

Srinagar
 Sunday
 May 24 | 2026
 07 Dhu'l-Hijjah, 1447 AH
 Issue No: 125
 Volume: 16
 Pages: 12
 Price: Rs 02/-

16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
HEADLINES TODAY
 Voice To The Voiceless

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
 ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS
 NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES
 VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES
 WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS
 9999038812
 9419008414
 Radio Colony, Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

Not A Single Drug Smuggler Will Be Spared: LG Sinha

At Anti-Drug March in Shopian, Says Narco-Terror Network Will Be Dismantled

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday declared an uncompromising crackdown on drug trafficking and narco-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that "not a single drug smuggler will be spared" as he joined a massive anti-drug march in Shopian.

Addressing a large gathering during the ongoing anti-narcotics campaign, the Lieutenant Governor said the move-



ment against drugs has transformed into a powerful public uprising across

the Union Territory, with citizens from all sections of society joining hands to eradicate the menace.

"What began 43 days ago in Jammu has now become a strong grassroots movement across Jammu and Kashmir. Voices are rising from every locality demanding that drug traffickers and smugglers be brought to justice," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor described drug abuse as one of the gravest threats facing society, warning that narcotics are destroying the future of the youth while simultaneously financing terrorism.

"The poison of drugs is pushing our youth away from progress. Terror groups use money generated through narcotics to purchase weapons, and

Turn on Page 2

Renewed Commitment Towards Empowering Youth And Building A Developed India: PM Modi

229 Candidates From Jammu And Kashmir Receive Government Appointment Letters At Jammu Employment Fair



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, MAY 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the government remains committed to empowering the youth and building a developed India through transparent and merit-based recruitment, as

Turn on Page 2

Global Ties Focused on India's Youth: PM Modi

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India's international partnerships are purposefully structured to serve the country's youth and leaders of global corporations, representing dozens of nations, have talked about India's youth and its technological advancement.

After virtually distributing appointment letters for central government jobs to more than 51,000 youths at a 'Rozgar Mela', Modi also said the youth will play a crucial role in realising the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) in the years to come.

Turn on Page 2

Nasha Mukht Drive Gains Momentum Across J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: The ongoing anti-drug campaign, 'Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyaan' has recorded remarkable achievements and impact across awareness generation, rehabilitation, law enforcement, treatment, surveillance and prevention initiatives, reflecting an unprecedented whole-of-government approach against the menace of substance abuse in Jammu and Kashmir.

As on today, the campaign has mobilized lakhs of citizens, strengthened institutional response mechanisms, intensified anti-narcotics operations and expanded rehabilitation support systems throughout J&K. Under the Drug free J&K-100 days campaign, massive Public Outreach and Awareness Drives are being held across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir.

As part of the extensive awareness and outreach campaign, authorities conducted an extraordinary 16,37,484 awareness events across Jammu & Kashmir, with a staggering public participation of over one crore people.

Turn on Page 2

Carrying Over One Lakh Passengers In Just 22 Days Reflects Public Trust In This Service

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, MAY 23: The Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express has crossed the landmark figure of one lakh passengers within just 22 days of commercial operations, marking a major milestone in rail connectivity for Jammu and Kashmir and reinforcing public confidence in the region's modern transportation infrastructure.

According to railway officials, the semi-high-speed train service ferried 1,01,050 passengers between May 2



and May 23, reflecting strong demand for the newly introduced all-weather rail service connecting Jammu with Srinagar.

The train, flagged off by the Union Railway Minister on April 30, commenced regular services from

Turn on Page 2

Drug Traffickers Will Face Attachment and Forfeiture Of Illegal Assets

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: In a major crackdown on narcotics trafficking, Srinagar Police on Friday attached multiple immovable properties worth nearly Rs.5 crore belonging to alleged drug peddlers and traffickers across Srinagar and adjoining districts under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The action was carried out as part of the ongoing anti-drug campaign aimed at dismantling the financial infrastructure of narcotics networks operating in the Kashmir Valley. Police said the attached assets were allegedly acquired through proceeds generated from illegal drug trafficking activities. Authorities invoked Sections 68-F and 68-E

Turn on Page 2

Future Wars Will Be Multi-Domain With Cyber And Cognitive Aspects: CDS Gen Chauhan

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SHIRDI, MAY 23: General Anil Chauhan on Saturday asserted that future conflicts will evolve into multi-domain wars involving land, sea, air, cyberspace and cognitive warfare operating simultaneously, as he highlighted the rapidly changing nature of global military engagements.

Addressing a gathering during the inauguration of a defence



manufacturing unit in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district, the

Turn on Page 2

Geothermal Energy Project In Puga Valley Can Become A Game Changer For Ladakh

LG Saxena Extends ONGC Pact For India's First Geothermal Power Plant

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH/JAMMU, MAY 23: In a landmark step towards clean and sustainable energy generation, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar

Saxena has approved a five-year extension of the Memorandum of Understanding with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation for the development of India's first geothermal power project in Puga Valley.

Officials said the project, to be established at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in eastern Ladakh, aims to commercially

harness geothermal energy as a renewable and low-carbon source of electricity.

The earlier tripartite agreement signed in February 2021 between the Ladakh administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council and the ONGC Energy Centre had expired in February this year. ONGC

Turn on Page 2

CS Pushes Safer Roads, Smart Enforcement

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Transport Department to assess the progress achieved in road safety, traffic enforcement, technology integration and implementation of key recommendations aimed at improving traffic management and



reducing road accidents across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting besides ACS PWD and Principal Secretary, Home was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, Transport; IGP, Traffic; Transport Commissioner; SIO, NIC and other concerned officers. The meeting focused on the

Turn on Page 2

Extreme Heat And Dehydration Can Trigger Serious Neurological Complications: Doctors

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 23: With heatwave conditions intensifying across several parts of the country, doctors have warned that prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures is increasingly affecting neurological and eye health, particularly among children, elderly people and individuals with pre-existing medical conditions.

Medical experts said soaring temperatures, dehydration and continuous exposure to sunlight are disrupting the body's internal balance, leading to fatigue, dizziness, severe headaches, migraines, heat exhaustion and, in serious cases, neurological complications.

Hospitals across Delhi-NCR are witnessing a sharp rise in patients suffering



from heat-related illnesses, including dehydration-induced headaches, eye irritation and heat-triggered neurological symptoms.

"We have seen nearly a 20 per cent increase in patients reporting severe

Turn on Page 2

Short-term power markets to rescue 'J&K's 300 MWs gap'

HT News Network / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: With authorities projecting power deficit Upto 300 Megawatts (MWs) on the horizon, J&K State Load Despatch Center (SLDC) has decided to rely on short-term power markets to bridge the gap.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) in a meeting held in April, said that the authorities from Jammu and Kashmir have indicated that the region may face a minor power deficit of 100-300 MW. "SLDC indicated a minor

deficit (-100-300 MW) to be managed through short-term markets. Revised figures to be submitted," NRPC said.

J&K SLDC has further informed the regulatory commission that J&K may face a power deficit of 152 MWs in the ongoing month and 103 MWs in the month of June. The NRPC was further informed that there was a 79 MWs power deficit in the month of April.

Earlier in April KNO reported that in the peak winters of 2025-2026, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were utilizing nearly 1,000 Megawatts (MWs) of coal and gas energy

Turn on Page 2

پیشاپہ
 Preserve Your Ideas
 We Bring Them to Life
LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
 ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS
 We Publish in
 Arabic | Urdu | Hindi | Persian | Kashmiri
 Contact us:
 9697071471 | 9999038812
 lubaabpublications01@gmail.com

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Not A Single....

innocent people suffer because of it," he said. In a stern warning to those involved in the illegal trade, LG Sinha said strict legal action would be taken against anyone found supporting or facilitating drug networks, regardless of their position or status.

"Whether an official or any person in public life, if anyone is linked to the drug network in any manner, strict action will follow. If even the slightest trace of this menace exists within the system, it will be removed without hesitation," he asserted.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir now fully understand that the fight against narcotics is not a distant concern but a direct challenge confronting every household.

"The fear that many parents live with today must end. We have to ensure safety and security for every family and protect our young generation from falling victim to this menace," he added.

Highlighting the progress made under the anti-drug campaign, the Lieutenant Governor said authorities have intensified enforcement measures across the Union Territory over the past 43 days.

According to official figures, 797 FIRs have been registered while 894 drug smugglers and peddlers have been arrested. Fifty-nine accused have been booked under stringent preventive detention laws related to narcotics offences.

Authorities have also demolished 81 properties allegedly constructed using proceeds from drug trafficking and attached 101 immovable properties linked to the illegal trade. In addition, driving licences of 457 individuals have been suspended, while recommendations have been made for cancellation of passports of 22 accused persons and registration of 606 vehicles.

The administration has also launched a major inspection drive targeting pharmaceutical outlets. More than 5,600 medical stores were inspected, leading to suspension or cancellation of licences of 268 shops, while criminal cases were registered against six establishments.

The Lieutenant Governor further said that over 7,000 women's committees have been constituted across Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen community participation in the fight against drugs.

He also announced that the administration is preparing a comprehensive rehabilitation policy focused not only on de-addiction but also on providing employment opportunities and reintegration support to affected youth.

"Our objective is to bring addicted youth back into the mainstream and help them rebuild their lives with dignity and opportunity," he said.

Renewed....

229 candidates from Jammu and Kashmir received appointment letters during an employment fair organised in Jammu.

The employment fair was organised by the Jammu division of Northern Railway as part of the Centre's nationwide recruitment initiative aimed at inducting young people into government services.

The Prime Minister addressed newly recruited candidates across the country through video conferencing at the start of the programme. In his address, he said the recruitment drive reflected a renewed national commitment towards creating opportunities for the youth while ensuring transparency in government appointments.

Officials said more than 5,100 candidates were selected across the country in the latest round of recruitment, including 229 from Jammu and Kashmir.

Appointment letters were distributed at the Convention Centre in Jammu by Divisional Railway Manager Jammu Vivek Kumar and Railway Recruitment Board Jammu Chairman Sanjay Tyagi.

The selected candidates were appointed to various positions in banks, railways, the armed forces, medical services and departments of the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Addressing the gathering, Vivek Kumar said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir possess considerable talent and that employment initiatives such as the fair provide meaningful opportunities for them to contribute to national development.

He further said Indian Railways remains committed to supporting employment generation and public welfare initiatives in the region.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from newly selected candidates and their family members, with officials describing the initiative as part of a broader effort to strengthen employment opportunities for the youth across the country.

Global Ties.....

Sharing insights from his just-concluded five-country tour, the prime minister conveyed the excitement that leaders of global corporations, representing dozens of nations, had expressed about India's youth and its technological advancement.

"The world wants to be a part of India's development journey," he said. Modi made it clear that India's international partnerships are purposefully structured to serve its youth.

"The purpose is that India's youth get employment and global exposure," he said.

Elaborating on the diplomatic and economic outcomes of his visits to the UAE, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, the PM outlined sector-specific agreements forged and dialogues held with each nation.

He said discussions were held on semiconductors, water, agriculture and advanced manufacturing with the Netherlands; on cooperation in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital innovation with Sweden; on green technology and maritime cooperation with Norway; MoUs signed on strategic energy and technology partnerships with the UAE; and agreements signed on defence, critical minerals and science and technology with Italy.

Modi underlined the long-range significance of these collaborations and said these are the sectors

that will shape industries, defining global growth for the next 25 years.

Citing the ASML-Tata Electronics agreement as a concrete example of India's growing stature as a trusted global supply chain partner, he pointed out that India is among only a handful of countries with which the Dutch semiconductor giant has signed an accord.

He said partnerships with Sweden on AI and cooperation with the UAE on supercomputing would similarly bolster India's technological capabilities. "This ASML-Tata Electronics agreement alone will create thousands of new employment opportunities in India," he said.

Highlighting the rapid rise of clean energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen and sustainable manufacturing as sectors of immense opportunity, the PM noted that growing collaboration with Sweden, Norway and Italy in green transition and sustainable technology would position India strongly in the clean manufacturing industries of the future.

"These partnerships are opening the doors of a new economy and new opportunities," he said.

Pointing to accelerated work on ports, shipping and maritime infrastructure agreements, Modi observed that partnerships with the UAE and Norway would fortify India's shipbuilding ecosystem, directly expanding the horizon of opportunity for the country's engineers, technicians and skilled workers.

"New opportunities will be created for India's engineers, technicians and skilled workers," he said.

Noting that each new partnership simultaneously widens global connectivity for Indian startups, researchers and young professionals, the PM reflected on a world today that respects nations which innovate, build, and deliver at scale.

He exuded pride that India is advancing on all three fronts. "The greatest force behind this transformation is India's youth, all of you," he said.

Welcoming the new entrants into government service, Modi underscored their imminent contribution to India's development across sectors, including railways, banking, defence, health and education.

Honouring the dedication and rigorous preparation that brought the appointees to this milestone, the prime minister extended his heartfelt congratulations to each one of them.

Nasha Muk.....

indicating widespread community engagement and growing public support for the anti-drug movement.

The outreach programmes included Mega pad-yatras, road shows, school and college campaigns, village-level awareness drives, signature campaigns, community meetings, youth engagement activities, sports events, cultural events, seminars, counselling sessions, and social media advocacy initiatives aimed at sensitizing society about the dangers of drug addiction.

Under this campaign, Mental Health and Counselling Support services have also been strengthened as through Tele-MANAS and Counselling Support initiative, around 3,572 calls were received from individuals seeking psychological support, counselling, and guidance related to mental health and substance abuse issues. Strengthening of accessible counselling services has become a critical pillar of the Administration's strategy to ensure early intervention and emotional support for vulnerable individuals and families affected by addiction.

Treatment and Rehabilitation Services have also been expanded across J&K. Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) of Health department have reported substantial patient engagement during the campaign period. 58,603 patients were received at treatment facilities, with 58,138 patients availing OPD treatment services, 465 patients IPD intensive inpatient care, besides 192 patients were cured and released.

Simultaneously, the Social Welfare Department-operated DDAC Rehabilitation Centres provided Treatment and Rehabilitation Services to affected individuals. 634 patients received treatment support, 1,055 individuals underwent counselling sessions, 29 patients successfully recovered and 851 active patients continue to receive rehabilitation support in these centres.

Police department is also providing substantial Counselling and Rehabilitation Support services. Under Police run DDAC and counselling support initiatives, 451 patients were registered, 786 patients received counselling and 138 patients recovered successfully, besides 363 active cases remain under monitoring and rehabilitation support.

Under this ongoing campaign, an Aggressive Crackdown on Drug Networks has also been launched by the enforcement agencies. Police Department's NDPS operations witnessed extensive action against drug trafficking networks and peddlers across J&K.

During the ongoing campaign, 850 FIRs were registered under NDPS-related offences, 942 persons were arrested, 293 drug peddlers were apprehended and 49 drug hotspots were identified for focused intervention.

The enforcement agencies have also intensified financial investigations against narcotics syndicates as authorities carried out major action against illegally acquired assets linked to drug traffickers.

Carrying Over.....

May 2 and has since witnessed consistently high occupancy. Railway authorities said the service is rapidly emerging as a preferred mode of travel due to its affordability, comfort and reliability.

Passengers are paying around Rs 730, excluding catering charges, for the journey, while airfares between Jammu and Srinagar frequently range between Rs 9,000 and Rs 15,000. Officials said the comparatively low fare has made the service accessible to a wider section of travellers.

The Vandee Bharat Express completes the journey between Jammu and Srinagar in a little over four-and-a-half hours, offering a faster and more dependable alternative to road travel on the Jammu-Srinagar

National Highway, which often faces disruptions due to landslides and adverse weather conditions.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal, described the achievement as a matter of pride for Northern Railway.

"Carrying over 1,01,050 passengers in just 22 days reflects the trust reposed by people in this service. It is a testament to our commitment to providing world-class infrastructure and modern rail connectivity to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Singhal said.

He said passengers have responded positively to the train's comfort, onboard facilities, cleanliness and safety standards.

"Our focus remains on maintaining the highest standards of punctuality, cleanliness and safety. We thank all passengers for making this service a success in such a short span," he added.

Railway officials said the all-weather rail connectivity has addressed longstanding travel difficulties faced by people of the region and fulfilled a long-cherished aspiration of linking the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country through a dependable railway network.

Apart from improving passenger mobility, officials believe the service will significantly boost tourism and facilitate quicker transportation of horticulture produce and handicrafts from Kashmir to markets across India.

The train is equipped with modern amenities, including GPS-based passenger information systems and upgraded interiors aimed at enhancing passenger convenience and travel experience.

To further improve onboard services, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has introduced a special vegetarian Kashmiri menu on the route. Passengers can choose to opt out of meals while booking tickets, with catering charges deducted from the fare, while onboard food purchases are also available subject to availability.

Railway authorities termed the achievement a landmark moment in the transportation history of Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the growing acceptance of modern rail infrastructure in the region.

Drug Traffickers.....

of the NDPS Act after completing legal formalities in the presence of magistrates, revenue officials and local witnesses.

Among the properties attached were residential houses belonging to Bilal Ahmad Sheikh and Aneek Ahmad Sheikh of Larbal Beerwah in Budgam district, who are accused in FIR No. 37/2024 registered at Police Station Saddar Srinagar under the NDPS Act. The two houses, including a single-storey and a double-storey structure, are collectively valued at around Rs.80 lakh.

In another operation, police attached a double-storeyed residential house worth nearly Rs.1 crore belonging to Suhaib Farooq Khan of Mini Colony Chanapora in connection with a narcotics case registered at Police Station Chanapora.

A three-storeyed residential house with attic at Jawahar Nagar belonging to Mohsin Ibrahim Naqash was also attached in connection with FIR No. 42/2026 registered at Police Station Saddar Srinagar under Sections 8/21 and 29 of the NDPS Act. The property is valued at approximately Rs.1 crore.

Similarly, police attached a three-storeyed residential house belonging to Farhan Manzoor Pandit of Kursoo Rajbagh in connection with a drug trafficking case registered at Police Station Rajbagh. The property has an estimated market value of around Rs.50 lakh.

Police Station Karan Nagar also attached a double-storeyed residential house belonging to Fayaz Ahmad Rafter of Ajas Bandipora in connection with a case involving Sections 8/21 and 29 of the NDPS Act along with Section 111 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

In a separate action, police attached a double-storeyed residential house at Bakshiabad Bemina belonging to Abid Hassan Dar, accused in FIR No. 18/2022 of Police Station Batamalo under multiple provisions of the NDPS Act and the Indian Penal Code. The property is valued at nearly Rs.1.7 crore.

Senior police officials said the crackdown reflects the force's determination to eliminate the drug menace and safeguard the youth from substance abuse. They warned that individuals involved in narcotics trafficking or related unlawful activities would face stringent legal action, including seizure and forfeiture of illegally acquired assets.

Police also appealed to the public to share information regarding drug peddling or substance abuse with the nearest police establishment, assuring complete confidentiality of informants.

Future Wars.....

Chief of Defence Staff said modern warfare can no longer be viewed through the lens of conventional troop strength or traditional weapon systems alone.

He stated that emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, drones, robotics, autonomous platforms, cyber systems, space technologies and precision strike weapons are increasingly shaping the future of warfare and strategic operations.

"Future wars will be multi-domain where land, sea, cyberspace, cognitive warfare, and air will operate together," General Chauhan said while underlining the growing importance of integrated military capabilities.

The CDS observed that future battlefields would extend beyond geographical boundaries into information networks, digital ecosystems and cyber infrastructure, making technological superiority and information dominance critical factors in national security.

He further emphasized that countries capable of rapid innovation, faster defence production and swift adaptation by armed forces would enjoy a significant strategic advantage in future conflicts.

General Chauhan also noted that technology, speed and innovation would emerge as decisive

determinants in ensuring operational success in the evolving global security landscape.

The remarks come amid increasing global focus on advanced military technologies and the modernization of defence capabilities to counter emerging threats across multiple domains.

Geothermal.....

sought an extension citing delays caused by extreme weather conditions and difficult terrain.

Considering the strategic significance of the project, the Lieutenant Governor approved the extension for another five years.

Under the revised agreement, ONGC will establish a 1-MWe pilot geothermal power plant in Puga Valley and prepare a detailed project report for large-scale commercial exploitation of geothermal resources in Ladakh.

Officials said geothermal energy, derived from heat stored beneath the Earth's surface, is considered a reliable renewable energy source capable of generating continuous power with minimal carbon emissions. India presently does not have any large-scale commercial geothermal power plant, making the Ladakh project the first of its kind in the country.

The ONGC Energy Centre will deepen the existing geothermal well to 1,000 metres during the 2026 working season and later drill another well of similar depth. Testing and commissioning of the pilot plant are expected during the 2026-27 financial year.

The second phase of the initiative will include geothermal surveys and investigations in the Chumathang area, followed by drilling operations and preparation of a detailed commercial development plan.

The Puga Valley and Chumathang regions fall within the Himalayan geothermal belt, known for intense underground heat generated by tectonic activity. Officials said a test well drilled in Puga Valley had already encountered high-pressure steam and hot fluids with temperatures exceeding 200 degrees Celsius at a depth of around 400 metres.

Geothermometric studies have further indicated subsurface temperatures exceeding 240 degrees Celsius, suitable for electricity generation. The proposed pilot plant is expected to operate at a turbine inlet temperature of around 200 degrees Celsius and generate nearly one megawatt of electricity.

Officials said ONGC successfully drilled the first geothermal well to a depth of 405 metres in 2025 despite severe climatic and terrain challenges, making it the deepest geothermal well drilled in Ladakh so far.

"The geothermal energy project in Puga Valley has the potential to become a game changer for Ladakh and a landmark initiative in India's clean energy journey. Sustainably harnessing geothermal energy will strengthen Ladakh's energy security and contribute significantly to the vision of making the region carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable," Saxena said.

The project, alongside Ladakh's expanding solar energy programme, is expected to reduce dependence on conventional fuels, lower carbon emissions and strengthen the Union Territory's position as a renewable energy hub.

CS Pushes.....

implementation status of the recommendations of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCoRS), functioning of road safety mechanisms, enforcement initiatives, PM-RAHAT scheme, electronic monitoring systems and other flagship interventions being undertaken by the Transport Department in coordination with allied agencies.

Expressing concern over the recent tragic road accident in Udhampur district in which around 21 people lost their lives, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioners to submit comprehensive Annual Action Plans regarding implementation of SCCoRS recommendations in their respective districts. He also called for fixing responsibility in the recent Udhampur accident and directed the concerned authorities to furnish detailed accident reports from each district for proper analysis and corrective interventions.

Reviewing the implementation of the hit-and-run compensation mechanism, the Chief Secretary sought detailed action taken reports in all such cases and stressed upon ensuring timely disposal and assistance to affected families.

While reviewing the functioning of the e-Challanning system, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to immediately identify and address all bottlenecks hindering its successful implementation. He emphasized that technology-driven enforcement must be made fully effective to ensure greater transparency, accountability and compliance with traffic regulations.

The Chief Secretary also directed the authorities to explore the feasibility of creating a separate fund head within the Public Works Department (PWD) for rectification of accident-prone blackspots and hotspots across the road network.

He further stressed that executing agencies including BRO, NHAI and NHIDCL should also earmark dedicated resources for roads being maintained by them to undertake corrective measures in a mission-mode. He also emphasized development of passenger zones and designated stopping areas wherever feasible

for ensuring safer public transport operations.

Taking serious note of traffic congestion caused by encroachments in urban areas, the Chief Secretary directed the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to intensify anti-encroachment drives in the twin cities for smooth traffic movement and better pedestrian safety.

The meeting also reviewed safety measures concerning school transportation. The Chief Secretary directed for conducting a comprehensive audit of school buses to ensure strict adherence to prescribed safety norms and operational standards.

Reviewing the status of trauma care facilities in the UT, the Chief Secretary directed the Commissioner Secretary, Health Department to examine the upgradation of services in Government Medical Colleges for establishment of robust trauma and critical care services.

He stressed that specialized services including Orthopaedics, Neurosurgery and Anaesthesia should remain available round the clock in these institutions. He further directed the department to submit a suitable proposal in this regard besides ensuring time-bound completion of all Critical Care Blocks being established across J&K.

With regard to implementation of the e-DAR and e-Court portals, the Chief Secretary directed the Information Technology Department to take up the matter with Director General, NIC and Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) for making these systems operational in Jammu and Kashmir on the pattern of Delhi and Karnataka, considering the significant number of road accidents reported in the Union Territory.

Extreme Heat.....

headaches, dizziness, fainting episodes, disorientation and worsening of existing neurological conditions," said Dr Vinit Suri.

He said extreme heat and dehydration can adversely affect blood circulation to the brain, disturb electrolyte balance and place significant stress on the nervous system. According to him, prolonged exposure to bright sunlight is also emerging as a major trigger for migraine attacks.

Doctors cautioned that symptoms such as persistent confusion, slurred speech, unusual drowsiness, seizures or loss of consciousness should not be ignored as they may indicate a serious neurological emergency requiring immediate medical attention.

Dr Sushma Sharma said patients suffering from migraine, epilepsy and other neurological disorders are particularly vulnerable during periods of intense heat, poor sleep and power outages.

She advised people to avoid stepping outdoors during peak afternoon hours and stressed the importance of protective measures such as using umbrellas, sunglasses and head coverings. Maintaining proper hydration, she said, is essential to prevent confusion and neurological complications caused by excessive sweating and fluid loss.

Doctors also highlighted growing concerns over heat-related eye problems. Dr Neeraj Sanduja said excessive exposure to sunlight, hot winds, dust and dehydration is leading to rising cases of dryness, irritation, redness, allergic conjunctivitis and eye strain.

"Children and people spending long hours outdoors are especially at risk during the summer months," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Namrata Sharma said prolonged use of air-conditioners and increased screen time indoors are further aggravating eye-related complaints.

She noted that dry indoor air combined with excessive use of mobile phones and laptops reduces natural tear production, leading to worsening eye dryness, irritation and blurred vision.

Doctors have advised people to stay hydrated, consume electrolyte-rich fluids, avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, wear UV-protected eyewear and seek immediate medical care if severe neurological symptoms develop. (Agencies)

Short-term.....

amid dip in hydel power generation.

The official figures in this regard had revealed that in the month of January-2026, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were utilizing 999.21 MWs of thermal energy including 870.14 MWs of coal and 129.7 MWs of gas energy from the allocated shares in joint and central sector utilities.

The figures reveal that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were allocated with a total of 3767.44 MWs of power from state, private and central share out of which 999.21 MWs were thermal energy and 2673.1 MWs were from renewable energy.

It also said that out of the total allocated energy, the regions were utilizing 95.13 MWs of nuclear and 1115.88 MWs of hydel energy.

The figures also reveal that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the month of January-2026 were relying on nearly 66 percent of imported power.

Pertinently, as already reported by this news agency Jammu and Kashmir was importing more than 95 percent of its electricity in the month of December.

The officials earlier in the month had informed that Jammu and Kashmir is importing electricity ranging from 2900 MWs to 3100 MWs during the peak hours--(KNO)



Javed Rana reviews implementation of Forest Rights Act in J&K

Calls for wider awareness on FRA, SC/ST Atrocities Act among tribal communities

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired an exhaustive meeting to review implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister took a comprehensive review of the status of claims filed under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), functioning of various committees constituted under the Act and measures being taken for safeguarding the rights of tribal communities.

Emphasising the need for greater public outreach, the Minister directed the concerned officers to intensify awareness campaigns among tribal communities regarding the provisions of the Forest Rights Act and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled



Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. He said that the eligible beneficiaries must be made fully aware of their legal and constitutional rights so that they can avail the benefits guaranteed under the law.

The Minister also reviewed the nomination of members to Block, District and UT-level committees constituted under the Act. He stressed the need for

timely nomination and effective functioning of these committees to ensure prompt disposal of claims and transparent implementation of the Act.

During the meeting, the Minister directed that all unattended claims be examined on priority and due action be taken strictly in accordance with the provisions of law. He reiterated that the objective of the Act is

to protect the legitimate rights of forest dwellers and ensure justice to tribal communities.

The meeting was informed that Forest Rights Committees have largely been constituted across the Union Territory and the implementation process is underway in different districts.

The Minister further directed that any step regarding eviction, wherever required, must

strictly follow due procedures established under law and in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court. He said that the rights and dignity of tribal communities must be protected at all costs.

"The basic rights of tribal communities cannot be snatched and every action must remain within the framework of law and justice," the Minister asserted while reiterating the government's commitment towards safeguarding the rights and dignity of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department; Director, Tribal Affairs J&K; Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu; Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir; and Director Tribal Research Institute, J&K and other senior officers.

Javid Dar tours hailstorm hit Rafiabad, assures relief to affected farmers

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, MAY 23: Amid growing concerns over weather-induced losses to the Horticulture and Agriculture sectors, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Saturday undertook an extensive tour of hailstorm-affected areas in Rafiabad constituency of Baramulla district to assess the damage caused to crops and orchards.

During the visit, the Minister conducted on-the-spot inspection of affected agricultural fields and orchards, where the standing crops and fruit-bearing plants have suffered extensive damage following the recent hailstorm and inclement weather conditions. He interacted with the farmers, orchardists and local residents, who apprised him of the scale of losses incurred and sought



immediate government intervention.

Expressing deep concern over the hardships faced by the farming community, Javid Dar assured the affected families that the government remains fully committed to support them during this challenging period. He said that all genuine cases of crop and orchard damage would be thoroughly assessed and relief measures extended in accordance with government norms.

"The welfare of farmers remains the government's top priority. Every possible support will be provided to mitigate the losses suffered by the affected growers," the Minister said while interacting with locals.

He directed the officers of the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to immediately undertake a comprehensive field survey and submit a detailed assessment report at the earliest to facilitate timely compensation and relief measures.

The Minister also instructed the concerned departments to intensify awareness campaigns among the farmers regarding modern crop protection measures, disaster mitigation practices and various government-sponsored schemes aimed at safeguarding the agricultural produce from weather-related calamities. He further stressed the need for ensuring maximum coverage of farmers under crop insurance schemes as per the prescribed guidelines.

Highlighting the increasing vulnerability of the agriculture sector to extreme weather events, Javid Ahmad Dar emphasized the importance of strengthening the crop protection infrastructure and improving disaster response mechanisms to minimise future losses.

Senior officers accompanied the Minister during the tour included Director Horticulture Kashmir Vikas Anand, Deputy Director Agriculture Kashmir and other officials from the concerned departments.

Parents Meet Held at GMS Wani Mohalla Gandwani Under Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, MAY 23: Government Middle School Wani Mohalla Gandwani under Zone D.H. Pora on Friday organized a Parents Meet as part of the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of building a healthy, drug-free society.

The awareness programme was organized by the school administration under the banner of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan and witnessed active participation from parents, students and members of the school staff.

During the event, debates and interactive awareness sessions were conducted to educate participants about various social evils, particularly the growing threat of substance abuse among youth. Speakers stressed the need for collective efforts to protect children from harmful activities and guide them towards a positive and healthy future.

Parents attending the programme also shared their views and assured full cooperation in making the anti-drug campaign successful. They appreciated the efforts of the school administration for organizing meaningful awareness programmes aimed at safeguarding society from the menace of drugs.

Headmaster of the school, Mohammed Ayoub, said the programme was held as part of the ongoing 100-day campaign against drug abuse. He added that rallies, debates and awareness activities are being regularly organized in the school to spread awareness among students and the general public about the importance of a drug-free society.

KVK Anantnag (SKUAST-K) Organizes One-Day Awareness Programme on Weather-Based Apple Insurance Scheme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG MAY 23: KVK Anantnag, SKUAST-K organized a one-day awareness programme on the Weather-Based Apple Insurance Scheme in collaboration with the Division of Agrometeorology, SKUAST-K, with the objective of creating awareness among apple growers regarding risk management and crop protection through weather-based insurance mechanisms.

The programme witnessed active participation from farmers, orchardists, officials from the Department of Horticulture, representatives of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), scientists, and experts who deliberated on the importance of weather-based insurance in protecting apple growers against weather-related risks and uncertainties.

During the programme, delegates from Smartex and ICICI Lombard provided a detailed briefing on the insurance policy, highlighting its objectives, coverage, benefits, eligibility criteria, and claim settlement procedures. The delegates emphasized the role of weather-based insurance in minimizing financial risks associated with adverse weather events affecting apple orchards.

Dr. Ishtiyaq A. Khan addressed



the gathering and highlighted the significance of adopting weather-based insurance schemes as an effective risk mitigation strategy for horticultural farming systems. He stressed the importance of enhancing farmer awareness and participation in such schemes for sustainable agricultural development.

Dr. Sameera Qayoom, Head, Division of Agrometeorology, SKUAST-K, also delivered an informative session on the role of weather parameters in crop productivity and emphasized the importance of integrating weather advisories and insurance mechanisms to im-

prove resilience among apple growers.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which participants, including farmers, horticulture officials, and FPO representatives, raised queries related to policy implementation, premium structure, and claim procedures, which were addressed by experts and insurance delegates. Participants appreciated the initiative undertaken by KVK Anantnag in collaboration with the Division of Agrometeorology, SKUAST-K, for promoting awareness on climate-resilient and farmer-centric interventions.

PSA Delegation Meets DSEK Over Pending School Issues

Urges Transparent, Efficient & Student-Centric Approach For Smooth Functioning Of Schools

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: The Private Schools Association (PSA) high-level delegation held a detailed and constructive meeting with Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Naseer Ahmad Wani in Srinagar to discuss several pressing issues concerning private educational institutions across Jammu & Kashmir.

The PSA delegation was led by Senior Vice President Manzoor Ahmad Rather included General Secretary (Organization) M. Syed Wani, Director Media & Communications Dr. Owais Mattoo, Treasurer Hilal Ahmad Khan and Joint Secretary Dr. Yasir Ahmad.

During the meeting, the delegation raised a wide range of issues affecting the smooth functioning of private schools

and emphasized the urgent need for timely administrative intervention and institutional support.

The delegation highlighted and submitted a charter of demands before the DSEK, including long-pending State Land Issues and urged the authorities to frame proper and final guidelines to remove the uncertainty faced by schools. The members also demanded time-bound disposal of pending files, stating that unnecessary delays were creating operational difficulties for institutions and adversely affecting academic planning.

The PSA delegation further raised concerns regarding lease deed complications, particularly in cases where land owners were unwilling to renew long-term lease agreements, causing legal and administrative hurdles for schools, renewals, affiliation and compliance mat-

ters also came up for discussion, including NOC validity upto 10-year registration and renewal process and the need for establishing a proper Help Desk mechanism to facilitate schools in addressing official matters smoothly and efficiently.

The delegation also discussed difficulties being faced by schools in obtaining picnic permissions, stating that the present process was time-consuming and often created avoidable complications for institutions.

The members stressed the importance of promoting sports, debates, arts, cultural and co-curricular activities in schools and suggested that the education system should encourage holistic learning and student development beyond textbooks and academic evaluation alone.

The delegation also highlighted several operational and

administrative challenges being faced by private educational institutions and recommended regular stakeholder interaction meetings between the School Education Department and private school representatives to strengthen coordination and institutional cooperation.

Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmad Wani patiently listened to the issues and concerns raised by the PSA delegation and assured the members that all genuine matters would be examined strictly in accordance with the established rules and procedures.

He informed the delegation that there was no unnecessary pendency from the School Education Department regarding registration renewals and that cases were being disposed of promptly. He further stated that land-related files concerning

middle schools and above had already been taken up by JKBOSE in accordance with the existing Government orders and prescribed guidelines.

Speaking on the occasion, PSA Senior Vice President Manzoor Ahmad Rather said, "Private schools are playing a vital role in strengthening the education sector across Jammu & Kashmir. Timely clearance of affiliation, renewal and land-related matters is extremely important to ensure smooth academic functioning and institutional stability. We urged the authorities to adopt a transparent and time-bound mechanism so that students and schools do not suffer due to administrative delays."

PSA General Secretary (Organisation) M. Syed Wani said, "The Association remains committed towards constructive coordination with the concerned

departments for the resolution of all genuine issues faced by private schools. Effective communication, institutional support and timely administrative response can significantly help in addressing long-pending matters and improving the overall educational environment."

Director Media & Communications Dr. Owais Mattoo stated, "Private schools are important stakeholders in the educational landscape of Jammu & Kashmir. Issues related to registration renewals, affiliations, NOCs and land documentation require practical and timely attention so that institutions can continue to function efficiently without unnecessary procedural hurdles."

The PSA delegation thanked the Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmad Wani for giving a patient hearing to

the issues raised by the Association and expressed gratitude for his positive response and assurance regarding the redressal of genuine concerns.

The Association also assured its member schools that PSA would continue to strengthen coordination with affected institutions and facilitate the submission of pending files, revenue documents and other required formalities with the concerned departments in order to expedite the process at the ground level.

The meeting concluded on a positive and hopeful note, with both sides expressing commitment towards stronger coordination, institutional cooperation and speedy resolution of pending matters in the larger interest of students, schools and the education sector across Jammu & Kashmir.

HT EDITORIAL

Nasha Mukt Kashmir : A Collective Resolve to Save Our Youth

The growing menace of drug abuse among the youth of Kashmir Valley has emerged as one of the gravest social challenges of our times. What was once considered an isolated problem has now spread alarmingly across urban and rural pockets alike, threatening not only the health of young people but also the social, moral and economic fabric of society. In such a difficult situation, the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan launched under the leadership of Manoj Sinha deserves appreciation and public support.

The present administration has shown remarkable seriousness in tackling the drug menace through a multi-dimensional strategy involving law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, civil society organisations and grassroots participation. The recent padyatras, awareness campaigns, property attachments against drug traffickers and sustained anti-narcotics operations by police have sent a strong message that society will no longer tolerate those who are poisoning the future of Kashmir. The campaign has not remained confined to official meetings alone; rather, it has reached villages, mohallas, schools and colleges, creating a sense of collective responsibility.

However, while government initiatives are necessary and commendable, the battle against drugs cannot be won by law enforcement agencies alone. Drug addiction is not merely a criminal issue; it is deeply connected with social neglect, emotional vulnerability, unemployment, peer pressure and moral disorientation. Therefore, the responsibility to save our youth rests upon the entire social fabric of Kashmir.

The first and foremost responsibility lies with parents. In today's fast-changing world, many young people silently suffer from stress, anxiety and loneliness. Parents must become more approachable and emotionally available to their children. Instead of limiting parenting to academic expectations and material comforts, families must build an atmosphere of trust and communication at home. A child who feels heard and valued within the family is far less likely to fall into destructive habits. Parents should closely observe sudden behavioural changes, withdrawal from family life, unusual spending habits and declining academic performance, as these may be early warning signs of substance abuse.

Similarly, mohalla committees and local community groups have a crucial role to play. Kashmir has historically been known for its strong neighbourhood culture where people stood together during times of hardship. That spirit must now be revived in the fight against drugs. Community elders, youth volunteers and social activists should organise regular awareness programmes, sports activities and counselling sessions to engage young minds positively. Mohalla-level vigilance and community cooperation with law enforcement agencies can significantly curb local drug networks.

Religious scholars and preachers also carry immense moral influence in Kashmiri society. Mosques, shrines and religious gatherings should become platforms for spreading awareness about the devastating consequences of addiction. Islam strongly discourages all intoxicants and emphasises the protection of life, dignity and mental well-being. Ulema and religious leaders can play a transformative role by guiding youth towards spirituality, discipline and moral responsibility. Their sermons must not only condemn drug abuse but also encourage compassion and rehabilitation for those struggling with addiction.

Educational institutions too must move beyond routine academics. Schools and colleges should introduce structured counselling mechanisms, mental health support and regular interaction sessions addressing substance abuse. Teachers often notice changes in students before families do; hence they can become important pillars in early intervention and prevention.

At the same time, rehabilitation must remain an essential part of the larger strategy. Addiction should not always be viewed through the lens of stigma and social exclusion. Many victims of drug abuse need treatment, counselling and emotional support rather than rejection. Society must help recovering addicts reintegrate into normal life with dignity and hope.

The way forward lies in adopting a united and sustained approach. Government agencies must continue their strict crackdown against drug peddlers and cross-border narcotics networks, while society strengthens its moral and social safeguards. Youth must be provided with opportunities in education, sports, entrepreneurship and cultural activities so that their energy is channelled towards nation-building rather than self-destruction. Kashmir has always been known for its rich traditions, resilience and intellectual heritage. Saving our younger generation from the clutches of drugs is not merely an administrative responsibility; it is a collective mission to preserve the future of the Valley. If parents, teachers, religious scholars, mohalla committees, civil society and the administration work together with sincerity and determination, the dream of a Nasha Mukt Kashmir can certainly become a reality. The time to act is now before more dreams are lost, more families are shattered and more young lives are pushed into darkness.

THE HEAT WAVE

A Growing Threat to Life and Environment



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

The heat wave is one of the most dangerous natural weather phenomena affecting millions of people worldwide. In recent years, rising global temperatures and climate change have increased the frequency and intensity of heat waves. Extreme heat not only causes discomfort but also poses serious risks to human health, animals, agriculture and the environment. Understanding heat waves and adopting preventive measures can help save lives and reduce their harmful effects.

A heat wave is a prolonged period of unusually high temperatures, often accompanied by high humidity, that exceeds the normal average temperature of a region. It usually lasts for several days or even weeks. During a heat wave, daytime temperatures can rise to extremely high levels, while nights remain warm, providing little relief from the heat. Meteorological departments generally declare a heat wave when temperatures remain significantly above normal for consecutive days.

Several factors contribute to the occurrence of heat waves. Climate change is one of the primary reasons, as global warming has increased average temperatures worldwide, making heat waves more frequent and severe. High atmospheric pressure systems trap hot air near the Earth's surface, causing temperatures to rise sharply. Urbanization also plays a major role because concrete buildings, roads and reduced green spaces absorb and retain heat, creating urban heat islands. Deforestation further worsens the situation by reducing natural cooling and increasing local temperatures. In addition, lack of rainfall and prolonged drought conditions intensify heat and reduce natural cooling effects.

Heat waves have severe impacts on living beings. Human health is greatly affected during periods of extreme heat. People may suffer from dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, dizziness, fainting, headaches and fatigue. The risk of heart and respiratory diseases also increases significantly. Elderly people, infants, outdoor workers and individuals with chronic illnesses are particularly vulnerable during such conditions.

Animals also suffer greatly during heat waves. Extreme heat causes dehydration and heat stress among animals and birds. Livestock production declines, especially milk production, while mortality among birds and animals increases. Heat waves also create scarcity of water and food sources, disturbing natural habitats and affecting



wildlife. Many birds die during severe heat waves due to the lack of water and shade.

Agriculture is another sector badly affected by heat waves. High temperatures damage crops, reduce soil moisture and increase irrigation requirements. Crop yields decline and livestock losses become more common, resulting in food shortages and economic losses for farmers. The agricultural economy suffers heavily when extreme heat continues for prolonged periods.

The environment also experiences serious consequences during heat waves. The risk of forest fires increases significantly, while rivers, ponds and reservoirs dry up due to excessive heat. Biodiversity declines and air quality worsens because of increased pollution levels. Heat waves also accelerate desertification, which negatively affects ecosystems and wildlife.

People can protect themselves from extreme heat by adopting simple but effective precautions. Staying hydrated is essential, and people should drink plenty of water throughout the day while avoiding alcohol and excessive caffeine. Fruits with high water content, such as watermelon, cucumber and oranges, should be consumed regularly. Avoiding direct sunlight during the hottest hours of the day, especially between 12 noon and 4 p.m., can help prevent heat-related illnesses. People should use umbrellas, hats or scarves when going outdoors.

Wearing loose-fitting, light-colored cotton clothes is recommended during heat waves, while dark and heavy fabrics should be avoided. Homes should be kept cool by using fans, coolers or air conditioners. Curtains and blinds should remain closed during the daytime to reduce indoor heat, and proper ventilation should be ensured.

Special care must be taken for vulnerable groups such as elderly people, young children, pets and livestock. They should always have access to shade and clean drinking water. Strenuous physical activities should also be avoided during peak heat hours, and outdoor workers should take frequent breaks to prevent exhaustion.

Heat waves can indeed be fatal. Extreme heat can cause heat stroke, a life-threatening condition in which the body's temperature rises above safe limits and its cooling mechanisms fail. Symptoms of heat stroke include very high body temperature, confusion, unconsciousness, rapid heartbeat, hot and dry skin and seizures. Without immediate medical treatment, heat stroke can lead to organ failure and death. Every year, thousands of people across the world lose their lives due to severe heat waves. In recent years, several countries, including India, have reported significant casualties during prolonged periods of extreme heat.

Heat waves are becoming increasingly common and dangerous due to climate change and environmental degradation. They pose serious threats to human health, animals, agriculture and ecosystems. However, awareness, preparedness and preventive measures can significantly reduce their harmful effects. By staying hydrated, avoiding excessive heat exposure, protecting vulnerable individuals and adopting environmentally responsible practices, society can better cope with this growing challenge. Combating climate change and preserving natural resources remain the most effective long-term solutions for reducing the frequency and severity of heat waves.

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

Kirla Top -Where Nature Speaks In Silence



■ MOOL RAJ

High-altitude meadows, picturesque trekking trails, and untouched natural springs are rapidly turning Kirla Top into one of the most breathtaking emerging eco-tourism destinations in the upper reaches of Doda District. Far away from crowded tourist hubs and commercialized landscapes, this hidden paradise rests quietly among rolling green meadows, dense forests, and towering mountain peaks. Many local explorers consider Kirla Top to be among the most tranquil and secluded destinations in the region.

Visitor enjoying the scenic green meadows

A Rare Experience of Raw Beauty Surrounded by thick pine forests, crystal-clear streams, and panoramic mountain vistas, Kirla Top offers a rare experience where nature continues to exist in its purest form. For trekkers, photographers, campers, and adventure enthusiasts, the destination feels like a hidden paradise waiting to be discovered. Despite its growing popularity among local travelers, the meadow has remarkably preserved its raw beauty and environmental purity—qualities that have gradually disappeared



from many commercial tourist destinations.

The Journey: Stepping into Another World

The journey toward Kirla Top is far more than ordinary travel; it is an immersive experience deeply connected to the rustic culture and simplicity of mountain life. Travelers approaching from the Kahara side first arrive at Tanta village, located nearly 12 kilometers away via a well-connected black-topped road.

Traditional mud houses in Kirla Visitors can comfortably rest in the village, where locals are widely known for their warmth and hospitality. Small roadside shops offer tea, refreshments, and essential supplies for travelers preparing for the uphill journey. From Tanta, the route continues toward Kirla village

through a partially rough stretch of nearly 2 to 4 kilometers. Vehicles can reach the area, but beyond that point begins the true adventure—a breathtaking trekking trail of approximately 5 to 6 kilometers leading toward the summit of Kirla Top.

A Cinematic Escape The trekking trail itself becomes one of the most memorable parts of the journey. Along the route, visitors witness flowing natural springs, open grasslands, ancient mud houses, and peaceful mountain scenery untouched by urban noise. The sound of flowing water, combined with the cold mountain breeze, creates a deep sense of calmness rarely experienced in modern city life. Every turn of the trail offers breathtaking landscapes that feel almost cinematic.

Horses grazing in the lush mead-

ows Alternatively, Kirla Top can also be accessed through the Bhallesa-Gandho route, allowing travelers to approach the destination directly by vehicle while enjoying dramatic valleys, dense forests, and panoramic mountain views throughout the journey.

The Call of "Sukoon" Photography enthusiasts often describe Kirla Top as a dream destination because nearly every corner of the meadow appears visually stunning. From the upper ridges, visitors can witness endless mountain ranges stretching toward the horizon, many of them covered with snow during the winter months of February and March.

"THE FIRST THING ONE FEELS AFTER REACHING THE TOP IS SUKOON (PEACE)," SAYS LOCAL VISITOR ASIF HUSSAIN. "YOU DON'T JUST SEE NATURE THERE — YOU FEEL CONNECTED TO IT"

Preserving the Fragile Highlands Category Details Best Time to Visit May to September (lush green meadows)

Winter Highlights February and March (snow-covered peaks) Eco-Responsibility Avoid littering, reduce plastic usage, and preserve natural cleanliness.

For now, Kirla Top remains a living postcard — a silent paradise resting peacefully in the mountains of Doda.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER



BOOK REVIEW



MOHAMMAD
ARFAT WANI

The author is a writer, social activist, and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change. Email: wania6817@gmail.com

A Critical Review of Urdu Ka Musafir: Sultan Akhtar, Compiled by Sheen Shakeel

Languages remain alive and continue to grow because of the efforts of sincere people who dedicate their lives to their promotion and development. Such individuals work tirelessly for literature and culture without expecting rewards or recognition. One such personality is Sultan Akhtar, whose literary, journalistic, and social contributions have been beautifully documented in the book Urdu Ka Musafir: Sultan Akhtar, compiled by the noted writer and editor Sheen. Shakeel of Aurangabad.

However, this book contains much more than just a mere biographical information about Sultan Akhtar. It is a chronicle of all the activities performed by him for the sake of the promotion of Urdu. This volume is a compilation of articles, essays, poems, letters, and literary criticism about the person who has been working for the progress of Urdu.

It must be mentioned that the compiler of this book, Sheen. Shakeel deserves gratitude for compiling it in such a thoughtful way. There can be felt a respectful attitude of the author to Sultan Akhtar in it, though the compilation is quite informative. The compiler's note and acknowledgements are presented at the beginning of the book and help the reader realize what is the purpose of publishing this book and why Sultan Akhtar's works are significant.

This book is dedicated to a respected person whose name is Dr. Abdul Qadir Farooqi, and who is well known for his international works for promoting Urdu language. This dedication gives additional information about the idea of this book and the significance of the literary links between different countries. At the very beginning of the book, congratulatory poems from various well-known poets and writers are presented.

One of the most interesting and enlightening parts of the book comprises of analytical essays as well as appreciations written by famous literary personalities who have discussed numerous aspects of Sultan Akhtar's literary career. In fact, through the works of different

scholars and critics it is revealed that Sultan Akhtar not only writes but he also serves as a literary promoter and organizer.

Contributors to this section include some well-respected literary personalities like Noor-ul-Hasnain, Ghulam Saqib, Rafiq Jafar, M. Mubeen, Dr. Ibrahim Afsar, and Dr. Shabbir Iqbal. Each author discusses different aspects of Sultan Akhtar's literary personality; for instance, simplicity of style, social significance of his writings, commitment to the cause of truth and effective communication with the readers.

Another interesting aspect of the life and work of Sultan Akhtar discussed throughout the book is that of afsan-chi, which means writer of very short story. Critics have observed that the writings of Sultan Akhtar in this respect carry simple language and contain social relevance and human values. In fact, it can be said that these writings serve as a mirror for ordinary citizens as they reflect their life and social reality.

The biography gives comprehensive information regarding his personal as well as academic background that is important to analyze the literary path of Sultan Akhtar. He was born on 1 June 1980 in Solapur, Maharashtra. He pursued higher studies and obtained his degrees such as M.A. in Urdu and B.Ed. In terms of profession, he is connected with teaching and journalism. Both of these professions are helping him in contributing towards the growth of intellectuality of the society by stimulating their interest in Urdu language and literature.

Alongside his professional career, Sultan Akhtar is an active participant in literary societies as well. He holds the post of President of Bharatiya Urdu Kaas Foundation, Solapur, where he works consistently for promoting Urdu.

The book goes on to describe Sultan Akhtar's contributions as an editor and compiler of literary books. He has compiled several literary books in different genres throughout his life. Some notable examples include Aath Aane Ki Mithaas,



America Mein Urdu Ke Alam Bardar: Dr. Abdul Qadir Farooqi, Sikandar Fahmi, Muslim Science Daanon Ki Sainsi Khidmaat, and Nazir Ba Naam Sultan Akhtar. Other important compilations from his work include Naqsh-e-Wafa, Palkon Par Khwab, Dr. Javed Hussain Paloji, Dr. Abdul Qadir Farooqi: Hayat-o-Jihat, and Sargoshiyan.

Another important contribution of Sultan Akhtar's work is his association with different literary gatherings and cultural activities. The book describes how Sultan Akhtar organized a number of literary and cultural seminars, conferences, mushairas, release functions of different books, and online literary sessions ever since the foundation of Dr. Abdul Qadir Farooqi was set up in 2011.

These contributions have earned him several honors and awards. They include Maharashtra State Urdu Sahitya Academy Special Award (2025), Waris Urdu Sahafat Award (2023), Urdu Dost Award, Sufi Muhammad Ilyas Chishti Azizi Award, Ideal Teacher Award, and Nishan-e-

Imtiaz Urdu Award. This indicates that people have accorded him immense respect for his contributions over the years.

One of the most intriguing parts of the book is the section of letter writing. In today's world, the practice of literary correspondence is not very popular. However, Sultan Akhtar has succeeded in making this tradition survive by collecting many letters addressed to him. Not only have they contributed to preserving this literary form, but they also help in enriching it further since the letters discuss various aspects related to literature, language, criticism, and current events.

The letters include exchanges with a number of literary luminaries like Saleem Ansari, Qamar Jamali, Rashid Farooqi, Dr. Mohiuddin Zor Kashmiri, Dr. Ubaidullah Chaudhary, Dr. Tarannum Jahan, Muzaffar Hanafi, Waqar Shahsawar, etc. They can be extremely enlightening to literary critics and scholars who may wish to analyze the literary trends and

discourse of their times.

A number of the contributors to the book consider Sultan Akhtar as a real servant of the Urdu language. They appreciate the sincerity, devotion, and selflessness of the author and point out that he has served Urdu for many years without any personal interest. His friends and colleagues know him as a dynamic and dedicated literary person who has worked hard for the cause of the Urdu language.

There is a discussion on his style of writing in the book as well. It is said that he uses simple language which is understandable to everyone. He does not use complicated terms but makes his points crystal clear. This quality has made him quite popular among the people.

In terms of publishing, the book is also remarkable. It has been published by the Educational Publishing House, Delhi. It has a total of 112 pages, and the high quality of printing enhances its aesthetic appeal further. The beautiful cover page designed by Munawwara Uzma has certainly added to its value.

In conclusion, Urdu Ka Musafir: Sultan Akhtar proves to be a highly significant document for Urdu literature documentation. This book is successful in capturing and documenting the life and literary contributions of a dedicated personality who has done much for Urdu language and literature. It is indeed appreciable to note the efforts of the compiler, Sheen. Shakeel, for gathering such a rich set of literary documents and arranging them so well.

It is useful for lovers of the personality described in the book, and for anyone who wishes to know about contemporary Urdu literature. Not only does it pay homage to a single individual, but it also reflects on the ongoing endeavors being made to promote Urdu in modern times. Most importantly, it makes one realize how vital it is for a language to have individuals like Sultan Akhtar who carry forward its legacy for future generations through their passion and dedication.

Hidden Flame of NCC Cadets



M S NAZKI

Not a loud excitement, not a visible celebration, but a silent fire glowing within – this is what the cadets of the National Cadet Corps truly represent. Boys and girls in NCC uniforms carry within themselves a hidden enthusiasm, a cold flame of passion, discipline and patriotism that quietly shapes their character and strengthens the nation. Their enthusiasm is not measured by applause or recognition, but by dedication, endurance and the willingness to serve without expecting reward.

Life becomes meaningful when enthusiasm drives action. An unknown NCC cadet once reflected that if one is interested in something, it must be embraced completely – with passion, commitment and courage. Lukewarm dedication achieves little, but a burning determination transforms ordinary youth into extraordinary citizens. This spirit defines NCC cadets across India. They are taught not merely to wear

uniforms or march in parades, but to believe in themselves, protect society and stand prepared for every challenge.

The modern NCC is evolving rapidly under the vision of "Naya Bharat ka Naya NCC." During his visit to NCC Guwahati Group on May 11, 2026, Lieutenant General Virendra Vats, accompanied by Major General Anurag Vij, reviewed training, outreach and performance. The Director General appreciated the dedication of officers and cadets and stressed the importance of futuristic training in cyber security and drone technology while reinforcing the timeless values of unity, discipline and selfless service. The vision is clear – to create confident, technologically capable and patriotic youth prepared for the demands of the twenty-first century.

Today, NCC is growing into a stronger and smarter organisation with nearly twenty lakh cadets, including around forty percent girls. This remarkable participation of women reflects a major shift towards empowerment and equal opportunity. The organisation is spreading rapidly into rural India and has established its presence in more than seven hundred districts. Through this expansion, NCC is nurturing discipline, leadership and self-belief among young Indians from every corner of the nation.

Technology has become a vital part of NCC training. Cadets are now receiving exposure to drone operations, cyber awareness and digital defence systems. A partnership with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology has enabled cadets to learn digital hygiene and practical cyber defence skills. Such training is preparing youth for the realities of a technologically driven world where future warfare and national security increasingly depend upon cyber capability and unmanned systems.

The National Cadet Corps itself has a proud and inspiring history. Formed in 1948, shortly after India's independence, NCC emerged from earlier organisations such as the University Corps and University Training Corps established during British rule. The first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, played a significant role in promoting NCC as a national youth movement dedicated to discipline, service and unity. The Girls Division was introduced in 1949, while the Air Wing and Naval Wing followed soon after, transforming NCC into a complete Tri-Services organisation.

Over the decades, NCC cadets have contributed immensely during national crises. During the wars of 1965 and 1971, cadets supported civil defence authorities, assisted ordnance factories, managed traffic and participated in

rescue operations. The organisation gradually shifted its focus from pure military training to leadership development, social service and youth management. Today, NCC cadets actively participate in nationwide community programmes, disaster response activities and social awareness campaigns.

The motto of NCC – "Unity and Discipline" – perfectly captures its spirit. It brings together youth from different religions, languages, cultures and regions and moulds them into disciplined citizens committed to the nation. In an age where division and negativity often dominate public life, NCC continues to stand as one of India's greatest unifying forces.

Lieutenant General Virendra Vats himself embodies the ideals of dedication and service. Commissioned into the Kumaon Regiment in 1988, he has served in several important military appointments including command positions in the North East, Kashmir and international peacekeeping missions in Congo. Decorated with the Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal and Yudh Seva Medal, he now leads NCC with a futuristic vision focused on technological preparedness, leadership and patriotism.

Modern warfare itself is undergoing a revolutionary transformation. Cyber attacks, artificial intelligence and drone

warfare are redefining battlefields across the world. AI-guided drones, autonomous swarms and advanced counter-drone systems are becoming essential elements of military strategy. Recognising this changing reality, NCC is preparing cadets not just for traditional service but for the future challenges of digital and technological conflict. Human-machine coordination, cyber awareness and technological adaptability are becoming as important as physical strength and discipline.

Yet beyond all training and technology lies the true spirit of NCC – enthusiasm. It is the silent electricity of life that transforms fear into courage and ordinary individuals into determined leaders. A small child once touched a frightening insect and proudly declared, "I conquered my fear." That same fearless enthusiasm lives within every NCC cadet who learns to rise above hesitation and serve with confidence.

Ultimately, enthusiasm is the force that separates mediocrity from achievement. It is passion, determination, courage and belief combined together. The NCC teaches young Indians that service to the nation is not merely a duty but a way of life. Behind every cadet's calm face burns a hidden flame – a cold fire of patriotism, discipline and selfless devotion that continues to illuminate the future of India.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Primary School Satrajan Bangiward

Also lays foundation stone for ACR building at GMS Bangiward

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MAY 23: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited DH Pora Kulgam and inaugurated Primary School at Satrajan Bangiward.

She also laid foundation stone for construction of Additional Classroom (ACR) building at Government Middle School (GMS) Bangiward.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards upgrading educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in rural and far-flung areas. She emphasized that quality infrastructure is essential for creating a conducive atmosphere for effective teaching and learning. "Strengthening education sector and ensuring access to quality education in far-flung and underserved areas is what our Government strives for", she stated.

The Minister underlined that the educational infrastructure forms the backbone of social and economic progress and the government is prioritizing the development of schools across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister said that the



inauguration of the Primary School at Satrajan Bangiward will significantly benefit local students by providing better academic facilities closer to their homes, while the additional classroom block at MS Bangiward will help improve the overall learning environment and accommodate increasing student enrolment.

Emphasizing the importance of holistic educational development, she directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of all ongoing educational projects and maintain high standards in implementation.

Later, the Minister held a massive Public Darbar at Bangiward, where people from various adjoining areas projected a range of public issues and developmental demands. Residents highlighted concerns related to road connectivity, drinking water supply, healthcare facilities,

electricity, school infrastructure and other civic amenities.

Sakeena Itoo gave a patient hearing to the grievances and assured the public that all genuine issues would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner. She directed the concerned officers to take immediate action on pressing matters and ensure better public service delivery at the grassroots level.

The Minister emphasized that public outreach programmes and direct interaction with people are essential for responsive governance and help bridge the gap between the administration and the public. She added that the government remains committed to equitable development and inclusive progress across all regions.

During the interaction, several delegations and individuals also submitted memorandums highlighting local developmental requirements. The Minister assured them that their concerns would be examined on priority in coordination with the concerned departments.

Locals, parents and school staff appreciated the initiatives and expressed gratitude to the government for addressing the educational and infrastructural needs of the area.

Satish Sharma addresses NCC Cadets at SNIC 2026; hails youth as pillars of national unity, progress

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today addressed a grand gathering of NCC cadets and Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) from across the country at the Special National Integration Camp (SNIC) 2026 organised at Badamibagh Cantonment, Srinagar.

The prestigious camp, being attended by nearly 340 NCC cadets representing all 17 NCC Directorates of the country, was attended by the young participants from diverse cultural, linguistic and geographical backgrounds on a common platform of unity, discipline, leadership and national integration. Senior civil and military dignitaries were also present on the occasion.



The programme commenced with a ceremonial Guard of Honour presented by NCC cadets, followed by a vibrant cultural programme showcasing the rich traditions, heritage and cultural diversity of various states and union territories of India. The colourful performances reflected the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" and highlighted the role of youth in strengthening emotional and national integration.

Maj Gen Anupinder Bevlvi, VSM, Additional Director General, NCC Directorate Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh, in his address, highlighted the significance of the Special National Integration Camp in promoting cultural exchange, mutual understanding and lifelong bonds of friendship among the youth. He also appreciated the support and cooperation extended by Chinar Corps, 31 Sub Area and 216 Transit Camp towards the successful conduct of the camp. Addressing the cadets, Satish Sharma extended a warm welcome to all participants visiting Jammu & Kashmir and expressed happiness over the enthusiasm and discipline displayed by the young cadets. He said that the National Cadet Corps has emerged as one of the country's most influential youth organisations, playing a pivotal role in shaping responsible, patriotic and socially conscious citizens.

The Minister observed that camps such as SNIC provide a unique opportunity to young cadets to experience the cultural richness and diversity of India while fostering brotherhood, unity and national pride. He remarked that the youth are the true ambassadors of peace, progress and harmony and have a crucial responsibility in building a strong, prosperous and inclusive India.

Recalling his personal connection with the armed forces as the son of a soldier, Satish Sharma lauded the role of NCC in instilling values of discipline, dedication, leadership and selfless service among the younger generation. He said that the organisation continues to inspire lakhs of youth across the country to contribute positively towards society and nation-building.

The Minister urged the cadets to remain committed to the ideals of discipline, integrity and social responsibility and encouraged them to become active participants in developmental and nation-building initiatives. He stressed that youth empowerment through sports, education, technology and skill development is essential for building a progressive and self-reliant nation.

Highlighting the growing menace of drug abuse among youth, Satish Sharma called upon the cadets to become ambassadors against drugs and spread awareness about healthy lifestyles, fitness and constructive social engagement. He said the discipline and leadership qualities imbibed through NCC can play a transformative role in guiding society towards a positive direction.

The Minister also appreciated the initiative of organising the "NCC Unity Run - Run with Pride, Run for India" scheduled to be held at Nishat on May 24, stating that such activities promote fitness, unity and patriotic spirit among the youth.

Interacting with the cadets, Satish Sharma appreciated the warm camaraderie and enthusiasm witnessed during the camp and commended the efforts of NCC authorities, Army personnel and organisers for providing meaningful exposure to the participants regarding the culture, heritage and scenic beauty of Jammu & Kashmir.

The cadets reiterated their commitment towards the ideals of national service, unity and discipline. Many participants described the camp as a memorable experience that strengthened their understanding of India's cultural diversity and national spirit.

J&K House Chanakyapuri gets modern VVIP makeover to ease dignitary stay in Delhi

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, MAY 23: Jammu and Kashmir House at Chanakyapuri unveiled its newly redeveloped VVIP accommodation facilities on Friday, adding critical capacity to the Union Territory's hospitality infrastructure for the dignitaries visiting the na-



tional capital. Resident Commissioner, J&K, Ramesh Kumar, inaugurated the modernized 4th floor of C-Block in presence of Additional Resident Commissioner Anil Kumar Sharma and senior officers of the Resident Commission.

The upgrade has come after the reorganization of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, when A and B Blocks were transferred to the Union Territory of Ladakh. That left J&K with only the ageing C-Block, sharply cutting accommodation for the visiting Ministers, MPs, senior civil and police officers, judicial officers and official delegations.

To address the gap, the administration undertook a comprehensive revamp of the 4th floor. The redesigned level now houses three suites including Pashmina, Hangul and Chinar and two VVIP rooms named as Trikuta and Saffron. These all have been built on contemporary hospitality standards for comfort, security and a professional environment.

Anil Kumar Singh visits Golpattan under Vibrant Village Programme; outlines scheme objectives

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 23: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), PWD (R&B), Anil Kumar Singh, today visited Village Golpattan under the Vibrant Village Programme.

The visit aimed to assess the on-ground requirements and interact with the locals to accelerate inclusive development in the border village.

On the occasion, MLA Marh, Surinder Kumar Bhagat; Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas, Engineer-in-Chief, Chief Engineer, Director Finance (R&B) and other district officers of Jammu were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Anil Kumar Singh said that the Vibrant Village Programme is a flagship initiative of the Government of India to ensure comprehensive development of border villages. He stated that the scheme aims to saturate the selected villages with essential infrastructure, road connectivity, telecom connectivity, television access, electricity and livelihood generation opportunities.

The ACS emphasized that the programme seeks to reverse out-migration by creating employment avenues, promoting tourism and cultural heritage besides strengthening the basic amenities like health, education and skill development. "The goal is to transform the border villages into vibrant economic hubs while ensuring national security



through strong local participation. Every plan will be made keeping the people at the center," he added.

Anil Kumar Singh directed the district administration to prepare village-specific action plans in mission mode and ensure convergence of all schemes for maximum impact.

MLA Marh appreciated the Agriculture Department for timely providing the farm machinery including combine harvester and other critical inputs to the farmers of the area. He said such interventions are reducing the input costs and helping the farmers increase productivity.

The MLA further assured the residents that an Animal Ambulance will be provided for the area out of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to strengthen veterinary care and support livestock owners in

emergencies. He reiterated his commitment to work for the holistic development of border villages.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the broader contours of the Vibrant Village Programme and assured that the plan under the scheme will be finalized in consultation with the local representatives and citizens of the area to ensure that developmental works are aligned with the actual needs and aspirations of the people.

During the interaction, the ACS sought feedback from the locals regarding key issues and developmental gaps.

The visiting officers also reviewed the ongoing works and directed the concerned departments to expedite project formulation under the Vibrant Village Programme in a time-bound manner.

DIRECTOR CENSUS OPERATIONS J&K REVIEWS CENSUS-2027 PREPARATIONS AT JMC

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 23: A review meeting regarding the progress of Self Enumeration (SE) and preparations for the smooth conduct of Census-2027 was held today in the conference hall of the Jammu Municipal Corporation under the chairmanship of Chief Principal Census Officer/Director Census Operations, J&K Amit Sharma.

The meeting was attended by Principal Census Officer-(JMC Commissioner) Dr. Devansh Yadav, besides all Census Charge Officers of the Jammu Municipal Corporation.

During the meeting, the Chief Principal Census Officer/Director Census Operations, J&K re-



viewed the overall progress achieved by JMC in connection with the preparations for Census-2027 within the JMC jurisdiction and its outgrowth areas.

Detailed discussions were held regarding the implementation of Self Enumeration (SE), mapping of House Listing Blocks

and other preparatory activities being undertaken by the charge officers.

The Chief Principal Census Officer-Director Census Operations expressed satisfaction over the efforts and preparedness displayed by the officers and officials of JMC for the success-

ful conduct of Census-2027. He appreciated the coordination among various departments and emphasized the importance of timely completion of all census-related activities. He further directed the officers of JMC to intensify the Self Enumeration process through extensive public

awareness campaigns and wide publicity so that the maximum number of citizens may register themselves through the SE platform. Stress was also laid on ensuring accuracy and transparency during the census exercise.

During the meeting, several technical issues related to House Listing Blocks and overlapping of maps for Census-2027 were also discussed and resolved on the spot in consultation with the technical team of the Census Department, Government of India.

The meeting concluded with an assurance from all concerned officers to work in close coordination for ensuring the successful and smooth conduct of Census-2027 in Jammu city and adjoining outgrowth areas.

Big push to rural entrepreneurship: ₹36 crore SVEP projects approved in J&K

Over 12,000 non-farm enterprises to be established over next four years: Aijaz Asad

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Saturday chaired a meeting of the UT-Level Steering Committee (Non-Farm Livelihoods) under the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission's (JKRLM) Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), which accorded in-principle approval to six Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) worth Rs. 36 crore aimed at promoting rural entrepreneurship and sustainable non-farm livelihood opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The approved DPRs pertain to six new SVEP blocks—Sogam-Wavoora, Pulwama-Litter, Chadoora-Surasyar, Khowr-Paragwal, Pouni-Reasi and Bhadarwah-Bhalla—where over 12,000 enterprises are projected to be established over the next four years.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma; Chief Operating Officer, HIMAYAT, Rajneesh Gupta; besides representatives from the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Tribal Affairs Department, Social Welfare Department, Handicrafts & Handloom Department, Industries & Commerce Department, MSME, KVIC, NABARD, RSETIs, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) and other stakeholder institutions.

Officials informed the committee that Jammu & Kashmir has been implementing SVEP since 2015-16 with technical support



from National Resource Organisation (NRO) partners, including EDII. The programme initially commenced in the pilot blocks of Larin Ganderbal district and Basohli in Kathua district, where nearly 2,500 entrepreneurs were established during the first phase.

With the approval of the six new DPRs, SVEP coverage in Jammu & Kashmir will now expand from eight to 14 districts.

The Secretary stated that the newly approved DPRs focus on promoting innovative rural enter-

prises aligned with local resources and market demand. He highlighted sectors identified for intervention, including walnut oil and butter extraction, sheep wool processing, trout fish processing, village and border homestay eco-tourism, vermi-compost production, saffron value addition, herbal tea processing, amla-based products, and honey processing with value addition and packaging.

Emphasising the need for scientific identification of viable enterprises, Aijaz Asad stressed that enter-

prise selection should be guided by local demand patterns, consumption trends and rural spending behaviour.

He directed officials to prioritise economically sustainable enterprises supported by robust market linkages and value-addition opportunities to ensure long-term livelihood generation for rural youth and women.

The Secretary also underscored the importance of strengthening entrepreneurship training, capacity building and monitoring mechanisms for effective implementation of the approved projects. He stated that entrepreneurship development should be decentralised to the village level through community-based training modules and Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes.

Calling for stronger inter-departmental convergence, he directed stakeholders to ensure timely execution and rigorous monitoring so that maximum benefits reach aspiring rural entrepreneurs across Jammu and Kashmir.

Data presented during the meeting revealed that non-farm livelihood initiatives in Jammu & Kashmir have so far supported 26,551 enterprises, including 26,217 individual enterprises and 355 group enterprises under NRLM and SVEP.

SVEP is a sub-scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, aimed at promoting non-farm entrepreneurship among Self-Help Group (SHG) members and their families in rural areas.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of TABASUM.NABI D/O GH NABI BHAT R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self for the issuance of RBA in his own favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the BHAT community having annual income 603936// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..GH NABI BHAT Father 59 years Govt employee
- 2...NASEEMA BAGUM Mother 54 years H/W
- 3...SABREENA NABI sister 24 years student
- 4...TABASUM.NABI self 21 years student
5. HAIFA NABI sister 14 years student
- 6.... ABIROO NABI sister 10 years student

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 KALANTRA

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of the consumer recorded in the electricity records of JKPLC Wagoora under Consumer ID No. 021204000298 has been entered wrongly as Gulshan Mir S/o Mohd Abdullah Mir R/o Soripora Kreeri.

The correct name of the consumer is Ghulam Mohammad Mir S/o Mohammad Abdullah Mir R/o Soripora Kreeri.

Now, therefore, objections, if any, regarding the correction/change of name should be conveyed to the office of JKPLC Wagoora within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained and the concerned department shall proceed with the correction accordingly.

Applicant:

**Ghulam Mohammad Mir
S/o Mohammad Abdullah Mir
R/o Soripora Kreeri
Consumer ID: 021204000298**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my father's name Lt BASHIR AHMAD GANAI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204000007 wants to be registered on my name ADIL BASHIR S/O BASHIR AHMAD GANAI 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....ADIL BASHIR
S/O...LT BASHIR AHMAD GANAI
R/O ...KREERI
BLOCK.... WAGOORA**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my husband's name HASSAN MIR Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040002609 wants to be registered on my name HAFIZA BEGUM W/O HASSAN MIR 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....HAFIZA BEGUM
W/O...HASSAN MIR
R/O...KALANTRA BALA
BLOCK.... WAGOORA**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name MALLA MOHDA (GHULAM MOHI UD DIN MALLA) Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040002549 wants to be registered on my name MANZOOR AHMAD MALLA S/O late MALLA MOHDA 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....MANZOOR AHMAD MALLA
S/O ...LATE MALLA MOHDA
(Ghulam Mohi ud Din Malla)
R/O...KALANTRA BALA
BLOCK.... WAGOORA**

Golden Card Kidney Care: GMC Warns Against Fraud Appeals

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: Renowned urologist Dr. Syed Sajjad Nazir has appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to remain informed about the healthcare facilities available under the Golden Card scheme, stating that both dialysis and kidney transplantation are covered under the government health insurance program.

In a public statement, Dr. Sajjad expressed concern over the increasing trend of emotional fundraising campaigns seeking huge amounts of money for kidney transplants despite the availability of financial coverage under the scheme. Referring to a recent appeal seeking nearly Rs 25 lakh for a young patient on hemodialysis, he said that up to Rs 5 lakh are already earmarked under the Golden Card scheme for patients requiring kidney transplantation.

"It is unfortunate that some people misuse their disease and emotionally influence the public for donations without informing them that dialysis and kidney transplantation are already covered," he stated.

Dr. Sajjad emphasized that advanced urological facilities, including kidney transplantation and modern surgical interventions, are now available within Jammu and Kashmir, reducing the need for patients to travel outside the Union Territory for treatment. He added that many people are still unaware of these benefits and often donate emotionally without verifying the actual medical requirements.

The senior urologist further remarked that unnecessary fundraising not only misguides society but also diverts financial help from genuinely deserving individuals who may need support for other critical conditions not covered under government schemes.

He urged the public to verify medical appeals carefully and educate themselves about government healthcare initiatives before contributing financially. According to him, awareness regarding the Golden Card scheme can protect families from unnecessary financial stress and ensure that patients receive timely treatment without exploitation.

Dr. Sajjad also highlighted the importance of strengthening public health awareness and promoting trust in the medical infrastructure available in Kashmir. He noted that GMC Srinagar's Urology Department has witnessed tremendous advancements in recent years, with modern procedures and trained specialists now serving patients locally. His message has sparked widespread discussion on social media, with many appreciating his efforts to spread awareness about healthcare rights and responsible public support.

Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public that the electric power connection bearing Consumer ID No. 021204000532, presently standing in the name of Late Gh. Mohd Bhat S/o Fatah Bhat R/o Kreeri, is intended to be transferred in favour of his son mohammad Moqbool Bhat S/o Late Gh. Mohd Bhat R/o Kreeri.

If any person has any objection regarding the transfer of the said power connection, he/she may file the objection before the office of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited KPDC Wagoora within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, the connection shall be transferred in favour of the applicant and no claim shall be entertained thereafter.

Applicant:
**mohammad Moqbool Bhat
S/o Late Gh. Mohd Bhat
R/o Kreeri**

Public Notice

I have last Number plate of my vehicle (Bike) bearing No JK05 G4588 at somewhere Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with ARTO SOPORE within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....AADIL AHMAD KHAN
S/O ...SHABIR AHMAD KHAN
R/O ...HAIL JAGIR KREERI
Dist...BARAMULLA**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of MUHAMMAD ASHRAF TELI S/O HABIBULLAH TELI R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes) in Favor of daughter RAFIA ASHRAF.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KREERI of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the TELI community having annual income 110000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..MUHAMMAD ASHRAF TELI Father 43 years Farmer
- 2..SHAMEEMA BEGUM Mother 41 years H/W
- 3... RAFIA ASHRAF applicant 16 years student

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri



GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE KREERI

Empowering Minds, Building Futures

ADMISSIONS OPEN

SESSION 2026-27

ARTS STREAM

Major in

- ENGLISH LITERATURE
- URDU LITERATURE
- POLITICAL SCIENCE
- EDUCATION
- HISTORY
- SOCIOLOGY

MODERN FACILITIES FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

- WELL EQUIPPED LIBRARY
- SMART CLASS ROOMS
- BROWSING CENTER
- GIRLS COMMON ROOM
- EXCELLENT SPORTS FACILITIES
- GREEN, CLEAN CAMPUS
- CCTV SURVEILLANCE
- PURE DRINKING WATER
- CONSTANT POWER SUPPLY

ADMISSION THROUGH

CENTRALISED ADMISSION PORTAL

Based on 10+2 Merit (Non-CUET Only)

http://jkadmissions.in

ELIGIBILITY

10+2

MERIT BASED ADMISSION

SECURE YOUR FUTURE WITH GDC KREERI

APPLY NOW!

FOR DETAILS VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.GDCTK.EDU.IN

OR VISIT COLLEGE ADMISSION FACILITATION CENTER

ADMISSION COORDINATOR: Dr. Khursheed Wani (9682169453)

GREEN CLEAN CAMPUS	SAFE & SECURE CAMPUS	DISCIPLINE & VALUES	QUALITY EDUCATION
BETTER TOMORROW			

Learn. Grow. Succeed. | Your Journey. Our Commitment.

Space Devoted by Headlines Today in Public Interest



Gaikwad 'really proud' of CSK's performance in 'transition phase'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH: After starting the season with a spate of injuries and three successive defeats, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) could count it as a success that they kept their playoffs chances alive until their last league game of IPL 2026, which they lost by 89 runs to Gujarat Titans (GT) on Thursday. CSK have ended the season with six wins and eight defeats from their 14 games, and their captain Rituraj Gaikwad said he was proud of the team for their efforts during what he called a transition phase. He felt the injuries that CSK suffered late in the season, especially to seam-bowling allrounders Jamie Overton and Ramakrishna Ghosh, set them back just when they had built up serious momentum. After winning six out of eight games in the middle part of the season, CSK finished with losses in their last three games.

"Well, tough season to start,

especially the hat-trick of losses, and then after that, once we found that momentum, obviously we found guys playing at the right spot, the right combination, everything started working," Gaikwad said. "And then, a couple of injuries again and again didn't really help much, especially missing out Jamie and another all-rounder in Ramakrishna Ghosh, kind of unsettled our playing 12. We were always playing a batter short or playing a bowler short in the last three games we played.

"Not many people actually buy the fact that we are a young team, we are in a transition phase, and [we don't have] a lot of players who are experienced enough, especially in the toughest competition. But given the fact that [we have] eight to 10 players who have played just below 20 games, it's good to have that exposure for them, especially this year. We got to know what are the areas we are lacking [in], but still, to get those six wins and a cou-

ple of great wins as well, I'm really proud of the unit."

Gaikwad pointed to a pair of defeats to Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) as missed opportunities. In Hyderabad, CSK lost despite only needing 84 from the last 10 overs with seven wickets in hand. In Chennai, CSK made things difficult for SRH in a chase of 181 before Ishan Kishan's 47-ball 70 hauled them over the line.

"When we traveled to Hyderabad, we missed out on chasing [84] in 10 overs, and then even last time when we played in Chennai, we could have restricted them to 180, so a couple of games where we could have just got over the line, failed to do that, but still very much proud."

"MS will know and MS will make a decision about when he's ready and when he's right. And I tell you what, if he knows he's not, he won't play. But if he is right, he will make the decision in the best interest of the team and not for himself as an individual"

Abhinav Mukund: 'CSK had a very average season throughout'

UNITED NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) bowling coach Eric Simons feels they have come away from IPL 2026 having "learnt a lot about ourselves as a unit and as individuals". But Abhinav Mukund isn't happy with the five-time champions' season at all. The team "had a very average season throughout, with them not knowing their strengths at home because that is something that they take pride in," Abhinav said after CSK lost to Gujarat Titans (GT) to end their season with 12 points and a seventh spot on the table (which could change).

One of the major issues CSK faced this season was player fitness. MS Dhoni didn't play at all because of a calf injury. Nathan Ellis, expected to be their pace spearhead, was ruled out before the season started with a hamstring injury. Then, at various points, they lost the services of Ayush Mhatre, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Khaleel Ahmed and Jamie Overton, the last of them at a crucial point when CSK were running up some wins with Overton playing a big role for them.

"I think that's an important part of winning an IPL that you get your balance right, and you have a side that can carry itself through, and your changes are made a long way before the game - not because someone's out of form but because you're moving into a particular condition," Simons said at the press conference after the GT game. "So we know ourselves a lot better as a unit, and we also know a lot of the individuals better as to what they can and can't do.

"Someone like Kartik [Sharma] came along magnificently this season. We know what he's about. Obviously, these established players, we've always known who they were and what they are. But I do know that we've come away from this tournament understanding ourselves as a unit better, and that stands us in good stead.

"I think we were, across the board, either young or a reasonably inexperienced side, and then we obviously had a lot of unlucky injuries that... just as we were getting some momentum, we lose someone like Jamie Overton, who's such a balancing factor, so important to our bowling attack through the middle so we don't have to make crazy changes, and then he can also bat at the back end of the innings. So that threw us out a bit."

CSK's season started with three losses in a row. Then came six wins in eight games. And then, again, three defeats in a row. The six wins gave them hope of sneaking into the playoffs, but Abhinav said that it was a false dawn because of the opponents CSK beat: none of the top teams.

"As much as it looks like, 'oh yeah, they've got 12 points, and they had a decent season', to me a very big factor in that is they beat DC [Delhi Capitals] twice, they beat MI [Mumbai Indians] twice, they beat LSG [Lucknow Super Giants] once, and KKR [Kolkata Knight Riders] once. That's their 12 points," Abhinav pointed out on ESPNcricinfo's TimeOut show. "They haven't managed to even shift the needle in terms of your top-three, top-four sides.

Cricket Australia dismisses staffer after conflict of interest investigation

AGENCIES

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia (CA) has dismissed a senior staffer after substantiating whistleblower allegations that the employee had commissioned significant contracts to a company that they had direct ties with.

Michael West Media first reported earlier this month that an anonymous whistleblower had made a series of complaints, including that the CA staffer in question had commissioned work to a technology services provider they were directly involved with. The complaints came against the backdrop of a restructuring at CA that saw 20 other

employees made redundant this year.

CA had the complaints independently reviewed and released a statement on Friday confirming that one of the allegations had been substantiated. "An independent assessment of claims made by an anonymous whistleblower concerning a CA staff member has been completed," the statement said. "An allegation of an undeclared conflict of interest during a procurement process has been substantiated. The staff member has now left CA."

The incident came at a time of some financial uncertainty at CA. There have been two rounds of redundancies within CA's ad-



ministration in the last 12 months amid cost-cutting in several areas including high-performance pathways. CA also lost millions in revenue on the two two-day Ashes Tests last summer in Perth and Melbourne after posting a loss of over A\$11 million in 2024-25 despite a bumper summer, which included record crowds for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. CA has concerns it may be up to A\$100 million in deficit by 2031.

The financial concerns sit at the heart of CA's push to introduce private investment into the BBL but it has not been successful in getting all six states to agree to it.

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES
VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS

9999038812
9419008414

Radio Colony,
Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

HEADLINES TODAY INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS

Are you a writer, poet, storyteller, columnist, or feature writer with a passion for literature or health writings? Headlines Today offers a platform to share:

Literature Section: Well-crafted essays, literary articles, reflections, and creative writings.

Health Section: Well-researched articles, expert columns, and in-depth feature reports from professionals and specialists.

Send your contributions to:
Dr Basharat Khan
Honorary Editor: Literature & Health Sections (HT) at
chogalwriter76@gmail.com

YOUR WORDS CAN INSPIRE, INFORM, AND IGNITE; LET THEM BE HEARD.