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“J&K Moving Forward With Peace, Prosperity And Development On All Fronts”: LG Sinha

Inaugurates Shaurya Gatha Complex in Tangdhar; says battlefield tourism and border infrastructure will boost growth in frontier region

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing an era of peace, prosperity and rapid development, asserting that renewed confidence among the people is driving progress across the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor made the remarks after inaugurating the Shaurya Gatha Complex at SM Hill in Tangdhar area of Karnah in Kupwara district, a project aimed at promoting battlefield tourism, preserving military heritage and strengthening economic opportunities in border areas.

Describing the complex as a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of Indian soldiers, Sinha said the stories of bravery displayed by the armed forces must continue to inspire future generations.

“Our brave soldiers laid down their lives to defend the nation. Their courage and sacrifice should become a



source of pride and inspiration for every Indian,” he said while praising the Army, engineers, workers and local residents for completing the project within a short span of time.

He said the initiative would open new avenues for tourism, homestays.

LG Inaugurates South Kashmir Volleyball League-2026 at Shopian

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated the South Kashmir Volleyball League-2026 at Shopian.

He also dedicated the Multipurpose Sports Indoor Hall at Arhama constructed at a cost of Rs 4.94 crore to the Youth.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor hailed sports tournaments like South Kashmir Volleyball League as a powerful declaration of the youth’s transition from spectators to the architects of their own destiny.

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India To Ensure Zero Casualties During Heat Waves : Amit Shah

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

GHAZIABAD, MAY 14: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the Government of India is working towards ensuring “zero human casualty” during heat waves in the coming years through a comprehensive and proactive disaster-management strategy.

Speaking after presenting the President’s Colour to the National Disaster Response Force at its 8th Battalion campus in Ghaziabad, Shah said the country’s approach to disasters has evolved from being merely reactive to becoming preventive and preparedness-



oriented. Describing heat waves as a serious and

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NTA Officials Under Scanner As CBI Intensifies NEET-UG Leak Probe

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 14: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has intensified its investigation into the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case, with several officials linked to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and other organisations involved in examination

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“India No Longer A Country That Suffers Silently”: Rajnath Singh

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAIPUR, MAY 14: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday delivered a stern warning to Pakistan, asserting that India would respond forcefully to



any future provocation and reaffirming the country’s policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism.

Addressing a public gathering in Merta town of Nagaur district after unveiling a statue of Rajput ruler Rao Duda, Singh said Operation Sindoor had sent a strong message across the border and demonstrated India’s resolve to protect its citizens.

“Perhaps Pakistan will not dare to look at India with hostility again.”

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“We Dominated The Escalation Matrix On All Four Days”: General Anil Chauhan

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 14: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Thursday said the Indian

armed forces maintained dominance throughout the four-day conflict under Operation Sindoor

due to superior situational awareness and enhanced battlefield transparency.

Addressing an interactive ses-

sion at the ‘Kalam and Kavach’ defence conclave at the Manekshaw Centre here, Gen Chauhan said Indian forces effectively controlled

every stage of escalation during the military confrontation.

“We dominated the

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“Peace Cannot Be Piecemeal”: Jaishankar Warns Against Escalating West Asia Conflict

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 14: External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar on Thursday expressed deep concern over the worsening crisis in West Asia, warning that continued instability threatens global energy supplies, maritime security and international peace, while calling for diplomacy and dialogue as the only sustainable path to conflict resolution.

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Cabinet Relaxes Buffer Zone Curbs To Clear Hazratbal Hospital Upgrade

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: The Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has approved the upgradation of Sub-District Hospital Hazratbal by granting relaxation in buffer zone restrictions under the Srinagar Master Plan-2035, ending years of delay in the project.

The decision was taken during the sixth meeting of the Council of Ministers with the aim of strength-



ening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring better medical services for residents of Srinagar and adjoining areas.

The hospital expansion project had remained stalled for several years due to restrictions linked to the buffer zone provisions, causing inconvenience to patients and limiting the scope for infrastructure development. The Cabinet’s approval is expected to pave the way for

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J&K poised to begin Inland Water Transport services soon

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today reviewed the progress and future roadmap for development of inland water transport infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir during a high-level meeting held to assess the initiatives being undertaken by the Transport De-

partment in collaboration with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).

The meeting focused on the promotion of sustainable, eco-friendly and modern water transport systems across major rivers of the Union Territory, with special emphasis on development of cruise tourism, urban water transport facilities and navigational infrastructure on the notified

National Waterways in Jammu and Kashmir.

Those who attended includes ACS, PWD; Chairperson, IWAI; Secretary, Transport Department; Transport Commissioner; other officers from IWAI; Representatives from line departments and senior officers from the Transport Department.

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‘We Will Hunt And Hound You’: DGP

HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat on Thursday issued a stern warning to Pakistan-based gangster Shahzad Bhatti for “pumping narcotics” into India, saying he, along with his associates, will be hunted and hounded, and his evil infrastructure will be decimated.



“A warning to Pakistan-based Shahzad Bhatti who is ISI’s acolyte and partner in pumping narcotics into India; we will hunt and hound you and your associates, and decimate your evil infrastructure,” the Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) said at a press conference here.

He said while firmly focusing on combating Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir Police has paid equal attention to the menace of narco-terrorism during the intensive anti-drug campaign — ‘Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan’ — launched by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on April 11.

“Jammu and Kashmir Police has shown

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

“J&K Moving.....

handicrafts and youth entrepreneurship in the Tangdhar-Karnah region, while also helping showcase the defence legacy and cultural identity of the area.

Highlighting development in frontier districts, the Lieutenant Governor said seven villages in Tangdhar and Karnah have been included under the Vibrant Village Programme to improve infrastructure, connectivity and livelihood opportunities for residents living near the Line of Control.

Sinha also stressed the strategic and economic importance of the proposed Sadhna Tunnel, saying the project would provide all-weather connectivity to the region and significantly improve transportation, healthcare access, education facilities, trade and disaster response.

He urged people from across the country to visit Kupwara and explore its lesser-known tourist destinations, stating that such initiatives would strengthen the local economy and generate employment for border communities.

The Lieutenant Governor also praised the Army's role in the campaign against drug abuse and warned against continued attempts to push narcotics into the region through cross-border smuggling networks.

“Tangdhar remains a sensitive region where efforts are repeatedly made to promote narcotics smuggling. Our surveillance and security response must remain strong to ensure no illegal drugs enter our territory,” he said.

Calling for greater vigilance, he directed police and security agencies to maintain strict monitoring along vulnerable routes and thanked local residents, particularly students, for supporting the campaign against drug abuse.

Senior Army officers, civil administration officials, police personnel and local representatives attended the inaugural ceremony, including Pratik Sharma, Balbir Singh and Javaid Ahmad Mirchal.

LG Inaugurates.....

He emphasized that the league started in 2021, has emerged as a major platform for youth engagement, promotion of competitive sports culture and strengthening of volleyball activities across South Kashmir.

“South Kashmir Volleyball League is significantly contributing towards the campaign of ‘Nasha Mukht J&K’ by promoting sports as a positive avenue for youth participation and social transformation,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we have laid a strong foundation for the youth to realise their dreams and showcase their immense talent at national and international sports arena.

“By engaging large number of youth across the Union Territory in volleyball and various sporting activities and national integration programmes, the administration is successfully channeling the energy of the youth toward nation-building.

Every serve and every spike on this volleyball court is a message that our youth are confronting challenges and moving forward as an integral part of the national mainstream,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that Shopian is at the heart of South Kashmir's sports revolution.

“Approximately Rs 22 crore spent on sports infrastructure in Shopian over the last six years. Ongoing works worth Rs 8.80 crore are currently underway in the district. 20 Khelo India centers are operational across South Kashmir, with five in Shopian alone, providing training and equipment to 600 regular trainees,” he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also appealed to the young sports persons to act as role models and mentors and guide new generation towards a drug-free, brighter and healthier future.

He also reiterated the administration's resolve to eliminate the narco-terror ecosystem from Jammu Kashmir.

The four day South Kashmir Volleyball League is being organized by Volleyball Association J&K and Jammu Kashmir Sports Council.

Shri Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports; Shri Shabir Ahmad Kulay, Member Legislative Assembly from Shopian; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Youth Services and Sports; Shri Javid Iqbal Matoi, DIG South Kashmir; Shri Shishir Gupta Deputy Commissioner Shopian; Shri Mush-taq Ahmad Choudhary, SSP Shopian; Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council, senior officers of Police and civil administration, members of Volleyball Association, prominent citizens, sports personalities and youth in large number attended the inaugural function.

India To.....

growing challenge, the Home Minister said the Ministry of Home Affairs has formulated a detailed plan aimed at preventing loss of life during extreme weather conditions over the next few years.

“The objective is to ensure zero casualty and minimum property damage during disasters, including floods, cyclones, earthquakes and heat waves,” Shah said while addressing NDRF personnel and senior officials.

The President's Colour, one of the highest honours bestowed upon a military or police unit for distinguished service, was awarded to the NDRF in the 20th year of its establishment. The force was raised in 2006 as India's federal contingency agency for rescue and relief operations during natural and man-made disasters.

Shah said the honour recognises not only the contribution of the NDRF but also the efforts of state disaster response forces, civil administration, volunteers, the National Cadet Corps and the National Service Scheme in strengthening disaster response across the country.

He praised the NDRF for earning the confidence of people both in India and abroad through its swift rescue operations and humanitarian assistance during crises.

The Home Minister further said India has emerged as a global leader in disaster management and as a reliable first responder during international emergencies. He urged the force to enhance preparedness further in view of increasing risks posed by climate change and global warming.

The NDRF currently operates 16 battalions across the country with a total strength of nearly 18,000 personnel.

NDRF Director General Piyush Anand said the force has conducted more than 12,000 rescue and relief operations since its inception.

NTA Officials.....

handling now under scrutiny. The agency on Thursday arrested two more accused — Dhanaanaj Lohkhandra from Ahilyanagar and Manisha Waghmare from Pune — while carrying out searches at 14 locations across the country over the past 24 hours.

Officials said the investigation is now focused on tracing the exact source of the leak that triggered widespread concern among nearly 23 lakh candidates who appeared for the highly competitive medical entrance examination.

According to investigators, the involvement of public servants and individuals with access to the printing and distribution process cannot be ruled out. The role of personnel connected with the printing press and examination logistics is being closely examined.

The latest arrests follow earlier action against Mangilal Biwal, Vikas Biwal and Dinesh Biwal from Jaipur, along with Yash Yadav from Gurugram and Shubham Khairnar from Nashik.

The CBI said Khairnar allegedly informed Yadav in April that Mangilal Biwal was willing to pay between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 12 lakh to obtain leaked NEET-UG questions for his younger son. Investigators alleged that Khairnar supplied nearly 500 to 600 questions from the leaked paper to Yadav.

Officials believe the leaked material could have enabled candidates to secure enough marks for admission to reputed medical colleges.

The investigation further revealed that Mangilal Biwal allegedly obtained the paper through Yadav, who was acquainted with Vikas Biwal during coaching sessions in Rajasthan's Sikar district. The alleged deal involved a payment of Rs 10 lakh if at least 150 questions matched the actual examination paper.

According to officials, the leaked material was later shared with family members and relatives, while additional candidates were allegedly approached to recover the money spent in obtaining the paper.

The agency said digital devices seized during the investigation have yielded incriminating chats, leaked documents and other electronic evidence. The devices will now undergo forensic examination to recover deleted data and uncover the wider network involved in the conspiracy.

The CBI registered a formal case after allegations of a nationwide paper leak led to the cancellation of the NEET-UG examination conducted on May 3. The examination was held across 551 cities in India and 14 overseas centres under the supervision of the NTA.

The NTA stated that information regarding suspected malpractice was received on May 7 and immediately forwarded to central agencies for independent verification and further action.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Police's Special Operations Group claimed that a chemistry “guess paper” circulated before the examination contained nearly 410 questions, around 120 of which allegedly appeared in the actual test paper.

“India No.....

But if it does, what has not happened till now will happen,” the Defence Minister said, signalling a tougher approach against cross-border aggression.

He stressed that India has never be-

lieved in provoking other nations but would not hesitate to retaliate if attacked.

“From the beginning, our policy was not to provoke anyone. But if anyone provokes us, we do not spare them either,” Singh said.

Referring to the terror attack in Pahal-gam on April 22, Singh said the killing of civilians after questioning their religion had shocked the nation and underlined the brutality of terrorism.

“The entire country was angry. We gave such a strong reply that the enemy was stunned. We proved that India is no longer a country that silently suffers. If anyone attacks our citizens, we will enter their homes and respond. No border can stop us,” he said.

The Defence Minister also highlighted India's evolving security doctrine, citing the 2016 surgical strikes and the 2019 Balakot airstrikes as key examples of decisive action against terror infrastructure.

Singh said the government remains committed to safeguarding national security and ensuring that acts of terrorism receive a strong and immediate response. (Agencies)

We Dominated.....

escalation matrix on all four days because we had superior situational awareness. We knew what we had hit and what was happening,” he said.

The CDS said the armed forces maintained operational awareness not only within Indian territory but also across the border, enabling precise and calibrated responses during the conflict.

Gen Chauhan also spoke about the changing nature of warfare, marked by the growing use of drones, surveillance systems and advanced weapons, and cautioned against prolonged military engagements.

“We should not fall into the trap of long-duration warfare,” he said, adding that political and military objectives must remain clearly defined from the outset of any operation.

He stressed that once strategic objectives are achieved, there should be no unnecessary continuation of conflict and countries must maintain a clearly defined exit strategy.

Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7 last year in response to the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam. Indian forces carried out precision strikes targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan later launched offensives against India, prompting counter-offensives by Indian forces under the same operation.

The military confrontation between the two nuclear-armed neighbours continued for nearly 88 hours before both sides reached an understanding on May 10 to halt military action.

“Peace Cannot.....

Addressing the opening session of the two-day BRICS Foreign Ministers' conclave in New Delhi, Jaishankar said “peace cannot be piecemeal” and stressed that respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and international law must remain central to global affairs.

“The conflict in West Asia merits particular attention. Continuing tensions, risks to maritime traffic, and disruptions to energy infrastructure highlight the fragility of the situation,” he said.

The minister underlined the importance of safe and uninterrupted maritime movement through the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, describing them as critical to global economic stability.

Jaishankar also voiced concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza and reiterated India's support for a two-state solution to the Palestine issue. He called for a sustained ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian access and a credible path towards lasting peace.

“Stability cannot be selective, and peace cannot be piecemeal. It is essential to uphold international law, protect civilians, and avoid targeting public infrastructure,” he said, adding that India stands ready to support efforts aimed at de-escalation and restoration of stability.

Without naming any country, Jaishankar criticised the increasing use of unilateral sanctions and coercive measures, saying such actions are inconsistent with international law and disproportionately impact developing nations.

“These unjustifiable measures cannot substitute dialogue, nor can pressure replace diplomacy,” he said.

The External Affairs Minister also described terrorism as a continuing global threat and asserted that there can be no justification for terrorism in any form, especially cross-border terrorism.

“Zero tolerance must remain an uncompromising and universal norm,” he said.

Jaishankar further highlighted crises in Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Yemen and Libya, urging sustained international engagement and coordinated diplomatic efforts to address regional instability.

Calling for reform of global institutions, he said the weakening multi-lateral system, particularly the United Nations, underscores the urgent need for expansion and reform of the UN Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

“Continued delay comes at a high cost,” he said.

Senior leaders attending the conclave include Abbas Araghchi, Sergey Lavrov, Mauro Vieira, Sugiono and Ronald Lamola.

India is hosting the conclave as chair of BRICS ahead of the group's annual summit scheduled later this year.

Cabinet Relaxes.....

comprehensive expansion and modernisation of the healthcare facility.

Officials said the upgraded hospital will have expanded infrastructure along with improved medical facilities, including blood bank services, operation theatres and specialised treatment units for various ailments. The move is aimed at reducing the need for patients to seek treatment at hospitals outside the area and easing pressure on major healthcare institutions in the city.

The government described the decision as a major intervention taken in public interest after taking note of the hardships faced by residents and the urgent requirement for better healthcare facilities in the Hazratbal area.

Local residents welcomed the decision and thanked the Chief Minister for addressing a long-pending demand. They said the hospital has been facing severe space constraints and lacks adequate facilities for patients and attendants.

According to residents, the proposed upgradation will significantly improve healthcare access and provide relief to thousands of people dependent on the hospital for medical treatment.

J&K poised.....

The Chief Secretary reviewed the issues requiring inter-departmental coordination including removal of coffer dams under bridges, raising of HT and LT power lines, provision of electricity and water connections at terminals, construction of connecting roads, sewage treatment facilities at key ghats and permissions related to tree cutting and construction activities.

Emphasising the immense tourism, economic and environmental potential of inland waterways in Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination with IWAI for timely execution of all components of the project. He stressed that development of modern water transport infrastructure would not only provide a sustainable mode of transportation but also significantly enhance tourism potential, generate employment opportunities and create new avenues for economic activity along riverfronts across the Union Territory.

He further underscored the need for ensuring seamless integration of water transport facilities with tourism infrastructure while maintaining ecological sensitivity and preserving the natural character of rivers and surrounding landscapes.

During the presentation made by Chairperson, IWAI, Sunil Paliwal it was elucidated that significant progress has been achieved on the development of National Waterway-49 on river Jhelum, where a river cruise corridor from Pantha Chowk to Wular Lake spanning nearly 76 kilometres is being developed.

It was further informed that construction of eight floating jetties along the Jhelum corridor is underway and is expected to be completed by July 2026. The development of associated onshore infrastructure is targeted for completion by July 2027, while installation of navigational aids is scheduled to be completed by July 2026. Fairway maintenance along the river stretch is being carried out jointly by IWAI and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir through deployment of dredgers to ensure safe and uninterrupted navigation.

The meeting was informed that the procurement of ten hybrid electric boats with a carrying capacity of 20 passengers each is being processed by IWAI, with bids presently under evaluation. The contract is likely to be awarded by May 2026, while delivery of the vessels is expected by March 2027.

Reviewing the interventions being

undertaken in the Jammu region, the Chief Secretary was informed that cruise tourism infrastructure is also being developed on river Chenab under National Waterway-26. A nine-kilometre river cruise stretch from Reasi to Akhnoor Fort is proposed, where construction of two jetties has already been awarded and is expected to be completed by July 2026.

Moreover development of onshore facilities has been entrusted to Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Limited (IPRCL), with preparation of Detailed Project Report presently underway and expected to be completed by June 2026. The meeting was informed that adequate water depth is available throughout the year for cruise operations in the proposed stretch.

Similarly, under National Waterway-84 on river Ravi, a fifteen-kilometre river cruise corridor is being developed at Sohar in Jammu district. Construction of jetty has already been awarded and is likely to be completed by July 2026. DPR preparation for onshore facilities is also in progress through IPRCL and expected to be finalised by June 2026, while navigational aids are proposed to be tendered by July 2026 and completed by December 2026.

The presentation also highlighted the status of several enabling interventions necessary for smooth navigation and operation of inland waterways. It was informed that eleven land parcels required for various components of the project have been identified, with approvals and transfer formalities at different stages of completion.

‘We Will.....

consistent performance in all parameters since 2023. In terms of attachment of property, there has been a 12-fold increase between 2023 and 2026,” he said.

Highlighting achievements, Prabhath said Jammu and Kashmir Police has been ranked third nationally in 2025 with regard to property attachments.

“There have been 240 PIT-NDPS detentions, for which Jammu and Kashmir Police has been ranked number one in the country in 2025,” he added.

On the anti-narcotics drive, the DGP said there has been nearly a seven-fold increase in the number of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act cases registered by the police.

“As many as 806 persons have been arrested in 724 cases. The significant arrests made in this regard are Gulzar Ahmad alias Lau Gujjar, who was wanted in 28 cases. He has been recently arrested by Jammu Police. Similarly, Avneet Singh, alias Nagi, who was wanted in 17 cases in Jammu province, has also been apprehended recently,” Prabhath said.

The DGP said the police have seized 667 kg of narcotics and 19,000 units of psychotropic substances.

“Preventive action has been taken against 24 habitual drug offenders. As many as 97 properties, worth Rs 41.85 crore linked with narcotics trade have been identified and attached,” he said.

Significant achievements during the campaign include Anantnag Police attaching properties worth 6.17 crore in connection with a case, the largest attachment made in a single case, he added.

In another first, he said, the Jammu and Kashmir Police attached properties beyond the jurisdiction of the Union territory in Punjab's Gurdaspur, Pathankot, and in Chandigarh.

He also said 41 properties worth nearly Rs 15 crore, raised through proceeds of narcotics trade, have been demolished so far following due process.

“Destruction of illicit poppy and cannabis cultivation has been carried out on 117 kanals of land. A total of 2,401 awareness and sensitisation programmes have been conducted across schools, colleges, and other public places in identified hotspots, covering over three lakh participants,” he said.

Focused inspection of pharmaceutical establishments have also been conducted, with 5,238 chemists scrutinised, and action has been initiated against 151 erring establishments, he added.

The DGP said driving licenses of 162 persons involved in narcotics trade have been cancelled or suspended, while 92 registration certificates of vehicles involved in contraband movement have been cancelled or suspended. Ten passports have been recommended for being impounded.



Sakeena Itoo presides renaming ceremony of GBHSS Gandhinagar at Jammu

Recalls role of Late educationist Shri Kuldip Kumar Badyal towards education sector

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 14: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today presided over a grand function held in connection with renaming of Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu as 'Shri Kuldip Kumar Badyal Memorial Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Gandhi Nagar'.

MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javaid Chowdhary; Director Health Services Jammu Poonam Sethi, family members of late Shri Kuldip Kumar Badyalji, faculty members of the institution and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister paid glowing tributes to the late educationist and described him as a visionary whose dedica-



tion and commitment left an indelible mark on the academic landscape of the region. She said that renaming the institution after Shri Badyal is a befitting tribute to his relentless service and unwavering efforts in shaping the future of countless students.

She added that Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah took the

decision of renaming this institution while inaugurating the statue of late Shri Kuldip Kumar Badyal in the institution last year.

The Minister highlighted that educators like Shri Kuldip Kumar Badyal serve as guiding lights for society and continue to inspire generations through their noble work. She underlined that the

government remains committed towards strengthening the education sector and preserving the legacy of individuals who have significantly contributed to social and educational development.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa and other dignitaries also spoke, recalling the invaluable role

played by late Shri Badyal in promoting quality education and mentoring young minds with dedication and compassion.

On the occasion, the Minister also unveiled the newly installed name board of the institution in honour of Late Shri Kuldip Kumar Badyal. She also garlanded the statue of the Late Principal.

Sopore Law College Hosts Inter-College Debate on Drug Menace in Kashmir

■ AASHIQ HUSSAIN

SOPORE, MAY 14: In the wake of ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, an intellectually stimulating Inter-College Debate Competition on the topic "Drug Menace in Kashmir is a Failure of Social Accountability Rather than a Law Enforcement and Institutional Failure" was successfully organized at Sopore Law College.

The event was organized under the guidance and leadership of Chairperson Ms. Maryam Bacha, Vice Chairperson Ms. Tamkeena Bacha, Trustee Sopore Law College Mr. Javaid Ahmad Bhat, Principal Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq and Program Coordinator Ms. Aafiya Kirmani. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from various colleges across the Valley. The event commenced at 11:00 AM with a welcome address delivered by the Principal of Sopore Law College, who highlighted the growing societal concerns surrounding drug abuse and emphasized the role of youth and educational institutions in combating the



menace through awareness, accountability and collective responsibility.

The debate witnessed thought-provoking arguments, critical analysis, and remarkable oratory skills from the participating students. The programme was adjudicated by a distinguished panel of judges comprising Retired District and Sessions Judge Mr. Abdul Rashid Bhat, former Dean Academic Affairs Cluster University Srinagar Dr. Nazir Ahmad Simnani, and former Government Degree College Principal Dr. Nelofar Akhtar. The dignitaries presented Cash Prizes, memento and certificates to the winners and contestants. The esteemed judges also shared their valuable insights on the alarming rise of drug abuse in Kashmir and stressed the importance of societal awareness, moral responsibility, and coordinated institutional efforts.

The programme concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks presented by Mr. Rahil Amin, Assistant Professor at Sopore Law College. The event reflected the commitment of Sopore Law College towards promoting intellectual discourse, social awareness, and constructive engagement on pressing societal issues affecting the youth and society at large.

Kulgam Police Demolish Property of NDPS Accused in Major Anti-Drug Crackdown

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, MAY 14: In a significant crackdown against narcotics-related activities under the ongoing War on Drugs and Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir campaign, Kulgam Police, in coordination with the district administration, on Thursday demolished three illegally constructed shops belonging to an accused involved in drug-related offences in Chinigam Frisal area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The demolished structures belonged to Jahangeer Ahmad Bhat, son of Mohd Ismail Bhat, a resident of Chinigam Frisal falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Yaripora. According to officials, the action was taken after completing all legal formalities and in accordance with the provisions of law.

Police sources said that the property was linked to narcotics-related activities and the action forms part of the intensified drive against drug peddlers and their support networks operating in the dis-



trict. The demolition was carried out in the presence of police and civil administration officials amid strict security arrangements.

Kulgam Police reiterated its firm commitment to eradicating the menace of drugs from society and stated that stringent action will continue against individuals involved in narcotics trafficking and other illegal activities associated with the drug trade.

Officials said that the district police have significantly intensified anti-drug operations in recent months with a special focus on dismantling the infrastructure and financial networks of drug peddlers. The aim of the campaign, they added, is to protect the younger generation from the devastating effects of substance abuse and to ensure a safer society.

Police also appealed to the general public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by sharing any information related to drug peddling or substance abuse in their areas. They assured that the identity of informants would be kept confidential and strict legal action would be taken against offenders.

"Every step against drugs is a step towards a safer and brighter future for our youth," officials said while reaffirming their resolve to continue the fight against the drug menace.

NIFT Srinagar Organizes 3-Day Artisan Awareness Workshop at Ompora Campus

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar has organized a three-day Artisan Awareness Workshop from May 14 to 16, 2026, at its Ompora campus in Budgam. The initiative aims to promote artisan engagement, raise awareness, and preserve the rich traditional crafts and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir through interactive sessions, live demonstrations, and cultural activities.

The inaugural session was graced by Jehangir Ahmad as the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honour was Zubair Kirmani. The programme was also attended by Arshad Mushtaq along with faculty members, students, and artisans from various parts of Budgam district.

The event began with a traditional Ravite Esband Soaz, showcasing Kashmir's rich cultural heritage, followed by welcome addresses and insightful speeches by the dignitaries.



The speakers emphasized the importance of preserving traditional crafts, empowering local artisans, and creating sustainable opportunities in the handicrafts sector.

During the programme, participating artisans were felicitated with tokens of appreciation in recognition of their contribution to preserving the region's traditional art and craft practices.

As part of the workshop activities, students of NIFT Srinagar set up creative stalls displaying innovative

craft-based products and design concepts. The dignitaries visited the stalls and appreciated the efforts of students in blending traditional craftsmanship with modern design approaches.

The workshop will continue for three days and will include awareness sessions, demonstrations, skill-sharing activities, and interactive engagements between artisans, designers, and students to strengthen collaboration and promote Kashmir's rich craft heritage.

One Day Career Seminar on Gateway to IIT and NDA Opportunities Held in Sopore

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: A one day career seminar aimed at guiding students towards opportunities in Gateway to IIT and NDA was organised by Career Defence School in Jammu and Kashmir's Sopore on Wednesday.

The seminar was led by Founder and CEO of Career Group, Er Vinay Rai, along with Administrative Officer Er Gagan Wadhwa. The programme was organised by certified career coach Er Amir Suhail and co organised by Khan Jahangeer.

MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar attended the event as Chief Guest, while Tehsildar Sopore Sheikh Tariq participated as Guest of Honor. A large number of students from different schools across Kashmir Valley participated in the seminar. The event was anchored by Syed Humaira.

MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar appreciated the organisers for conducting a meaningful programme for students of the Valley. He said such seminars help students gain awareness about career opportunities and motivate them to compete at national platforms.



Tehsildar Sopore Sheikh Tariq also addressed the participants and stressed the need for dedication, hard work and moral values in student life. Guest speaker Dr Shaheen Shouket Dar, independent war and peace analyst, spoke about the importance of education, discipline and critical thinking among youth. He encouraged students to stay away from negativity and channel their energy towards constructive goals and professional excellence.

Dr Abrar Bashir, while interacting with students, highlighted the growing importance of competitive education and informed them about various career avenues available after schooling. He advised students to build confidence, improve communication skills and stay consistent in their efforts.

Speaking to media, Er Vinay Rai said that students from Jammu and Kashmir possess immense talent and only require proper guidance, discipline and exposure to national level opportunities. He said Career Defence School is committed to preparing students for competitive examinations like JEE Mains, NEET, RIMC and NDA while also focusing on personality development, leadership and nation building.

He urged students to remain focused on academics and make use of every available opportunity to shape their future careers. A detailed question and answer session was also held during the seminar in which students raised queries regarding NDA eligibility, IIT entrance preparation, hostel facilities, scholarship opportunities, physical fitness requirements and career planning. The speakers and experts responded to the questions and guided students on different aspects of competitive preparation.

The seminar concluded with an interactive session and a vote of thanks by the organisers, who expressed gratitude to guests, speakers, participating schools and students for making the event successful.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Two-Day International Conference on “Manoeuvring Business, Society and Culture in the New World Order” at Govt. SPMR College of Commerce Jammu

Highlights transformative role of education in building inclusive, progressive, innovation-driven society

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 14: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated Two-Day International Conference on “Manoeuvring Business, Society and Culture in the New World Order” at Government SPMR College of Commerce here today.

MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi; Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. Dr. K. S. Chandrasekar Rao; Director Colleges, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir; Director, CEC, UGC, Prof. Prikshit Manhas; Principal SPMR College, Prof. Sunil Gupta; Deans of different faculties of Cluster University of Jammu, Principals and former Principals of various Government Degree Colleges from across the Jammu Division, senior academicians, intellectuals, administrative officers and other distinguished dignitaries from the fields of higher education, research and public administration, faculty members of the college and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

The conference also wit-

nessed the presence of eminent academicians, policymakers, administrators, researchers, industry experts from across the country and abroad.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized on the transformative role of education in building an inclusive, progressive and innovation-driven society. She highlighted the urgent need for academic institutions to cultivate ethical leadership, social responsibility and global perspectives in order to effectively navigate the emerging challenges of the new world order.

The Minister highlighted the need for collaborative thinking and innovative approaches to ensure sustainable growth, inclusive development and preservation of cultural values amid changing global realities. She appreciated the efforts of Government SPMR College of Commerce for organizing an international platform aimed at encouraging meaningful discussions on issues of global significance.

The Minister also interacted with scholars and participants and expressed con-



fidence that the deliberations during the conference would contribute towards generating valuable insights and policy-oriented recommendations.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Yudhvir Sethi applauded the initiative of the college in organizing a conference of international significance and remarked that such academic engagements provide valuable opportunities for constructive dialogue on pressing socio-economic and cultural issues confronting modern societies.

Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. Dr. K. S. Chandrasekar Rao delivered a thought-provoking address on the changing dimensions of global business, higher education and cultural integration.

He highlighted the significance of adaptability, innovation and intellectual resilience in responding to the complexities of the modern world.

Director Colleges, while speaking on the occasion, underscored the need for collaborative academic ecosystems that encourage critical inquiry, policy-oriented research and meaningful engagement with contemporary global realities.

In his keynote address, Director, CEC, UGC, Prof. L. Prikshit Manhas shared profound insights into the changing paradigms of education, technology and global academic ecosystems in the contemporary world order. He highlighted the necessity of integrating technology, innovation,

MSME learning and research-driven pedagogies in order to prepare institutions and learners for emerging global challenges.

While delivering welcome address, Principal, Prof. Sunil Gupta reiterated the institution's commitment towards academic excellence, quality research and global engagement. He remarked that the conference aims to provide a vibrant forum for the exchange of innovative ideas, scholarly perspectives and sustainable solutions to contemporary socio-economic challenges.

The morning session of the conference featured the Technical session, which witnessed insightful and thought-provoking lectures by renowned international scholars. Dr.

Gurpreet H. Kaur, Research Scholar at Purdue University-MICA Lafayette, Indiana, United States, delivered an insightful talk on “Sustainability Oriented Storytelling in Tourism,” highlighting the transformative role of sustainable narratives in reshaping tourism industries worldwide.

Another significant session was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Gurmeet Singh, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President Research and Innovation, Dean School of Business and Management, University of South Pacific, Fiji, who addressed the gathering virtually on the theme of the conference. His address emphasized adaptability, cultural resilience and innovation as key drivers of global progress.

The Coordinator of the Organising Committee, Prof. Rekha Gupta, Head, Department of Commerce, Govt. SPMR College of Commerce, presented an overview of the conference objectives, themes and academic significance, emphasizing the need for collaborative approaches in understanding the rapidly changing global socio-economic order.

The Minister also released Conference Abstract Book, showcasing the diverse scholarly contributions and research insights presented by academicians and researchers from various institutions.

Over the course of two days, the conference will host technical sessions, panel discussions and scholarly interactions designed to foster intellectual exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration among participants. Various faculty members and research scholars from and outside the UT will participate in this august two-Day Event.

Several eminent resource persons from within the country and abroad, including experts from the United States, United Kingdom, Fiji, Malaysia and Israel, along with distinguished scholars from University of Delhi, University of Kerala, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Central University of Punjab, will share their valuable insights and deliberate upon diverse dimensions of the conference theme during various technical sessions.

Shaleen Kabra visits Sempora Housing Colony, reviews facilities for move employees

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Estates Department, Shaleen Kabra, today conducted a detailed inspection of the newly constructed Estates Housing Colony at Sempora.

He reviewed the quality of construction, availability of essential services and overall living conditions for the employees.

During his interaction with the move employees residing in the colony, the ACS had feedback on accommodation, mess facilities, transport and sanitation. He emphasized that employee welfare remains a top priority and called for coordinated efforts by all the line departments to ensure seamless provision of services.

Shaleen Kabra directed the Estates Department and concerned agencies to address minor deficiencies on priority. He instructed the PHE and PDD to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply, with dedicated helplines for quick grievance redressal.

The ACS asked the department for running of dispensary within the colony 24*7 and directed the R&B Department to complete the remaining landscaping and internal road works within 15 days. Stressing inter-departmental synergy, he called for a nodal officer to be designated for real-time coordination between Estates, JKTD, JKRTC, and District Administration.

Shaleen Kabra was accompanied by Director Estates Kashmir Mohd Ashraf Hakak, Deputy Director Kashmir, Assistant Director, and senior engineers from PHE, PDD, R&B, and UEED. The team made a comprehensive round of the colony, inspecting the flat interiors, common areas, parking, drainage and the mess facility. He appreciated the efforts of field staff in making the colony functional ahead of the Darbar Move.

The flats at Sempora had remained under construction for more than a decade due to funding and logistical constraints. They were completed after substantial funds were provided in recent years. The colony has now proved highly useful in accommodating the officers and officials during the Darbar Move period, reducing pressure on private arrangements.

The mess facility is being managed by Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation to provide quality meals to the residents. Besides, the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation has deployed a dedicated fleet of vehicles for daily movement of the employees. The District Administration Srinagar is extending necessary support in security, sanitation and allied services.

Pertinently, the flats had been inaugurated by the Chief Minister on 1st May, 2026.

DC Bandipora interacts with Youth Clubs under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 14: Continuing the ongoing efforts under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, District Administration Bandipora on Thursday organised an interaction programme with Youth Clubs to strengthen community participation and youth engagement in the fight against drug abuse.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of building a strong mind among youth through positive engagement and constructive activities.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the need for establishing and strengthening knowledge centres to channelise the energy of youth towards education, creativity and personality development.

The DC also urged parents to actively engage with their children through prayers, sports activities and spending quality time with children, stating that stronger family bonding and

communication play an important role in preventing substance abuse among youngsters.

To ensure regular interaction and coordination with youth groups, the Deputy Commissioner directed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to convene meetings with Youth Clubs at least once every month.

She encouraged participants to remain actively involved in the campaign against drug abuse and report any issue requiring administrative intervention.

The Deputy Commissioner stated that Youth Clubs shall serve as a vital bridge between youth, vulnerable individuals, and the Waqar Knowledge Centres. She informed participants that as part of the anti-drug initiative one such centre is nearing completion and will soon be operationalised at the Mini Secretariat, while four more centres will be developed in the coming time with an eventual target of one such centre in each Rural Block. These centres will function as hubs of knowledge, rec-



reation, and information, providing meaningful avenues for youth and vulnerable sections of society through constructive engagement, awareness, and per-

sonal development.

The programme focused on creating awareness regarding the harmful effects of substance abuse, implementation of the

COTPA Act, and the need for sustained collective action to safeguard future generations from the menace of drugs.

During the interaction, emphasis was laid on the active role of Youth Clubs in spreading awareness at the grassroots level and promoting a healthy and drug-free society. Participants were informed that women are also increasingly becoming victims of substance abuse and, in some cases, involved in peddling activities, which calls for stronger community vigilance and awareness.

The programme concluded with a collective resolve to continue sustained efforts towards building a drug-free and socially responsible society under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan. Among others, the Interaction was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Deputy DEO, District Information Officer, Block Development Officers and youth Club Members.

Food Safety Department seizes fake ‘Imported’ Basel Seed Drink worth Rs 3.56 Lakh in Anantnag

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MAY 14: Based on credible inputs regarding the sale of “Basel Seed Drink” of various flavours being marketed as an imported product under the “American” brand, the Food Safety Department, Anantnag conducted raids at multiple locations across the district and seized 150 cases of the product worth approximately Rs 3,56,400.

The seizures were made from various Food Business Operators (FBOs), including M/S Aayet Trading Company, General Bus Stand Anantnag; M/S Hamas, Bypass Road Anantnag; and M/S Valley Traders & Distributors, Pushoo Market Anantnag. Preliminary investigation has revealed that the concerned FBOs had procured the products from M/S Krusha Premium Industries Pvt. Ltd., Sonipat Haryana; M/S G.S. Food Labs,



Pooth Khurd, New Delhi; and M/S Aamantn, Chowadi Fowara Chowk, Jammu. During scrutiny of the labels, serious discrepancies were observed. The products were labelled as “American” Brand Basel Seed Drink, Product of Thailand, purportedly manufactured by Golden and SUN EXPORT, Bangkok, Thailand, without mandatory importer details on the label. Furthermore, the products were found carrying a fake FSSAI license

number. Investigation conducted so far also suggests that the product, despite being marketed as an imported commodity, is suspected to have been manufactured locally. The seized stock has been taken into custody for further legal and analytical proceedings under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Samples of the product have also been lifted for detailed laboratory analysis to ascertain its safety and quality standards.

The department has initiated a comprehensive investigation to identify all individuals and entities involved in the alleged and illegal manufacture/distribution of the product. The Department of Food Safety reiterates its commitment towards safeguarding public health and advises consumers to remain cautious while purchasing food products carrying suspicious or misleading labels.

Additional Commissioner Kashmir reviews Digitisation of Jamabandis in Shopian

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MAY 13: Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Akramullah Tak, along with ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today took stock of the digitisation of Jamabandis in the district during a review meeting held at the Conference Hall of the Tehsil Office, Shopian.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faz; Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Shopian, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; besides all Tehsilidars and revenue officials of the district.

At the outset, the Additional Commissioner conducted a detailed assessment of the ongoing digitisation process across all Tehsils and directed the concerned officers to expedite the remaining work related to backlog mutation updation.

While reviewing the progress of digitisation of revenue records in the district, Tak was informed that 100 percent of Jamabandis across Shopian district have been digitised, while the work on updation of backlog mutations has also been completed.

Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that digitisation of revenue records is a vital governance reform aimed at ensuring transparency, efficiency and citizen-centric service delivery, besides facilitating easy access to land-related information.

He instructed the officers to maintain close coordination and ensure accuracy in the digitised records so as to avoid discrepancies and inconvenience to the public.

DYSS Ganderbal conducts Sports, Awareness Activities across all Zones under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAY 14: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Ganderbal organised a series of activities including kabaddi, volleyball, football,

and awareness programmes for boys and girls across all zones of the district under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Abhiyan.

A total of 350 boys and girls from Kangan, Ganderbal, Hariganwan, and Tulmullah zones

participated enthusiastically, displaying remarkable sportsmanship, teamwork, and discipline throughout the activities. Awareness sessions were also conducted to educate students about the harmful effects of drug

abuse and the importance of leading a healthy and responsible lifestyle. District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ganderbal, Sheikh Shafiq Iqbal, appreciated the active participation of students and lauded the

efforts of field staff in successfully conducting the programmes. He emphasized that sports and awareness initiatives play a vital role in promoting fitness, discipline, and a drug-free society among youth.

Javid Dar reviews status of veterinary units, infrastructure across Kashmir

Stresses timely tendering, optimal fund utilisation, effective implementation of CSS, UT Schemes

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to assess the status of veterinary units across Kashmir and review the progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Union Territory sector schemes of APD.

The meeting was attended by Director Finance, APD, Director Planning APD, Deputy Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir besides other senior officers of the department.

Taking stock of the manpower requirements in the Animal Husbandry Department, the Minister was informed that all requisite formalities for filling vacant posts of Veterinarians and Para-Veterinarians have been completed in accordance with the established guidelines. He was also told that the tendering process for



the pending works is set to commence shortly.

Emphasising the urgency of strengthening the veterinary healthcare infrastructure, the Minister directed the officers to ensure that the tendering process is completed within one week while adhering strictly to the procedural norms and maintaining complete transparency.

During a detailed review of the budgetary allocations and expenditure under various developmental schemes, the Minister sought a comprehensive account of the physical and financial progress achieved under Centrally Sponsored and UT sector schemes being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasising timely execution of development works, the Minister directed the concerned officers to further intensify monitoring of all ongoing projects, particularly those being implemented under NABARD and other flagship programmes. He made it clear that random

field inspections should be undertaken to verify the on-ground progress and ensure that the intended benefits of these projects are reaching stakeholders effectively.

Highlighting the importance of modernizing the livestock sector, the Minister stressed the need for comprehensive upgradation of farms and strengthening of training infrastructure to equip the farmers with improved technical knowledge and better resources.

He underscored that judicious and timely utilisation of allocated funds is imperative for achieving the targeted outcomes, directing the officers to ensure strict adherence to project timelines so that development initiatives are translated into tangible benefits for the farming community.

Earlier, Director Finance APD presented a detailed financial review, outlining the sanctioned allocations, fund releases and expenditure incurred under various schemes for the financial years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Power Shutdown by KPDCCL

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 KV Sheeri Baramulla-2nd line will be observed due to which power supply to Old Town, Azad Gunj, Janbazpora, Jalsheeri, Tawheedgunj, PHE, Irrigation, Zogiyar, Fatehgarh, STC and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 19 & 21 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV LJHP Uri line will be observed due to which power supply to Salamabad, NHPC, MES, TFC, Garkote, Balkote, Bandi, Uri, Mohura, Rampur, Bani, Bihjama, Dhani and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 20 & 23 May 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV LJHP Boniyar line will be observed due to which power supply to Boniyar, Trikanjan, Limber, Nowshera, JNV and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 18 & 21 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Amargarh Watergam line will be observed due to which power supply to Watergam, Hachipora, Palpora, Behrampora, Dangiwa-cha and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 19 & 23 May 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 KV Sheeri Malpora line will be observed due to which power supply to Chandooza, Hospital, Dangerpora, Sultanpora, Gantamulla, Malpora, Hevan, Namblan and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 23 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Delina Delina line will be observed due to which power supply to Delina, Kanispora, Singhpora, BSF, Jetty, Kralhar, TC PHE, Sopore-II and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 16 & 19 May 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Khanyar line and 33 KV Bagh-i-Ali Mardan Khan Takanwari line will be observed due to which power supply to Miskeenbagh, Rosebal, Hazaribagh, Kondebal, Hasanabad, Jogi Lanker, Palpora, Sangam, JLN Hospital and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM on 16 & 20 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Potushai Aloosa line will be observed due to which power supply to Aloosa, Malangam, and Quil will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 18 May 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Bandipora Ajar line will be observed due to which power supply to Panzigam, Kulsoosa, Kazipora, Khayar, Ajar, Town, Arin and Ahmishareef will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 17 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Potushai Nadihal line will be observed due to which power supply to Nishat, Papchan, Ajas, SK Bala, Sadunara, Bazipora, Nadihal, Guroora, Argam and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 17 & 19 May 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Badampora Lar-Tulmulla line and 33 KV Badampora Kurhama Dab line will be observed due to which power supply to Lar, Waliwar, Watlar, Repora, Tulmulla, Dangerpora, Theeru, Larsun, Kurhama, Yangoora, Baroosa, Old Dab, Cheki Baba Salun, Sainik School, Rabitar, Kondbal, GCET Safapora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 18 & 21 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Badampora Safapora Wangipora Tapline and 33 KV Badampora Army Hakbara line will be observed due to which power supply to Batwina, Nowgam, Wangipora, Zazna, Ahan, Waskura, Kharbagh, Sumbal, Nesbal, Hajin, Preng, Madwan, Banyar, Hakbara, Chendergeer and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 18 & 25 May 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 KV Nihalpora Markundal line will be observed due to which power supply to Markundal, Naidkhai, Sumbal, Gundboon and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 18 & 20 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Nihalpora HMT line will be observed due to which power supply to Shadipora, Trigam, Mirgund, Singhpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 18 & 21 May 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Kangan line and 33 KV Shariefabad-Wadwan line will be observed due to which power supply to Mammer, Wangath, Kangan, Akhal, Babanagri Soibugh, Haran, Bonpora, Astanpora, Wadwan, Dharmuna, Russu, Gotpora, Pymus and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 18 May 2026.

Mass Awareness Activities under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan continue across Bandipora

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MAY 14: District Administration Bandipora on Thursday continued activities under the 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan across the district with awareness programmes, pledge ceremonies, group singing events, cultural performances, sports activities, rallies, Gram Sabhas and signature campaigns organised in schools, colleges and Panchayat Halqas.

Awareness programmes, pledge ceremonies and group singing activities were organised at HSS Chuntimulla, HSS Nowgam Bandipora, PM SHRI HSS Shadipora, HS Jurniyal Tulail, HS Ahmisharief, HSS Ketson, GHS Naidkhai, GHS Nadihal, HSS Gadakhud.

HS Panar, HS Achoora, HS Koragbal, Government High School Garoora, and other educational institutions under the banner of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan to spread awareness regarding the harmful effects of substance abuse and promote a drug-free society.

PM SHRI GHS Sumbal, HSS Nowgam, HS Ahmisharief, Government High School Garoora, GHS Naidkhai, HS Jurniyal Tulail and HSS Gadakhud organised awareness songs and group singing events highlighting the socio-economic and emotional devastation caused by drug abuse.

At HS Koragbal and Gundiqaiser Block Arin, drawing competitions regarding Nasha Mukht Abhiyan were organised, while HS Wanpora organised a volleyball match under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan campaign. At HSS Quilmuqam, a traditional Ledi Shah performance against drug abuse was presented by a Class 11th student during the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

Special Gram Sabhas and awareness programmes under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan were also organised at Panchayat Halqa Shahpora Payeen/Achoora Block Gurez, Gundiqaiser, Ward No. 3 Plan and Mangnipora, where participants reiterated their commitment towards eradicating drug abuse from society.

Government Degree College Ajas organised an awareness programme on the 100-Day Nasha Mukht Abhiyan initiative under the supervision of Principal Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Jabeen.

Meanwhile, under the guidance of Principal Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, the College Sports Committee of GDC Bandipora organised a chess competition under the banner of Nasha Mukht Abhiyan. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members and aimed to promote constructive engagement and awareness regarding a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

An awareness programme on Mental Health and Stress Management under the nationwide Nasha Mukht Abhiyan was also conducted at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Bandipora by the Department of AYUSH Bandipora.

The Motor Vehicles Department Bandipora also organised awareness activities under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan. The department conducted a sticker-pasting drive on commercial vehicles, a signature campaign, pledge ceremony, awareness programme and a vehicle rally carrying anti-drug messages including "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life."

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

Commissioner FDA reviews Enforcement measures

Calls for strong Public Health vigilance ahead of festivities

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, Khalid Jahangir held an introductory meeting with senior officers and field functionaries of Drug and Food Wing of the department, after assuming charge today.

During the meeting, held at the Conference Hall Combined Drug and Food Laboratory, Srinagar, the Commissioner emphasized the critical role of the department in safeguarding public health and ensuring the availability of safe food and quality drugs to the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

He stressed that field functionaries must remain visible, accessible, and proactive on the ground and should discharge their duties strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Drugs & Cosmetics Act. He directed officers to strengthen surveillance and inspection mechanisms to ensure that food business operators (FBOs) and pharmacy establishments comply with the prescribed legal standards and regulatory requirements.

The Commissioner stressed that enforcement activities should be carried out in a fair, transparent, and professional manner. He further emphasized the need for coordi-



nated teamwork among all enforcement officers of the department to ensure effective implementation of food safety and drug control measures.

Drawing attention towards growing menace of drug abuse and its adverse impact on society, particularly on the younger generation, the Commissioner highlighted the importance of awareness and strict enforcement measures. He stated that the UT of J&K has already launched a comprehensive 100-day Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan campaign against drug abuse, and directed all field officers to actively participate in the campaign by conducting awareness programmes, public outreach activities, and coordinated enforcement drives at the grassroots level.

In view of the forthcoming Eid festivities and Moharram, the Commissioner directed the field staff to intensify market surveillance and enforcement activities, particularly focusing on highly consumed food items during the festive season. He asked the enforcement teams to remain extra vigilant and proactive in checking the quality, hygiene, adulteration, storage, and sale of food products in markets across Jammu & Kashmir.

Reaffirming the commitment of the Food & Drugs Administration towards public welfare, he called upon all officers and stakeholders to work collectively with dedication and integrity to strengthen the regulatory framework and ensure a healthier and safer society for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Multiple Awareness Programmes organised across Budgam under 100 day intensive campaign

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, May 14: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a series of awareness and sensitization programmes were organised across various educational institutions, villages and public places in District Budgam to spread awareness regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse, tobacco consumption and narcotic substances.

At GHSSB Budgam, a Nukad Natak was organised wherein students delivered impactful performances highlighting the dangers of drug addiction and the importance of building a healthy and drug-free society. Similar awareness activities were also organised by Babul Qira under Cluster HSS BK Pora and at GMS Batpora Wathora, where students participated enthusiastically in street plays and awareness campaigns aimed at sensitising the public, especially youth, about the ill effects of



substance abuse.

Meanwhile, under NMBA, Health Services Budgam conducted awareness and sensitization programmes at Brick Kiln

Batpora and health facilities of Kharigund. During the programme, labourers and members of the general public were educated about the harmful effects

of tobacco consumption, particularly gutka and bidi smoking. Participants were sensitised about various tobacco-related diseases including oral cancer, lung

ailments, heart diseases and respiratory disorders.

The awareness sessions focused on encouraging people to quit tobacco products and adopt healthier lifestyles.

In another initiative, the Excise Team Budgam carried out a door-to-door awareness campaign at Village Chowdribagh, Panchayat Halqa Dreygam, Tehsil Khansahib.

The team sensitised the local population regarding narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, their abuse, and the legal punishments and penalties associated with such offences.

The Excise Team also conducted a survey of nearby fields, farms and orchards to check for any illicit cultivation.

The programmes witnessed active participation from students, officials, health workers, and members of the community, reflecting a collective commitment towards making society free from drugs and substance abuse.

HT EDITORIAL

Lockdown or no lockdown; people in a fix

Delhi government's decision to introduce a two day's work from home scheme for the government employees has fueled rumours across the country that the central government may impose lockdown in the near future. In the Kashmir valley the people are also thinking on the same lines and most of the residents think that the lockdown is round the corner. People have already made up their mind in this regard and they are ready to accept the government's directions.

Although the education minister Sakeena Masood Itoo has said that there is no plan of holding the online classes for school students as of now there are not many people to accept the same. The people in general opine that once the directions come from the central government the union territory government would announce the lockdown across Jammu & Kashmir. Once that is done the employees would work from home and there would be online classes for students receiving education at different levels.

This would result in saving of the fuel reserves and the existing stock of petroleum and related products would last for some more time. But there would be problems on account of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). People would not come out of their houses and once they stay back there are chances that there would be an increase in the consumption of domestic cooking gas. There would be more pressure on the oil marketing companies that are already under tremendous stress.

We are already two and half months into the war between the United States of America & Israel on one side and Iran on the other side. The crisis in West Asia has escalated and there seems to be no end to the tension between the two warring sides. In such a situation it is more than likely that countries across the globe would face more shortage of fuel and allied products. Same is the case with India and in the country, people are quite apprehensive about the emerging situation.

One can hope and pray that there is an end to the tension soon and both the warring sides come to some agreement. It must be understood that war is no solution to any problem and it only leads to destruction and devastation. People would heave a sigh of relief once there is an end to the war and each and every thing comes to the normal level.

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Learning is truly Fun when taken up in a interesting way



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

The education system is well known to everyone, all of us. The importance of education has greatly impacted the world. In all corners of the world, people came to know the potential greatness of the education.

Education has no alternative, no barrier, and no constraints in any country in any part of the world. Acquiring education sums up laurels in our morals and bestows upon us the great chapters of life. Humans are literally considered the civilized society; any uncivilized act may count in animals.

It's simple to understand that there is little difference between humans and animals. Both the species are classified under the mammals. Biologically there are a number of resembling characters in the animals and the humans, but humans are the most beautiful creation of the Almighty. Having expressive reasons.

In the holy book of the Quran, almighty Allah says humans are the Ashraf ul Makhluqaat. It means there is no species like humans in this world, and humans were created beautiful in all aspects. Being a good human is not so hard, but it needs an environment where we can nourish and produce great humans.

Human beings should never forget their duties and responsibilities in the society. Every human being, or individual, has equal and constitutional rights that he or she can use to change the shape of the society or country or even change the shape of the world globe with just a single idea.

Clicking on a great idea may revolutionize your life.

The state of our minds depended on what the environment we were surrounded by was.

Sensible people nourish their minds under the reach of great people. When you are surrounded by such minds, you feel unexpected change in your life. Like the way of thinking, you take every situation as your research task. Overall development is very necessary for the change in your life. There are people who never skip a single change that is vital for their life-changing goals, and there are people who skip bunches of changes and are always expecting success without working hard.

Our body structure never decides our future, like being strong physically never means we are at the top; it's good and important that it will help us to achieve our life goals. Great people are those who possess a great mind that they can sort out troubles within seconds and are real assets for the world.

Great minds have no unique identity, no unique citizenship, and belong to no particular caste or color. Great people are the assets of the whole world. One thing that is very interesting is that there are 8 billion souls in the world. But there are fewer who are renowned, famous, and towering in different fields like science and technology, politics, education, art, music, religion, and sports. We know such great people and have respect for their contribution to the whole world. Great people are never always smoothing the way for the others and burning their nights for the noble cause.

Today I am going to share my experiences on how we can produce great minds and how we can nourish them under a free zone.

What is a free zone?
A free zone can be defined as the place where a learner learns concepts having no fear of punishment or any other physical, psychological, or mental means of barriers.

Today schools are providing free zones to the learners and nourishing

them under happy trees. Today's education system is being transformed, introducing new policies and strategies. The goals are to produce great minds for the future. We need potential minds in any field.

Role of schools in producing great and influential personalities.

School is the place where future scientists, educationists, doctors, engineers, pilots, and politicians are being nourished. With the tireless hard work efforts of the teachers. Teachers are the real assets of the nation.

Appreciate and reward teachers with their own identity, like a logo or title against their names.

Such initiatives will literally help to boost the morale of the teachers, and such efforts may encourage them to produce great minds and will play a role in the development of the country in all aspects.

One thing that is very unfortunate is that the teacher fraternity lacks support in a number of ways, like teachers. There are people who set policies against teachers, forgetting that they are only where they are because of teachers. It is not possible that any individual grows and develops without any helping hand. In our success there are the hands and support of thousands of people, and this act we should remember till our last breath. This act may bestow peace of mind and soul.

Honor

Housing anyone in any field never gives us bad results; instead, such efforts may produce great and effective results in a smart way.

Importance of field trips in the schools.

I am amazed at how people live who never attended a single day of school.

Is it possible that they think they know how days and nights are caused, how rain lashes, how streams flow throughout the year, how radios function, how television shows us such great quality visuals, how mobile phones contain so many features,

how medicine works and relieves us from pain, and how we inhale and exhale? Etc., all these questions are discussed at the primary level or middle level. A period when every child has the right to free and compulsory education. How people remain illiterate. So bizarre but a fact.

We can eradicate all that we don't think is favorable and good for human beings and for all of humanity. Just keep your heart clear and fear no greediness, no dishonesty, no jealousy, no crime, no fraud, no harm, and no injustice.

Importance of field trips

Field trips induce and provide a great chance for the learners to learn concepts practically and apply every bit of learning practically in life.

Field-like while studying plants, students should be taken out from the school premises; ask them to have lunch outside and teach them what they or a teacher find about the selected topic. Repeat the thing the number of times you think they have to face it in their lives. Like measurement, units, and mechanisms, in short, so that they never feel a lack of confidence, and teach them in a way so that their learning is easy. Never force a student that you have to learn or be ready for punishment; always encourage them to take their time. This is so easy, and you can. If you can, it's ok; don't bother. Life is still yours.

Encouraging students

Encouraging is literally a great and effective tool for the learning process. Always try to clear the basics and leave the rest as optional for the students. For the teachers, encourage by giving marks of 9 out of 10 even if they deserve 5 or 6. Make them captains and monitors; make them always dress properly and simply, cut their hair simply, and appreciate their little to little try. Hope results will come back positive and may impact their future.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Census 2027: India's Digital Leap into Precise Demographic Mapping



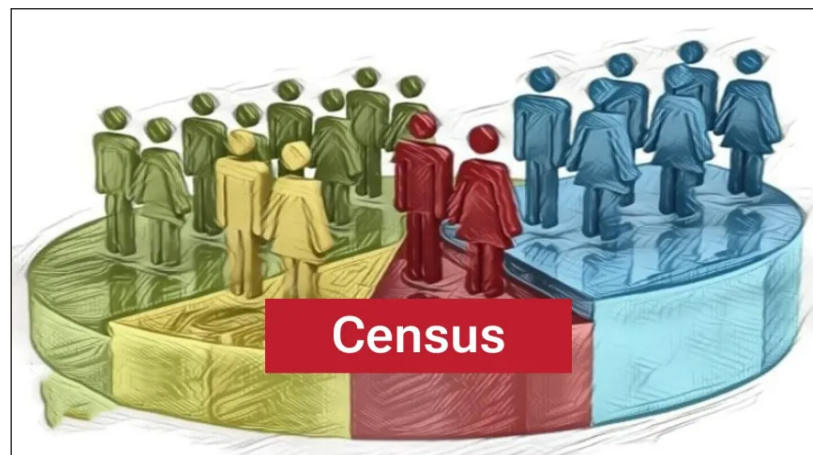
■ IMRAN RAINA

India's Census 2027 has commenced, heralding the nation's first fully digital census—a transformative step in demographic data collection. This exercise, announced officially, divides into two phases: house listing from June 1st and population enumeration thereafter.

At the heart of this digital transformation is the self-enumeration portal at se.census.in. For the first time, families can log in using a single mobile number and have the Head of the Household fill in essential details about their home and residents. Once submitted, the system generates a unique 11-digit Self-Enumeration ID, sent via email and SMS. This ID is crucial—enumerators visiting homes from June 1st will use it to verify and cross-check information, ensuring no duplicates or omissions.

Authorities emphasize saving this ID safely, as it bridges the gap between citizen input and official validation. This feature not only empowers people to contribute from the comfort of their homes but also reduces the workload on field staff, minimizing errors in a country as vast and diverse as India.

Tehsildar Kangan, Mubashir Amin



(KAS) who is also charge Officer Census 2027 recently in a video message has made a fervent appeal to all the citizens to go for self enumeration through official website se.census.in w.e.f 17 May 20226 to 31st May 2026.

Phase 1: House Listing: It involves cataloging all structures—houses, huts, buildings—along with amenities like electricity, water, and sanitation. Enumerators, equipped with GPS-enabled tablets, will visit households, scan the 11-digit Self-Enumeration ID (generated post-registration using one family mobile number), and validate data in real-time. This phase establishes a housing database, identifying infrastructure gaps, such as in Jammu and Kashmir's remote areas.

Phase 2: Population Enumeration: It delves into individual profiles: age, gender, occupation, education, marital status, religion, language, disability, and migration. It encompasses nomads, institutionalized persons, and transients. In Jammu

and Kashmir, teams will cover high-altitude Ladakh outposts and flood-vulnerable Chenab Valley areas, using multilingual apps in Kashmiri and Bodhi.

Yet, success hinges on citizen cooperation. Officials are making a fervent appeal: log onto se.census.in between May 17th and 31st, register your family, and secure that 11-digit ID. This isn't just paperwork—it's your voice in nation-building. Skeptics worry about digital exclusion; not everyone has smart phones or internet. To counter this, enumerators will assist offline households during visits, uploading data on their behalf. Awareness campaigns via TV, radio, and social media aim to reach all corners.

The census's importance cannot be overstated. It underpins constituency delimitation, resource allocation, and schemes such as PMAY and Ayushman Bharat. Accurate data ensures targeted interventions: in Jammu and Kashmir, it will highlight youth unemployment in rural Doda

district (over 70% under 35) and housing shortages in urban Srinagar slums. Nationally, it tracks urbanization—projected at 40% by 2027—and vulnerabilities exposed by COVID-19, informing health and digital inclusion policies.

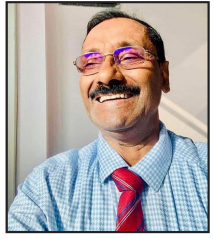
Digitalization addresses past inefficiencies. The 2021 delay due to the pandemic underscores the need for resilience; tablets and cloud syncing will expedite results from years to months. Aadhaar linkages and biometrics enhance precision, with robust privacy protocols. Over a million enumerators, including those tackling Jammu and Kashmir's conflict-prone and remote areas like Rajouri's forests, have been trained. Multilingual interfaces support 22 languages plus regional dialects.

Census 2027 isn't merely a count; it's a digital leap toward a data-driven India. By embracing self-enumeration and modern tools, citizens and officials together forge a brighter future. Participate now—your details shape tomorrow since 1872, the decennial census has evolved into a governance cornerstone. From 1.21 billion in 2011 to an estimated 1.45 billion, it guides equitable growth—from flood-resilient infrastructure in Jammu's floodplains to tourism-led development in Tourist places.

Census 2027 fortifies India's data-driven future. Active involvement ensures policies reflect ground realities.

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History Versus Myth: India at a Civilizational Crossroad



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

India today stands at a profound civilizational crossroad where the relationship between history and myth has become one of the most debated and sensitive intellectual questions of public life. The issue is not whether myths are valuable or whether ancient cultural narratives should be respected. Myths have always nourished the imagination of civilizations, inspired art and literature, strengthened spiritual consciousness, and preserved the emotional memory of communities. The real challenge arises when myth is presented as verified history and when historical inquiry is replaced by emotional, political, or ideological assertions. India possesses one of the richest mythological traditions in the world. Epics such as the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, the Puranas, folk legends, temple narratives, and oral traditions have shaped Indian civilization for centuries. These narratives carry moral lessons, philosophical reflections, symbolic truths, and cultural continuity. They are deeply woven into everyday life through festivals, rituals, theatre, storytelling, and social customs. Myth in India has therefore never been merely fiction; it has functioned as a living cultural force. It has helped people understand duty, sacrifice, heroism, devotion, and cosmic order. However, mythology traditionally occupied a sacred and symbolic domain distinct from historical investigation. Problems emerge when symbolic narratives are interpreted literally and then used to define political legitimacy or social superiority.

History as an academic discipline depends upon evidence, archaeology, textual analysis, chronology, and critical interpretation. Historians examine inscriptions, manuscripts, coins, monuments, archival records, travel accounts, and material culture to reconstruct the past. Historical knowledge evolves because new evidence may challenge old assumptions. Myth, on the other hand, operates through symbolic imagination and collective belief. Myth may express emotional or spiritual truths without being historically verifiable. Civilizations need both history and myth, but confusion begins when the boundary between the two collapses. The modern politicization of history in India has intensified this collapse. Both extremes distort historical complexity. The past becomes a battlefield where selective memories are amplified while inconvenient realities are ignored. Historical figures are transformed into ideological icons rather than studied as complex human beings shaped by their times.

Mythical interpretations of history frequently emerge from the desire for cultural pride. Colonial rule deeply humiliated many societies, including India. European colonial historians often portrayed India as stagnant, irrational, and incapable of progress without Western intervention. In reaction, nationalist thinkers attempted to reclaim India's civilizational achievements. This impulse was understandable and historically important because it restored dignity to colonized people. Thinkers rediscovered ancient philosophical traditions, scientific achievements, literature, mathematics, architecture, and spiritual heritage. However, cultural pride sometimes crossed into exaggerated glorification where mythological claims began to be asserted as scientific or historical fact without evidence. This tendency has significant social consequences. When mythology is presented as unquestionable historical truth, critical thinking may weaken. Educational spaces become vulnerable to ideological control. Students may be encouraged to memorize glorified narratives rather than engage in analytical inquiry. Universities and research institutions may face pressure to conform to political expectations. Intellectual disagreement can then be



portrayed as disloyalty to the nation or disrespect toward culture. Such an atmosphere damages both academic freedom and democratic discourse.

The impact upon communal relations can be especially dangerous. India is a plural society composed of multiple religions, languages, castes, ethnicities, and regional cultures. Historical memory in such a society requires sensitivity and balance. When myths are weaponized politically, they may create narratives of perpetual victimhood or perpetual hostility between communities. Selective interpretations of medieval history, for instance, are often used to inflame present-day tensions. Public discourse increasingly reflects this trend. Television debates, social media campaigns, and political speeches often circulate emotionally charged historical claims without evidence. The commercialization of mythology has also transformed social consciousness. Cinema, television serials, and digital entertainment frequently dramatize ancient narratives in highly simplified forms. Mythological characters become symbols of aggressive nationalism or cultural supremacy. While artistic reinterpretation is natural, mass media sometimes blurs the distinction between entertainment and history. Audiences begin to accept fictionalized depictions as factual reality. This phenomenon affects especially younger generations who may lack exposure to rigorous historical education. While ancient India undoubtedly made remarkable contributions in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, linguistics, and philosophy, exaggeration weakens genuine appreciation. Real achievements become overshadowed by improbable assertions. Scientific progress depends upon evidence, experimentation, and skepticism rather than emotional pride alone.

The relationship between caste and mythological history also remains deeply significant. Certain traditional narratives historically justified social hierarchies and exclusion. Reformers like Jyotirao Phule, B. R. Ambedkar, and Periyar E. V. Ramasamy challenged mythological interpretations that legitimized inequality. They argued that many narratives were constructed to preserve power structures. Contemporary debates around history and mythology therefore also intersect with struggles for social justice and equality. Competing groups reinterpret myths to assert dignity, identity, or resistance. This demonstrates how deeply the politics of the past shapes present social realities. At the same time it would be simplistic to dismiss mythology entirely. Myths often contain profound symbolic wisdom. They preserve ethical reflections and civilizational memory. The problem lies not in myth itself but in the misuse of myth as political absolutism. Mature civilizations respect mythology while maintaining the autonomy of historical scholarship. India's

intellectual tradition historically accommodated multiple interpretations. Ancient philosophical debates flourished between believers, skeptics, materialists, Buddhists, Jains, Vedantins, and numerous other schools of thought. This plural intellectual culture represented one of India's greatest strengths.

The role of historians becomes increasingly important at such crossroads. Historians must communicate more effectively with the public rather than remaining confined to academic circles. India's diversity itself offers an antidote to monolithic myths. Different regions possess different memories, legends, and cultural experiences. Folk traditions often coexist with classical narratives in creative tension. Tribal histories, oral cultures, regional literatures, Sufi traditions, Bhakti movements, Buddhist legacies, Sikh histories, and countless local narratives together form the mosaic of Indian civilization. Reducing this diversity into one rigid narrative impoverishes the nation's cultural richness. The younger generation today faces a particularly complex environment. They are exposed simultaneously to global knowledge networks and emotionally charged identity politics. Many seek

The Taj Mahal has become one of the central subjects in debates surrounding history and myth in India. Built in the seventeenth century during the reign of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, the monument is globally recognized as a masterpiece of architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Mainstream historical scholarship, supported by Persian court chronicles, inscriptions, administrative records, architectural studies, and contemporary accounts, identifies the Taj Mahal as a mausoleum constructed in memory of Mumtaz Mahal. Yet over the decades various alternative narratives and myths have emerged claiming that the structure was originally a Hindu temple or palace known as "Tejo Mahalaya." These claims have generated intense political and ideological debate in modern India.

The "Taj Mahal myth" illustrates how historical monuments can become symbols in broader struggles over identity, nationalism, religion, and cultural ownership. Those promoting alternative theories often argue that the monument predates the Mughal period and that it was appropriated or modified by Mughal rulers. Such claims gained visibility especially through the writings of certain revisionist authors in the twentieth century. However, the overwhelming majority of professional historians, archaeologists, and architectural experts reject these theories because they lack credible evidence. Extensive documentation from the Mughal era records the planning, financing, workforce, materials, and construction of the Taj Mahal. Persian texts such as the Badshahnama describe its creation in considerable detail. Archaeological evidence and architec-

tural analysis also align with Mughal design traditions rather than medieval Hindu temple architecture.

The controversy surrounding the Taj Mahal reveals a larger phenomenon in which historical monuments are reinterpreted through present-day ideological frameworks. For some groups, reclaiming monuments symbolically becomes a way of asserting cultural pride or correcting perceived historical humiliation. The Mughal period itself has increasingly become a contested terrain in Indian public discourse. Instead of being studied as a complex historical era involving administration, art, warfare, trade, architecture, literature, and cultural synthesis, it is sometimes reduced into simplistic binaries of "foreign rulers" versus "native civilization." Such reductionism ignores centuries of interaction and fusion that shaped Indian society. The Taj Mahal itself reflects cultural synthesis rather than civilizational isolation. Its architecture combines Persian, Central Asian, and Indian artistic traditions. The use of white marble, intricate calligraphy, geometric symmetry, garden planning, and decorative motifs demonstrates the cosmopolitan nature of Mughal art. Indian artisans, stone carvers, calligraphers, and craftsmen participated in its creation. Thus the monument belongs not merely to one dynasty or religion but to the shared cultural history of the subcontinent.

Myths surrounding the Taj Mahal also demonstrate how emotional narratives can overshadow evidence-based historical inquiry. Once a myth becomes tied to identity politics, questioning it may provoke intense reactions. Social media has amplified this tendency by spreading unverified claims rapidly among large audiences. Images, videos, and selective interpretations circulate widely without scholarly scrutiny. Repetition often creates the illusion of authenticity. In such an atmosphere academic expertise may be dismissed as ideological bias, while emotionally satisfying narratives gain popularity. At the same time the debate reveals deeper anxieties within society regarding history and belonging. The Taj Mahal controversy therefore symbolizes the broader tension between history and myth in contemporary India. History depends upon evidence, critical method, and openness to revision. Myth often depends upon emotional conviction and collective identity. Both can coexist when their boundaries are understood. Problems arise when myth claims the authority of history without evidence, or when historical scholarship is attacked for political reasons.

Importantly, myths are not always falsehoods in a cultural sense. They may express symbolic truths, emotional memory, or civilizational imagination. But symbolic meaning differs from historical fact. A mature society learns to appreciate mythology, heritage, and faith while still respecting schol-

arly methods and factual inquiry. Confusing these domains creates polarization and intellectual instability. The continuing fascination with the Taj Mahal myth reflects India's current crossroads where historical interpretation increasingly shapes political and social consciousness. The challenge before the nation is whether it can preserve intellectual integrity while embracing cultural pride. If monuments become instruments of ideological conflict, they lose their capacity to unite humanity through beauty and shared heritage. The Taj Mahal has long stood as a symbol of artistic excellence and human emotion transcending boundaries. Preserving its historical understanding may therefore also mean preserving the spirit of pluralism and cultural synthesis that has historically enriched India.

Many seek certainty in myths because myths provide emotional security, collective belonging, and a sense of continuity with an imagined glorious past. In times of economic anxiety, political instability, cultural transition, or rapid globalization, societies often turn toward simplified narratives that promise pride and identity. For many people, myths appear more comforting than the complexities of history because history is rarely pure, heroic, or emotionally satisfying. History reveals contradictions, conflicts, compromises, and ambiguities. Myth, by contrast, often offers moral clarity, divine purpose, and idealized heroes. This psychological attraction explains why mythical interpretations easily gain public popularity, especially when amplified by political rhetoric and digital media. They seek emotional validation in the past because the present often feels uncertain. A struggling society may imagine that all problems can be solved by "returning" to an ancient golden age. Such nostalgia can become politically powerful. Yet no civilization in history was entirely perfect or entirely corrupt. Ancient societies achieved extraordinary philosophical and artistic heights while simultaneously containing inequalities and limitations. Honest engagement with history requires the courage to recognize both achievement and failure. Mature patriotism grows from truth, not from exaggeration.

Some others seek identity through selective historical memory. Communities sometimes emphasize narratives of victimhood or heroism to strengthen internal solidarity. However, when collective memory becomes selective, it can produce hostility toward others. In India this danger becomes particularly serious because diverse religious and cultural communities have lived together for centuries through both conflict and coexistence. Shared spaces, languages, music, architecture, food habits, and literary traditions emerged from long interaction among communities. A distorted reading of history that focuses only on conflict erases centuries of cultural synthesis and mutual influence. While there is no dearth of people seeking political advantage by controlling historical narratives.

Those who seek a balance between faith and reason are doing it for the better future of India. Faith gives emotional and spiritual meaning to life, while reason protects society from fanaticism and manipulation. Indian civilization historically accommodated this coexistence. A society that confuses myth with history may eventually imprison itself within emotional narratives. But a society that understands the distinction while respecting both domains can create a richer and more humane culture. India's greatness has never rested upon uniformity of thought. Its enduring strength has emerged from debate, plurality, adaptation, and coexistence.

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HIGH-FIBRE DIET CUTS PREECLAMPSIA RISK DURING PREGNANCY



Ladies, please take note. Consuming a high-fibre diet may reduce the risk of preeclampsia during pregnancy, researchers have found. "Simple recommendation to 'eat real food, mostly plants and not too much' might be the most effective primary prevention strategy for some of the most serious conditions of our time. "The mother's gut bacteria and diet appear to be crucial to promoting healthy pregnancy," said study lead author Ralph Nanan, Professor at the University of Sydney. The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, showed that pregnancy outcomes and infant immunity are linked to gut bacteria.

Plant-based fibre is broken down in the gut by bacteria into factors that influence the immune system. The research team investigated the role of these metabolic products of gut bacteria during pregnancy. The researchers found that in humans, reduced levels of acetate, which is mainly produced by fibre fermentation in the gut, is associated with the common and serious pregnancy-related condition preeclampsia. Preeclampsia occurs in up to 10 per cent of pregnancies and is characterized by high blood pressure, protein in the urine and severe swelling in the mother's body.

It also interferes with the child's immune development whilst in the womb, with some evidence suggesting a link to higher rates of allergies and autoimmune diseases later in life. The study found that preeclampsia affected the development of an important foetal immune organ – the thymus – which sits just behind the breastbone. Foetuses in preeclamptic pregnancies were found to have a much smaller thymus than children from healthy pregnancies. The cells the thymus normally generates – called "T" cells, and specifically those associated with the prevention of allergies and

autoimmune conditions such as diabetes – also remained lower in infants after preeclampsia, even four years after delivery. The mechanisms of acetate on the developing foetal immune system were further examined in separate experiments involving mice that showed acetate was central in driving foetal thymus and "T" cell development. The results showed that promoting specific metabolic products of gut bacteria during pregnancy might be an effective way to maintain a healthy pregnancy and to prevent allergies and autoimmune conditions later in life. **Courtesy Healthline**

Smoking weed can give teens the blues

WASHINGTON D.C: Smoking cannabis to feel less depressed is a well-known phenomenon – but does it actually work?

However, a study has recently warned that the teenagers who begin smoking pot early are at an increased risk of depression and heightened feelings of negative emotionality.

According to researchers, young people with cannabis-dependence have an altered brain function that may be the source of emotional disturbances and increased psychosis risk.

The alterations were most pronounced in people who started using cannabis at a young age. The findings reveal potential negative long-term effects of heavy cannabis use on brain function and behaviour.

Study authors Dr Peter Manza, Dardo Tomasi and Nora Volkow of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Bethesda, Maryland, assessed 441 young adults and compared a smaller set of 30 people who met criteria for cannabis abuse with 30 controls.

People with heavy cannabis use had abnormally high connectivity in brain regions important for reward processing and habit formation.

The same regions have also been pegged in the development of psychosis in previous research.

Dr Cameron Carter explained, "These brain imaging data provide a link between changes in brain systems involved in reward and psychopathology and chronic cannabis abuse, suggesting a mechanism by which heavy use of this popular drug may lead to depression and other even more severe forms of mental illness". The brain alterations were also associated with heightened feelings of negative emotionality, especially alienation, where one feels a sense of hostility or rejection from others.

The link points to a potential biological mechanism for why feelings of alienation are often profoundly increased in people with cannabis dependence.

"Interestingly, the hyperconnectivity was strongest in the individuals who began using cannabis in early adolescence", Dr Manza added.

Courtesy EMJ

Slim or not, cutting 300 calories a day is great for your heart



When it comes to counting calories, we all just immediately think of weight loss. After all, eliminating certain food groups from your diet and keeping a check on what you eat are the cornerstones of all modern dieting methods. But what if we told you that counting calories can keep your heart in good shape and help you live longer?

According to a research conducted at Duke University School of Medicine and published in the journal Lancet Diabetes And Endocrinology, calorie-

restriction diets have ample benefits for heart health. The researchers put over 200 study participants on restricted diets for two years, and studied the effects.

The result? Well, the researchers found that those who were successfully able to maintain the dietary restrictions on calorie intake had significantly lower bad cholesterol readings and were able to maintain healthy blood pressure levels. Moreover, their triglyceride levels—a type of fat found in the blood

that increases the risk of heart disease—dropped by 24%.

At the beginning of the study, the researchers had asked the participants to cut down a quarter of their daily calorie intake. Though, the participants could only reduce about 12% of their intake daily, amounting to 300 calories—on the basis of which, these findings were established.

"Exercise and diet are the two most profound and easily implemented interventions we have in our environment that can reduce our cardiovascular risks," said Dr William Kraus, senior author of the study and a professor at Duke University School of Medicine in North Carolina, US. "There aren't five drugs on the market when combined that could approach what we saw in this study from moderate calorie restriction."

Now that we know, there is just one question left to answer: what do 300 calories look like? Realistically, what does it mean? A slice of cheesecake, two chocolate-chip cookies, a small packet of potato chips, and one slice of pizza—cut one of these things from your diet, and you would have effectively followed Dr Kraus and his team's advice. **Courtesy Healthline**

Fruit juice is just another soda as study suggests cancer link

Drinking soda doesn't just threaten to make us fat, it could be linked to a higher risk of cancer, judging from a new study. But here's the more surprising part: so could fruit juices.

Increased daily consumption of about 3.4 ounces of soda – roughly a third of a can of Coke – was associated with an 18% greater risk of some cancers in a study published in the British Medical Journal. The likelihood of breast tumors alone rose even more, by 22%. When people drank the same amount of unsweetened fruit juice, they were also more likely to develop cancer, the researchers found.

The research, part of a broader effort carried out in France to investigate links between nutrition and health, is one of the first to find a connection between sweet drinks and cancer. The findings may also taint the image of fruit juices, which are often perceived – and promoted – as healthy.

"All beverages – either with sugar or without – are safe to consume as part of a balanced diet," the American Beverage Institute said in



a statement. Beverage companies are working to provide more choices with reduced or no sugar, smaller package sizes and clear calorie information, the industry group said.

The researchers tracked 97 beverages and 12 artificially sweetened ones, including carbonated ones, sports drinks, syrups and pure fruit juices. The correlations they found don't necessarily mean the beverages alone lead to cancer. The study didn't seek to understand the reason for

the link, though the researchers speculated that sugar's effect on visceral fat, blood-sugar levels and inflammation may play a role. Additives found in sodas and pesticides in fruit could also have an impact, they wrote.

The study found no increased cancer risk from sugar-free drinks, although so few of the people studied consumed them that the results may not be significant, the researchers said. Water, unsweetened tea and coffee also showed no heightened risk. **EMJ**

Girls with early puberty may develop migraine

Adolescent girls who attain early puberty may also have a greater chance of developing migraine headaches, suggest researchers.

"We know that the percentage of girls and boys who have migraine is pretty much the same until menstruation begins. When the menstrual period starts in girls, the prevalence goes way up, but what our data suggests is that it occurs even before that," said Vincent Martin, one of the researchers of the study.

About 10% of school-age children suffer from migraine, according to the study presented at the American Headache Society. As adolescence approaches, the incidence of migraine increases rapidly in girls, and by age 17, about 8% of boys and 23% of girls have experienced migraine.

The girls ranged in age from 8 to 20 and the study took place over a 10-year period beginning in 2004. Girls enrolled in the study at age 8-10 were examined during study visit every six to 12 months.

Researchers determined when they showed initial signs of thelarche (breast development), pubarche (pubic hair growth)

and menarche (start of menstrual periods).

Girls answered a headache questionnaire to find out if they suffered from migraine headache, no migraine or probable migraine the latter is defined as meeting all the diagnostic criteria for migraine except one. The average age at which they completed the survey was 16.

Of those surveyed, 85 girls (11 per cent) were diagnosed with migraine headache while 53 (7%) had a probable migraine and 623 (82%) had no migraine.

Researchers found that girls with migraine had an earlier age of thelarche (breast development) and the onset of menarche (menstrual periods) than those with no migraine.

On the average breast, development occurred four months earlier in those with migraine while menstruation started five months earlier. There was no difference in the age of pubarche (pubic hair development) between those with migraine and no migraine.

"There was a 25% increase in the chance of having migraine for each year earlier that a girl experienced either thelarche or



menarche. This suggests a strong relationship between early puberty and the development of migraine in adolescent girls," said Susan Pinney, the lead investigator on the study.

The age of onset of thelarche, pubarche or menarche did not differ between those with probable migraine and no migraine, said Pinney.

Previous research suggested that migraine often starts with the onset of menstrual cycles during menarche in adolescent girls. But this study looks at earlier stages of puberty such as thelarche and pubarche, explained Martin.

"To suggest the origins of migraine may occur actually before menstrual periods begin is pretty novel. At each of these stages, different hormones are starting to appear in girls. During pubarche, testosterone and androgens are present, and during thelarche, there is the very first exposure to estrogen. Menarche is when a more mature hormonal pattern emerges. Our study implies that the very first exposure to estrogen could be the starting point for migraine in some adolescent girls. It may be the Big Bang Theory of migraine," said Martin. **Courtesy Healthline**

Kulgam Police Intensify Anti-Drug Operations

Medical Shops Inspected, Narco Raids Conducted Across District

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, MAY 14: Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug-related activities under the War on Drugs and Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan, Kulgam Police on Thursday carried out extensive inspections of medical shops and intensified narco raids across various parts of the district to combat the growing menace of narcotics.

The drive was launched on the directions of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, Anayat Ali Chowdhary, with the objective of ensuring strict compliance with regulations governing the sale and distribution of pharmaceutical drugs and preventing their misuse for intoxicating purposes.

During the inspection drive, police teams checked several medical shops across the district and verified records, licenses and the handling of regulated medicines. Officials said the initiative was aimed at preventing the illegal use and circulation of pharmaceutical drugs and other intoxicants often linked to substance abuse and narcotics activities.

Simultaneously, Kulgam Police conducted intensive narco raids and search operations in multiple areas to identify individuals involved in drug peddling and other narcotics-related offences. The operations were part of the ongoing campaign to dismantle local drug networks and curb the spread of drug abuse in the district.

Police officials stated that the anti-drug drive is being carried out with full determination and will continue in the coming days as part of the district police's broader strategy to protect society, particularly the youth, from the harmful effects of narcotics.

Kulgam Police reiterated its commitment towards building a drug-free society and appealed to the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by sharing any information related to drug abuse, trafficking or suspicious activities.

Officials emphasized that public support remains crucial in the fight against drugs and assured that strict legal action will be taken against those found involved in narcotics-related crimes.

SP Smart School proves its mettle in JKBOSE 11th Results

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 14: Riding strong on the back of its robust education model, extensive focus on research and meticulously structured holistic development of the students, SP Smart School has yet again proved its mettle, securing top three positions across Jammu Division in the Class 11th results for the year 2026 declared by the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education on Wednesday.

SP Higher Secondary School's Sarika Saini topped across Jammu Division by scoring 99.6% marks and securing Rank 1 across all schools in Jammu Division of the Union Territory, while Ritika Manhas and Mansi Sharma secured the 2nd and 3rd rank across Jammu Division by securing 99.4% and 99.2% marks respectively.

Additionally, a total of 32 students of SP Smart School grabbed top 10 slots in the overall results.

Adding to its impressive tally, as many as 38 students have scored 98% or above marks and 79 students crossed 97% or above mark, while 164 students scored 95% or above marks.

In total, 948 students of SP Smart School scored 75% (Distinction) or above marks, proving once again why it has remained the choicest educational institution for the students of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir for decades altogether.

"The exceptional results attained by SP Smart School in the Class 11 examination are a testament to the unwavering dedication and commitment of the students, as well as the hard work put in by the teachers," CEO, SP Smart School, Shivang Satya Gupta said.

The students who secured top slots have not only brought laurels to themselves but have also brought immense pride to SP Smart School and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Like every year, this year's results reflect the school's commitment to academic excellence and its tireless efforts in providing quality education to its students. The outstanding performance of students is a reflection of their perseverance, determination, and the support they received from their teachers and parents," he added.

It may be mentioned here that the revolutionary SP Smart Schooling System has been implemented in 4 branches of the School across Jammu, with its campuses in Exchange Road, Sarore, Sidhra and a girls only campus at Udhaywala Bohri. With the implementation of SP Smart Schooling System in 2000-01, the school has shown remarkable results year after year, staying at pinnacle for more than a decade now.

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that the name mentioned in the Aadhaar Card of my daughter is incorrectly printed as Sheikh Mehnoor. However, her correct and official name, as per school records and other valid documents, is Mahnoor Hilal Sheikh. The details are as follows: Incorrect Name in Aadhaar Card: Sheikh Mehnoor
Correct Name: Mahnoor Hilal Sheikh, Father's Name: Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, Date of Birth: 09/11/2011, Address: Hanji Shart, Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir - 193302. Any Objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI and their Seva Kendra Offices within 7 days from the date of Publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

Public Notice

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

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of FAYAZ AHMAD KHAN 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

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 JAGR
BLOCK... 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

I Want to change the of my Electricity connection Having Consumer Id No :-0203010020598 Installation No :-1579327280 Rigitread in the name of Late Noor Mohammad Malik S/O :-Mohammad Rajab R/O :-Qamarabad, Qamarwari srinagar to Shafeeqa W/O:- Late Noor Mohammad Malik R/O:-Qamarabad, Qamarwari srinagar if any body have any objection regarding this He/She can contact Execative Engenar PDD Division Shreenbagh Srinagar Sub Division Watal Kadal Srinagar within aperiod of seven days ,After That No Objection Will be entertained.

Shafeeqa
W/O:- Late Noor Mohammad Malik
R/O:-Qamarabad, Qamarwari Srinagar

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name ABSALAM 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

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 TAILLEE
S/O... AB AZIZ TAILLEE
R/O ... WATERGAM WAGOORA

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

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Government of Jammu and Kashmir Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board

Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu/ Zam Zam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar
(www.jkssb.nic.in)

Subject: Extension in the last date for submission of Online Application Forms for Divisional/District Cadre posts in various Department(s), advertised vide Notification No. 03 of 2026 dated 27.03.2026.

NOTICE

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), vide Advertisement Notification No. 03 of 2026 Dated: 27.03.2026, invited online applications from eligible candidates for Participating in the selection process for various Divisional/District Cadre posts in various Department(s); and

Whereas, the last date for submission of online application forms in this regard was notified as 19.05.2026; and Whereas, the Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board has received various representations from the candidates for considering extension in the last date for filling of application forms; and

Whereas, the matter has been examined and it has been decided to extend the last date for submission of online application forms for the afore mentioned posts.

Now therefore, the last date for submission of online application forms in respect of Divisional/District Cadre posts in various Department(s) advertised vide Notification No. 03 of 2026 Dated: 27.03.2026, shall be 29.05.2026, instead of 19.05.2026.

Note: Candidates are advised in their own interest, to submit online applications much before the closing date and not to wait till the last dates so as to avoid the possibility of disconnection/ Inability or failure to login to the website on account of heavy load during the closing days.

No: JKSSB-PLAN/17/2025-06 (E-7817791)
Dated: 14-05-2026

Sd/- (Khurshid Ahmad Sanai) JKAS,
Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board.

DIPK: 1292/26 | Dated: 14-05-2026

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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

COMMENCEMENT OF CLASSES

- Winter Zone Colleges: 15 June 2026
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Rather reviews development scenario in Budgam

Emphasizes people-first approach to governance, prioritised public service delivery

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired an extensive review meeting to assess the overall development scenario in Budgam district, with special focus on his constituency Charar-i-Sharief.

During the meeting, the Speaker conducted a comprehensive review of various departments including Rural Development Department (RDD), Roads & Buildings (R&B), Jal Shakti, Health, Education under District Capex and other sectors. Detailed discussion was held regarding the performance and achievements of the departments during the previous financial year as well as finalization of plan for the current financial year.

Reviewing the sector-wise progress, the Speaker sought updates on the ongoing works, utilization of allocated funds, status of pending projects and implementation of various government schemes in Budgam district, particularly in Charar-i-Sharief constituency.

While providing the abstract of works during 2025-26 and 2026-27 (ongoing) under different sectors, the CPO Budgam apprised that in total 730 works were approved during the previous financial year in Charari-Sharief constituency, of which, 665 have been completed.

Regarding CDF, it was informed that 172 identified works had been identified by the MLAs, of which, 160 have been approved and 67 completed. Similarly, in RDD, out of 1628 approved works 1533 have been completed. In R&B sector, Charari-



Sharief division, total 41 works have been approved and 30 have been completed during 2025-26. In Education, out of 97 approved works 24 have been completed so far. In Jal Shakti, a total 67 works have been approved in Budgam and Chadoora division, out of which 41 have been completed.

A detailed discussion was also held regarding restoration of Chadoora bridge which is a vital link connecting a vast population of the area with Budgam and other parts of Kashmir.

The Speaker directed the officers of R&B to expedite the restoration of this important

bridge in order to mitigate the suffering of people. He also instructed the Engineers to keep the road leading to Bailey bridge on both sides in good condition for hassle free movement of vehicles.

The Speaker stressed the need for timely execution of developmental works and emphasized effective coordination among the departments to ensure that public welfare schemes reach the grassroots level efficiently. He directed the officers to prioritize the projects of public importance and maintain transparency, accountability and quality in execution.

The Speaker emphasized a "people-first" approach to governance. He issued firm directives to the concerned departmental heads to prioritize immediate redressal of public grievances and proactively resolve any administrative or technical bottlenecks hindering the completion of vital infrastructure projects.

"Our objective is to ensure that the benefits of development are not just statistics on paper but tangible improvements in the daily lives of our citizens," said the Speaker. "Administrative hurdles must be cleared swiftly to ensure that essential services reach the doorsteps of the com-

mon man without delay." In a significant directive aimed at enhancing the grassroots representation, Speaker JKLA instructed the district officers to actively involve the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) during the drafting and identification phase of developmental works.

The Speaker said that local representatives are uniquely positioned to identify the projects of high public importance. By collaborating with the MLAs, the administration can ensure that proposed works align with the genuine needs of the community and receive the necessary legislative approval and support to proceed without delay.

The Speaker reviewed the performance of all the major departments, directing the officials to address the public grievances with urgency.

"Governance must be inclusive and responsive," Speaker JKLA stated. "By involving local MLAs in the planning process, we ensure that development is prioritized where it is needed most. Our goal remains the seamless delivery of basic amenities and essential services directly to the doorsteps of the people", he added.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from the district administration to adhere to strict timelines, ensuring that the vision for a developed and self-reliant Budgam is realized through coordinated departmental efforts.

Senior officers from various departments attended the meeting and briefed the Speaker regarding achievements, challenges and future action plans concerning developmental activities in the district.

DC Kishtwar chairs introductory meeting of DVOs with SSP ACB DKR

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, MAY 14: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired an introductory meeting of nominated District Vigilance Officers (DVOs) (DDOs) with the new SSP Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Doda-Kishtwar Range Vipin Chandran at the DC Office Complex.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the primary objective of the interaction was to strengthen accessibility, coordination and cooperation between the district administration and the Anti-Corruption Bureau. He urged the District Vigilance Officers, including DDOs, District and Sectoral Officers to actively raise and report field-level issues and governance-related concerns for timely redressal. Highlighting the importance of good governance, the DC stated that integrity, transparency and accountability are the three fundamental pillars of effective administration. He said that the Vigilance Organisation has an important role in identifying gaps in governance, which can be effectively bridged through proactive vigilance by the DVOs. The DC stressed the need for preventive vigilance through awareness and timely reporting of any irregularities, unnecessary demands, procedural violations, or lapses in governance. He directed all officers to strictly adhere to the General Financial Rules (GFRs) and ensure transparency in official functioning.

He further stated that any matter involving lack of adherence to rules, criminal intent, misuse of official position, or other suspicious activities should be immediately brought to the notice of the SSP ACB DKR. He emphasized that strict and exemplary punishment must be ensured in proven cases so as to deter others from indulging in corrupt practices. SSP ACB interacted with the officers and assured full cooperation from the Anti-Corruption Bureau in addressing complaints and strengthening vigilance mechanisms in the district. The DC urged all DVOs to maintain close coordination with the ACB and work collectively to fill governance gaps, ensuring accountability and public trust in the administration.

The meeting was attended by all DVOs; including ADDC Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC Pawan Kotwal; PO ICDS Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma; ACR Idrees Lone; ACD Manoj Kumar; SDM Dr. Mohd Ashraf; SDM Nayeem Ur Rehman; ACP Neeraj Sharma; ALC Mamta Sudershan; ARTO Tasleem Wani; CEO Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; CAO Kushal Chandel; CHO Sajid Mustafa; DSEO Suresh Sharma; MS DH Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal; DPM JKRLM; besides other district and sectoral officers and concerned staff.

Tailoring course for Women commences at SBI RSETI Ramban; DC inaugurates

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, MAY 14: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Aiyas Khan today inaugurated the Women's Tailor Training Programme here at SBI RSETI. The event was attended by Director RSETI S. Harvinder Singh, Tehsildar Deep Kumar, RSETI staff members, trainees and others.

The training course has been designed to equip women trainees with modern tailoring skills, enabling them to become self-reliant and financially independent through self-employment opportunities. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated SBI RSETI for promoting entrepreneurship among rural youth and women. He emphasised the importance of skill-based training programmes in strengthening the economic condition of women and encouraging them to start their own ventures.

He further motivated the trainees to take maximum benefit from the training and effectively utilise the acquired skills for sustainable income generation. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the training facilities being provided at the institute. He assured full support from the district administration for the initiatives aimed at the socio-economic uplift of the younger generation. He highlighted that empowering women through skill development is essential for building a self-reliant society. Speaking on the occasion, Director SBI RSETI S. Harvinder Singh highlighted the role of the institute in providing free skill development training programmes for unemployed youth and women across the district. He informed that the Tailor Training Programme would provide practical and entrepreneurship-oriented training to participants for establishing their own tailoring units and businesses.

DDC Anantnag reviews progress on Mission YUVA, HADP, Financial Inclusion Schemes

Directs time bound saturation of targets

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MAY 14: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of Mission YUVA, the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), and several Financial Inclusion Schemes at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

The meeting was attended by the CPO, SE KPDC, ACD, CMO, DD Employment, CAO, CAHO, DFO Social Forestry, ALC, DEPO, DYSSO, EOs of MCs, LBM, representatives of different departments, District Coordinator CSCs and other concerned officials.

During the session, the DDC evaluated the implementation

and saturation levels of key financial inclusion initiatives including PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PM SBY), PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PM JJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (PM APY), and PM Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM).

The meeting was informed that cumulatively 46303 beneficiaries have been enrolled under these schemes to date with the focus to register most eligible and vulnerable sections of the district.

Taking strong note of the low performance of these schemes, the DDC directed Lead Bank Manager to enroll all eligible beneficiaries under PM JJBY, PM SBY, APY and PM SYM Schemes adding these have been tailored to meet the requirements of low

income and vulnerable groups. He emphasized that any procedural bottlenecks must be cleared immediately to ensure that the benefits of these government-led initiatives reach the target population without delay. Departments were assigned specific targets and were asked to ensure the enrollment of beneficiaries from their target groups in coordination with the LBM and CSCs in a time bound manner.

On flagship initiatives of HADP and JKCIIP, department-wise application status, unit establishment, fund utilisation, approval rate, tracking, farm registration and measures to improve credit score and approval rates were reviewed threadbare.

The meeting was informed that 34351 applications have

been approved under HADP, of which 15525 have established their units, which are being tracked on OTA.

Highlighting low performance of certain parameters, the DDC stressed on enhancing coverage, unit establishment, registration of farms and real-time tracking of units on OTA besides ensuring swift disbursement of loan and subsidy components to the beneficiaries.

Reviewing Mission YUVA, the DDC said it is a transformative flagship initiative aimed at empowering youth by enabling them to become self-reliant entrepreneurs.

He emphasised that the goal is not only to provide financial support but to create a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem

in which youth have access to training, market linkages, guidance, and long-term mentorship.

The DDC directed all concerned departments, banks and implementing agencies to enhance the mobilisation and coverage of potential beneficiaries including college students, SHGs, etc. by creating sustained awareness in close coordination with each other adding the mission holds special significance for underprivileged and marginalised youth, needing proper support and guidance to improve their socio-economic conditions.

At conclusion, the DDC issued strict directions to all concerned officers to ensure substantial progress on different parameters of all these schemes before the next review meeting.

DC reviews availability of essential drugs, diagnostics; assesses status of ATF facility at GMC Udhampur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, MAY 14: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today convened a meeting with the district and block-level teams constituted for independent verification of the availability of essential drugs and diagnostic facilities across public health institutions,

besides reviewing the status of the ATF facility at Government Medical College Udhampur. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Development Om Parkash; Chief Medical Officer, Block Medical Officers and other concerned officers. The Chief Medical Officer briefed the Deputy Commissioner

about the availability of essential medicines and diagnostic services in public health facilities across the district, besides presenting the latest status of the ATF facility at GMC Udhampur.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure effective counselling of drug addicts at the block level.

Mission Shakti Jammu felicitates meritorious Girl students at PM Shri GHSS Khanna Chhargal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 14: Mission Shakti District Hub for Empowerment of Women Jammu - Department of Social Welfare J&K, organised a felicitation programme to honour meritorious girl students of PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School- Khanna Chhargal.

The felicitation was held under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to celebrate the exemplary academic achievements of the students. The initiative aimed to motivate young minds and encourage students to strive for greater accomplishments while embracing social responsibility. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who showcased their creativity, confidence and awareness through colourful cultural performances and thought-provoking debates reflecting the spirit of empowerment and education.

Speaking on the occasion, District Mission Coordinator Mission Shakti Jammu Shagun Manchanda sensitised students and staff members about the vision and objectives of Mission Shakti. She highlighted the importance of women empowerment, safety, social awareness.

Director FCS&CA inspects FCI Godown, Indane LPG Bottling Plant

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 14: Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Jammu Rajesh Kumar Shavan today paid visit to FCI Godown Birpur and LPG Bottling Plant at Bari Brahmana to oversee the off take and dispatches

of ration and LPG to the districts of Jammu Division.

The visit was primarily meant to get the accompanying team of officers acquainted with the process of bottling of LPG, distribution & marketing from the source and also to see the mechanism of maintenance of

quality of ration at godown levels.

The Director assessed the stock position of food grains and stacking arrangements maintained at the store. He also inspected store, Weigh Bridge and moisture checking laboratory to assess the prescribed quality

standards and operational procedures.

The Director was received by Divisional Manager FCI Navneet Kumar Rana who explained the overall functioning and storage management system of the FCI and other related parameters of maintain-

ing transparency, preservation and timely disposal and movement of stocks. The Director enjoined upon the concerned officials to ensure strict compliance with quality control measures while dispatching the consignment of ration to FCS&CA, Department.

Rolls-Royce, HAL's JV IAMPL inaugurates expanded manufacturing facility in Hosur, TN

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, MAY 14: International Aerospace Manufacturing Private Limited (IAMPL), a joint venture between Rolls-Royce and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) today inaugurated its expanded manufacturing facility at Hosur in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu, strengthening advanced aerospace manufacturing capabilities in India.

Spread across 12 acres, the expanded facility will significantly enhance IAMPL's capacity for producing world-class compressor and turbine components, while also building capabilities for developing complex and rotating parts for future indigenous and global technology programs, a company statement said.

Sashi Mukundan, Executive Vice President - Rolls-Royce India and Ravi K., Chairman and Managing Director, HAL, inaugurated the facility in the

presence of Seenivasan Balasubramanian, CEO - IAMPL.

Sashi Mukundan said, "This joint venture with HAL is not only testament to our long-standing commitment to 'Make in India', it is an example of the sustained efforts that have gone into the creation of a strong, resilient aerospace and defence ecosystem in the country. We intend to establish India as a strategic 'home market' and remain focused on developing future-ready capabilities in here built on innovation, partnership and engineering excellence. IAMPL is already a benchmark facility within our global manufacturing ecosystem, and it will play a significant role as we move towards growing our sourcing 10-fold from India, in line with future programs and partnerships. Congratulations to the team at IAMPL for its consistent growth and success."

With a strong legacy spanning nine decades and a grow-



ing footprint, Rolls-Royce already plays an important role in powering, protecting and connecting India across civil aerospace, defence and power systems. Our solutions are

powering significant platforms operated by the Indian armed forces, and provide uninterrupted power for critical infrastructure. These initiatives are further backed by local

partnerships, joint ventures and academic collaborations.

Ravi said, "We are pleased to witness the expansion and continued growth of IAMPL, our joint venture with Rolls-

Royce. As part of our shared vision to advance India's aerospace and defence industry, IAMPL is playing a key role in building advanced, future-ready industrial capabilities within the country. We are confident that these advanced manufacturing capabilities will significantly contribute to India's vision of indigenous technology development, while further enhancing the nation's standing in the global aerospace and defence value chain."

Seenivasan Balasubramanian said "The expansion of our Hosur facility marks a significant step in scaling IAMPL's manufacturing capabilities to meet the evolving requirements of our customers. With enhanced capacity for high-precision compressor and turbine components, we are strengthening our ability to deliver best-in-class quality and reliability to support both domestic and global programmes. Our continued focus remains

on efficiency and building a resilient, high-performance manufacturing ecosystem."

IAMPL, a 50:50 joint venture between Rolls-Royce and HAL, has been manufacturing high-precision machined and special-processed parts for technologically-advanced jet engines since 2012. Building on the success of its established operations in Bengaluru, where it manufactures complex parts for the Trent family of engines, IAMPL expanded its manufacturing footprint to Hosur in 2024. The expansion diversified its product portfolio to serve both civil and defence aerospace programmes.

With consistent class-leading performance, IAMPL has been part of the Rolls-Royce high-performing supplier group for the past five years. Today, IAMPL plays a critical role in supporting Rolls-Royce's global supply chain as well as the requirements of other leading engine manufacturers. UNI

Passenger vehicle sales rose to 25.4pc Y-o-Y in April: SIAM

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 14: Passenger Vehicle (PV) sales rose 25.4 per cent year-over-year (Y-o-Y) to 4,37,312, said Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Thursday.

The automobile industry body said that total production of passenger vehicles, two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and quadricycles in April was 29,22,427 units.



Total three-wheeler and two-wheeler sales also surged by 32.8 and 28.4pc Y-o-Y, respectively.

Rajesh Menon, Director General of SIAM, said, "Continuing with the momentum of the second half of FY2025-26, the first month of FY2026-27 posted high double-digit growth in Passenger vehicles, three-wheelers, and two-wheelers."

Menon noted that in April, the Passenger vehicles recorded the highest ever sales of 4.37 lakh units with a growth of 25.4pc over April 2025.

"Three-wheelers also posted their highest ever sales of 0.66 lakh units, registering a growth of 32.8pc compared to April 2025."

"A total 18.73 lakh units of two-wheelers were sold in April 2026, resulting in a growth of 28.4pc compared to April of the previous year."

Menon warned of the concerns of high commodity prices emanating from the disruptions in West Asia. UNI

Union Minister for Coal and Mines visits Eastern Coalfields Limited

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SANCTORIA (WB), MAY 14: Union Minister for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey on Wednesday emphasised the need for balancing coal production with environmental responsibility and encouraged the adoption of modern, sustainable, and eco-conscious mining practices.

On a visit to the Eastern Coalfields Limited here, Dubey highlighted the importance of technological advancement, efficient resource utilisation and continuous improvement in safety standards to strengthen ECL's operational capabilities.

He called for adoption of systematic and periodic stock verification measures to ensure the accuracy of the declared coal stock. Referring to the prevailing crisis in the global scenario due to war in West Asia and emerging energy challenges worldwide, the union Minister emphasised

the crucial role of ECL in strengthening the nation's energy security and maintaining operational resilience while maintaining optimum utilisation of resources.

The visit marked an important occasion for reviewing the company's operational achievements, ongoing initiatives, and strategic roadmap for future growth. Discussions were held on key aspects relating to production, dispatch, mine safety, operational efficiency and sustainable development initiatives undertaken by ECL.

As part of the programme, the union Minister visited the Kunustoria Area of ECL.

Dubey appreciated the efforts of Eastern Coalfields Limited and congratulated Team ECL for its commendable performance during the financial year 2025-26 despite several operational and external challenges.

He particularly acknowledged the company's progressive initia-



tives in Underground Coal Gasification for effective utilisation of coal at greater depth, scientific mine closure activities for repurposing of mined out land, implementation of First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects for

minimising air pollution and faster transportation of coal and expansion of solar energy installations.

He expressed confidence that ECL would achieve even greater milestones and attain a more

advanced status of implementation of all activities across all operational and developmental parameters before his next visit.

The Minister also directed that all issues that need intervention from the Ministry of Coal (related to different authorities in the centre/ state) and developmental matters should be submitted in a consolidated and structured manner so that necessary follow-up actions could be pursued effectively by the Ministry of Coal in coordination with both the State and Central Governments.

He also shared valuable policy guidance and strategic inputs aimed at enhancing productivity and supporting the long-term growth of the company. Reiterating the Government's commitment towards strengthening India's energy security, he expressed appreciation for the dedication and collective efforts of Team ECL. UNI

TVS Motor records 30 pc revenue growth, 40 pc growth in Operating PBT in FY 2025-26

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, MAY 14: Two and three wheeler makers TVS Motor Company on Wednesday announced that it has posted a highest ever revenue for the 2025-26 fiscal at Rs. 47,270 crores registering a growth of 30% as against Rs. 36,251 crores recorded in 2024-25. The operating EBITDA for the year at 12.9% improved by 60 bps over the last year and for the year ended grew by 40 per cent at Rs. 4,975 crores as compared to Rs. 3,563 crores reported during previous year. During the year, the Board of Directors had declared an interim dividend of Rs. 12 per equity share (1,200%), involving an aggregate payout of Rs. 570 crores

for the financial year ended March 31, 2026. Further during the year, the company also allotted 4 fully paid bonus Non-Convertible Redeemable Preference Share (NCRPS) having a face value of Rs. 10 each for every equity share held, amounting to Rs. 1,900 crores, with the maturity date of September 01, 2026.

During the year ended March 2026, the overall two and three-wheeler sales of TVS Motor, grew by 24% at 58.89 Lakh units as against 47.44 Lakh units in the year 2024-25. Motorcycles sales during the fiscal year grew by 24% recording 27.13 Lakh units as against 21.95 Lakh unit in the year ended March 2025. Scooter sales during the fiscal year grew by 27% at 24.13 Lakh units as

against 19.04 Lakh units in the year ended March 2025. Electric vehicles grew by 33% registering sales of 3.71 Lakh units in the year 2025-26 as against 2.79 Lakh units during 2024-25. TVS Motor now has more than 9 Lakh delighted EV customers.

Three-wheeler sales for the fiscal year grew by 63% at 2.19 Lakh units in the year ended March 2026 as against 1.35 Lakh units in the year ended March 2025. On Q4 performance, the company achieved highest ever quarterly revenue of Rs. 12,808 crores. Operating EBITDA margin is at

13.1%, as against normalised EBITDA of 12.5% in Q4 2024-25, representing a YoY improvement of 60bps. In the previous year. UNI

Sensex, Nifty snap four-day losing streak; metal stocks lead gains

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAY 14: The Indian Stock Market on Wednesday ended marginally higher after four days of consecutive losses. Strong gains were witnessed in metal, oil-linked, and select heavy weight stocks, offsetting weakness in IT and auto shares. At close, the Sensex rose 49.74 points or 0.07 percent to 74,608.98, while the Nifty gained 33.05 points or 0.14 percent to settle at 23,412.60.

Oil marketing company stocks ended near the day's high. HPCL rose over 5 percent after announcing its quarterly results.

BSE 150 Midcap index rose by 0.71pc, while the BSE 250 Smallcap index climbed by 0.27pc.

The overall market capitalisation of the firms listed on the BSE rose to nearly Rs 459 lakh crore from Rs 456 lakh crore in the previous session.

The Indian Rupee weakened 0.1 per cent to 95.7450 against the US dollar, surpassing Tuesday's previous all-time low of 95.7375.

Among the sectors, Metal stocks emerged as the top-performing sector. Nifty Metal index surged 3.18 percent. Further, Oil & gas, infrastructure, and consumer durable stocks also ended firmly higher.

IT stocks remained under pressure for a second straight session. The Nifty IT index fell 1.13 percent, while the Nifty Auto index declined nearly 1 percent.

SAIL rallied 14.43 percent to top the BSE Midcap gainers list.

Shares of Biocon moved higher by 4% in intraday trade. In the past three trading days, the stock price of the pharmaceuticals company has rallied 10 percent.

Gold and silver exchange-traded funds (ETFs) were trading sharply higher after the government raised import duties on gold and silver to 15 percent from 6 percent.

Gold futures for June delivery edged higher to Rs 1,62,621 per 10 gram, up 6 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,53,442 per 10 gram on MCX during the morning session. UNI

Global oil reserves see massive reduction amid Strait of Hormuz disruptions; threaten future price surges - International Energy Agency

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

PARIS, MAY 14: Global oil reserves are shrinking rapidly due to the disruptions caused by the ongoing US-Israel war against Iran, as well as posing the threat of further oil price surges in the near future, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has warned.

"The world is drawing oil inventories at a record pace as importing countries confront unprecedented disruptions to Middle Eastern supply," the IEA said in its monthly oil market report released today.

"Rapidly shrinking buffers

amid continued disruptions, may herald future price spikes ahead," reports CNN.

As per the report's findings, worldwide oil stockpiles took a huge dip from their pre-war levels, plunging by 246 million barrels between March and April to just 7.9 billion barrels, as the daily drawdowns from worldwide oil inventories in April were roughly equivalent to the combined daily consumption of Canada and the UK, the report shows.

Mounting supply losses from the Strait of Hormuz post the Iranian blockade, now in excess of 1 billion barrels, have led the



global oil demand to crash dramatically, as businesses and households cut consumption in response to the massive swelling of prices and constrained sup-

plies. The "steepest losses" are in the petrochemical sector, where there is less oil and natural gas to make crucial goods such as

plastics, fertilizers and pharmaceuticals, as per IEA data.

Aviation sector has also taken a heavy hit, as the total number of flights taking off worldwide "is also running well below normal levels, helping to ease some of the pressure on jet fuel prices, which nearly tripled after Middle Eastern exports were cut off," the agency added.

"Escalating demand destruction is underpinned by a surge in oil prices since the start of the war." The IEA now sees world oil demand at 104 million barrels per day this year, 1.3 million barrels-a-day less than its pre-war forecast. UNI

Gill believed 'it won't be easy' for SRH to chase 169 on 'tricky' pitch

Washington Sundar, who scored 50 off 33 balls, said "the plan was to not think much"



■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD: After batting first, Gujarat Titans (GT) posted 168 for 5 and at the halfway mark B Sai Sudharsan hesitated to call it enough for their bowlers. Their captain Shubman Gill, though, believed that his attack could turn it into a tricky chase for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). Kagiso Rabada and Jason Holder shared six wickets between them to dismiss SRH for 86 in 14.5 overs and go to the top of the IPL 2026 points table.

"Yes, we spoke about if we get anywhere close to 160-170, I think it won't be easy for them - especially with our bowling attack, so that was the chat in the middle," Gill said at the post-match presentation.

He credited his bowlers for landing the blows in the powerplay - SRH were 32 for 4 in the sixth over - after Washington Sundar and B Sai Sudharsan scored measured half-centuries.

"I think the way Sai and Washy batted, getting us close to 170 at one point, it looked difficult to reach there," Gill said. "And also the way we bowled in the powerplay - we have been bowling pretty well in the powerplay - kudos to both of our bowlers."

Washington took his time to get going, scoring just eight runs off his first nine balls. But he helped GT bash 74 runs off the last seven overs, during which he thumped six fours and a six.

"Definitely happy. I was just focusing on reading the situation," Washington said. "And obviously, the wicket was quite different from other games. So I just wanted to sort of understand what shots can be played on this wicket, and be successful. And also it was important for one of the set batters to play till the end. It helps. The plan was to not think much. That was honestly the plan. But yes, thoughts do come every now and then."

Washington unleashed some unorthodox shots as his innings progressed - in the 19th over, bowled by Eshan Malinga, there was the scoop for four off an attempted yorker over short fine leg, and a swipe off another missed yorker for six over deep square leg.

"Until the 17th or 18th over, I didn't really want to go all out," Washington said. "But, of course, in the last couple of overs, I tried to get as many boundaries as possible. Also sort of look to play the shots that would be possible on this wicket. But yeah, I mean, things went very well today." GT will next face Kolkata Knight Riders on May 16.

Barbados Royals to be called Barbados Tridents again in the CPL

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

LONDON: Barbados Royals will return to being Barbados Tridents, the name under which they played the first eight seasons of the CPL before the renaming in 2021.

The franchise will also return to Barbados' national colours, with a redesigned blue-and-yellow jersey replacing the pink kit in recognition of the "country's deep cricketing history and enduring national pride". As part of the move, the Barbados government is also set to become a "minority co-investor" in the franchise.

The rebranding will also extend to the women's team, which is one of three teams in the Women's CPL that was launched in 2022.

The renaming, which is part of the "One Barbados" initiative, is a three-year partnership intended to contribute to what's been described as a "much larger national movement", where the relaunched side will serve as a "year-round national asset", as a statement from the government of Barbados and Royals Sports Group put it.

Royals Sports Group, which took over the franchise in 2021, has agreed in principle to the government becoming a minority co-investor in the franchise, but it is subject to approvals. Majority ownership and day-to-day management of the franchise will remain unchanged, with the team continuing to be under Royals Sports Group.

"As Barbados marks its 60th year of Independence, the One Barbados partnership encapsulates everything that we, as a young nation, have accomplished thus far," Barbados prime minister Mia Amor Mottley said. "The return to the Barbados Tridents reflects our confidence, our pride and our ambition as a nation, as we begin to chart the path towards our next 60 years."

"Cricket has long been a core pillar of our national identity and self-determination. As such, it is incredibly fitting that through this partnership, we will see ourselves represented, in our national colours, with a name that speaks to who we are."

As part of the initiative, the franchise will also host a "Pink Promise" charity match during the CPL season to raise funds for charitable causes in Barbados. "One Barbados is a landmark partnership and, we believe, a first-of-its-kind public-private collaboration in elite franchise cricket," Manoj Badale, lead owner of Royals Sports Group, said. "It reflects our long-term belief in Barbados - not only as a cricketing powerhouse, but as a nation with deep global relevance across sport, tourism, investment and innovation."

Gay, Rew, Robinson named for England's first Test against New Zealand

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Emilio Gay will be handed the chance to secure Zak Crawley's former berth at the top of the order, with James Rew also in the squad as a spare batter, while Sussex's Ollie Robinson is back in the England set-up for the first time in more than two years, as the selectors announced an extended 15-man squad for next month's first Test against New Zealand at Lord's.

The squad is the first to have the involvement of Marcus North, the former Durham director of cricket who has been confirmed as England's new national selector, and is much changed from

the group that lost the Ashes 4-1 in Australia in January.

Seven of the winter's touring party are missing from the squad, including Jofra Archer, who was unavailable for selection, while there are six new or recalled faces. These include Leicestershire's legspinner Rehan Ahmed, who could be in line for a home debut after five previous caps in Pakistan and India, and two other fast-bowlers in the uncapped Sonny Baker and Matt Fisher, whose one Test to date came in the Caribbean in March 2022.

The most notable absentee is Crawley, who had been one of the central characters of the so-called Bazball era. His consistent



selection belied a Test average of 31.18 but reflected the management's belief that he had the

potential to raise his game against the best opponents. However, after averaging 27.30 in the

Ashes, he has struggled for form for Kent this summer, making a top score of 44 in ten innings.

In his place, England have rewarded Durham's Gay, who has reeled off 552 runs at 92.00 so far this summer, including three centuries. He also made four centuries in Division One last summer, prior to Durham's relegation, and showed form for England Lions in the winter too, with half-centuries at Lilac Hill and Canberra. Somerset's Rew is also named in the Test squad for the first time, having himself started the season strongly in Division One with a century and three fifties, until a tailing-off of form with four single-figure scores in the past fortnight.

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