets, Satish Sharma asked the concerned enforcement agencies to undertake regular market checking drives across Jammu and Kashmir. He instructed the Food Safety Department and Legal Metrology Organization to intensify inspections to curb overpricing, hoarding, black marketing, and sale of substandard goods, while ensuring strict action against violators.

The Minister also directed the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Lakes Conservation and Management Authority to undertake extensive cleanliness drives in their respective jurisdictions in view of the forthcoming religious occasions. Further, the Minister directed

the Power Development Department (PDD) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water so that people do not face any inconvenience during Eid and Muharram.

Speaking during the meeting, Tanvir Sadiq emphasized the need for coordinated field-level monitoring to ensure that the benefits of government arrangements reach people effectively during the festive period. He stressed that special attention should be given to areas witnessing large public gatherings and religious congregations so that adequate civic amenities and essential supplies remain available at all times.

Tanvir Sadiq also called for enhanced sanitation measures, proper street lighting and improved water and electricity supply in areas associated with Eid and Muharram gatherings. He urged all departments to remain responsive to public grievances and ensure prompt redressal of issues during the upcoming religious occasions.

The Minister further directed officers to ensure adequate availability of essential commodities in accordance with anticipated demand and past consumption trends so that the public does not face any difficulty during the upcoming religious occasions.

DYS&S Shopian organizes Sports Activities under 100 Day Nasha

Mukt JK Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 13: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYS&S), Shopian today organized a series of sports activities across different zones of the district under the banner of Nasha Mukt Abhiyan to promote sports culture, discipline, physical fitness and awareness against drug abuse among youth.

At Sports Stadium Wathoo in Zone Keegam, Kabaddi matches were organized with enthusiastic participation from students. The event aimed at spreading awareness regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse through sports activities. Around 130 boys participated in the Kabaddi competitions, while 120 participants also took an anti-drug pledge during the programme.



Meanwhile, Inter-School/Zonal-Level Volleyball and Kabaddi competitions for U/17 boys were successfully conducted at HSS Kaprin, witnessing active participation from student players representing various institutions of the zone.

The competitions were organized to encourage sportsmanship, teamwork and healthy sporting spirit among students.

Similarly, the ISZL Finals were held at HSS Imamsahib under the Nasha Mukt Abhiyan initiative, highlighting the department's commitment towards channelizing youth energy into constructive and sports-based activities while spreading the message of a drug-free society.

In another event, the Zonal Physical Education Office Shopian organized an Inter-School Zonal Level Chess Competition-cum-Selection for Girls in U/14 and U/17 categories at Gunj Bakash Hanfiya Public School, Arhama Shopian. Students from various institutions participated with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The programme was inaugurated by Mushtaq Ahmad Thoker (PEM), who administered an anti-drug pledge to participants before the commencement of the competitions.

Speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the efforts of officials and participants and stressed the importance of adopting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Advisor to CM calls on Javed Rana; discusses J&K's development priorities

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar and held discussions on a range of development issues concerning the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The two exchanged views on accelerating development across various sectors and deliberated upon measures to further strengthen public service delivery and administrative responsiveness in the UT. They reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people and stressed that developmental initiatives must reach every section of society, particularly those in remote and underserved areas.



Both emphasized that the administration remains firmly focused on translating policy intent into ground-level outcomes. They said that sustained coordination among the departments and leadership would be key to achieve the development aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Similarly, several delegations also called on the Minister at his office chamber and apprised him of various issues and demands pertaining to their respective departments and communities.

Among them, the DFO Forest Association projected matters relating to the grant of non-functional promotions and other service-related issues concerning the departmental employees, seeking the Minister's intervention for their early resolution.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured them that their genuine concerns would be examined sympathetically and pursued for appropriate consideration at the relevant forums.

DDC Anantnag reviews progress of Gyan Bharatam Mission

Stresses identification of quality sources, uploading of manuscripts

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MAY 13: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the implementation of the Gyan Bharatam Mission, a national project aimed at the digital preservation of hand written texts, ancient manuscripts and centuries old historical documents.

The meeting was attended by ADC, CPO, ACD (Nodal Officer), DEPO, BDOs, EOs of MCs and other concerned officials. At the outset, the ACD briefed the chair about the status of identification and uploading of manuscripts on the designated portal. He said that efforts including door to door survey are being made to identify, digitize and upload age old and valuable manuscripts across the district. Reviewing the action taken on directions issued during previous meeting, the DDC impressed upon the officers to expedite the pace of survey and ensure that the targets under the mission are achieved within the stipulated timeframe. He emphasized the mission's core objective of locating the centuries hand written texts and heritage records besides preserving this wealth of knowledge for future generations through appropriate use of modern technology. To ensure the mission's success, the DDC directed the officers to identify specific targets like scholars and institutions including shrines and temples that are custodians of ancient records. He asked them to

conduct field visits to villages, panchayats, municipal wards besides cultural, educational and religious institutions to identify the rare texts. Focus on quality work and ensure all information collected and uploaded is reliable and authentic, he remarked. The DDC stated it is the administration's priority to preserve the ancient and historical documents and directed the Education Department to identify libraries possessing books and manuscripts of significant historical and educational value so that appropriate preservation measures can be initiated. The meeting concluded with a resolve by all officers to locate and collect the rich historical texts and age old manuscripts and to preserve this wealth of knowledge for future generations.

DDC Anantnag reviews SANJY-2026 Capex / Revex Works; Stresses Time-Bound completion

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MAY 13: A meeting to review the progress of Capex and Revex works under the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026 under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

The meeting was attended by CEO PDA, ADCs, SEs Hydraulics, PWD, and Jal Shakti, CPO, SDM Pahalgam, CAHO, CMO, Executive Engineers of FC, R&B, and KPDC, ALC, AD Tourism Pahalgam, AD FCS&CA, CEO MCA, EOs of MCs, and other concerned officials.

The meeting essentially focused on assessing departmental preparedness and the current

status of works related to infrastructure and essential services for the smooth conduct of the Yatra. A thorough department-wise review was held, during which officers provided updates on the status of Capex and Revex works, targets achieved, and timelines for completion. Key projects involving road connectivity, water supply, electricity, health services, sanitation, and other necessary facilities were discussed in detail.

The Chair was briefed on the progress of works along the Pahalgam Axis, with an emphasis on upgrading and strengthening infrastructure, installing public amenities, and making necessary arrangements at various locations along the Yatra route, including tracks, halt points, and transit camps. A total of 272 works, comprising 100 Capex and 172 Revex projects, have been approved for R&B, PDD, Jal Shakti, RDD, PDA, Labour, Health, AYUSH, FCS&CA, and other departments. Of these 272 works, 223 have



been accorded, 215 tendered, and 193 allotted, while 69 are currently in progress and two stand completed so far. Emphasizing the importance of the proposed projects, the DDC directed the concerned departments to ensure that all works, especially those of an emergent nature, are completed before the commencement of the Yatra to avoid last-minute delays. He noted that the pace of execution for allotted works pertaining to infrastructure, connectivity, and utilities be expedited in view of approaching Yatra and opening of the track while strictly ensuring the quality of construction. Dr. Bilal also inquired about

the status of the submission of contractor and worker details by the respective departments for further course of action. He stressed the need for close coordination among departments and round-the-clock monitoring of works while adhering to strict quality standards.

Special emphasis was placed on the provision of adequate healthcare facilities, sanitation measures, and uninterrupted essential services for the convenience of the pilgrims. The meeting concluded with directions to the departments to accelerate the pace of work, streamline execution to avoid overlapping, and submit periodic progress reports to ensure seamless and efficient arrangements for SANJY 2026.

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J&K emerges as "High Performer" in LEADS 2025 rankings

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Jammu and Kashmir has been recognised as a "High Performer" in the prestigious Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025 Report, released today by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal at a function held at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.

The achievement marks a significant progression for Jammu and Kashmir, which

was placed in the "Aspirers" category among Union Territories till 2023 and subsequently recognised as a "Fast Mover" in 2024. The latest recognition as a "High Performer" reflects the sustained improvements achieved in the logistics ecosystem, infrastructure development, policy support and regulatory framework across the Union Territory.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Department of Industries & Commerce, functioning as the

nodal department, has been actively monitoring and evaluating performance across four key pillars, namely Logistics Infrastructure, Logistics Services, Operating and Regulatory Environment and Sustainable Logistics.

The recognition accorded to Jammu and Kashmir as a "High Performer" is a testament to the continuous and concerted efforts being undertaken by the J&K Government to strengthen connectivity,



improve logistics infrastructure, facilitate trade and create an

enabling business environment in the Union Territory.

The achievement is expected to further enhance investor confidence and support the Government's vision of promoting sustainable industrial growth, trade facilitation and economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the Union Territories, New Delhi was adjudged as an "Exemplar", while Jammu and Kashmir secured the status of "High Performer" alongside States and Union Territories including Gujarat, Kerala, Ma-

harashtra, Haryana, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Puducherry. The LEADS survey is a flagship annual assessment undertaken by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, to evaluate logistics performance across States and Union Territories with the objective of enhancing logistics efficiency and reducing logistics costs across the country.

Deputation plans of advance parties for SANJY 2026 reviewed at Anantnag

DC emphasizes meticulous detail capturing along Yatra routes

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MAY 13: As part of the preparatory phase for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat today chaired a meeting of the concerned officers to review and finalise the plans for deputation of advance parties to the Yatra track including base camps and other important locations.

ADC, ACR, Exen IFC, BDOs Shangus and K.Pora, Tehsildars Anantnag, Pahalgam and Dooru, SDPO Pahalgam, officials from RDD, SDRF, F&ES and other concerned departments attended the meeting.

Pertinently four specialized teams comprising officials of Revenue, Police, RDD, SDRF, F&ES, IFC and PWD have been designated to conduct a thorough physical audit of the entire route from Nunwan Base Camp upto the Holy Cave.

Acting as the key part of the district administration's preparatory efforts, each team has a well defined jurisdiction/stretch for ensuring a holistic assessment of the ground conditions.



During the review, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the critical importance of meticulously capturing every detail along the track, from the structural integrity of the paths to the strategic placement of utility points. He asked the teams to assess the possible impact of seasonal weather on the terrain,

and verify the readiness of sites designated for medical camps, shops, tents, langars, and emergency shelters during the Yatra period. Dr. Bilal on the occasion directed for organising a proper training session forthwith for the departing parties so that they perform the assigned tasks with utmost precision and efficiency.

The advance teams have been mandated to identify highly prone flash flood zones and adjoining buffer areas besides earmarking safe locations for pitching of tents and establishing shops, langars and camps by security forces.

They will conduct vulnerability mapping by ground marking fragile and unsafe zones so that prohibition of establishments can be ensured at such locations.

Further, the teams were asked to submit a scientific layout plan for the establishments so that a safe, seamless and congestion free Yatra is made possible for the pilgrims. The data collected by these parties will serve as a meaningful reference for the deployment of resources leading to a safe and seamless Yatra experience.

Yasha Mudgal reviews Capex Budget 2026-27 for Cooperative Department

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 13: Commissioner Secretary Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review and finalize the Capex Budget proposals for the financial year 2026-27 pertaining to the Cooperative Department.

The meeting was attended by Director Finance, Cooperative Department, Rashmi Deepika and other senior officers of the Department.

During the meeting, the Director Finance briefed regarding the proposed Capex Budget allocations for 2026-27 under various sectors and schemes of the department.

The proposals covered ongoing works, proposed new projects, infrastructural upgradation, modernization initiatives and other development projects aimed at strengthening the cooperative sector across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

A comprehensive review of the ongoing schemes, infrastructure projects, financial performance and administrative functioning of various cooperative institutions was also undertaken during the meeting.

Stressing the need for optimum and judicious utilization of Capex funds in a transparent and time-bound manner, Yasha Mudgal observed that the Capex Budget should focus on creation of durable assets, strengthening institutional infrastructure and enhancing service delivery mechanisms within the cooperative sector.

Expressing concern over the department's expenditure performance during

the previous financial year, which stood at only 58 percent, Yasha Mudgal directed the officers to adopt a result-oriented approach and work tirelessly to achieve at least 80 percent expenditure during the next six months.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized that special focus must be laid on improving the service delivery, enhancing transparency and ensuring effective implementation of government programmes for the benefit of farmers, artisans, women self-help groups and other stakeholders associated with the cooperative sector.

Emphasizing the need for result-oriented planning, Yasha Mudgal directed the officers to prioritize need-based projects having tangible public benefit and long-term developmental impact. She underscored that all proposals should be realistic, implementable and aligned with the broader objectives of cooperative growth and socio-economic development.

While reviewing the physical and financial progress of ongoing works, she directed that all projects having more than 70 percent physical progress must be completed both physically and financially before June 2026. She emphasized that timely completion of projects is essential for effective utilization of public resources and for ensuring that the intended benefits reach the stakeholders without any delay.

The Commissioner Secretary also called upon the officers to maintain close monitoring of all developmental works and ensure effective inter-departmental coordination for smooth and timely execution of approved projects.

DC Shopian engages with youth clubs, Mahila Samitis on Nasha Mukh JK Abhiyan

Calls for coordinated community action to eradicate drug menace

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 13: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today convened a community interaction program at Mini Secretariat Shopian with youth clubs and Mahila Samitis members of the district, aimed at enhancing community engagement measures for combating drug abuse in the district under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukh Campaign.

Youth club and Mahila Samitis members are acting as volunteers in all gram panchayats of the district, who are being mobilised under the campaign for community engagement in villages.

Speaking on the occasion, the



Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for collective respon-

sibility and close coordination among all stakeholders to tack-

le the growing menace of drugs. He called upon all the members to educate and inform the people especially the vulnerable about the harmful effects of drug addiction.

"Youth and Women have a tremendous role in creating deterrence against the Drug Abuse. Fight against Drugs will not succeed without proactive public commitment, so it's significant to involve the village level community members and volunteers for fulfilling the objectives of the campaign, said DC Shopian during the interaction.

He emphasized that awareness at the grassroots level is essential and urged participants to motivate youth towards constructive activities, particularly sports & skill development

programmes and encouraged people to come forward for establishing self-employment units, assuring that the District Administration would provide every possible support and facilitation in this regard.

He further urged them to maintain close vigilance over children and create awareness within families to keep society free from drugs.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to intensify awareness campaigns and strengthen community participation across the district.

ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACD, Muzaffar Ahmed, DIO, Showkat Hussain Ganie, BDOs, officers/ officials of RDD and other concerned were also present in the interaction.

MLA visits KVK Gurez, appreciates innovative Agricultural Interventions

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 13: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Gurez Constituency, Nazir Ahmad Khan on Tuesday visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Gurez and appreciated the innovative interventions being implemented by the institution for promotion of sustainable agriculture and agri-tourism in the valley.

During the visit, the MLA inspected several pioneering initiatives undertaken by KVK Gurez under the guidance of Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and support of Director Extension, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth.

The dignitary undertook a detailed field visit of various projects including the first-ever Tulip yard in Gurez Valley, Kala Zeera domestication fields, Lavender demonstration yard and the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) germplasm bank established by the Kendra.

The initiatives are aimed at diversification of agriculture, revival of heritage crops and promotion of natural and organic farming practices in the region besides creating new opportunities for agri-tourism and livelihood generation among farmers.

Terming the Tulip initiative a "great success", the MLA said the introduction of tulips in Gurez Valley would significantly boost tourism and open new avenues for economic development in the area.

He appreciated the vision of Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai for promoting innovative agricultural practices and improving the quality of life of tribal farmers in Gurez Valley. He also lauded the efforts of Head KVK Gurez and his team for their dedication and commitment towards the farming community.

Meanwhile, an awareness-cum-input distribution programme for tribal farmers was also organised under the TSP-ICAR funded project during which tool kits aimed at facilitating better farming practices and reducing drudgery among farm women were distributed free of cost among the beneficiaries.

Gandhi Memorial College hosts awareness programme on women safety, legal empowerment

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Gandhi Memorial College Srinagar today organized an awareness programme titled "Safe Women, Strong Society" in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority to promote women's safety, empowerment and legal awareness. The programme was organized under the aegis of the Internal Complaints Committee (POSH Act) of the college with the objective of creating awareness regarding women's rights, legal safeguards and the collective responsibility of society in ensuring a safe and equitable environment for women. Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college, Prof. Masood Ahmad, highlighted the importance of building a society based



on dignity, equality and mutual respect. He stressed the need for educational institutions to play an active role in sensitizing students about issues related to women's safety and empowerment.

During the programme, resource persons deliberated upon various legal frameworks, rights and institutional mechanisms available for the protection and welfare of women. They also encouraged students and participants to actively contribute towards fostering a culture of respect, equality and gender sensitivity.

Principal Census Officer (Urban) visits Census Training Centres to review ongoing Training

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Principal Census Officer (Urban) (Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation), Faz Lul Haseeb, today visited the census training centres at Kashmir Government Polytechnic College Gogji Bagh and Government Women's College M.A. Road to review the ongoing training programme being imparted to Supervisors and Enumerators in connection with Census 2027. During the visit, the Commissioner inspected the training sessions

to assess the preparedness and ensure that the training programme is being conducted smoothly and in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

Interacting with the trainers and participants, the Commissioner highlighted the significance of the census as a vital national exercise that plays a crucial role in planning and policy formulation. He urged the trainees to thoroughly understand the procedures and responsibilities associated with the enumeration process and to perform their duties

with utmost accuracy, transparency, and dedication.

He also expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and the overall conduct of the training sessions and appreciated the efforts of the officers and staff involved in successfully organizing the programme.

The Commissioner was accompanied by the City Census Officer, Nuzhat Qureshi, along with the concerned Charge Officers, who also reviewed the arrangements and interacted with the trainees during the visits.

Mega Block Diwas at Markundal Naidkhai; DC reviews developmental works, addresses Public Grievances

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 13: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Wednesday chaired a Mega Block Diwas programme at Markundal Naidkhai, where she reviewed the status of developmental activities and heard a wide range of public grievances and concerns projected by the residents of the area.

The programme was attended by SDM Sumbal, ACD, ACP, CMO, CEO, CAHO, CHO, CAO, ARTO, Executive Engineers of various departments, Tehsildar Hajin, and a large gathering of

public representatives and concerned officers.

During the interaction session, residents raised issues pertaining to road connectivity, macadamisation, desilting, drinking water supply, sanitation, irrigation, education infrastructure, waste management, ration cards, social welfare schemes, and other developmental concerns.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the public that all genuine demands and grievances would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner, and directed concerned officers to initiate necessary action on pri-



ority.

The DC further directed the concerned departments to improve civic amenities, strengthen sanitation and waste management measures, and ensure

more effective public service delivery in the area. Emphasizing the importance of public participation, the Deputy Commissioner noted that challenges such as waste management and drug abuse cannot be addressed by the government alone, and urged citizens to extend full cooperation in maintaining cleanliness and fostering social awareness.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed concerned departments to conduct field surveys and submit reports on road conditions, water stagnation, irrigation deficiencies, and other infrastructural requirements in

the area.

Directing the Agriculture Department Bandipora to organise a special camp for resolution of issues related to PM-KISAN beneficiaries, the Deputy Commissioner also made clear that encroachments on irrigation canals would not be tolerated and that such structures would be demolished without exception.

Residents and participants expressed appreciation to the Deputy Commissioner for conducting the Block Diwas and for personally and patiently engaging with the concerns of the people.

HT EDITORIAL

Cancellation of NEET examination dashes hopes of lakhs

Dreams and hopes of lakhs of young students who wanted to join the prestigious course of MBBS across the medical colleges of the country were dashed after the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) examination held on Sunday May 3. The Agency has said that there would be a fresh examination and the same is going to be held over the next 7-10 days.

The cancellation of the NEET examination is not an ordinary thing and the concerned agency should think over the loopholes that led to the paper leak. Mere handing over of the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation is not enough and it is important that other steps are taken. Ideally the culprits who leaked the paper should be taken to task and it should be ensured that life imprisonment or imprisonment till death is handed over to such people. Stern action is the need of the hour and hopefully it is done.

No bail whatsoever should be granted to people who have played with the career of more than two million students of the country. Once the strictest possible action is taken against these people it would act as a deterrent and nobody would think of leaking papers of a prestigious examination like NEET for undergraduate medical courses in future. If these people are set free then the students would lose faith in the judiciary and that would be an intellectual disaster for the country.

The students who appeared in the NEET examination burnt midnight oil so as to score high marks and get admission in prestigious medical colleges of the country. One can easily imagine the mental condition of the students who scored high marks and were over the moon. It would be very difficult for such students to come out of this mental trauma and reappear in the examination. There are maximum chances that these students may not be able to score high in the revised examination since they would be under tremendous mental stress.

There may be a craze of administrative services among the youth of the country but when it comes to Jammu & Kashmir medicine continues to be the first choice for the students. It is due to this reason that scores of students from Kashmir pay hefty sums so as to get admission in medical colleges outside the country. This they do only when they fail to get admission in the medical colleges of the country

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The Role of Parents in Modern Education: Nurturing Respect Over Domination



■ ALTAF HUSSAIN PEERZADA

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, the role of parents has become more crucial than ever. Modern education is no longer confined to textbooks and classrooms; it is a collaborative ecosystem where teachers, parents, and students must work in harmony. However, a concerning trend has emerged, where guidance is sometimes replaced by interference, and support by domination. This shift not only disrupts the educational process but also weakens the very foundation of a child's character development.

At the heart of effective education lies mutual respect, particularly the respect a student holds for their teacher. Teachers are not mere service providers; they are mentors, guides, and architects of young minds. When parents uphold and reinforce this respect at home, it strengthens the teacher's role in shaping disciplined, responsible, and morally grounded individuals. Conversely, when parents attempt to dominate or undermine teachers, it creates confusion in the child's mind, erodes authority, and hampers learning.

Modern parents are more informed and involved, which is a positive development. Their awareness of academic standards, emotional well-being, and career pathways can significantly benefit their children. However, involvement must not cross into control. Questioning a teacher's professional judgment without understanding the broader context, or openly criticizing them in front of children, sends a damaging message, that authority can be challenged without reason, and respect is optional.

Education thrives in an environment of trust. Parents must trust that teachers are working in



the best interest of their children. Likewise, teachers must feel supported rather than scrutinized at every step. Constructive communication is essential, but it should be rooted in collaboration, not confrontation. A respectful dialogue between parents and teachers fosters a positive atmosphere where the child feels secure and motivated.

Another critical aspect is the modeling of behavior. Children learn more from what they observe than what they are told. When they see their parents speaking respectfully about teachers, acknowledging their efforts, and addressing concerns with dignity, they internalize these values. This not only enhances their academic journey but also shapes their social and ethical outlook.

It is also important to recognize that discipline, structure, and accountability, often enforced by teachers are essential components of education. Parents should reinforce these values rather than resist them. Shielding children from correction or always taking their side, even when they are

at fault, weakens their ability to accept responsibility and grow from mistakes.

Modern education aims to develop not just academically proficient students, but well-rounded individuals capable of critical thinking, empathy, and resilience. This vision can only be achieved when parents and teachers stand united. Respect must be the bridge that connects both sides.

In conclusion, the role of parents in modern education is not to dominate but to support, not to challenge authority unnecessarily but to strengthen it through trust and cooperation. Respect for teachers is not merely a tradition, it is a necessity for effective learning and character building. When parents choose respect over domination, they do not just empower teachers; they empower their children to succeed in the truest sense.

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“My Life, My Rules” Broke a Home



■ SYED MAJID GILANI

Sana never imagined that silence could be so loud. Once, her life was full of small beautiful sounds, the clink of cups in the morning, children running through the house, shared meals, routine arguments, familiar laughter, and the quiet comfort of a husband returning home after a long day. Today, those sounds live only in memory. What remain are a silent room, a glowing phone screen, and a heart heavy with thoughts she once ignored.

There is nothing more painful than watching a family slowly fall apart, not because of poverty, fate, or hardship, but because of ego, outside influence, misunderstanding, and unwillingness to compromise. Many people walk away from sincere and loving relationships, only realising their value when life grows lonely.

Aamir was not an ordinary man. A husband, who provides, protects, remains loyal, and loves sincerely is a blessing. His love was never loud. It lived in responsibility, patience, and sacrifice. He worked quietly, cared deeply, and stood firmly beside his family. He was not perfect, but he was genuine.

Sana often failed to understand him. When Aamir worried about her, she felt controlled. When he asked questions, she felt doubted. Where he saw care, she saw interference. Where he feared losing her, she heard suspicion. She never realised that love sometimes becomes anxious.

Slowly, long phone calls and endless conversations with parents, siblings, and friends replaced conversations with her husband. Ev-

eryone had access to her thoughts except the man sharing her life. Then came the borrowed slogans.

“My life, my rules,” she would say proudly. She called it freedom. She called it independence. But gradually, that freedom turned into emotional distance, coldness, and the weakening of a home.

The phone itself was never the problem. Social media was not the enemy. Neglect was. What Sana called possessiveness was often Aamir's concern. When he advised her about certain things, it came from care, not cruelty. He wanted to protect his home, his dignity, and the relationship he valued deeply.

In many relationships today, genuine concern is sometimes misunderstood, and emotional distance quietly grows between people.

Instead of helping the couple heal, her family often strengthened her anger. They encouraged her to see affection as control and compromise as defeat. Slowly, Aamir became the villain in stories told around her, while she began to see herself as trapped. But the reality was more complicated. Aamir wanted balance between his wife, his parents, and his family. Sana increasingly wanted his attention, decisions, and priorities centred entirely on her and her parental home.

She gradually pressured him to distance himself from his parents and relatives, insisting that his world revolve only around her and her parental home. Aamir refused. He believed that love for one relationship should not require abandoning another. But his refusal brought bitterness into the marriage. Arguments increased. Respect faded. Peace slowly disappeared from the house.

At times, her actions quietly pushed the marriage toward separation, yet she avoided taking responsibility herself. Instead, she hoped the burden of pronouncing divorce would fall upon a loving and loyal husband who had remained committed despite everything.

The people who encouraged her rebellion slowly disappeared when real life became difficult. Slogans do not pay bills. Hashtags do not provide comfort during lonely nights. When problems became real, many of those loud supporters were nowhere to be found. In the end, she remained financially dependent on the same man she had emotionally pushed away. He continued fulfilling his responsibilities toward her and the children as his lawful duty, while those who had once encouraged her anger neither offered help nor accepted responsibility themselves.

Sana once felt proud of Aamir's love, care, and protection. Later, those same qualities became painful reminders of what she had lost. Her victory brought no peace. Only isolation remained. She constantly resisted the presence of Aamir's elderly parents and wanted complete control over his parental home. But Aamir did not surrender his principles.

Today, Sana is slowly becoming an unwanted guest in her own parental home. Time changes everything. Parents grow old. Siblings become busy in their own lives. The warmth of welcome slowly fades. When relatives visit, Sana cooks, cleans, and hides her sadness behind tired smiles. The house gives her shelter, but not belonging.

The greatest sufferers in broken homes are always the children, although through his constant efforts, unwavering willingness, and firm determination, Aamir remained loyal and resolved to take every possible measure to heal and protect them. A fractured marriage steals their peace, security, and emotional stability. No matter how hard one parent tries, the absence of a complete family leaves a wound inside a child's heart.

Now Sana spends more and more time on social media, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, WhatsApp, and Telegram. Likes and messages provide temporary distraction,

but not companionship. Screens do not replace family. Notifications do not wipe tears. Online attention cannot sit beside someone during silent nights.

More than a decade into the marriage, Aamir discovered something that deeply shattered him. Many years earlier, during a time when life still appeared smooth, Sana had blocked him on all her social media accounts while remaining active for everyone else. Strangers could still glimpse fragments of her life that her own husband was denied. Yet this distance had not emerged after the collapse of their marriage; it had begun much earlier, when everything outwardly still seemed ordinary and intact. Even during outings and drives meant for togetherness, she remained absorbed in her phone, connected to everyone except the man sitting beside her. Aamir kept waiting for emotional closeness that never truly returned.

The man she pushed away was faithful. He cared for her health, worried for her safety, and protected her dignity, not because he was narrow-minded, but because he truly loved her.

Perhaps Sana failed to understand that marriages survive through respect, patience, emotional responsibility, and mutual care. Boundaries in relationships are not chains; they are protections for love and trust. Over time, emotional distance, outside influence, and unresolved misunderstandings slowly weakened the relationship.

Aamir would have stood beside her through every storm, had she only stayed beside him too.

Syed Majid Gilani is a Government Officer, storyteller, and opinion writer who writes on family, human relationships, faith, resilience, and social values, focusing on everyday life experiences and moral reflection. He can be contacted at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

NEWSPAPER READING IS THE BEST WAY TO LEARN AND GAIN EXPERIENCE



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Newspaper reading is the best way to learn and gain knowledge. One thing we should never ignore is whether we are skilled, whether we have potential, or whether we are becoming dependent on applications and machines. The development of any nation does not mean that we should abandon the human mind and worship machines and Android apps. No doubt we have technology and facilities that we never had before, but we must always rely on the human brain; there is nothing more efficient than it. Therefore, we have to keep our minds sharp and practice every day. We need more ways to make our minds sharp and efficient, not machines and gadgets. The time is not far when we may lose our mental power and rely entirely on machines and Android apps.

It has been centuries since the first newspaper was printed in 1605. In India, the first newspaper was published in 1780 by James Augustus Hickey. The Times of India is one of the leading newspapers in the country today, and there are many other prominent newspapers published daily across the world. Newspaper reading adds new words to our vocabulary and provides us with current general knowledge about our surroundings. It is one of the most reliable sources of infor-

mation and helps people remain aware of what is happening around them.

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

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

During vacations, several coaching institutes offer English-speaking courses, personality-development training, and language-learning classes to help students prepare for employment. Nowadays, the level of competition is very high among learners and job-seeking youth, yet many of us still lack essential skills. Education is necessary to obtain a reputable job and earn a respectable income. Being educated enhances morale, develops personality, and increases self-respect and dignity.

There are many other sources that we should use to develop our overall personality. The time is not far when our nation will witness a revolution in education and development. A nation grows when its youth come forward with zeal

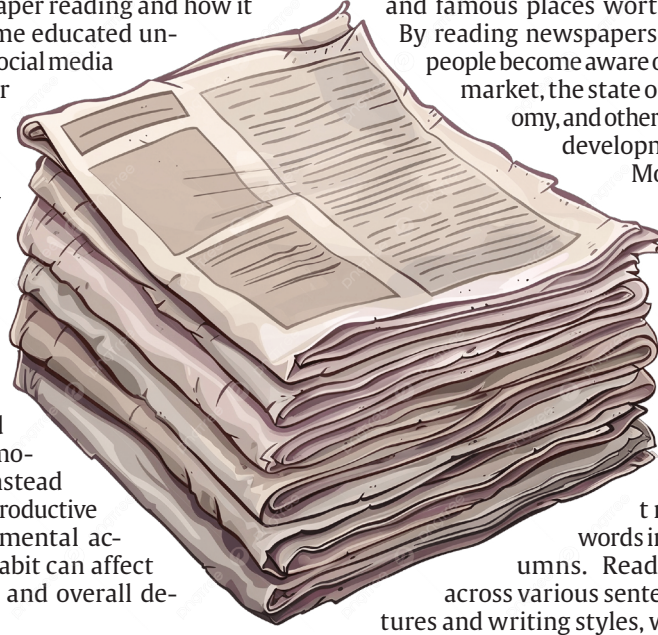
and enthusiasm, carrying dreams for themselves and their country. When we develop positive thoughts, set big goals, and move ahead with strong determination, no one can stop us from achieving success.

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

Several Android applications display current events quickly, and Google also plays a vital role in keeping us updated. However, newspapers are a different and more reliable learning medium for students and society. Newspaper reading helps us learn new words, understand proper sentence formation, and improve pronunciation. It provides a wide range of knowledge in a short time and keeps us informed about important national and international events.

Newspaper reading helps us know

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



Most importantly, newspaper reading enhances vocabulary because editors use new and trending words in news columns. Readers come across various sentence structures and writing styles, which help improve their writing skills. Other interesting features in newspapers include poetry, short stories, recipes, advertisements, religious facts, puzzles, cartoons, jokes, and educational articles. These sections make newspaper reading both informative and entertaining.

Newspapers also play an important role in shaping public opinion. They encourage people to think critically about social and national issues. Editorials and opinion columns present different viewpoints, helping readers develop their own

perspectives. This habit strengthens analytical thinking and decision-making abilities.

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

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

Newspapers in our country are published in many languages such as English, Urdu, and Hindi. Readers can choose the language they are most comfortable with. This helps people from different backgrounds stay connected with national and global developments and promotes awareness and understanding in society.

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

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BOOK REVIEW



REYAZ BADANA

The Debt of the Pen Presented to Tahir Saleem Khan (JKPS)

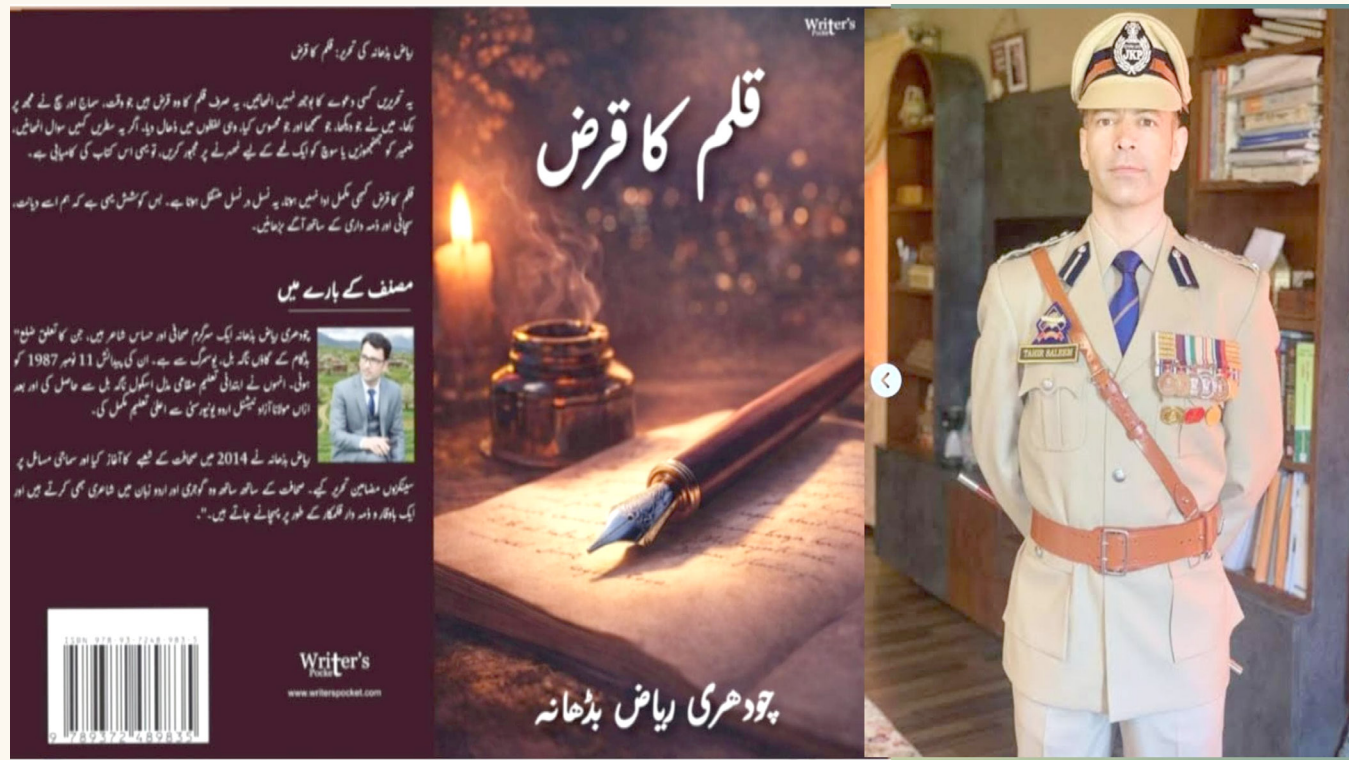
Encouragement for Literature and Journalism

Today, on May 13, I had the honor of presenting a copy of my book "The Debt of the Pen" to Tahir Saleem, Staff Officer to the Inspector General of Police. The meeting was not merely a formal exchange, but a meaningful interaction that reflected respect for literature, journalism, and constructive dialogue within society.

Tahir Saleem impressed me greatly through his humble personality, dignified conduct, and thoughtful understanding of social and literary issues. His encouraging words regarding my work as a journalist and writer were deeply motivating. At a time when writers and journalists often face numerous pressures and challenges, meeting officers who recognize the value of honest writing becomes a source of strength and inspiration.

During our conversation, he appreciated the purpose and message behind "The Debt of the Pen" and acknowledged the importance of responsible journalism in highlighting public concerns and social realities. His attitude reflected professionalism, wisdom, and a balanced understanding of the role played by writers and journalists in society. Officers with such positive thinking help strengthen public trust and create an atmosphere of mutual respect between institutions and the people.

"The Debt of the Pen" is not mere-



ly a collection of words and observations; it is an expression of the responsibilities, struggles, and truths associated with journalism and literature. Through this book, I have attempted to highlight the realities faced by journalists, including social pressures, professional challenges,

and the difficult path of speaking the truth with honesty and courage. I have also discussed certain aspects of administration and public response so that a better understanding may develop between institutions and those who raise society's voice through the pen.

I would sincerely request officers within the administration and police departments to read this book, because it reflects many realities connected with society, governance, and the experiences of journalists on the ground. Constructive understanding between institutions and writers is essential for

building a healthier, more aware, and more responsible society.

I also had the privilege of presenting the book to Owias Ahmad Wani, SDPO Charar-e-Sharief, whose respectful behavior, encouraging words, and positive outlook toward literary and journalistic efforts deserve appreciation. He warmly appreciated my work and acknowledged the importance of writers who attempt to raise social issues through honest expression. His professionalism and courteous conduct reflected a thoughtful approach that strengthens confidence between the public and institutions.

This effort was never about personal praise or publicity. Its purpose was simply to ensure that the concerns, struggles, and responsibilities of journalists and writers are understood with seriousness and empathy. If "The Debt of the Pen" succeeds in creating even a small bridge of understanding between institutions and the literary community, then I will consider it a meaningful achievement.

In the end, I sincerely thank Tahir Saleem and Owias Ahmad Wani for their appreciation, encouragement, and kind words regarding my literary work. Their support for constructive dialogue, literature, and responsible journalism reflects a progressive and respectful outlook that truly deserves recognition.

Diabetes: Catch it before it captures you!

Many people hear 'Diabetes' and think 'disease-of-the-old-age', 'people-over-50' or 'my-grand-dad's-got-it!' But you will be surprised to find out that more and more young adults are developing this deadly disease as early as in their thirties. There has been an alarming rise in Diabetes off late, and it is slowly reaching epidemic levels. The probable reasons this disease is on the rise could be because of the increase in the levels of stress amongst 30-year-olds, high sugar content in their diets and lack of any exercise. Though we can't change the damage done in the past, we surely can take

corrective and preventive measures for our future.

Early detection of diabetes can help you in a big way. Diabetes does not have a cure, but if you are alert and manage to pick it up early you can arrest the progress of the disease in the initial stage itself. And thereby gift yourself a few extra-years of disease-free healthy life.

Listed below are a few symptoms of diabetes. If you have two or more of the symptoms listed below you must consult your physician for a thorough check up:

Increased Thirst: Has your water-intake gone up? Do you find yourself making extra visits to the cooler

or reaching out for bottled water every now and then? Increased thirst is one of the first signs of diabetes.

Frequent Urination: When you consciously drink more liquids it is natural for you to be making frequent visits to the rest room. But if this is happening without any apparent change in your water-intake you should get yourself checked.

Sudden Vision Changes: Increased blood glucose levels cause the lens in our eyes to change in shape. This can lead to changes in vision. If the number of your spectacles is suddenly and steadily moving up or if you feel that your



vision is not like before you must consult your ophthalmologist.

Weight Loss in spite of eating well: If in spite of eating three sumptuous meals in a day your weighing scale

is inching down instead of up something could be wrong.

Feel Sleepy, drowsy or Lethargic: No matter what time of day it is - are you feeling sleepy and tired all the

time? In spite of a good night's sleep you are tempted to stay in bed all day and getting out seems like an uphill task? It's time you get a check up.

Wounds and Cuts Taking Too Long To Heal: Usually all wounds heal within 7-10 days but if you've noticed that your cuts and wounds aren't healing fast enough your blood sugar levels should be checked.

Homeopathy for Diabetes: Homeopathy can improve the general health of a diabetic. When treatment is started early, homeopathy remedies can also help bring down blood sugar levels and arrest progress of the disease. **Courtesy Healthline**

Diabetes and smoking

DR. N. SELVARAJ

Smoking is now proven to be an independent risk factor for diabetes, and amongst diabetics it increases the risk of complications. Smokers are 30% more prone to develop type 2 diabetes than non-smokers. People with diabetes already have a list of complications such as heart disease, stroke, circulation problems, kidney disease, retinopathy and peripheral neuropathy, and smoking adds to the risk of developing all of these things. Together with genetics and obesity, smoking is also proven as a risk factor for insulin resistance that often leads to diabetes.

Smoking and diabetes both increase the risk of heart disease and when combined, they significantly elevate the chances of suffering a heart related condition such as a heart attack or stroke. High levels of blood glucose and smoking can cause damage to walls of the arteries in such a manner that makes it easier to build-up fatty deposits. As a result, the blood vessels become narrow and make blood circulation difficult. When this happens to the coronary arteries (the arteries that supply the heart muscle with blood and therefore oxygen) a heart attack can occur. Similarly, when brain does not get enough blood, stroke can occur. Hence, if you smoke when you have diabetes, you are putting yourself at a much greater risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke.

According to a very recent study, people with diabetes who smoke, are twice-prone to immature death than non-smokers. Results showed that diabetes doubles the risk for all-cause mortality and non-lung cancer mortality among heavy smokers. Women with diabetes are more prone to lung cancer and have an 80% increased risk of dying from lung cancer compared to those without diabetes. The more cigarettes you smoke, the higher your risk for type 2 diabetes and complications.

If you are a smoker with diabetes, quitting smoking will benefit your health right away. No matter what type of diabetes you have, smoking makes your diabetes harder to control. People with diabetes who quit smoking have better control of their blood sugar levels.

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DON'T LET RAGE HARM YOUR HEART!



Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a condition which affects the joints of the body, commonly hands and knees. It causes pain, swelling and stiffness of the joints. It is an autoimmune disease meaning that the body makes destructive chemicals against its own parts. Though the brunt is borne by the joints, many other parts including heart, lungs, eyes, kidneys and nerves are also affected.

RA is considered as a risk factor for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease by many risk models. The chances of coronary blockage increase in presence of RA. RA also causes valve disease, pericarditis and electrical blockage in the heart.

Nearly 7 million people in India suffer from RA. I

A new aspect of the connection between RA and coronary artery disease has recently been explored. 2 Researchers studied the effect of psychological symptoms like anger, anxiety, depression and caregiver stress on 195 RA patients and compared them with 1073 patients without RA. The study showed that increase

in anger, anxiety, depression or caregiver stress scores led to increase in chances for atherosclerosis (or blockage) in the arteries supplying blood to the heart. This in turn can enhance risk of heart attack.

Increased job stress was also linked to the increase in heart disease indicators. However, if the RA patient had good social support (eg. from family, friends, co-workers, etc.), a reduction in this effect was observed.

On the whole, this study showed that a depressed, anxious or angry RA patient maybe at greater risk of heart disease than someone who is not under psychological stress. A reduction in job stress and increased social support might also help reduce the risk of future heart diseases.

If you are a RA patient, keeping your mind stress-free might help in more ways than one!

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This new diagnostic tool may help detect heart attack, stroke risk early

Researchers have found a new laser-based diagnostic tool that may help detect risk of heart attacks and strokes in patients early.

The tool uses near-infrared light to visualise the fatty build-up in the arteries.

Researchers said that for the study, they have increased the wavelength of the light, which selectively revealed plaques with internal bleeding, typically associated with high-risk deposits and which commonly lead to blood clots, heart attacks and strokes.

Karlheinz Peter from the Monash University in Australia said, "We suggest that near-infrared autofluorescence imaging is a novel technology that allows

identification of atherosclerotic plaques with intraplaque hemorrhage and ultimately holds promise for detection of high-risk plaques in patients."

The near-infrared autofluorescence technique is a mixture of heme products formed during the degradation of red blood cells.

These products were only observed in the unstable plaques with internal bleeding and not observed in the more stable fatty deposits.

This can improve selectivity when looking for high-risk deposits in patients and could help the doctors to identify the most at-risk patients, the researchers said in the paper published in the journal Nature Communications.

Peter said, "We realised when we shine a light in the near-infrared wavelength range, this light is reflected at a certain wavelength. So in a way, we can use laser light to shine up the plaques that are unstable and it's very characteristic."

Tara Schiller, Assistant Professor at the University of Warwick in the UK said, "This could help us to detect the threat of an imminent heart attack and result in a decrease of the mortality rates."

After further investigation with clinical trials, this method of imaging technique could be used to assess unstable fatty arterial plaques and could be used to monitor the effectiveness of the drugs used to prevent heart attacks or strokes, the researchers noted. **EMJ**

OBEISY- THE NEW ADDICTION

Dr. K. R. Senthilnathan

Any kind of addiction needs both medical and behavioral interventions. Obesity even today is not commonly looked upon as a disease. People who have weight issues are not treated well and often made fun off. As with the most chronic diseases it is important that obesity is also treated with care and proper involvement of health professionals. Obesity is not only an epidemic it may even be considered as an addiction which is very difficult to get rid of. Obesity management needs all sorts of intervention from drugs to diet to exercise to surgery to behavioral support. Although studies done so far have no conclusive outcome on behavior being a modality for reasonable and

sustainable weight loss but further studies in this direction will definitely show the way.

Endocrine Society released new guidelines on the treatment of obesity which includes the following:

1. Diet, exercise, and behavioral modification to be a part of all obesity management protocols.
2. Obesity management to be followed for anyone with Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 kg/m² or higher.
3. Drugs may be used in patients where weight loss routine adherence is an issue.
4. To make weight loss doable and to promote long-term weight maintenance, approved weight loss medication can be used.
5. Anti-diabetic medications that promote weight loss (such as Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 [GLP-1] analogs or



Sodium-Glucose-Linked Transporter-2 [SGLT-2] inhibitors should be used for obese diabetics.

6. In hypertensive patients use of Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, Angiotensin Receptor

Blockers (ARBs), and calcium channel blockers are preferred.

7. Oral contraception recommended over injectables in women with a BMI of 27 kg/m² or more.

With these guidelines, recently a study published in Preventive Medicine, looked at the role of behavioral intervention to manage obesity. This study looked at research published in the month of February

2016 across various databases and identified twelve studies representing 1862 participants with a mean BMI of 37.5-48.3 kg/m² and a mean age of 30-54 years. The study looked at both behavioral and pharmacological interventions both

together and independently. The evaluated data was not able to clearly establish the relationship of behavioral intervention as a sustainable modality in reducing weight over a period of 12 months. The authors of this study suggest a more scalable study on interventions in weight management to be undertaken. In such a situation where obesity is becoming a real challenge to mankind we really need to broaden our understanding of this condition and tackle it effectively so that those suffering because of this can lead a healthy and better lifestyle.

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HEALTH BENEFITS OF POMEGRANATE

Pomegranate is one of the healthiest fruits on earth. Pomegranate has many incredible health benefits for your body.

It is called as a divine fruit because it is the most mentioned fruit in theological books. Pomegranate has anti-oxidant, anti-viral and anti-tumor properties and is said to be a good source of vitamins, especially vitamin A, vitamin C, and vitamin E, as well as folic acid. This amazing fruit consists three times as many antioxidants as both wine or green tea. Consuming pomegranate also lowers the risk of all sorts of diseases. Following are the benefits of pomegranate:

1. Protects us from free radicals
Pomegranate is rich in anti-oxidants and thus protects our body from free radicals, which are responsible for premature ageing. Free radicals are formed by exposure to sun

and due to harmful toxins in the environment.

2. It thins your blood
Antioxidants present in pomegranate act as a 'thinner for your blood'. The seeds of pomegranate prevent your blood platelets from forming clots and coagulating.

There are two types of blood clots, first is the good one which speeds the recovery during a cut or an injury and second is when there is any internal clot, like in heart, arteries or anywhere else inside the body. These type of clots are not good and can be fatal.

3. Prevention of atherosclerosis
With increasing age and the type of lifestyle we live, the walls of our arteries become harder due to cholesterol, resulting in blockages sometimes. The anti-oxidant property of pomegranate prevents bad cholesterol from oxidizing. So, eating pomegranates removes the excess fat and prevents the hardening of artery walls.

4. It acts like an oxygen mask
Pomegranate helps to pump the level of oxygen in our blood. Due to anti-oxidants present in pomegranate, it fights free radicals, reduces cholesterol and prevents blood clot. All this eventually helps blood to flow freely and thus improve the level of oxygen in your body.

5. It prevents arthritis
Pomegranate can reduce the damage of the cartilage by fighting the enzyme that does so. Pomegranate also has the ability to reduce inflammation.

6. Fights erectile dysfunction
Though it is not a wonder drug but yes pomegranate juice can slightly improve erectile dysfunction. And a lot of theories prove this as true.

7. Fights heart disease and prostate

cancer
Two studies claim that pomegranate juice has the ability to fight prostate cancer. An experiment showed that pomegranate juice slowed the growth and even killed cultured cancer cells. And as we have already mentioned in the second point, pomegranate juice thins the blood and thus improves its condition which in turn prevents cardiovascular diseases.

8. Pomegranate is loaded with beneficial nutrients
A cup of pomegranate seed contains 24 grams of sugar and 144 calories. A cup of pomegranate seeds contain following nutrients:
Fiber: 7 grams
Protein: 3 grams
Folate: 16 per cent of the RDA
Potassium: 12 per cent of the RDA
Vitamin C: 30 per cent of the RDA
Vitamin K: 36 per cent of the RDA

9. It improves memory
A study was conducted where people who had a problem with their memory were given 237ml of pomegranate juice every day. After a certain period of time, a lot of improvement was seen in their verbal and visual memory. In fact, another experiment done on mice shows that pomegranate consumption can

also prevent Alzheimer's. But the experiment is yet to be done on humans.

10. It lowers blood pressure
Punicic acid is one of the main constituents of pomegranate that help lower cholesterol, triglycerides and reduce blood pressure.

11. Helps in digestion
We all know fibre is good for digestion. But due to our lifestyle where we are inclined towards eating junk food, we miss the goodness of fibre in our vegetables and fruits. Adding pomegranate to your everyday diet can be one of the best ways to include fibre in your daily routine. One pomegranate contains 45 per cent of your daily recommended intake of fibre.

12. Boosts immunity
Being rich in anti-inflammatory compounds, pomegranates are extremely healthy for those suffering from immune-related disorders like



illnesses and infections at bay.

13. Lowers stress levels
Apart from reducing body's internal oxidative stress, pomegranates also help lower psychological stress that you go through in your personal and professional life. According to a study conducted by Queen Margaret University, people who drank pomegranate juice had lower levels of cortisol, a stress hormone that is increased under stressful situations.

14. Prevent plaque formation
You use mouth wash to improve your oral health, but much to your surprise pomegranate juice can be a better option than alcohol containing mouth washes. Certain compounds in pomegranate exhibit strong antiplaque effects.

A study showed that hydroalcoholic extract of pomegranate effectively lowered dental plaque formation due to microorganisms build up by almost 84 per cent.

Caution: Pomegranate juice is good for cardiovascular health but in rare cases, it may react with a patient's medication. **EMJ**

Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam

It is notified that the Applicant Namely Ali Mohammad parray S/o Ghulam Hassan Parray R/o Jawaharpura Tehsil Narbal .District Budgam has applied for the insurance of Death Certificate of his Father Namely Ghulam Hassan Parray S/o Ghulam Hassan Parray. The applicant intends to register the Death of his Father as per records is 30/12 /2023 .

If anybody has objection in that regard. He / she approach the date of publication of this notice or else any such claim shall not be entertained.

Dated 13/ 05/ 2026

Public Notice

I have lost my school character certificate at somewhere bearing admission No 2306 Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of GOVT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....GH HASSAN TAILEE
S/O... AB AZIZ TAILEE
R/O ...WATERGAM WAGOORA

Public Notice

I Nazir Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Sultan Bhat resident of Bandipayeen District Baramulla want to inform the general public through this notice that our electricity bill is registered in my fathers name bearing Consumer ID No:-0212040005009 and I want to register it in my name, In this regard if anybody has any objection He/she may contact the AEE KPDC Sub Division Wagoora within seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Nazir Ahmad Bhat
S/O:- Mohammad Sultan Bhat
R/O:- Bandipayeen Baramulla.
KPDC Sub Division Wagoora.

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name AB SALAM MALIK S/O WALI MOHD MALIK Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040006598 wants to be registered on my name MUDASIR AHMAD MALIK S/O ABDUL SALAM MALIK If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....MUDASIR AHMAD MALIK
S/O...ABDUL SALAM MALIK
BLOCK.... DOULATPORA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of.FAYAZ AHMAD KHAM S/O AB HAMID KHAN R/O KOHLINA 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 AB HAMID KHAN S/O AB REHMAN KHAN has passed away on 20 /04/2015 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... , SARWAR JAN wife 74 years pensioner widow
- 2... PARVAIZ AHMAD KHAN son 52 years Labour married
- 3...HASEENA BEGUM daughter 50 years H/W married
- 4...TARIQ AHMAD KHAN Son 47 years Govt employee married
- 5...SHAKEELA BEGUM daughter 30 years H/W married
- 6...FAYAZ AHMAD KHAN Son 40 years Labour 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 Tehsildar Kreeri

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name GH ALI RESHI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040001139 wants to be registered on my name MASOOD HASSAN RESHI S/O GH ALI RESHI If anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....MASOOD HASSAN RESHI
S/O...GH ALI RESHI
BLOCK.... WATERGAM WAGOORA

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name AB SALAM MALIK S/O WALI MOHD MALIK Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040006598 wants to be registered on my name MUDASIR AHMAD MALIK S/O ABDUL SALAM MALIK If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....MUDASIR AHMAD MALIK
S/O...ABDUL SALAM MALIK , BLOCK.... DOULATPORA

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my Children's Mother's name spelling and DOB has been wrongly mentioned in school regard Aamina Iqbal DOB 08/01/2016 Annas Bin Iqbal DOB 26/05/2020 Mother's name spelling Ulfat Bano Father's name spelling Mohammad Iqbal instead of Aamina Iqbal DOB 08/01/2016 Annas Bin Iqbal DOB 25/05/2020 Mother's name Ulfat Iqbal Prantage Mohd Iqbal Chopan as per Aadhar record now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this record may file the same to the office of the Hill Greeange Public School Handwara within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

AAMINA IQBAL DOB 08/01/2016 ANNAS BIN IQBAL
DOB 25/05/2020 MOTHER'S NAME ULFAT IQBAL
PRANTAGE MOHD IQBAL CHOPAN
R/O HANDWARA TEHSIL HANDWARA
DISTRICT KUPWARA

Government of the Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer PWD R&B Division, Vailoo

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No.09/1171-80 of R&B/Vailoo /2026-2027/e-tendering/ DATED:13/05/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, Percentage rate basis E-tenders (In Single cover system) from Regd. Transporters/ Tour & Travel Agencies / Taxi Stand Unions/ Individuals for hiring of One No. Commercial Vehicle of following types/description (upto March 2027) for official use by Technical officer to the Chief Engineer PWD R&B South Kashmir

| S. No | Service Description | Estimated cost | Cost of document In Rs | Earnest Money In Rs | Time Period of Contract | Date of opening of tenders online |
|-------|---|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Service Level Agreement on monthly basis for vehicle hiring services for the Official use of Technical Officer to the Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) South Kashmir without fuel | - | 200 | 5000 | Upto March 2027 | 19/05/2026 |

Reference: Chief Engineer's Letter No. CERBSK-ACCT/2026/221-222 Dt: 24/04/2026 and Superintending Engineer's Letter No. 1040-41 Dt: 27-04-2026

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 13/05/2026 |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 13/05/2026 04.00 PM |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date | 13/05/2026 04.00 PM |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date | 18/05/2026 04.00 PM |
| 6. | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 19/05/2026 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD R&B Division Vailoo |

1. The intending and eligible bidders may submit the tenders online at www.jktenders.gov.in under single cover in the prescribed proforma. Tenders are to be submitted online only using the e-procurement portal www.jktenders.gov.in.
2. The Bidders who have not enrolled/registered in e-procurement portal should enroll/register before participating through the website www.jktenders.gov.in. The portal enrolment is free of cost.
3. Interested bidders may submit their quotation online on www.jktenders.gov.in as per NIT in the website www.jktenders.gov.in. Bidders are requested to follow the instructions carefully as per the tender document and the instructions given in the above said website. All the documents in support of eligibility criteria etc. are also to be scanned and uploaded. Tenders by any other mode will not be accepted. No tender documents will be accepted after the expiry of stipulated date and time for the purpose under any circumstances what so ever. Any corrigendum/addendum regarding this tender will be available on the above said website only.
4. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ challan remitted in (Head-0059) (tender inviting authority) and Earnest Money of Rs 5000/- in shape of CDR/ FDR only. Pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division vailoo (tender receiving authority) (Name of work or Enit No. and Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury receipt/ challan (The date of Treasury receipt / Challan should be between the date of start of bid end Bid submission End date). An amount of Rs 10000/- Performance Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR by the Successful bidder. Minimum of Two bids are necessary to decide L-1 bidder in case of Contractors.
5. The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to Rs 10000/- as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract.
6. EMD of successful bidder shall only be released after receipt of Performance Security
7. This Office reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Tender Document or to reject any or all tenders without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo in this regard shall be final and binding on all.
8. The Bidder is expected to examine all instructions, forms, specifications, terms and conditions in the NIT. Failure to furnish all information and documents required as per the NIT in every respect will be at the Bidder's risk and shall result in rejection of the bid.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo

DIPK: 1259/26 | Dated: 13-05-2026

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I, Peerzada Jasarat, son of Pir Atiqullah, resident of Behnpora, Tehsil Zachaldara, District Kupwara (Jammu & Kashmir), intend to change my name as recorded in my passport. My present name in the passport is, Peerzada Jasarat

I wish to change it to, Pir Jasarat Atiq, Reason for change: To reflect the correct name as per family and academic records. If any person has any objection to the above proposed change of name, they may raise the same within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Public Notice

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

Public Notice

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

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

Public Notice

It is here by notified that my son's name has been incorrectly mentioned on his Aadhaar card as AZAAN BILAL bearing aadhar no 7747 5509 2197 while his correct name is IZHAAN BILAL BHAT S/O BILAL AHMAD BHAT which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his / her objection in the office concerned Aadhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....BILAL AHMAD BHAT
F/O ... IZHAAN BILAL BHAT , R/O ...KREERI

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Husband's name Lt MOHAMMAD RAMZAN NAJAR Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 02120400043360 wants to be registered on my name FAZI BEGUM W/O Lt MOHAMMAD NAJAR If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....FAZI BEGUM
S/O...LATE MOHAMMAD RAMZAN NAJAR
R/O ...NOWPORA JAGIR , BLOCK.... WAGOORA

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| Event | Date |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Registration & Preference Filling | 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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BETTER TOMORROW

Javed Rana reviews development works, annual action plan for Poonch

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting with the senior officers of PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control and PWD departments of Poonch at Civil Secretariat here to review the development works and issues concerning the district.

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

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



healthcare facilities and education services.

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

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

The Minister called for prioritising the works that have maximum public impact, par-

ticularly in remote and underserved areas of the district. He further directed the officers to closely monitor the progress on key projects and resolve the existing bottlenecks in a time-bound manner.

He emphasised that focus

should be laid on remote and border areas of the district that have historically remained underserved. He underlined that no segment of the population should be left behind in the development process, and that field-level execution must match the intent of policy.

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

The Minister reviewed the proposals in detail and issued necessary directions for refining and consolidating the plan.

Reiterating the government's commitment to balanced and equitable development, Javed Rana said that the annual action plan should serve as a road map for accelerating the development and improving the quality of life of the people of the district.

Maa Se Guftagu', 'Dosti Discussion' held at Naidkhai

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 13: Under the aegis of the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan (NMBA), the District Administration Bandipora on Wednesday organised a "Maa Se Guftagu" and "Dosti Discussion" programme at Government Higher Secondary School, Naidkhai, aimed at strengthening community participation in the district's sustained campaign against drug abuse.

The programme was attended by Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, students, faculty members, members of Mahila Samitis, ICDS officials, and local women from the area.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, underscored the central role of mothers in shielding children from drug abuse and allied social evils. She observed that mothers share the deepest bond with their children and are therefore uniquely positioned to contribute to character development, behavioural awareness, and the cultivation of open, trust-based relationships within the family.

Interacting with students, the Deputy Commissioner cautioned that drug abuse inflicts irreversible damage on an individual's health, dignity, career, and future prospects. She urged youth to stand firm against the growing menace rather than remain passive bystanders. She further informed that administration and enforcement agencies are actively working to dismantle drug supply networks, and that provisions of the COTPA Act and the Juvenile Justice Act are being enforced with particular vigilance in and around educational institutions.

The Deputy Commissioner advised mothers to remain alert to behavioural changes in their children, including shifts in friend circles and other early warning signs of substance abuse. She encouraged parents to invest quality time in their children's lives, engage them in prayers, sports, and constructive pursuits, and maintain close attention to their day-to-day activities and conduct.

Highlighting the broader social consequences of addiction, the Deputy Commissioner noted that a significant proportion of domestic violence cases in the district are linked to substance abuse. She also flagged the rising incidence of women falling victim to addiction and, in certain cases, their involvement in drug-related activities, underscoring the need for heightened community vigilance.

Stressing a humane and rehabilitative approach, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that persons struggling with addiction must not be stigmatised or treated as criminals, but rather extended care, counselling, and structured rehabilitation support. She also informed the gathering that community support groups have been constituted at the district level to assist affected individuals in their recovery.

The programme concluded with a collective appeal for sustained public cooperation and community solidarity in building a drug-free Bandipora.

BLBC Meeting held at Bandipora to review Financial Inclusion, Developmental Initiatives

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 13: Block Level Bankers Committee (BLBC) meeting was convened at Bandipora Block under the chairmanship of Lead District Officer, Shamim Ahmad Haji, to review implementation of government-sponsored schemes and measures aimed at strengthening financial inclusion and developmental activities in the area.

The meeting was attended by DDM NABARD, Rouf Ahmad, Cluster Head J&K Bank, Tanveer Ahmad, RBI representative, Anup, senior officers from various line departments and representatives of banking institutions operating across the district.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held regarding effective execution of government-sponsored schemes, augmentation of credit flow to priority sectors, strengthening of financial inclusion initiatives and promotion of sustainable self-employment opportunities for unemployed youth. Emphasis was also laid on dissemination of financial literacy and strengthening institutional coordination for ensuring inclusive socio-economic development.

The concerned departments presented a comprehensive review of the progress achieved under various welfare and developmental programmes. Banking officials furnished detailed assessments regarding loan disbursement, recovery performance and sector-wise credit deployment. They also stressed the need for expeditious disposal of cases and enhanced coordination among departments for effective implementation of schemes.

The chair underscored the importance of proactive outreach programmes, timely sanctioning of financial assistance and intensified awareness campaigns, particularly in rural and underserved areas, to maximise developmental impact and public outreach.

Subsequently, the presiding officer, accompanied by officials from banks and line departments, conducted an extensive field visit to high-density orchard zones to assess developmental interventions being implemented at the grassroots level.

During the visit, the delegation interacted with local farmers to evaluate accessibility of institutional credit, irrigation infrastructure, horticulture support services and implementation of agriculture and horticulture-related schemes.

SKUAST-K reaffirms commitment towards Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: An awareness rally under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was organized at the Shalimar Campus of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) by the Dean Students Welfare in collaboration with the Kashmir Jurists Bar Association to spread awareness against the menace of drug abuse and to promote a healthy and responsible society.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, was the Chief Guest at the occasion, while Senior Superintendent of Police, Nighat Aman was the Guest of Honour. Among other prominent attendees were Prof Raihana Habib Kanth Director Extension, Dean Students Welfare, Prof Sajad Ahmad Gangoo, Altaf Ganderbali, President, Kashmir Jurists Bar Association, Taseer Hamid, SHO, PS Harwan, along with several members of Kashmir Jurists Bar



Association, civil society, faculty members, medical officers of the university, students, and school children participated.

The programme commenced with the address by the Vice Chancellor, who reiterated that Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir remains committed to carrying forward the mission of a Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir envisioned by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor. He emphasized the collective responsibility of educational institutions and society in safeguarding youth from the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Addressing the gathering, Nighat Aman highlighted the ill effects of drug addiction and urged students

and youth to actively participate in awareness initiatives aimed at eradicating the menace from society. She highlighted the role of parents specially role of mothers in combating drug abuse. On the occasion, NSS volunteers of SKUAST-K participated in an oath-taking ceremony pledging to remain committed towards building a drug-free society. The awareness rally was flagged off by the Vice Chancellor in the presence of distinguished guests and participants.

A large number of NSS volunteers, students, faculty members, and school children enthusiastically participated in the rally carrying placards and spreading the message of a drug-free society.

Inspection Wing Kashmir Launches Training Drive on Electrical Safety for Power Sector Employees; 150 Linemen Trained in First Instance

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Reaffirming its commitment to place safety as the foremost priority in all power sector operations, the Electrical Inspection Wing, PDD Kashmir, organized a two-day training programme on theme "Electrical Safety and Accident Prevention" for the field employees of Electric Division-I and Electric Division-II on 11th and 12th May 2026 at Data Centre, PDD Complex, Bemina.

It was stated that on the di-

rections of ACS PDD, Ashwani Kumar, a structured training schedule has been devised by the Inspectorate and the present programme forms part of the said training drive under which large-scale training programmes shall be conducted across all districts of J&K to ensure wider participation of field employees at their respective places of posting.

The programme witnessed active participation of around 150 field employees and was aimed at enhancing awareness

regarding safe working practices, accident prevention measures and adherence to safety protocols during operation and maintenance activities of the power system. During the sessions, the participants were sensitized about the potential hazards associated with electrical works and were trained in various preventive and protective measures aimed at safeguarding human life and minimizing workplace accidents. Informative presentations, practical demonstrations and audio-visual

modules on electrical safety practices were also showcased to familiarize the employees with modern safety standards and procedures.

Special emphasis was laid on the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety devices while carrying out field assignments. The employees were strongly advised not to undertake any work without observing mandatory safety precautions and standard operating procedures.

The training sessions were

organized and conducted by officers of Inspection Wing Kashmir, namely Er. Fayyaz Wani and Er. Adil Bashir Gurkha, who served as master trainers for the programme under the supervision of Er. Malik Habib Ahmad, Executive Engineer, and under the overall guidance of Er. Sanjay Sharma, Chief Electrical Inspector, J&K. Other officers, officials and supporting staff of the Inspectorate also actively participated in conducting the proceedings and coordinating the programme.

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

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 13: District Administration Bandipora on Wednesday continued activities under the 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan across the district with pledge-writing events, awareness programmes, rallies, counselling sessions, Gram Sabhas and poster display activities organised in schools, colleges and Panchayat Halqas.

Pledge-writing and awareness activities were conducted at MD Hajini Memorial Public School Hajin, HSS Nowgam, HSS Quilmuqam, HSS PTL Gurez, HSS Gadakhud, HSS Chuntimulla, HSS Budoab, HS Achoora, HS Jurniyal Tulail, HS Kanzalwan, GHS Nadihal, HS Ahamsharief, HS Panar and HSS Ketson, where students actively participated and pledged to work towards a drug-free society. Poster display and pledge-writing activities under the banner

of Nasha Mukht Abhiyan were also organised at BHSS Aloosa and other educational institutions to spread awareness regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse.

PMSHRI HSS Shadipora organised an awareness programme and mass pledge ceremony, where students and staff committed themselves to promoting a drug-free lifestyle and spreading awareness against substance abuse. Special Gram Sabhas and awareness programmes under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan were held at Panchayat Halqa Shahpora Bala, Ajas-C, Gundiqaiser, Bonakoot-C, Sonerwani-A, Malangam-B and other Panchayat Halqas with participation of Panchayat representatives, students and local residents.

A counselling programme under the banner of Nasha Mukht Abhiyan was also organised by the Red Ribbon Club of the GDC Bandipora under the guidance of Principal, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra. During the

programme, speakers highlighted the harmful effects of drug abuse and stressed the need for creating awareness and strengthening social responsibility among youth.

Meanwhile, the College Women Empowerment Cell in collaboration with NSS Units of HKM GDC Bandipora organised an all-women anti-drug rally to raise awareness regarding substance abuse and encourage collective action against the growing drug menace. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation of girl students and staff members carrying placards and raising slogans promoting a healthy and drug-free society.

The programmes witnessed active participation of students, teachers, Panchayat representatives and the public, reflecting the continued commitment towards successful implementation of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan across Bandipora district.

100-DAY NASHA MUKHT BHARAT ABHIYAN INTENSIFIED ACROSS BUDGAM

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, MAY 13: District Administration Budgam has intensified activities under the 100-Day Intensive Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan across the district with an aim to create mass awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy and drug-free society. As part of the ongoing campaign, a series of awareness and outreach programmes are being organised in educational institutions and public spaces involving active participation of students, teachers, officials and community members. Various departments including Education, Health, Social Welfare, Police, Youth Services & Sports and other stakeholder agencies are jointly conducting awareness drives to sensitise youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse. In continuation of the campaign activities, essay competition and debate programmes were today



conducted at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Budgam under the National Mental Health & Behaviour Awareness (NMBA) programme. Students participated enthusiastically and expressed their ideas and awareness on important social and behavioural issues through creative writing and engaging discussions. The activities were aimed at promoting awareness, critical thinking, effective communication and positive behavioural values among students while encouraging them to stay away from substance abuse and other harmful practices.

Teachers and organisers appreciated the active involvement, creativity and confidence displayed by the participants during the programme.

The 100-day campaign focuses on preventive awareness, behavioural change, counselling support and community participation to effectively address the growing concern of drug abuse. Awareness rallies, seminars, interactive sessions and youth engagement programmes are also being organised across different areas of the district under the initiative. The District Administration reiterated its commitment towards strengthening the objectives of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan through coordinated efforts and sustained public participation. Citizens, parents, educational institutions, religious leaders and civil society organisations have been urged to actively support the campaign and contribute towards making Budgam a drug-free district.

Centre raises import tariffs on gold and silver; prices rally on MCX

India has 60 days of crude, LNG and 45 days of LPG stock: Hardeep Singh Puri

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 13 : The Centre has raised import tariffs on gold and silver to 15 per cent from 6 per cent as part of efforts to curb overseas purchases of the metals and ease pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves.

The move comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to citizens to avoid buying gold for a year to help conserve foreign exchange reserves. Global bullion prices are already soaring amid geopolitical uncertainty, volatile crude oil markets, and fears of a prolonged conflict in West Asia.

India imports nearly all the gold it consumes, so higher duties are expected to directly influence domestic gold prices, jewellery rates, and investment demand. The move may help narrow



India's trade deficit and support the rupee, one of Asia's worst-performing currencies.

The government has imposed a 10 per cent basic customs duty and a 5 per cent Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on gold and silver imports, taking the effective import tax to 15 per cent from 6 per

cent. Gold and silver futures witnessed a massive rally on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). MCX silver futures for July 2026 delivery surged by Rs 16,743, or nearly 6%, to Rs 2,95,805 per kilogram. Gold futures for June 2026 delivery also jumped Rs 9,206, or 6%, to Rs 1,62,648 per 10 grams.

The central government had addressed concerns related to India's energy supplies, and reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to all citizens to reduce their consumption of petrol and diesel.

Sujata Sharma, joint secretary for ministry of petroleum & natural gas, said, "I would like to convey to you that the Prime Minister has urged all citizens of the country to reduce their consumption of petrol and diesel. Wherever possible, utilise the Metro and public transportation; opt for carpooling; prioritise railways as a mode of transportation for goods; and wherever feasible, increase the usage of electric vehicles. Let us all come together and make every possible effort to conserve energy in our daily lives, so that the economic burden currently weighing upon the nation may be alleviated."UNI

Morgan Stanley revises India's growth forecast upwards to 6.7 pc

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 13 : Morgan Stanley has revised India's growth forecast upwards to 6.7 per cent from its April 2026 projection of 6.2 per cent, despite geopolitical concerns in West Asia.

It had earlier predicted crude oil prices would average \$95 per barrel (bbl) in FY27, with gas availability posing an additional constraint. The forecast has now been revised downward to \$87.5/bbl.

"In our base case, we expect global oil prices to peak in the quarter ending June 2026 (QE Jun-26) and average \$87.5/bbl in FY27. We forecast GDP growth of 6.7 per cent YoY in FY27 and 7 per cent in FY28, with the energy shock most pronounced in QE Jun-26, when growth is expected to trough at 6.5 per cent YoY amid elevated commodity prices and lingering supply chain frictions.

Thereafter, as supply-side constraints ease and commodity prices moderate, we expect a gradual normalization in activity, with growth converging to trend by March 2027," wrote Upasana Chachra, Chief India Economist at Morgan Stanley, in a recent co-authored note with Bani Gambhir and Shreya Singh.

The analysts said external demand will likely remain uneven, contingent on the duration of the ongoing geopolitical conflict and progress on the India-US trade agreement.

In a prolonged tension scenario, Morgan Stanley expects the first-round trade impact to materialize through sequential weakness in exports, driven by slower global growth and trade, compounded by higher freight and insurance costs.

Recently, Moody's Ratings has slashed India's GDP growth forecast for year 2026 by 0.8 percentage points to 6 per cent amid higher energy costs. The cut in growth forecast is primarily on subdued private consumption, capital formation, and industrial activity amid higher energy costs.

"The global outlook remains highly uncertain amid an increasingly prolonged confrontation and fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran. We estimate growth losses ranging from around 0.8 ppt for India," Moody's said.

In its Global Macro Outlook May update, Moody's said over the next six months, the impact from higher energy prices and fuel and fertilizer-related shortages will vary widely across countries, reflecting differences in exposure and resilience.

As a net grain producer, agricultural exports will benefit in the near term from higher prices, but higher fuel and fertilizer costs would weigh on government finances, potentially constraining planned capital spending, it said. Further, Coal powers about 70 per cent of India's electricity generation, while non-fossil sources continue to expand.UNI

Abhee Ventures expands Bengaluru residential portfolio

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, MAY 13 : Bengaluru-based real estate developer Abhee Ventures has outlined its ongoing and planned residential developments across key micro-markets in the city, citing sustained demand for premium housing and improving infrastructure corridors.

Founded in 2009, the company has completed over 25 residential projects in the past 16 years and continues to focus on apartments, villas and plotted developments across high-growth areas such as Sarjapur Road and Electronic City. The company said its growth has been driven by end-user demand, long-term investment interest and expanding connectivity across Bengaluru's peripheral zones. Under Managing Director R Nagaraj Reddy, Abhee Ventures has expanded from early-stage housing projects into a diversified portfolio that includes high-rise apartments, integrated townships and villa communities. The developer said its approach emphasises design efficiency, construction quality and customer-focused planning.

The company currently operates across several Bengaluru micro-markets, including Sarjapur, Whitefield, Hennur, Hebbal, Electronic City, Chandapura and Bellary Road. These locations continue to attract residential demand due to proximity to IT hubs, industrial corridors and ongoing infrastructure upgrades such as metro expansion and road connectivity improvements.UNI

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Tata Sons likely to induct Tata Steel CMD Narendran to its board

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, MAY 13 : Tata Sons, which is the principal holding company and promoter of the Tata Group of companies, is considering the induction of Tata Steel CEO & MD TV Narendran as a director to the Tata Sons board as early as next month, since Tata Sons is likely to hold its next board meeting on June 12, according to senior officials.

The possibility of Narendran being inducted to the Tata Sons board comes at a time when there

is lack of unanimity about key decisions like reappointing Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, for a third term.

According to officials, appointing a senior executive to the Tata Sons board may boost the Tata group's ability to navigate tricky challenges such as losses at units like Air India and digital businesses, besides having a boardroom voice, who could deflect pressures from factional infighting.

Narendran joined Tata Steel after earning his MBA from the Indian Institute of Management

Calcutta in 1988, after which he rose through the ranks and was appointed its CEO in November 2013.

His likely induction could strengthen the representation of a top Tata Group executive to the parent's board, officials said.

Another likely candidate who could be inducted to the Tata Sons board is former Managing Director of Titan, Bhaskar Bhat, who is also a member of one of the key trusts which control the Tata empire.

Bhat, and Neville Tata, son of Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata

were appointed trustees at Sir Dorabji Trust last November.

The Tata trusts own a total of around 66 per cent equity stakes in Tata Sons.

The June 12 board meeting could discuss the contentious matter of listing of Tata Sons as well as a proposal to re-appoint Chandrasekaran for a fresh tenure, beginning from February 2027.

Earlier, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekharan's reappointment was deferred at the last board meeting, due to lack of unanimity among the directors,

especially after Noel Tata expressed his reservations at the February 24 board meeting.

Noel Tata had put certain conditions before he gave his assent to re-appoint Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran for a fresh term.

Noel Tata's demands also included an assurance that Tata Sons would remain a privately-owned firm and would not be listed. Another key Noel Tata demand was a plan from Tata Sons to turnaround loss making firms within the Tata Group. UNI

MTAR Technologies posts 67 pc rise in Q4 revenue; FY26 PAT jumps 76 pc

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, MAY 13 : MTAR Technologies Limited on Tuesday reported a 67.2 per cent year-on-year rise in revenue from operations for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, at Rs 306.1 crore, compared to Rs 183.1 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

The company's EBITDA for the quarter stood at Rs 61.8 crore, registering an 80.9 per cent growth from Rs 34.2 crore a year earlier, while profit after tax surged 222.3 per cent to Rs 44.3 crore from Rs 13.7 crore, the Hyderabad based company said in a release here.

Profit before tax during the quarter rose 219.4 per cent year-on-year

to Rs 59.5 crore.

For the full financial year 2025-26, the company reported revenue from operations of Rs 876.2 crore as against Rs 676 crore in FY25, marking a 29.6 per cent increase.

EBITDA rose 41.7 per cent to Rs 171.2 crore, while profit after tax climbed 76.2 per cent to Rs 94 crore.UNI

App-based bus service Cityflo urges people to opt for shared mobility amid West Asia crisis

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 13 : App-based bus service Cityflo has urged citizens to adopt shared mobility in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to increase the use of public transport amid the ongoing West Asia crisis.

Jerin Venad, CEO and Co-Founder of Cityflo, said in a statement, "Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's appeal to shift to public transport comes at a critical inflection point for India's urban mobility sector, one shaped as much by geopolitical pressure as by long-term climate commitments." "At Cityflo, shared urban transport has been our operating model since inception. Every commuter who moves from their car seat to Cityflo saves 1.8 litres of fuel per trip."

Venad added that commuters using the service collectively helped avoid the consumption of around 75 lakh litres of fuel last year, a figure that, he said, will only increase with stronger policy support and wider adoption. "India has immense ridership density and is making rapid progress on urban infrastructure. If the Prime Minister's appeal signals a broader shift in that direction, the sector is positioned to respond," Venad added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had on Sunday, issued seven appeals in light of the West Asia crisis, including prioritising work-from-home arrangements, avoiding gold purchases for one year, using metro and public transport, reducing cooking oil consumption, shifting towards natural farming, adopting swadeshi products, and limiting foreign travel for a year.UNI

Reliance Jio to file IPO's draft prospectus, likely to list by July

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, MAY 13 : Reliance Industries Ltd-owned Reliance Jio Platforms Ltd is expected to file the draft red herring prospectus of its initial public offer (IPO) within the next fortnight or as early as next week, as well as complete other regulatory formalities, so that the company can list on the stock exchange by July, according to investment officials.

Jio's IPO valuation is expected to be in the range of \$180 billion USD or Rs 15 lakh crore.

The company is expected to raise around \$4 billion USD, by offering an initial 2.5% stake in the company during the IPO.

Reliance Industries has received regulatory approvals for listing only 2.5% stake in Reliance Jio in the market initially.

An older rule had mandated



companies to list at least a 5% stake in the market.

If Jio's listing is successful, it will be the largest IPO India has ever seen.

So far, the largest IPO in India has been that of Hyundai Motor India, which had raised \$3.3 bil-

lion in October 2024.

As soon as it is listed, Jio is expected to become one of the most valued companies on India's stock exchanges.

Jio plans to use approximately Rs 25,000 crore from the total money raised to reduce the cor-

porate debt of the company and scale up its artificial intelligence (AI) and mobile network infrastructure.

Jio has roped in top global investment banks like Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase and domestic names like Kotak Mahindra Capital and Axis Capital to manage its mega IPO.

However, Reliance Industries is likely to change the Jio IPO structure from an 'offer for sale' (OFS) to one which will consist entirely of freshly-issued shares in order to satisfy the company's existing high profile investors.

This is because existing investors, who were looking to cash out their investments, were reportedly unhappy with Reliance's earlier decision of not maximising the IPO valuation of the company.

Reliance Industries CMD

Mukesh Ambani is keen to protect retail investors and is hence cautious of pricing the IPO too high which could increase the chance of a negative listing, which could potentially result in losses for retail investors.

In 2020, Jio Platforms raised more than \$20.5 billion from 13 global investors in exchange for a roughly 33% equity stake, at a valuation range of \$57 billion to \$65 billion.

High profile global names like Meta Platforms, Alphabet and KKR had invested in the firm, as Mukesh Ambani sought to turn Jio Platforms into the centerpiece of his technology and artificial intelligence (AI) ambitions.

Other investors include General Atlantic, Silver Lake and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, while Meta owns a 9.9% stake in the company, followed by Google's 7.7% stake.UNI

A finisher's fate: Miller puts himself out there again



■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DHARAMSALA: What he does day in and day out, what he voluntarily puts himself up for, is not a job for those who attach themselves to outcomes. Almost every match he plays - and he has played for 35 teams that qualify as representation, he agrees to put himself in a situation that could end in ecstasy or heartbreak.

Well not every game, but the ones his sides chase in. Nobody in the world has stayed unbeaten in T20 chases as often as Miller has: 95 times. Nobody has been at the wicket as often as Miller has been when the winning runs have been struck: 80 times. He has outlasted Kieron Pollard, Andre Russell, MS Dhoni, Shoaib Malik, Dwayne Bravo and Glenn Maxwell. Nobody has scored as many unbeaten runs in chases as Miller. Had he not got out in this match, he would have gone past Malik's record for most unbeaten runs in winning chases. However, it is the ones that get away that make a player. Cricket is a sport in which individuals fail more than you succeed. When you do that in the final moments of the match, it sticks with everyone longer than an opener getting out early.

It is a messy, messy time to be playing in. Often you don't have time to get yourself in, unlike the top order. Sometimes the ball is ragged and difficult. More likely, the dew is your ally. Quite often, anything under a couple of runs per ball raises the asking rate. Most often, you bank on the bowler to make a mistake and then let your instincts honed over decades of training take over.

Sometimes your instincts fail you. And Miller has seen failure. It takes a special kind of resilience to come back from the 2024 T20 World Cup final and agree to put yourself in same situations again. That was one miss that could have crushed the strongest of spirits. Sixteen needed off the final over after a stumble from a position of dominance, this was just the moment where he could have immortalised himself. He even got a low full toss at the start of the over, he had the wind helping him, but he could only send it as far as long-off. It might seem "redemption" and "damnation" to those on the outside, but there is a certain amount of stoicism that professional cricketers carry for they know the vagaries of the sport. In the case of players like Miller, who tend to put themselves in match situations where recency bias apportioning inordinately high blame or credit, you need higher doses of stoicism.

Just imagine the amount of rumination it would result in for a normal person. The dark places this would take one to. Two years later, there Miller was, playing two Super Overs against Afghanistan in a match that could have ended their World Cup. Even there, his side ended up on the wrong side of a coin toss in the semi-final, and a world title still eludes Miller. Barely a month later, Miller was out there again, setting up what looked like a win for Delhi Capitals against his former side Gujarat Titans, but then made a crucial error in judgement and didn't take the single that would have tied the scores with one ball to spare. Just his luck that on the day that he made that error, he was also batting with the one non-striker who was slow enough to not make the bye despite the ball being a slower bouncer.

Rahul Dravid unveiled as owner of ETPL's Dublin Guardians

■ AGENCIES

LONDON: Former India captain and T20 World Cup-winning coach Rahul Dravid has been announced as the owner of Dublin Guardians, one of the European T20 Premier League (ETPL) sides that will compete in the six-team league, ahead of the 2026 launch in August.

The league, launched in partnership with Cricket Ireland, Cricket Scotland and the Royal Dutch



Cricket Association, features teams from Dublin, Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Rotterdam and Amsterdam. It is also Europe's first ICC-sanctioned multi-country franchise T20 league. "What attracted me to ETPL was the larger vision behind it, the opportunity to help grow cricket in Europe by strengthening grassroots development and creating pathways for emerging talent across Ireland and Europe," Dravid said in a statement. "Dublin already has a passionate cricketing community and enormous potential for growth. Nurturing the next generation has always been important to me, and I believe ETPL can play a meaningful role in that journey."

The league, co-owned by Bollywood star Abhishek Bachchan, features franchises owned by several former and current international cricketers: Glenn Maxwell (co-owner of Irish Wolves), Steve Waugh (co-owner of Amsterdam Flames), Nathan McCullum and Kyle Mills (owners of Edinburgh Castle Rockers), Chris Gayle (co-owner of Glasgow Cosmic) and Jonty Rhodes, Faf du Plessis and Heinrich Klaasen (owners of Rotterdam Dockers). Du Plessis and Maxwell will also play in the league, alongside the likes of Steven Smith, Mitchell Marsh, Tim David, Mitchell Santner and Liam Livingstone. "I know some of the names...some absolutely great players," Dravid was quoted as saying. "A great opportunity for them to be able to play with so many of the local Irish, Scottish, Dutch and European players. I think that in itself should be a really exciting opportunity." Dravid said growing the sport in the region would depend as much on building a strong fan culture and match-day experience as on the quality of cricket itself.

Dropped, detached, dangerous again: Bhuvneshwar keeps raising his ceiling

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD: He was responding to R Ashwin's recent suggestion that Bhuvneshwar, 36, should be back in India's T20I plans after a stellar run in Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) colours in IPL 2026.

Bhuvneshwar holds the Purple Cap with 21 wickets this season, his fourth of 20+ scalps. Only Yuzvendra Chahal has had more such seasons. A few weeks ago, he also became the first fast bowler to cross the 200-wicket mark in the IPL. His death-overs economy of 7.8 is the best. And his 12 wickets are the second most in the powerplay. He's a big reason RCB are

in the running for a top-two finish.

One day after his four-wicket haul and last-over six helped RCB win a thriller against Mumbai Indians in Raipur, there is no lingering adrenaline. Bhuvneshwar exudes peace and perspective.

"Acceptance is difficult, but once you learn to make peace with it, you think differently," he says. "The day I was dropped from the Indian team, I was at peace. I had been there for a decade, seen everything. That is why it was easier to be able to detach [from things you hold on to]."

It's been four years since he played a T20I for India, and a lot longer since he was in Test whites.

He listens attentively to every question. His responses are detailed and meticulous. But every few minutes, he comes up with a punchy one-liner. All signs of a man relaxed. At 36, Bhuvneshwar understands he needs to listen to his body a bit more.

His calendar is deliberately simple, carefully spaced out - busy enough to keep him connected to the game without overwhelming his body.

"It may sound clichéd, but when you are tired and don't want to go, you still have to go...that is discipline," he says. "If you do it repeatedly, that consistency creates hunger. You want to achieve something, you have to evolve

physically and mentally. Doing things day in and day out makes you consistent on the field as well.

"That has been my routine for years, especially since I haven't been part of the Indian team. I keep training - gym, practice, ground work...doing the same things over and over. I only play IPL, UPT20 and Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s, so there's enough cricket to stay in touch and enough breaks to stay fresh and train properly.

"At 36, it's tougher physically. Recovery takes much longer compared to when you are young. But in the last few years, I've had enough time to train harder than before. The exercises are mostly the same, but the intensity is higher. More

weights and more focused work.

"Our trainer [Shanker] Basu sir keeps giving me programmes. I also have a trainer back home. Both of them work together with me throughout the year."

Bhuvneshwar also puts in significant skill work to stay relevant in T20 cricket. The knuckleball that had Rohit Sharma nicking off on Sunday night took significant effort to master for someone previously known only as a swing bowler. "The way batters are coming at you now is very different from 10 years back," Bhuvneshwar says. "T20 has evolved a lot. Even three-four years ago, if you scored 200, it felt like something you could defend.

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