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Fight Against Drugs Is Also a Fight for National Security: LG Sinha

Kulgam march highlights anti-drug campaign's role in dismantling terror funding networks

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said the campaign against drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir is not only a public health initiative but also a critical fight for national security, as he led a large anti-drug march in Kulgam and called for sustained public participation to eradicate the menace.

Addressing a public gathering after the march, Sinha said the movement has united people across the Union Territory around the common goal of creating drug-free villages and towns. He described the campaign as a people-led effort in which parents,

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Genuine Public Issues Will Receive Due Attention: CM Omar Abdullah



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 1: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday reaffirmed his government's commitment to responsive and people-centric governance, assuring that all genuine public concerns brought before him would receive due attention and appropriate follow-up.

The assurance came during a series of meetings with legislators, public representatives and sectoral delegations at the Chief Minister's Public Services and Outreach Office in Srinagar, where a wide range of constituency-specific and developmental issues were discussed.

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Ensure Pilgrim's Baggage Arrives With Them: CM To Civil Aviation Minister

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 1: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has urged Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu to ensure that the baggage of pilgrims returning from Saudi Arabia is transported alongside them on the same flights to Jammu and Kashmir, citing the inconvenience and distress caused by ongoing delays.

In a communication addressed to the Union Minister, the Chief Minister sought immediate intervention to facilitate the safe and timely transportation of checked baggage belonging to returning

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Homebound Hajj Pilgrims Begin Arriving Today

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 1: The return journey of Hajj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will begin on June 2, with the first flight carrying 144 pilgrims scheduled to land at Srinagar International Airport.

Jammu and Kashmir Hajj Committee Chief Executive Officer Dr. Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi said the arrival operations will continue until June 16, facilitating the return of thousands of pilgrims who performed Hajj this year.

According to official figures, 4,641 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir undertook the pilgrimage, including 2,583 men and 2,058 women. Of these, 3,952 pilgrims are scheduled to return through the Srinagar embarkation point during the ongoing arrival operations.

Among those arriving via Srinagar, 3,631 pilgrims belong to Jammu and Kashmir, while 321 are from Ladakh. One pilgrim from Punjab will also return through the Srinagar route.

The first return flight will bring back 144 pilgrims, comprising 74

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PM SVANidhi Has Transformed Lives of Countless Street Vendors: PM Modi

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the PM SVANidhi scheme has transformed the lives of countless street vendors by providing access to collateral-free credit, financial inclusion and new opportunities for growth, as the flagship programme completed six years since its launch.

Marking the occasion, the Prime Minister described the scheme as a symbol of trust, dignity and empowerment, highlighting its role in strength-



ening the livelihoods of small vendors and boosting economic activity across the country.

"Today we mark six years of PMSVANidhi, a scheme which has transformed the lives of countless street vendors by ensuring access to collateral-free credit, financial inclusion and new opportunities for growth," Modi said in a post on X. He extended his best wishes to beneficiaries, saying their determination and enterprise continue to strengthen the nation's economy.

Launched in June 2020 amid the

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Forest Guard Caught Red-Handed Accepting Rs. 15,000 Bribe, Arrested by ACB

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JUNE 1: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday arrested a Forest Guard posted in Kishtwar after allegedly catching him red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs. 15,000 from a complainant.

According to officials, the Bureau received a written complaint alleging that the accused had demanded Rs. 20,000 for expediting the release of security deposits linked to allotted works. The amount was later

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Gurez Has Immense Potential as a Tourist Destination

Rising Temperatures Drive Visitors to Kashmir's cooler border valleys

HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: As high temperatures continue to affect the plains, tourists are increasingly turning to the cooler border regions of Jammu and Kashmir,

leading to a notable rise in visitor arrivals across several remote destinations and providing a significant boost to local economies.

The scenic valleys of Gurez and Tulail in Bandipora district, along with Keran and Bangus in Kupwara district and Uri in Baramulla district, have witnessed growing tourist activity in recent weeks. Renowned for their pleasant climate, lush

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Ticketless Travel Causes Revenue Loss and Inconvenience to Genuine Passengers: Railway Official

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JUNE 1: Ticketless travel continues to pose a significant challenge to railway operations by causing financial losses and inconvenience to law-abiding passengers, a senior Northern Railway official said as the Jammu Division reported substantial revenue recovery through a month-long enforce-

ment campaign.

Northern Railway's Jammu Division earned Rs. 66.50 lakh through a special ticket-checking drive conducted across its jurisdiction during May 2026 to curb ticketless and irregular travel and protect railway revenue.

According to official figures, the division detected 12,693 cases involving passengers travelling without tickets or commit-

ting other ticketing violations during the drive. The enforcement campaign generated a total revenue of Rs. 66,50,165.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said ticketless travel not only results in revenue losses for the Railways but also creates difficulties for passengers travelling with valid tickets. He noted that the

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Tourism Key Pillar of Ladakh's Economy: LG Saxena

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH/JAMMU, MAY 31: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the constitution of the Ladakh Tourism Development Society (LTDS), an autonomous body aimed at promoting tourism and ensuring the planned, coordinated and sustainable development of the sector across the Union Territory.

Announcing the decision, the Lieutenant Governor described tourism as a key pillar of Ladakh's economy and a major source of livelihood for its people. He said the new society would establish a professional and collaborative institutional framework

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CS reviews progress in solarisation of Government buildings

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a review meeting of the Science & Technology Department to assess the initiatives undertaken for promotion of clean energy and the progress achieved in solarisation of government buildings across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by

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587th Annual Urs of Hazrat Syed Haji Mohammad Murad Bukhari (RA) to Commence at Kreeri Today

HT NEWS NETWORK

KREERI, MURADABAD, JUNE 1ST: 587th Annual Urs of Hazrat Syed Haji Mohammad Murad Bukhari. will commence on June 2, 2026 (16th Zul Hijjah 1447 AH) at Kreeri amid elaborate arrangements and religious fervour.

According to the organisers, the Urs celebrations will begin with a Mehfil-e-Khatm-e-Sharif after Fajr prayers on Tuesday. A night-long spiritual congregation will be held after Isha prayers, featuring Darood-o-Azkar, Khatmat, Naat-e-Sharif,

Manaqib and Awrad. The Azan for Isha will be called at 10:00 PM, followed by congregational prayers at 10:30 PM.

The spiritual gathering will continue throughout the night and conclude after Fajr prayers with the Ziarat of the Holy Relics.

The Urs celebrations will continue till June 12, during which Holy Relics will be displayed for devotees after every prayer on June 3, June 6 and June 12.

Thousands of devotees from across the Kashmir Valley are expected to participate

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Fight Against.....

teachers, religious leaders and youth volunteers have joined hands with the administration to protect future generations from the dangers of addiction.

"This campaign belongs to the people. The road ahead is long, and the fight against drugs will require sustained effort, constant vigilance and unity. We must remain steadfast in encouraging our youth, protecting our families and strengthening our communities," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the campaign, launched 51 days ago, has grown into a powerful movement driven by public support and collective determination. He noted that the administration's efforts are focused not only on curbing drug abuse but also on dismantling the networks that finance extremist activities.

"Every rupee spent on drugs fuels extremist violence, and narco-terrorists survive on that money. By stopping the drug trade, we are cutting off a major source of funding for terrorism," Sinha said, adding that disrupting narcotics trafficking weakens forces seeking to destabilize the region and divert young people from the path of progress.

Highlighting the administration's actions, he said extensive operations have been carried out against drug traffickers and peddlers over the past seven weeks. According to official figures, 923 cases have been registered against drug-related offenders during the period, while more than 1,000 smugglers and peddlers have been arrested. Authorities have also detained over 55 traffickers under preventive detention laws, cancelled 668 driving licences and recommended the revocation of 124 passports.

Sinha credited the anti-drug drive to the broader national campaign launched under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He said coordinated efforts by multiple government agencies have helped break supply chains and expose networks involved in narcotics trafficking.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that enforcement measures alone would not solve the problem and stressed the importance of awareness programmes and rehabilitation initiatives. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to helping those affected by addiction return to mainstream society and contribute positively to the region's future.

"We will ensure that our youth are freed from the grip of addiction and become the strength that leads Jammu and Kashmir toward a brighter tomorrow," he said.

Genuine Public.....

Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Haji Mohammad Hanifa, met the Chief Minister along with delegations representing employees of the Power Development Department serving in Ladakh and members of the Private School Association of Kargil. The delegations highlighted issues concerning their respective sectors and sought government intervention. The Chief Minister assured them that their concerns would be taken up with the relevant authorities for appropriate action.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam Ud Din Bhat, also called on the Chief Minister and raised various developmental and public welfare matters related to his constituency. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the issues and assured suitable consideration.

MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, met the Chief Minister along with a delegation of civil society members from Hazratbal. The delegation expressed gratitude for resolving the long-pending issue of constructing the Sub-District Hospital at Habak and discussed additional developmental requirements in the area. The Chief Minister appreciated the feedback and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening public services and infrastructure.

In a separate meeting, Salman Sagar led a delegation of the Jal Jeevan Mission Contractors' Association, which sought redress of its pending issues. The Chief Minister assured the delegation that its concerns would be examined and addressed in accordance with established procedures.

MLA Beerwah, Shafi Ahmad Wani, also met the Chief Minister and discussed various developmental needs and public issues concerning his constituency. During the interaction, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring balanced and equitable development across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations, Prof. Minu Mahajan, also called on the Chief Minister and briefed him on matters related to the functioning of the Board and the conduct of professional entrance examinations in the Union Territory.

The meetings formed part of the government's ongoing outreach efforts aimed at addressing public concerns and strengthening engagement with elected representatives and stakeholders from diverse sectors.

Ensure Pilgrim's.....

pilgrims. He said reports indicate that due to maintenance work and operational limitations at Srinagar Airport, baggage is being routed separately and transported by road from Ahmedabad, resulting in significant delays in delivery.

Omar Abdullah noted that many of the returning pilgrims are elderly and have undertaken the pilgrimage after years of preparation and anticipation. The delay in receiving their personal belongings, he said, has created difficulties for pilgrims and their families upon their return.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the cultural and religious importance attached to items carried by pilgrims, including water from sacred sources, dates and other gifts traditionally shared with relatives, neighbours and well-wishers. Delays in the arrival of baggage, he observed, have disrupted these longstanding practices and reduced the sense of fulfillment associated with the return journey.

Calling for corrective measures, Omar Abdullah requested that arrangements be made to ensure baggage accompanies passengers on the same flights to Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed hope that prompt action by the Civil Aviation Ministry would help address the concerns of returning pilgrims and prevent further inconvenience.

The Chief Minister emphasized that timely delivery of baggage would not only ease logistical challenges but also help preserve the significance of items that hold deep personal and spiritual value for pilgrims and their families.

Homebound.....

men and 70 women. Dr. Qureshi said that 1,061 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir are expected to return through other embarkation points across the country, including 1,010 through Delhi, 49 through Mumbai and two through Bengaluru.

Authorities have completed preparations for receiving the pilgrims at Srinagar Airport. Transport facilities, medical assistance, help counters and distribution of Zamzam water have been arranged to ensure a smooth arrival process.

The return phase is commencing amid concerns over baggage restrictions linked to operational limitations at Srinagar Airport. The restrictions stem from ongoing runway maintenance work and temporary runway-length constraints under the current Notice to Air Missions (NOTAM).

Officials said efforts are underway to ensure the smooth handling of passengers and baggage throughout the return operation.

PM SVANidhi.....

COVID-19 pandemic, the PM SVANidhi scheme was introduced to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors whose businesses had been severely affected by economic disruptions. The programme became the first dedicated micro-credit initiative aimed specifically at supporting street vendors, a major segment of the informal workforce with limited access to formal financial services.

Implemented jointly by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Department of Financial Services, the scheme seeks to promote financial inclusion while helping vendors expand and sustain their businesses.

Official figures show that more than 1.12 crore collateral-free loans worth over Rs. 17,800 crore have been sanctioned and disbursed under the scheme since its inception. The initiative has benefited over 75.5 lakh street vendors across urban India, enabling them to access institutional credit, adopt digital payment systems and avail themselves of social security benefits.

The government has described the scheme as a key driver of economic empowerment and financial inclusion, helping millions of small entrepreneurs build more secure and sustainable livelihoods. (Agencies)

Forest Guard.....

allegedly negotiated down to Rs. 15,000. The complainant, unwilling to pay the bribe, approached the ACB seeking legal action against the official.

After conducting a discreet verification, the ACB reportedly established a prima facie case of bribery. An FIR under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was subsequently registered at Police Station ACB Central Jammu, and an investigation was launched.

During the investigation, a specially constituted trap team laid a successful operation and allegedly caught the accused while demanding and accepting the bribe amount. The official was identified as Vaseem Ahmad Hap, a resident of Hidayal in Kishtwar, who was serving as a Forest Guard and handling accounts-related work in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division Marwah.

Officials said the accused was arrested on the spot and the bribe money was recovered from his possession in the presence of independent witnesses associated with the proceedings.

Following the arrest, the ACB also conducted searches at the accused's residence in the

presence of an Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses as part of the ongoing investigation.

The Bureau said further investigation is underway to ascertain all aspects of the case.

Gurez Has.....

meadows, flowing rivers and mountain landscapes, these frontier areas are emerging as preferred summer destinations for travellers seeking relief from the heat.

The increase in tourist footfall has generated fresh economic opportunities for local communities, benefiting hotels, guest houses, homestays, transport operators and other tourism-related businesses.

Local residents said visitor inquiries and bookings have increased steadily, reflecting growing interest in destinations that have traditionally remained outside the mainstream tourism circuit.

"Gurez has immense potential as a tourist destination. Better infrastructure and connectivity will help attract even more visitors," said Ishfaq Ahmad, a resident of Gurez. He noted that local residents have been actively assisting visitors and promoting the valley's attractions.

In Kupwara district, residents of Keran and Bangus also welcomed the growing influx of tourists, describing it as an encouraging development for communities that depend on tourism for income and employment.

"The arrival of tourists is encouraging for people here as many families depend directly or indirectly on tourism for their livelihood," said Ghulam Mohammad, a resident of Keran. He called for greater investment in road connectivity and tourism infrastructure to support sustainable growth in the sector.

Tourists visiting the border destinations praised the region's natural beauty, peaceful surroundings and favourable weather conditions.

Adnan Ahmad, a visitor from Srinagar touring Gurez, said the valley possesses all the characteristics needed to become a major tourism destination.

"The weather is pleasant, the scenery is stunning and the environment is peaceful. With better facilities, more people would choose to visit Gurez," he said.

Shazia Khan, a tourist from Delhi who recently visited Bangus, described the destination as an ideal retreat from the intense summer heat experienced in many parts of the country.

"The cool climate, green meadows and hospitality of residents made the experience memorable. These places deserve greater attention from tourists," she said.

Officials said tourist movement has been increasing steadily across Gurez, Tulail, Keran, Bangus and Uri as visitors continue to seek cooler locations during the ongoing heatwave.

The growing popularity of these border destinations is bringing renewed optimism to local residents, who see tourism as a key driver of economic activity and development during the summer season.

Ticketless Travel.....

practice often leads to unauthorized occupation of seats, overcrowding and security-related concerns.

Railway officials said intensive inspections were carried out by ticket-checking staff at stations, on platforms and aboard trains throughout the month. Penalties were imposed on passengers found travelling without valid tickets or passes, remaining on platforms without platform tickets and engaging in other ticketing irregularities.

Singhal said special checking squads are being regularly deployed to address the problem and ensure compliance with railway regulations. He emphasized that the objective of such drives extends beyond revenue collection and includes raising public awareness about the importance of travelling with valid tickets.

He urged passengers to secure valid tickets before starting their journeys through computerized reservation centres, the UTS mobile application, the IRCTC platform or railway ticket counters. Visitors coming to stations to receive or see off passengers were also advised to purchase platform tickets.

The official warned that passengers found travelling without tickets could face penalties and legal action under Sections 137 and 138 of the Railways Act, 1989.

Northern Railway's Jammu Division said similar enforcement drives will continue in the future as part of efforts to maintain transparency in railway operations, safeguard revenue and improve services for genuine passengers.

Tourism Key.....

to support the sector's growth while safeguarding the region's environment and cultural heritage.

Officials said the LTDS has been created as a dedicated mechanism for the holistic development of tourism in Ladakh. The society will function as the central agency for planning, promotion, regulation,

coordination and implementation of tourism-related initiatives, with a focus on environmental sustainability, cultural preservation and community participation.

"A significant step has been taken towards strengthening tourism promotion and steering the planned, coordinated and sustainable development of the tourism sector in Ladakh. The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh has accorded approval for the constitution of LTDS," officials said.

The society will operate as an autonomous, not-for-profit organisation under the administrative control and policy direction of the Department of Tourism and Culture. The Lieutenant Governor will serve as its Chief Patron, while the Chief Secretary will be the President and the Secretary, Tourism, will act as the Member Secretary.

Highlighting the importance of the initiative, Saxena said the objective is to balance tourism growth with environmental conservation and cultural preservation while ensuring that local communities benefit from the sector's expansion.

According to officials, the society's key objectives include preservation and promotion of Ladakh's cultural and natural heritage, strategic tourism planning, destination development, branding and marketing, and regulation of tourism and adventure activities with a strong emphasis on safety and environmental safeguards.

The LTDS will also focus on developing tourism infrastructure and visitor amenities, promoting festivals and cultural events, supporting experiential tourism initiatives and strengthening Ladakh's position as a leading destination for adventure, spiritual, heritage, nature-based and community tourism.

In addition, the society will work towards skill development and livelihood enhancement for local youth, guides, homestay operators and artisans. It will promote wildlife tourism, astro-tourism, eco-tourism and regenerative tourism models, while collaborating with the Government of India, foreign missions and international cultural organisations to expand tourism opportunities.

Officials said the LTDS will serve as the designated implementation agency for tourism-related policies and schemes, including those relating to homestays, mountaineering, adventure tourism and incentive-based programmes.

To ensure effective governance, the society will function through a three-tier structure comprising a Governing Body, an Executive Committee and a Finance Committee. The Governing Body will include senior government officials, representatives of tourism and hospitality associations, and experts in tourism, heritage, culture, wildlife and environmental conservation.

The body will be responsible for providing policy direction, approving budgets and infrastructure projects, endorsing annual action plans and long-term vision documents, and monitoring the performance of the Executive Committee. Officials said the new framework is expected to strengthen tourism governance and support sustainable economic development across Ladakh.

CS reviews.....

Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Chief Executive Officer, JAKEDA; Director, Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC); and other senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary undertook a comprehensive review of the solarisation programme being implemented across government establishments and emphasized the need for close coordination among the Science & Technology Department, Power Development Department (PDD) and district administrations to ensure smooth and timely installation of smart meters. He observed that effective metering is essential for realizing the full benefits of solar energy generation and optimizing energy savings.

Dulloo further directed the department to extend necessary assistance to government departments in finalizing Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), enabling efficient utilization and management of the energy generated through solar installations.

He remarked that large-scale solarisation, coupled with the development of small and medium hydro-power projects, has the potential to transform the energy landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, given the immense renewable energy potential

available across the Union Territory.

Highlighting the need for inclusive and sustainable energy solutions, the Chief Secretary called for exploring alternative cooking energy options for people residing in remote and far-flung areas who continue to depend on conventional fuel sources. He also stressed the importance of expediting efforts towards formulation and implementation of the Renewable Energy (RE) Policy and promotion of Compressed Biogas (CBG) initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.

Reviewing the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), the Chief Secretary urged the council to devise a focused and actionable strategy in collaboration with institutions such as the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) for promoting food processing, skill development and other innovation-driven entrepreneurial ventures. He emphasized that stronger linkages between academic institutions and government agencies can play a significant role in fostering innovation-led economic growth and employment generation in the region.

Giving an overview of the department's activities, the Commissioner Secretary, S&T, Babila Rakwal informed the meeting that JAKEDA is spearheading a range of initiatives including solarisation of government buildings, solar-powered agriculture pumps under PM-KUSUM, establishment of model solar villages, development of solar parks, promotion of rooftop solar systems, decentralized renewable energy devices and small hydroelectric projects across the Union Territory.

The further divulged that significant progress has been achieved under the flagship programme for solarisation of government buildings. Under the CAPEX mode, rooftop solar projects covering around 8,000 government buildings with a target capacity of 70 MW are being implemented, while another 175 MW capacity is being developed under the RESCO model adding that 3,000 government buildings have already been solarised and work is progressing rapidly on the remaining identified structures.

Reviewing the achievements recorded during the previous financial year, the CEO, JAKEDA, PN Dhar informed that over 2,200 solar agriculture pumps were installed, nearly 9,000 solar home lighting systems distributed in remote and tribal areas, 140 solar high mast lights established, around 8,000 solar street lights installed and more than 16,000 biomass cook stoves provided to households in underserved regions. These interventions have substantially improved access to clean energy while reducing dependence on conventional fuels.

The meeting further noted that under the PM-KUSUM scheme, 4,841 solar agriculture pumps have been installed and made operational against 5,000 sanctioned pumps, registering a completion rate of about 99 percent. The initiative is helping farmers reduce diesel consumption and lower irrigation costs while ensuring reliable access to water for agriculture.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the progress on the Model Solar Village programme under which one village in each district has been identified for development as a renewable energy model. On the hydro power front, the meeting was informed that seven small hydroelectric projects with a cumulative capacity of 35.25 MW have already been commissioned in the Union Territory.

Additionally, a robust pipeline of hydro projects is under various stages of allotment, development and execution, with over 115 MW capacity expected to be added in the coming years.

The department also apprised the Chief Secretary about proposals for establishment of solar parks at identified locations in Jammu, development of a pilot solar-wind hybrid power project, installation of solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations and a proposed 100 MW Solar Power Park coupled with a 20 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which would be the first project of its kind in Jammu & Kashmir.

587th Annual.....

in the annual observance and pay homage to the revered saint, who is regarded as the founder and patron saint of the historic township of Kreeri.

The organisers have extended a general invitation to devotees and followers to participate in the sacred gatherings and seek spiritual blessings on the auspicious occasion.



J&K High Court accords Full Court Reference to Chief Justice on his elevation to Supreme Court of India

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: In a solemn and dignified ceremony, a Full Court Reference was held in the Court Room of the Chief Justice at the Srinagar Wing of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to honour Chief Justice, Arun Palli, on his elevation as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The Full Court Reference was convened in accordance with the long-standing conventions and cherished institutional traditions of the High Court.

The Reference was attended by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohd. Akram

Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice Shahzad Azeem along with the spouses of the Judges of the High Court.

The proceedings were also attended by former Chief Justices, former Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Chief Secretary, UT of J&K;

Director General of Police of UT of J&K; Judicial Member of Central Administrative Tribunal, Srinagar Bench; other senior officers of the civil administration of UT of J&K, including the Commissioner/Secretary Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Deputy



Commissioner, Srinagar; Senior Additional Advocate General, Jammu as well as Srinagar; Deputy Solicitors

General of India at Jammu and Srinagar; the President, Kashmir Advocates Association, Srinagar; Senior Advocates; Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar; Judicial Officers and officers of the Registry of the High Court. Besides, the officers and officials and Advocates of the High Court from Jammu Wing joined the proceedings through virtual mode.

The farewell address was delivered by the Mohsin Qadri, Senior Additional Advocate General, Srinagar, who highlighted the distinguished judicial career, scholarship, administrative acumen and commitment of Justice

Arun Palli to the cause of justice. The Senior Additional Advocate General observed that the tenure of Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was marked by vision, integrity, accessibility and a steadfast commitment towards strengthening the justice delivery system, promoting institutional efficiency and upholding the highest traditions of the judiciary.

The President, Kashmir Advocates Association, Srinagar, in his address, expressed deep appreciation for the humility, judicial wisdom, accessibility and unwavering dedication of Justice Arun Palli to the rule of law. He conveyed best wishes of the legal fraternity on elevation of Justice Arun Palli to the Supreme Court of India.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar delivered the farewell address and reflected upon the illustrious judicial career, exceptional leadership and invaluable

contribution of the Chief Justice to the institution. He recalled the profound impact of Justice Arun Palli's stewardship on the administration of justice and the functioning of the High Court. He lauded his dedication, humility, clarity of thought and commitment to judicial excellence.

Responding to the farewell addresses, Chief Justice Arun Palli, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the companion Judges, members of the Bar, Judicial Officers, officers and officials of the Registry and all stakeholders for their cooperation, affection and

support during his tenure. He fondly reflected upon his association with the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and emphasized the importance of preserving the cherished traditions, values and independence of the institution. He also placed on record his appreciation for the contribution of the Bar and the dedication of the officers and staff of the High Court in ensuring effective administration of justice.

The proceedings of the Full Court Reference were conducted by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Lastly, Justice Arun Palli was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour by the security personnel as a mark of profound respect.

Dr Tasaduk conferred prestigious Chartered Scientist status by UK Science Council

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has been conferred with the prestigious Chartered Scientist (CSci) status by the Science Council through the Royal Society of Biology, one of the highest professional recognitions for scientists in the United Kingdom.

The Chartered Scientist designation is awarded to professionals who demonstrate a high level of scientific expertise, leadership, professional integrity, and commitment to advancing science and innovation. The internationally recognized status



reflects excellence in scientific practice and sustained contributions to research, education, and professional development.

According to official communication from the Royal Society of Biology, Dr Itoo will officially be added to the Chartered Scientist register in July 2026.

The recognition is being viewed as a proud achievement for the medical and academic community of Jammu and Kashmir and an inspiration for young healthcare professionals aspiring towards excellence in science, medicine, and research.

Dr. Itoo, a physician and public health fellow from Jammu and Kashmir, has been recognized for his contributions to medicine, scientific research, medical education, and public health. The honor further strengthens his growing international profile in healthcare and science.

A graduate in Biology from the University of Kashmir and medicine from the University of Jammu, Dr. Itoo holds several international professional distinctions and affiliations with leading global medical and scientific organizations. He continues to work towards advancing healthcare, education, and research through academic and professional engagement at national and international levels.

587th Annual Urs of Haji Mohammad Murad Bukhari (R.A)

ADC Baramulla finalized arrangements at Kreeri Muradabad

AASHIQ HUSSAIN

KREERI, JUNE 01: To finalize arrangements for celebration of Urs of Hazrat Syed Haji Mohammad Murad Bukhari (R. A.) at Muradabad Kreeri Baramulla, Assistant Development Commissioner (ADC) Syed Altaf today chaired a



meeting of officers of J&K Police, CA&PD, Revenue, PHE, PDD, R & B, RDD, Health, MVD, Fire and emergency services and Police. Former Minister Syed Basharat Bukhari, Secretary and members of Sub-Auqaaf Kreeri also attended the meeting.

The ADC Baramulla as told that all necessary arrangements have been put in place for the celebration of the Urs. It was given out that Electricity, water supply, health facilities, street lights, ration and supply of essential commodities has already been put in place at Kreeri. Traffic management plan has already been put in place and additional transport facilities will be made during these days.

The Assistant Commissioner Development issued strict instructions to the concerned officers to ensure availability of all essential basic facilities for the general public during the celebration of the Urs. ADC impressed upon the officers that people should not face any inconvenience during these days. He also directed the officers of Fire and Emergency services to keep a Fire brigade available all the time during the Urs days. The Block Medical Officer was also directed to keep an ambulance and a medical team ready at Kreeri on all days.

The Urs will commence 2nd June evening which corresponds to 16th Zulhijh it will be start with Mehfil Khatam Shareef on Tuesday 2nd June after fajar prayers it will followed by a night long mehfil of Darood O azkar, khatmat ,Naat e Shareef, manaqib and awrad on Tuesday evening after Eisha prayers.

According to local Auqaaf committee Aisha Azaan will be at 10.00 PM and Nimaz e Eisha will be at 10.30 PM. Holy relics will be shown to devotees after every Nimaz on 3rd, 6th, and 12th June 2026. The celebrations will conclude on Friday 12th June 2026.

Self-Enumeration Census 2027 Begins in Zainger, House Listing Phase Underway

KHAN JAHANGEER

SOPORE, JUNE 1: The first phase of the Self-Enumeration Census 2027 commenced in Bomai Zainger area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday, with authorities launching the House Listing operation that will continue till June 30.

Tehsildar Zainger and Census Charge Officer Zahid Rashid (KAS) said the census exercise will be carried out in two phases.

The first phase involves house listing, while the second phase will focus on population enumeration.

He said the earlier self-enumeration facility, which was available from May 17 to May 31, has concluded and the field verification process has now begun across the tehsil.

Rashid said extensive public awareness campaigns have been conducted to inform residents about the exercise. He urged people to cooperate with the census staff and advised them not to panic, stating that only designated field personnel carrying official identity cards have been authorized to conduct the enumeration.



"People have been sensitized about the process. Only authorized census staff with valid identification will visit households. Residents should extend full cooperation and can contact the administration in case of any grievance or clarification," he said.

According to Officials, the population of Zainger is estimated at around 65,000 as per 2026 figures. To ensure

smooth completion of the exercise, 96 enumerators and 16 supervisors including Irshad Ahmed Dar, Shaheen Ahmed Peer and Hilal Ahmed Bhat have been deployed across the area. They will be assisted by local Numbers and Chowkidars during field visits. Officials said the entire house listing process is expected to be completed within 30 days.

Secretary RDD & PR reviews sanitation preparedness for SANJY-2026

Emphasises Clean, Safe and Dignified Pilgrimage Experience for Yatris

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 1: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today reviewed sanitation infrastructure and waste management arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026 at a high-level meeting attended by senior officers from the concerned departments and district administrations.

The meeting reviewed the installation of prefabricated toilets and baths, manpower mobilization, waste management measures and utility support along the Baltal and Pahalgam routes.

Officials informed that the Directorate of Rural Sanitation is deploying 5,618 sanitation units, including 4,707 toilets and 911 baths, while district administrations will install

an additional 723 toilets, taking the total sanitation infrastructure to 6,341 units.

Stressing that the Yatra is a sacred spiritual journey, the Secretary called upon all stakeholders to perform their duties with dedication and a spirit of service. He said Shri Amarnath Yatra ji is not merely a pilgrimage but a sacred journey of faith, demanding our utmost commitment to cleanliness, dignity and service.

He added the objective is to make the Amarnath Yatra a "Swachh Yatra" by ensuring clean routes, hygienic sanitation facilities, and efficient waste management systems for pilgrims.

The Secretary directed executing agencies to expedite ongoing works and ensure that all facilities are fully operational well before the commencement of the Yatra.



He also emphasized timely mobilization and verification of the sanitation staff being deployed for sanitation operations, maintenance, cleaning and waste

management. Reviewing departmental responsibilities, he stressed close inter-departmental coordination to ensure uninterrupted availability of water, electricity, desludg-

ing services, and other essential utilities at all camp locations.

The Secretary also directed designated Nodal Officers to closely monitor infrastructure deployment and promptly address any bottlenecks. Highlighting environmental concerns, he called for scientific disposal of animal carcasses, proper management of mule dung and biomedical waste, and advance placement of sanitation equipment, including at the Holy Cave area.

Emphasizing workforce welfare, he directed executing agencies to ensure timely provision of food, adequate clothing and medical assistance to sanitation workers operating in challenging terrain and weather conditions, noting that their well-being is critical to the success of sanitation operations.

DC Srinagar chairs meeting of revenue officers of district

Stresses swift, timely delivery of revenue services

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday chaired a review meeting of senior Revenue Officers at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess tehsil-wise progress on key revenue matters and delivery of revenue related services.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, SDME East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar all Tehsildars and other concerned.

At the outset, the DC reviewed the status of various revenue-related initiatives and commended the dedicated efforts of Officers and field functionaries in accelerating the digitisation process and ensuring the timely completion of assigned targets and emphasized the need to sustain the momentum and ensure the timely completion of the remaining tasks and reforms within the prescribed timelines.

During the meeting, the DC was informed that Srinagar district comprises 137 villages, each having its own Jamabandi record, all of which shall be uploaded



on the designated portal. He was further informed that to ensure accuracy and transparency, the digitised records were taken to the villages and read out in public. Registers shall also be maintained in each village to record grievances raised by residents, thereby ensuring community participation in the verification process.

While reviewing the implementation of the online portal, (jzkameensudar.jk.gov.in), the DC stressed the need for the timely redressal of grievances registered on the portal and directed Officers to clear any pendency at the earliest. He also emphasized the uploading of complete Jamabandi records in PDF format.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the status of the PM SVAMITVA Scheme and sub-parcelization of mother maps. He directed the concerned officers to ensure completion of targets under these initiatives in a time-bound manner.

The DC further urged the officers to continue working with dedication and professionalism to strengthen public confidence in the Revenue Administration and ensure efficient, transparent and citizen-centric service delivery within the PSGA timelines across the District.

SMC Commissioner inspects NCAP Works along NH-44

Reviews measures to strengthen Air Quality Management

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Faz Lul Haseeb, today conducted an extensive inspection of various sites along the NH-44 Western Highway Corridor to review the progress of works being executed under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aimed at mitigating air pollution and improving the Air Quality Index (AQI) across one of the busiest traffic corridors in the city.

The visit was undertaken to assess the implementation and maintenance of ongoing and completed NCAP interventions designed to curb dust pollution, enhance environmental sustainability, and bring air quality levels within the prescribed standards.

During the inspection, the Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the works executed under NCAP and evaluated the effectiveness of dust suppression and pollution mitigation measures being undertaken along the highway corridor. He emphasized the importance of timely completion of all ongoing works and directed the concerned agencies to ensure sustained maintenance of completed projects for achieving long-term environmental benefits.

Stressing the need for coordinated action, the Commissioner instructed all stakeholder departments to work in close collaboration to reduce vehicular dust emissions, improve roadside aesthetics, and strengthen efforts towards achieving the objectives of the National Clean Air Programme. He further directed the concerned officers to expedite all pending works and ensure strict adherence to prescribed air quality standards.

The Commissioner also held detailed discussions with the officers regarding



future strategies for strengthening air quality management initiatives along NH-44.

He underscored the significance of increasing urban green cover and directed the concerned departments to explore the possibilities of large-scale plantation drives and landscape enhancement measures along the corridor, keeping in view the holistic and sustainable development of the city.

Reaffirming SMC's commitment towards environmental protection and sustainable urban development, the Commissioner emphasized that focused efforts under NCAP will continue to be strengthened to ensure cleaner air, healthier surroundings, and an improved quality of life for the residents of Srinagar.

The inspection was attended by the Joint Commissioner (Works), SMC, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), SMC, and Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B), Project Division-I, Srinagar, who briefed the Commissioner on the status of various interventions being undertaken under the programme.

WMDA, Civil Defence organize disaster response training programme at Manasbal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

MANASBAL (GANDERBAL), JUNE 01: Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) in collaboration with Civil Defence Department, Srinagar organized a special training programme for basic stakeholders aimed at enhancing their disaster preparedness, emergency response and public safety awareness.

The training programme was inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer, Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority, Dr Ahsanul Haq Chishti in presence of Rahi Riyaz Ahmed, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Srinagar and TOT Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad and Showkat Ahmad, Instructors of Civil Defence Srinagar. More than 40 participants from different trades including shikarawallas, boat operators, sanitation workers, WMDA field staff etc attended the programme and actively took part in various practical and theoretical sessions related to disaster management, first aid, fire safety, rescue operations and emergency response techniques. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Chishti underscored the need for training the tourism stakeholders in disaster preparedness for facilitating visitors during emergency times. He thanked Civil Defence Department, Srinagar for conducting the training programme and emphasized the importance of community-based disaster preparedness. He hoped that such training programmes would impart essential life-saving skills to these stakeholders whom he termed as basic responders in the event of any eventuality.

Rahi Riyaz Ahmed, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Srinagar and TOT Kashmir, highlighted the vital role of Civil Defence volunteers in safeguarding lives and property during natural and man-made disasters. He urged participants to utilize the knowledge gained during the training and spread awareness within their respective communities. During the training programme, Ajaz Ahmad and Showkat Ahmad, Instructors of Civil Defence Srinagar, conducted various training sessions and practical demonstrations. They stressed the importance of timely response, teamwork, and preparedness in minimizing the impact of disasters and emergencies.

GDCs of Bandipora, Ajas organize Anti-Drug, Anti-Tobacco Awareness Programmes under NMBA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 01: Under the banner of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), the NSS Youth Club of HKM Degree College Bandipora organized an Anti-Drug Pledge Taking Ceremony under the convenship of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Convener, NCORD Cell.

Students and NSS volunteers participated enthusiastically and took a pledge to remain free from drugs and to spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse in society.

The programme aimed to strengthen the commitment of youth towards a drug-free lifestyle and encourage them to play an active role in combating the menace of drug addiction. The event successfully conveyed the message of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and inspired students to become responsible citizens dedicated to building a healthy and drug-free society.

Under the banner of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan,

the Red Ribbon Youth Club in collaboration with the Literary Youth Club organized an Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Role of Social Institutions in Curbing Drug Menace." The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students, who expressed their views on the crucial role played by educational institutions, families, religious organizations, community groups, civil society, and government agencies in preventing substance abuse and promoting healthy lifestyles among the youth.

Through their essays, the participants critically examined the social, psychological, and economic factors contributing to drug addiction and suggested various preventive measures based on awareness, counselling, community engagement, and policy interventions. The competition provided students with an opportunity to reflect on one of the most pressing social challenges of contemporary society and encouraged them to think



creatively and responsibly about solutions.

The event successfully promoted awareness, critical thinking, and social responsibility among students while reinforcing the collective commitment to building a healthy, informed, and drug-free society.

Government Degree College Ajas observed World No Tobacco Day under the banner of 100 Days Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) campaign. The programme was organised with the objective of creating awareness among students regarding the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The event witnessed the participation of students, faculty members, and volunteers of the college. On the occasion, the Coordinator, Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) highlighted the serious health, social, and economic consequences of tobacco use and emphasized the importance of collective efforts in building a tobacco-free society.

As part of the programme, the Coordinator administered a pledge against tobacco use, wherein students and faculty members resolved to refrain from tobacco consumption and to spread awareness about its harmful effects among their families, friends, and communities. The pledge was joined by other faculty members of the college, who encouraged students to adopt healthy habits and become ambassadors of positive social change.

The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of the institution's commitment to the objectives of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and to fostering a healthy, responsible, and aware student community.

District Admin Anantnag continues crackdown on drug peddlers

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 01: Continuing the crackdown and punitive action against Drug Peddlers and NDPS Act violators under the 100 Days intensified Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign, the District Administration Anantnag, in coordination with the Police department, today carried out a significant demolition drive at Batengu, Anantnag.

During the joint operation, revenue authorities supported by a police team demolished one illegal

structure/shop raised on State Land under Khasra No. 1156 in Estate Batengu.

The demolished structure was found to be linked with one person involved in a case under the NDPS Act. The revenue department also ensured the retrieval of the encroached State Land through this joint action. Meanwhile, the District Administration has reiterated its firm commitment to maintaining a zero-tolerance policy against drug peddlers, narcotics networks, and unlawful encroachments. Officials stated that such sustained actions will continue under the 100 Day Campaign with the focus to break supply chain of drugs in the district.

Dismantling the illegal structures raised by the drug peddlers and persons involved in narcotics trade and taking strict punitive action against them is an important facet of this campaign, they emphasized.

The administration has also warned that strict action will be taken against persons found involved in similar illegal activities in future.

Appealing to the residents of the district, the Deputy Commissioner urged them to extend full cooperation to the Census staff and provide accurate information to facilitate successful completion of the exercise.

Meanwhile, the district has witnessed enthusiastic participation in the Self-Enumeration process under Census 2027, with over 66,000 households having completed Self-Enumeration which is among the highest in the UT.

ADC Bandipora flags off Houselisting and Housing Census 2027 Team

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 01: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan, who is also the District Census Officer, today flagged off the Houselisting and Housing Census 2027 (HLO) team in the district, marking the commencement of the first phase of Census 2027 in Bandipora.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani and Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Bandipora, Aijaz Ahmad were also present on the occasion.

The Houselisting and Housing Census Operations (HLO), which shall continue from June 1 to June 30, 2026, aim to collect data regarding housing conditions, amenities, and assets available to households across the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC urged the general public to extend full cooperation to the census officials and provide accurate information during the survey.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani emphasized that Census 2027 is an important national exercise which plays a vital role in planning and implementation of developmental programmes, welfare schemes, infrastructure development, and policy formulation.

The District Administration appealed to the people of all rural and urban areas of Bandipora to actively participate in the census exercise and support the officials engaged in the process for its smooth and successful conduct.

Census 2027: District Admin Pulwama commences House Listing & Housing Census (HLO)

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 01: District Administration Pulwama today commenced the House Listing & Housing Census (HLO) Phase of Census 2027 across the district.

The month-long exercise shall continue from 01 June to 30 June 2026, during which enumerators will undertake door-to-door visits to collect information.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom who is also the Principal Cen-

sus Officer, informed that all necessary preparations for the smooth conduct of the Census operations have been completed. He said that a total of 1089 House Listing Blocks (HLBs) have been constituted across urban and rural areas of the district to facilitate systematic and comprehensive coverage of all households.

The Deputy Commissioner further informed that 13 Charge Officers have been designated for supervision of the Census

operations. Besides, 1158 Enumerators and 210 Supervisors have been deployed across the district and provided with all requisite Census material for carrying out the field exercise.

He said that the enumerators shall visit every household during the notified period to undertake house listing activities and collect information in the prescribed formats.

To ensure hassle-free implementation of the Census operations, the district administration

has also deployed Field Trainers and a Master Trainer who shall provide technical support and on-ground guidance to Enumerators and Supervisors and address any issues arising during the course of field work.

Dr. Qayoom emphasized that Census is a vital national exercise and accurate information provided by citizens plays a significant role in planning for infrastructure, education, healthcare, housing and other public services.

Appealing to the residents of the district, the Deputy Commissioner urged them to extend full cooperation to the Census staff and provide accurate information to facilitate successful completion of the exercise.

Meanwhile, the district has witnessed enthusiastic participation in the Self-Enumeration process under Census 2027, with over 66,000 households having completed Self-Enumeration which is among the highest in the UT.

Govt creating new opportunities in tourism despite challenges: Satish Sharma

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today highlighted the immense opportunities being created by the government in the tourism sector, stating that Jammu and Kashmir continues to emerge as a promising destination for investment, entrepreneurship and employment despite facing geographical and climatic challenges.

Addressing the participants at the Jammu Kashmir Business Conclave 2026, the Minister said that the government is committed to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a vibrant hub of tourism-driven economic growth by creating a conducive environment for businesses, startups and local entrepreneurs.

He observed that while the region has historically faced harsh weather conditions and other challenges, these factors have not deterred the government from pursuing an ambitious development agenda. Instead, sustained investments in infrastructure, digital connectivity, hospitality, transportation and tourism facilities are opening new avenues for economic activity and livelihood generation across Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma emphasized that tourism remains one of the



strongest pillars of the region's economy, with immense potential to generate employment for youth, empower local communities and promote sustainable development. He said that focused interventions by the government have led to the expansion of tourism beyond traditional destinations, encouraging the visitors to explore emerging tourist circuits, rural tourism destinations and adventure tourism

opportunities. The Minister said that the government's emphasis on technological innovation and digital governance is further strengthening the tourism ecosystem. Through enhanced digital services, improved connectivity and the integration of technology into tourism promotion, Jammu and Kashmir is becoming increasingly accessible to visitors and investors alike.

Highlighting the role of young entrepreneurs, Sharma said that the government is encouraging innovation and startup culture by providing support mechanisms that enable youth to transform ideas into successful enterprises. He stressed that tourism-linked sectors such as hospitality, handicrafts, transport services, information technology and adventure sports offer significant opportunities for aspir-

ing entrepreneurs.

"The resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the proactive policies of the government are together creating an ecosystem where investment, innovation and tourism can flourish. Our objective is not only to increase the tourist footfall but also to ensure that the benefits of tourism reach every section of society," he said.

The Minister further stated that the government remains focused on building modern infrastructure, promoting skill development and leveraging technology to create sustainable employment opportunities. He reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir's natural beauty, cultural richness and growing infrastructure make it one of the most attractive destinations for tourism and business investments in the country.

Calling upon the industry leaders, investors and entrepreneurs to explore the vast potential of Jammu and Kashmir, Satish Sharma expressed confidence that the region will continue to witness robust growth and emerge as a model of inclusive and sustainable development in the years ahead.

The conclave was attended by the policymakers, industry experts, business leaders and entrepreneurs to discuss the emerging opportunities and strategies for accelerating economic growth.

J&K govt rebuts report on Samagra Shiksha fund release, cites 100% utilisation of central grants

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: The School Education Department, government of Jammu and Kashmir has rebutted the news item titled "MoE released only 20% Samagra grants to SED" published in Greater Kashmir dated 30th May, 2026.

The Department, in an official communique, has clarified that the report presents only a partial picture of the financial position under Samagra Shiksha in J&K and may create an impression that educational activities in the Union Territory have been adversely affected due to non-release of funds. The factual position, however, needs to be viewed in a broader financial and administrative context.

The Department stated that the Project Approval Board (PAB) approves Rs. 1593.60 Cr (fresh) under the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) 2025-26, which only sets the ceiling or outlay for implementation of activities during the year. The PAB approval is not equivalent to immediate fund release.

As per Government of India norms, the Ministry of Education releases funds in phased instalments based on utilisation certificates, expenditure pattern, available balances and compliance. During 2025-26, the MoE, GoI released Rs. 1102.00 crore to J&K under Samagra Shiksha. The released funds have been utilised in full with 100% achievement of targets. Therefore, comparing the total approved outlay with the first instalment released during the year does not reflect the complete financial position.

Highlighting the UT's performance, the Department said that Jammu and Kashmir has consistently implemented major interventions under Samagra Shiksha, including PM SHRI Schools, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, ICT and Smart Classrooms, Inclusive Education, Girls' Education, Vocational Education and Civil Works and Infrastructure Development.

The Ministry of Education has acknowledged the progress achieved by J&K during recent review meetings and during the visit of the Secretary, Government of India, Department of School Education & Literacy to J&K UT. The PAB has also appreciated the academic improvements and implementation progress in the Union Territory.

The Department further underlined that J&K has demonstrated strong utilisation capacity. The Ministry has specifically appreciated the UT's academic improvements and implementation efficiency, which establishes that the School Education Department possesses the capacity to utilise funds effectively whenever releases are made. As an example, under PM SHRI Schools, J&K utilised approximately Rs. 194.53 crore out of Rs. 200.11 crore available funds, demonstrating strong financial and physical progress, in addition to other key components and interventions.

The Department told that the inference drawn in the news report, based on a percentage comparison of a single instalment against the total PAB approval, does not present the complete picture. Fund releases under Samagra Shiksha are governed by a structured, norms-based mechanism linked to utilisation and compliance. The J&K UT has fully utilised the funds released so far and has met 100% of its targets while the educational activities across the Union Territory have continued without disruption.

The School Education Department reiterated its commitment to the effective implementation of all components under Samagra Shiksha as per the approved plan with full financial prudence and efficiency. It clarified that the progress of educational initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir has not been hampered due to any funding constraints.

YSS Kishtwar organises district-wide fitness activities

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 01: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS) Kishtwar today organized "Fit India Movement" Warm-Up Exercise sessions along with an extensive Information, Education and (IEC) Campaign across various educational institutions of the district. The initiative formed part of ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Director General, Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta and under the supervision of District Development Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh and Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs) coordinated the programme.

The activities were organized at GHS Sangrambhata, GHS Sarthal, GHS Tipri, Gali Gad Trigam-C, GHSS Palmar and GHS Manzagam Qaderana and Other institutions. The students and staff members enthusiastically participated in warm-up exercises, embracing physical fitness, healthy lifestyles and overall well-being.

Promoting Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, the participants were sensitized to the harmful effects of drug abuse and substance addiction. Students were encouraged to adopt healthy habits, engage in sports and physical activities and act as ambassadors of a drug-free society.

The programme highlighted the importance of regular physical exercise as a key component of the Fit India Movement while reinforcing the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan. Resource persons emphasized that sports and fitness play a vital role in channelizing the energy of youth towards positive and productive pursuits.

The participating institutions appreciated the initiative and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting awareness programmes aimed at creating a healthy, fit and drug-free generation.

The event concluded with a collective pledge by students and staff to remain physically active and contribute towards building a stronger and addiction-free society.

DAJ constitutes Divisional-Level Committees to promote Khet Bachao Abhiyan

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 01: The Directorate of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu has constituted two Divisional-Level Committees to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the month-long "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" campaign, commencing from today.

The campaign, being conducted under the supervision of Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta, aims at promoting sustainable agricultural practices, awareness generation and saturation of farmer welfare schemes across Jammu Division.

The committees shall be responsible for planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of ac-

tivities under the Abhiyan, with special emphasis on Natural Farming, dissemination of information regarding Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Soil Health Card (SHC), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi.

The committees would also educate farmers on balanced and judicious use of fertilizers, organic inputs, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides and quality seeds and pesticides.

The first committee, chaired by Joint Director (Extension Sanjay Anand, will monitor activities in Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Kishtwar and Doda districts. Members include (Agriculture Economist) Tilak Raj Sharma, Raju Mahajan (PPO Jammu), Gopal Krishan (Seed Analyst), Har-

vinder Singh (Assistant Entomologist Jammu), R.P. Kochar (MDO Jammu), Chander Shekher Sharma (Assistant Soil Chemist) and Vivek Mahajan (Programme Officer).

The second committee, headed by Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB) Aman Jyoti Sharma, would oversee campaign activities in Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch districts. The members include Rakesh Sharma (DSSO Jammu), Karuna Nidhi (Dy. Director Trainings), Kuldeep Singh (ADLE Jammu), Neeraj Rajwal (Farm Management Specialist, FTC), Nirmal Prakash Sharma (DSCO Jammu), Arun Samyal (ASSO Jammu), Anurag Verma (Training Officer, FTC) and Ravinder Gupta (Assistant Agriculture Chemist).

Essay Writing Competitions, Awareness Programmes held across Bandipora under NMBA

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 01: Various educational institutions across district Bandipora on Monday organised essay writing competitions, pledge ceremonies and awareness programmes under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote healthy lifestyles among students.

Activities under NMBA were conducted at High School Panar, High School Koragbal and H/S Ketson, where different awareness and pledge programmes were organised to educate students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of leading a healthy and responsible life.

An Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Youth Responsibility" was organised at PM SHRI High School Odina

under the banner of NMBA. Students enthusiastically participated and expressed their views on the role of youth in building a drug-free, healthy and progressive society.

Similar essay writing competitions were organised at HSS Nowgam, HSS Quilmuqam, HSS Gadakhud, HS Kanzalwan, HSS Sumbal, GHS Nadihal and BHSS Aloosa under the NMBA campaign. Students actively participated and highlighted the importance of youth engagement, awareness and preventive action in controlling drug abuse and promoting a healthy society.

At HSS Quilmuqam, students and staff also participated in a pledge ceremony reaffirming their commitment towards building a drug-free and responsible society.

HSS Gadakhud organised an essay writing competition titled "Responsibility of Youth in Drug



Abuse Control". Around 20 students participated in the competition and highlighted the role of youth as guardians of a drug-

free society. Winners of the competition were awarded certificates of appreciation by the Principal.

Meanwhile, Government High School Tarbal Gurez organised a Drug Awareness Campaign in collaboration with Police, Youth Services and Sports Department and Education Department. The programme focused on curbing substance abuse through awareness activities, anti-drug slogans and posters aimed at educating the public, especially youth, about the harmful consequences of drug addiction.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, staff members and volunteers across the district, reflecting the continued commitment of educational institutions towards strengthening awareness and preventive outreach under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Agriculture Department launches "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" in Bandipora

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 01: Department of Agriculture Bandipora today launched the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan", a month-long awareness campaign that will continue till 30th June 2026.

The programme was inaugurated at High School Kudara (PM SHREE) by the District Agriculture Officer, Bandipora, who highlighted the vital importance of soil as the



foundation of sustainable agriculture and emphasized the need for its conservation for future generations.

During the programme, students were sensitized about the significance

of soil, its role in food production and environmental sustainability, and the various measures required to protect and preserve this precious natural resource. An interactive session was also organized on the occasion, during which participants were educated about the importance of soil testing. They were provided detailed guidance on the scientific procedures for collecting soil samples for analysis.

ADC flags off Mindhal Chandi Mata Yatra at Bhadarwah

HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADARWAH, JUNE 01: Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today flagged off the holy Mindhal Chandi Mata Yatra here from Panchayat Drudhu-Bhadarwah.

The sacred pilgrimage, which attracts hundreds of devotees from different parts of the region, marks

a deep spiritual journey to the revered shrine of Mata Chandi located in Mindhal, Chamba.

The event witnessed a vibrant display of devotion as pilgrims, adorned in traditional attire, carried the Mata's Palki amidst chants of "Jai Mata Di" and soul-stirring bhajans. Addressing the gathering, the ADC highlighted the spiritual and cultural importance of the yatra,

stating that such pilgrimages not only strengthen spiritual connection but also bind people in the rich cultural fabric of brotherhood and unity.

The trust Vishal Dharmik Sanstha organized langar on the occasion. Pilgrims were served with warm meals and refreshments, reflecting the spirit of service, compassion and shared devotion.

HT EDITORIAL

TET Issue : A Need for Sensitivity and Consensus

The controversy surrounding the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) in Jammu & Kashmir has triggered widespread concern among the teaching community. While the issue continues to generate heated debate, one positive aspect that deserves recognition is the government's approach in taking up the matter before the Supreme Court of India. By seeking judicial intervention and clarity, the government has demonstrated its willingness to safeguard the interests of teachers and address their concerns through constitutional and legal means rather than adopting a confrontational stance.

The government appears to be conscious of the fact that teachers form the backbone of the education system and that any policy affecting them must be handled with utmost care and sensitivity. Its efforts indicate a desire to find a lawful and sustainable resolution to a matter that has significant implications for thousands of educators across Jammu & Kashmir.

The concerns of teachers, however, remain both genuine and understandable. Many educators who have spent decades serving in classrooms feel that being required to qualify a TET examination at this stage of their careers amounts to questioning their competence, experience, and commitment. For them, the issue extends beyond a mere test; it touches upon professional dignity and self-respect.

Teachers argue that they have already proven their worth through years of service, often under challenging conditions and in far-flung areas. They believe that subjecting experienced in-service teachers to an eligibility test designed primarily for fresh entrants is unfair and demoralizing. The teaching fraternity, traditionally regarded as one of the most respected sections of society, sees the move as an unnecessary burden and, in many cases, a source of humiliation.

The way forward lies in reconciliation rather than rigidity. While maintaining the objective of improving educational standards, policymakers should consider alternative mechanisms for in-service teachers, such as refresher courses, capacity-building programmes, skill enhancement workshops, and periodic professional evaluations. Such measures can achieve the goal of quality improvement without undermining the morale of experienced educators.

At a time when education faces numerous challenges, unity between the government and teachers is essential. A mutually acceptable solution, arrived at through dialogue and understanding, will not only protect the dignity of teachers but also strengthen the education system as a whole. After all, reforms are most successful when they are implemented with consensus, compassion, and respect for those who dedicate their lives to shaping future generations.

587th - ANNUAL URS-E-MUBARAK; Remembering Hazrat Haji Syed Muhammad Murad Bukhari (RA) : The Patron Saint of Kashmir



JAHANGIR BUKHARI

As devotees gather to observe the 587th annual Urs of Hazrat Haji Syed Muhammad Murad Bukhari on the 17th of Dhul Hijjah, Kashmir once again turns its attention to one of the most influential spiritual figures in its history. More than five centuries after his passing, the memory of the revered saint, scholar, jurist and missionary continues to inspire generations across the Valley and beyond.

Known affectionately as Qazi Kashmir, Hazrat Haji Syed Muhammad Murad Bukhari (RA) occupies a unique place in the religious and cultural heritage of Kashmir. His life coincided with a crucial period in the Valley's history when Islamic learning, spirituality and institutions were taking deeper roots. Through his scholarship, personal example and tireless missionary efforts, he played a vital role in shaping the religious landscape of Kashmir.

Born in Iskanderpora in 780 Hijri, Hazrat Murad Bukhari (RA) belonged to a distinguished family of scholars and saints whose ancestral roots traced back to Bukhara in Central Asia, one of the great centres of Islamic learning in the medieval world. From an early age, he displayed an exceptional inclination towards religious knowledge and spiritual discipline. Under the guidance of learned elders in his family, he mastered the foundational sciences of Islam before embarking on long journeys in search of higher learning.

His quest for knowledge took him to some of the most renowned centres of Islamic scholarship in Iraq, Iran and the wider Middle East. During these travels, he came into contact with eminent scholars and Sufi masters, acquiring expertise in



Islamic jurisprudence, Hadith and spirituality. Traditions associated with his life recount his association with the celebrated Sufi master Shaikh Ishaq Rumi, under whom he received spiritual training and later attained distinction within the Shattari order. He is also remembered for his connection with scholars of the Kubravi tradition, one of the most influential mystical schools of the Islamic world.

Historical accounts and local traditions describe Hazrat Murad Bukhari (RA) as a man who successfully combined the outward discipline of Islamic law with the inward refinement of Sufism. This rare combination earned him immense respect among both rulers and common people. His reputation for wisdom, integrity and scholarship eventually led to his appointment as the Chief Justice of Kashmir during the reign of the celebrated ruler Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin, whose era is widely regarded as one of the most enlightened periods in Kashmiri history.

Despite enjoying royal patronage, Hazrat Murad Bukhari (RA) chose a life of simplicity and service. Historical narratives state that Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin personally visited Kreeri to persuade the saint to settle in Srinagar, the capital of the kingdom. However,

the saint politely declined the invitation, preferring to continue his mission among the people of the countryside. His decision reflected a lifelong commitment to grassroots religious education and community guidance rather than proximity to power.

The village of Kreeri subsequently emerged as a major centre of Islamic learning and spirituality. It was here that Hazrat Murad Bukhari (RA) established his khanqah and carried out much of his missionary work. According to tradition, it was through the Sultan's orders and the saint's influence that the first congregational Friday prayer outside Srinagar was formally established in Kreeri, marking an important development in the spread of Islamic institutions across rural Kashmir.

The influence of Hazrat Murad Bukhari (RA) extended far beyond his immediate surroundings. His teachings helped shape a generation of scholars, preachers and mystics who carried the message of Islam to different parts of the Valley. Among those associated with his spiritual circle was Baba Payamuddin Reshi, one of Kashmir's most beloved saints. Local traditions maintain that Baba Reshi spent years under the guidance of Hazrat Murad Bukhari (RA) before establishing his own centre of spiritual activ-

ity. Such accounts underscore the far-reaching impact of the saint's teachings on the evolution of Kashmir's spiritual tradition.

The esteem in which he was held can also be gauged from the reverence shown to him by later generations of saints. It is said that Hamza Makhdoom, one of the greatest Sufi figures of Kashmir, would visit his shrine barefoot as a mark of respect.

Beyond Kashmir, Hazrat Murad Bukhari (RA) is remembered for his extensive travels and devotion to the sacred cities of Islam. He is believed to have performed the Hajj pilgrimage several times and spent considerable periods in Madinah. A cherished relic associated with him is the historic Alam Sharif, preserved through the centuries and displayed on special religious occasions, serving as a symbol of the spiritual heritage linked to his name.

Hazrat Haji Syed Muhammad Murad Bukhari (RA) passed away in 861 Hijri, but his influence did not end with his earthly life. His shrine at Kreeri soon became a place of pilgrimage, attracting seekers, scholars and devotees from different regions. Over the centuries, the shrine has remained a centre of faith, remembrance and spiritual reflection, drawing thousands of visitors every year.

Today, as the annual Urs is observed, the life of Hazrat Murad Bukhari (RA) offers an enduring reminder of the values that defined his mission: knowledge, humility, justice, service to humanity and unwavering devotion to God. In an age often marked by division and discord, his legacy continues to speak of compassion, moral integrity and the transformative power of spiritual guidance.

For countless people across Kashmir, the Urs is not merely a commemoration of a saint's passing. It is a celebration of a legacy that helped shape the Valley's religious identity and enriched its spiritual heritage. More than five hundred years after his departure from this world, Hazrat Haji Syed Muhammad Murad Bukhari (RA) remains a guiding light in the collective memory of Kashmir, revered by many as one of the true architects of its spiritual civilization.

Dogri Theatre's Journey from Folk Tradition to Cultural Powerhouse



RAHUL SINGH

Regional theatre traditions in India often face a difficult challenge. They must preserve their cultural roots while adapting to changing artistic and social realities. Few have managed this balance as successfully as Dogri theatre. Once confined largely to folk performances in villages and festivals, Dogri theatre has transformed into one of India's most vibrant regional theatre movements. Its journey after Independence is not merely a story of artistic progress but also of cultural resilience, identity, and innovation.

Before Independence, Dogri theatre existed primarily in the form of folk performances associated with religious celebrations, seasonal festivals, and community gatherings. Theatrical expression was deeply embedded in everyday life, but it lacked institutional support and organized development. Traditional forms such as Bhagatan, Jagarna, Jattar, and Haran functioned as entertainment, social commentary, and cultural preservation mechanisms simultaneously.

Bhagatan, for example, emerged as a folk theatre tradition among ordinary communities and addressed social, political, and religious themes. Performers travelled between villages, entertaining people while also carrying messages relevant to society. Similarly, Jagarna was linked with marriage customs and women's participation, while Haran involved dramatic performances during Lohri celebrations. These traditions reflected the richness of Duggar culture and formed the earliest foundations of Dogri theatrical expression.

The period following 1947 changed everything. Independence brought renewed emphasis on regional languages and cultural identities. Across

India, efforts began to preserve indigenous traditions, and Dogri theatre benefitted significantly from this shift. Institutions emerged, literary figures took interest, and theatre gradually evolved from a folk practice into a structured artistic discipline. The establishment of organizations such as Dogri Sanstha and later the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages played a defining role in nurturing this transformation.

The Academy, established in 1958, became one of the most important pillars supporting Dogri theatre. Through workshops, festivals, financial assistance, and encouragement to playwrights and actors, it created an environment in which theatre could flourish. These interventions were crucial because artistic talent alone rarely sustains a cultural movement without institutional backing.

The 1960s marked a significant turning point. Influential writers such as Dinoo Bhai Pant and Som Nath Zuta introduced socially relevant themes into Dogri plays. Theatre began engaging with patriotism, family dynamics, social injustice, and changing societal values. Productions became more meaningful and connected deeply with audiences. At the same time, performance quality improved due to better direction, stagecraft, lighting, and acting techniques.

Dogri theatre no longer remained confined to preserving tradition. It started experimenting. Modern theatrical devices, multimedia elements, innovative stage design, and new narrative forms gradually entered productions. Importantly, these experiments did not erase traditional identity. Instead, they strengthened it. The ability of Dogri theatre to blend folk traditions with contemporary practices became one of its greatest strengths.

The emergence of Balwant Thakur and the Natrang theatre movement during the 1980s and 1990s fundamentally altered the landscape of Dogri theatre. It would not be an exaggeration to say that modern Dogri theatre gained national recognition largely through this cultural movement.

Under Balwant Thakur's direction, Dogri productions achieved milestones previously unimaginable for regional theatre. Plays travelled beyond Jammu and Kashmir and earned appreciation at national festivals. Dogri theatre was no longer viewed as peripheral or local. It began occupying central space

within Indian theatre discourse. Perhaps the strongest symbol of this transformation is Bawa Jitto.

Originally based on a fifteenth-century folk hero and martyr, Bawa Jitto evolved into one of India's longest-running contemporary theatre productions. The play has been performed more than 140 times across multiple cities and states, including Delhi, Kerala, Assam, Rajasthan, and beyond. Its success demonstrated that stories deeply rooted in local culture can achieve universal appeal when presented with artistic excellence.

The brilliance of Bawa Jitto lies in its synthesis of traditional Dogri elements with modern theatrical expression. Folk forms such as Karkan and Geetru are integrated organically into the narrative. Music, dance, storytelling, and symbolism work together to create a uniquely immersive experience. Rather than appearing outdated, folk traditions become contemporary and emotionally powerful.

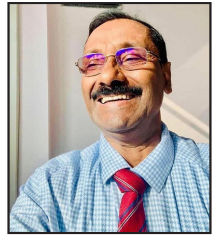
Other productions achieved similar recognition. Ghumayee became the first Indian theatre production to reach the Frankfurt International Theatre Festival in Germany and was later showcased at the Commonwealth Games and Theatre Olympics. Such achievements challenged long-held assumptions that Dogri lacked a strong theatrical tradition.

The misconception persisted for years that Kashmir's Bhand Pather represented the only significant regional theatre tradition of Jammu and Kashmir. The rise of Dogri theatre decisively overturned this notion. It revealed that Jammu possessed an equally rich and dynamic cultural heritage. Yet, despite remarkable progress, challenges remain.

Urban audiences increasingly prefer Hindi and English productions. Many young practitioners shift toward languages perceived to offer broader opportunities. Funding limitations, changing entertainment habits, and inadequate long-term support continue to threaten sustainability. Additionally, numerous productions are created mainly for festivals and disappear after a few performances, limiting their broader cultural impact.

(The writer is a Scholarship and Fellowship Holder from Ministry of Culture, Government of India in the field of Theatre)

An Ideal Teacher's Ideals: Indian and Western Educational Ideology



■ **DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE**

When I was delivering my lecture as an Indian teacher in Fairleigh Dickinson University on Tagore's ideal as a teacher, the question came to my mind that the idea of the ideal teacher has always been inseparable from the idea of civilization itself, for every society, whether ancient or modern, has entrusted its teachers with the responsibility of shaping the minds and morals of the next generation. A comparative study of Indian and Western educational philosophies reveal that although their emphases differ, their deeper aspirations converge on the holistic development of the learner, the cultivation of moral character, and the nurturing of intellectual curiosity, and this convergence becomes especially meaningful when we consider the evolving role of the teacher in a world that is increasingly interconnected yet culturally diverse, where the ideals of the teacher must be broad enough to embrace global perspectives while remaining rooted in the ethical foundations of their own tradition.

The Indian concept of the ideal teacher is deeply embedded in the ancient vision of the guru, a figure who embodies not only knowledge but also wisdom, compassion, and spiritual insight, and this vision is reflected in the Gurukula system where the relationship between guru and shishya was not transactional but transformative, based on trust, devotion, and the shared pursuit of truth, and the guru was expected to be a living example of the values they taught, a guide who illuminated the path of self-realization, and this emphasis on inner transformation remains central to Indian educational thought even today, as seen in the teachings of Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, and Mahatma Gandhi, each of whom envisioned education as a means of awakening the latent divinity within the learner. Vivekananda insisted that education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man, a view that places the teacher in the role of a facilitator who helps the student discover their own

potential rather than imposing knowledge from outside, and Tagore, with his poetic humanism, believed that the teacher must nurture the child's sense of wonder, creativity, and harmony with nature, while Gandhi emphasized character formation, self-discipline, and the dignity of labor, arguing that the teacher must be a moral exemplar whose life itself becomes a lesson in truth and non-violence, and these ideals collectively shape the Indian vision of the teacher as a guide who integrates intellectual, ethical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of learning.

In contrast, Western educational philosophy, while equally committed to the development of the learner, places greater emphasis on rational inquiry, critical thinking, and civic participation, drawing from the intellectual traditions of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and later thinkers such as John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, John Dewey, and Paulo Freire, and the Western teacher is often envisioned as a facilitator of dialogue, a promoter of democratic values, and a cultivator of independent thought, and this emphasis on rationality and autonomy reflects the broader Western intellectual tradition that values empirical reasoning, scientific inquiry, and the questioning of established norms, and the Socratic method, for instance, positions the teacher not as an authority who dispenses knowledge but as a partner in dialogue who challenges the student to think critically, question assumptions, and arrive at their own conclusions.

Rousseau's vision of natural education, Locke's emphasis on experience, Dewey's advocacy of learning by doing, and Freire's insistence on education as a practice of freedom all contribute to a Western ideal of the teacher as someone who empowers learners to become active participants in society, capable of shaping democratic institutions and contributing to social progress, and this emphasis on civic responsibility and intellectual autonomy complements the Indian focus on moral and spiritual development, creating a rich field for comparative reflection. When we bring these two traditions into dialogue, we find that the ideal teacher in the modern world must embody a synthesis of these complementary ideals, integrating the Indian emphasis on inner growth with the Western emphasis on critical inquiry, and such a teacher must be both a moral guide and an intellectual catalyst, someone who nurtures the student's

character while also stimulating their curiosity, creativity, and capacity for independent thought, and this synthesis becomes especially important in an era marked by rapid technological change, cultural pluralism, and global interdependence, where the teacher must prepare students not only for professional success but also for responsible citizenship and ethical living.

The modern teacher, therefore, must cultivate a broad range of qualities, including empathy, patience, intellectual rigor, cultural sensitivity, and the ability to inspire, and they must be lifelong learners themselves, constantly updating their knowledge and adapting their methods to meet the evolving needs of students, and this adaptability is essential because education today is no longer confined to the classroom but extends into digital spaces, community interactions, and global networks, and the teacher must guide students in navigating these complex environments with discernment and integrity. The Indian tradition offers valuable insights into the ethical and spiritual dimensions of teaching, reminding us that education is not merely the transmission of information but the cultivation of wisdom, compassion, and self-knowledge, and the guru's role as a mentor who shapes the student's character remains relevant even in contemporary settings, where students often struggle with stress, identity crises, and moral dilemmas, and the teacher's ability to provide emotional support, ethical guidance, and a sense of purpose becomes crucial, and this aligns with the modern emphasis on social-emotional learning, which recognizes that students learn best when they feel safe, valued, and understood.

At the same time, Western educational thought contributes essential perspectives on critical thinking, scientific reasoning, and democratic engagement, and the teacher must encourage students to question, analyze, and evaluate information rather than accepting it passively, especially in an age of misinformation and digital overload, and this requires the teacher to cultivate intellectual independence, media literacy, and a spirit of inquiry, qualities that are central to the Western tradition of liberal education, and the teacher must also foster collaborative learning, open dialogue, and respect for diverse viewpoints, preparing students to participate constructively in pluralistic societies. The synthesis of Indian and Western

ideals thus enriches the teacher's role, enabling them to guide students toward both self-realization and social responsibility, and this dual focus is essential because education must address not only the individual's inner development but also their relationship with the world, and the ideal teacher must help students cultivate both personal integrity and a sense of global citizenship, and this requires a pedagogy that integrates ethical reflection, experiential learning, interdisciplinary exploration, and community engagement, and such a pedagogy draws from the strengths of both traditions, combining the Indian emphasis on values and self-discipline with the Western emphasis on inquiry and participation.

In this context, the teacher becomes not merely an instructor but a bridge between cultures, traditions, and ways of knowing, and their role extends beyond the classroom into the broader social and moral fabric of the community, and they must model the virtues they seek to instill, demonstrating humility, curiosity, resilience, and compassion in their interactions with students, colleagues, and society, and this modeling is crucial because students learn as much from the teacher's character as from their words, and the teacher's authenticity, integrity, and commitment to truth become powerful influences on the student's development. The ideal teacher must also recognize the uniqueness of each learner, honoring their individuality, strengths, challenges, and aspirations, and this recognition aligns with both the Indian belief in the divine potential within each person and the Western emphasis on learner-centered education, and the teacher must create an environment where students feel empowered to explore their interests, express their ideas, and pursue their goals, and this requires flexibility, creativity, and a deep understanding of human psychology, and the teacher must balance structure with freedom, guidance with autonomy, and discipline with empathy, creating a learning experience that is both rigorous and nurturing.

In the contemporary world, where education is increasingly shaped by technology, globalization, and shifting social values, the teacher's role becomes even more complex and demanding, and they must navigate the challenges of digital learning, multicultural classrooms, and rapidly changing knowledge systems, and they must help students develop not

only academic skills but also digital literacy, ethical judgment, emotional intelligence, and global awareness, and this multifaceted role requires a holistic approach that draws from the wisdom of both Indian and Western traditions, integrating spiritual insight with scientific reasoning, moral guidance with critical inquiry, and personal growth with social engagement.

Ultimately, the ideal teacher is one who inspires transformation, both within the individual and within society, and they must cultivate in their students a love of learning, a commitment to truth, a sense of compassion, and the courage to act with integrity, and these qualities are essential for building a just, peaceful, and enlightened world, and the teacher's influence extends far beyond the classroom, shaping the values, aspirations, and actions of future generations, and this profound responsibility underscores the need for teachers to embody the highest ideals of their profession, drawing from the rich heritage of Indian and Western educational philosophies to create a vision of teaching that is both timeless and relevant.

In this sense, the ideal teacher becomes a living synthesis of traditions, a guide who helps students navigate the complexities of modern life while remaining anchored in universal values, and their work becomes a form of service, a contribution to the collective well-being of humanity, and the ideals they embody—wisdom, compassion, integrity, curiosity, and courage—become the foundation upon which the future is built, and as we reflect on the evolving role of the teacher, we recognize that their greatest power lies not in the information they impart but in the inspiration they ignite, the character they shape, and the vision they awaken in the hearts of their students, and this vision, rooted in the shared aspirations of Indian and Western educational thought, affirms the teacher's enduring role as a beacon of light in the journey of human development.

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Tobacco Products never a good option



■ **SAHIL MANZOOR**

Every year on 31st May, World No Tobacco Day is observed with awareness programmes and seminars. Today, it is very unfortunate that our blooming and tender-age youth are engaging in the smoking curse, and most adult people in Kashmir are smoking for no reason. This should be eradicated and their extravagant expenditure should be saved. Recently, cigarettes and other related products are skyrocketing, and it is dreadful and not a good option to get involved in cigarette consumption habits.

Smoking causes lethal health issues in society. Tobacco belongs to the nightshade family and is cultivated for its dried leaves. Tobacco plants grow 1 to 3 metres tall and produce more than 10 broad leaves. The leaves of the tobacco plant are dried, processed, and used to manufacture cigars, cigarettes, etc., which are lethal to human health and have immense hazards.

Cigarettes contain about 4,000 chemicals, of which 43 are carcinogenic (cancer-causing). These include polycyclic hydrocarbons, ammonia, formaldehyde, and oxides of nitrogen. Carbon monoxide is one of the most dangerous and poisonous



gases, which reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood and affects smokers worldwide.

It is believed that in 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on Tobago Island and found that the natives were using dried tobacco leaves for pleasure. Since then, tobacco has spread throughout the world in different forms, such as chewing tobacco and cigars.

Nicotine is present in tobacco leaves and is the major addictive component. It has harmful effects on human health, as it causes heart attacks and affects the nervous system. Nicotine is also used in agriculture as an insecticide and in some gastrointestinal treatments. It makes people depen-

dent, sick, unhygienic, and short-tempered. Tobacco contains tar, which causes lung cancer and many other diseases among smokers. Active smokers are ten times more likely to die from lung cancer than passive smokers. The mixture of carbon monoxide and nicotine increases heart rate and blood pressure and is responsible for strokes as well.

Carbon monoxide reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of muscles and the brain, causing stress to these organs. Consuming tobacco products in different forms can trigger irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). Smoking can harm the stomach and cause intestinal irritation.

Smoking is not only harmful to active

smokers but also affects passive smokers. It causes irritation, coughing, sneezing, and greatly pollutes the environment. Every year on 31st May, Anti-Smoking Day is celebrated worldwide through seminars and anti-tobacco campaigns in schools, colleges, and public places.

Being responsible citizens, we must take steps to understand the factors that lead youth into tobacco and drug use. Our youth are losing their health and wealth in a very harmful way.

Major Health Hazards of Smoking Heart Disease:
Smoking damages the heart, blood vessels, and blood cells. The chemicals in cigarettes increase the risk of atheroscle-

rosis (plaque buildup in arteries), which limits blood flow and causes dangerous blockages. Smoking also increases the risk of peripheral artery disease (PAD).

Damaged Lungs:
Smoking increases the risk of lung cancer. About 9 out of 10 lung cancer deaths are linked to smoking. It also increases the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and asthma attacks.

Fertility Problems:
Smoking can damage a woman's reproductive system and make pregnancy difficult. In men, it increases the risk of erectile dysfunction and reduces sperm quality.

Weakened Immune System:
Smoking weakens the immune system, making people more prone to illness.

Vision Problems:
Smoking increases the risk of cataracts, macular degeneration, dry eyes, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy.

Poor Oral Hygiene:
Smokers have double the risk of gum disease. Smoking stains teeth, affects taste and smell, and causes swollen gums, bleeding, loose teeth, and sensitivity.

Unhealthy Skin and Hair:
Smoking causes premature ageing, wrinkles, hair loss, and increases the risk of skin cancer, especially on the lips.

Risk of Other Cancers:
Smoking contributes to cancers of the pancreas, bladder, stomach, mouth, throat, larynx, oesophagus, kidney, cervix, liver, colon, and acute myeloid leukemia.

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Feeling the heat?

It might be ageing you faster than you think



■ SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

If you've ever felt like the summer heat is draining your energy, you're not alone. Feeling tired during hot weather is common, especially in peak summer. Many people experience low energy, feel tired, and struggle to stay focused throughout the day, even without doing heavy work during the hot summer season.

People often dismiss 'afternoon lethargy' as a normal part of life. But summer fatigue isn't just about being exhausted; it's a physical reaction to heat.

When temperatures rise, your body spends more energy cooling itself through sweating and increased blood circulation.

When we sweat, we also lose water and electrolytes (i.e., "salts" such as sodium, chloride, potassium).

Sweating removes not only water but also electrolytes (i.e., "salts" such as sodium, chloride, potassium), that help maintain normal body function.

This process uses extra energy, which can leave you feeling drained even without much physical activity.

Summer fatigue differs from typical tiredness. Environmental factors create specific energy drains unique to warm seasons.

We lose fluids and electrolytes. Loss of electrolytes can affect muscle and nerve function. Electrolytes affect the amount of water in your body, the acidity of your blood (pH), your muscle function, and other important processes.

Mild dehydration underlies most summer fatigue, and it doesn't always feel like 'dehydration'. It feels like laziness, low mood, or lack of focus, leading to a drop in energy level.

Prolonged exposure to severe, scorching temperatures triggers stress and damage in the body that goes far beyond a simple sunburn. Consistent exposure to high temperatures might also be making you age more quickly at a molecular level.

Repeated exposure to extreme heat waves can do more than make you sweat. It can quietly accelerate the ageing process in people and increase vulnerability to health issues. The more extreme heat events an individual is exposed to, the more quickly they age.

Exposure to outdoor heat accelerates ageing among the physically weak adults living in poorly ventilated spaces or working in outdoor settings because they remain exposed to heat for longer periods.

Prolonged exposure to high temperatures may increase oxidative stress, inflammation, and strain on vital organs.

■ Pre-hydration

When the temperature climbs, you might only be "feeling the heat", but your body is actively fighting to protect your vital organs.

Prevention does not come about by just drinking water when you're thirsty; it works when you understand the biological mechanics of heat and stay one step ahead of it.

From a clinical perspective, thirst is a late signal of dehydration. The body begins to lose fluids much earlier, especially in high heat.

The pre-hydration rule during summer means hydrating in advance by drinking adequate fluids and electrolytes 2 to 3 hours before stepping into the heat or engaging in physical activity to set up a hydration reserve in the body.

Pre-hydration is simply staying hydrated before you hit a deficit.

This is where you give your body a hydration head start, ensuring it's well-prepped for the challenges ahead.

The body benefits more when fluid intake begins early in the morning and continues steadily before stepping out.

This approach helps maintain your body's fluid balance, enhancing your endurance, focus, and overall performance.

Everyone's hydration needs are different. Pay attention to how your body feels and adjust your fluid intake accordingly. Don't consume all your fluids at once. Sip consistently throughout the morning. Infuse the water with vetiver (khus), fennel seeds (saunf), or a slice of cucumber. These are naturally "cooling" and make plain water less boring to drink.

On the flip side, becoming over-hydrated can be serious as well. This condition, known as hyponatremia, occurs when someone drinks too much water, thereby diluting electrolytes. This is also a serious and potentially deadly condition that needs immediate medical attention.



If you drink a lot of water in a short period, you may move from mild over-hydration to what's known as water toxicity, intoxication, or water poisoning.

■ Local dish to stay naturally cool

Beat the blistering heat with a bowl of Curd Rice or a chilled glass of Sattu Sharbat.

A glass of kokum sherbet will keep you cool in this heat, reduce the acidity and get rid of bloating.

These traditional Indian cooling foods drop your internal body temperature naturally, rehydrate lost electrolytes, and are incredibly light on your digestion.

Kokum sherbet is a refreshing, tangy, and naturally cooling Indian summer drink.

Made from dried kokum fruit, the drink has a deep pink colour and a pleasantly tangy taste. To prepare it, kokum is soaked in hot water to cover until soft.

and mixed with sugar or jaggery, along with roasted cumin powder and a pinch of salt.

Add a large glass of ice-cold water and mix well. Serve chilled with ice. Kokum sherbet is often consumed in

the afternoon or after meals during summer. Many families store kokum concentrate so they can quickly prepare the drink whenever the heat becomes overwhelming.

Low in fat and high in probiotics, buttermilk soothes the stomach and boosts hydration. It's perfect after a heavy meal or during midday when the heat peaks.

You can make a quick sattu drink by taking 2 tablespoons of Sattu powder, 1 glass of cold water, 1/2 teaspoon roasted cumin powder, a pinch of black salt, and a squeeze of fresh lemon. Mix all the ingredients in a glass until completely smooth. Garnish with a few fresh mint leaves and enjoy immediately.

Bajre ki Raddi/ Raab: A centuries-old summer superfood made of fermented pearl millet (bajra) flour or sorghum mixed with buttermilk is a highly nutritious, traditional Rajasthani porridge.

It provides hydration, electrolytes, and acts as a natural body coolant.

In rural areas, it has long been considered one of the best natural ways to survive the harsh desert heat.

Many locals see it as a natural cooling remedy that helps the body stay hydrated and energised during peak summer

months. In the summer, it is consumed cold, and keeps the body cool and protects from heat stroke.

■ Seasonal Fruits

Water-rich fruits are rich in natural sugars, fibre, and antioxidants. They are not only an excellent source of hydration but also protect the body against damage caused by heat and sun exposure. Many fruits naturally contain high amounts of water along with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Including hydrating summer fruits such as watermelon (92%), strawberries (91%), cantaloupe (90%), and peaches (89%) not only provides essential nutrients like vitamin C, vitamin A, potassium, and antioxidants, helping with hydration, immunity, and overall energy.

■ Watch your medicines during the summer

Medicine may raise the risk during the summer season

Certain medications significantly raise your risk of heat exhaustion, dehydration, and sunburn during the summer.

Certain medications, such as those for high blood pressure or heart disease, may raise your risk for fainting in high heat. Know if any drugs or supplements you take could make you less tolerant to the heat.

Never leave medications in hot cars, direct sunlight, or humid areas like the beach. Heat breaks down active ingredients.

Some medicines, like diuretics, lower your fluid levels. They're often part of treatment for high blood pressure.

If you're taking certain medicines, you'll want to be extra careful. They can make your skin extra sensitive to sunburns, which can lead to heat exhaustion.

Heat can also degrade drugs like inhalers or EpiPens. Always store medicines in cool, dry places, stay hydrated, and consult your doctor before altering any prescriptions.

Summer heat and humidity can quickly degrade the chemical structure of prescription and over-the-counter medications, rendering them ineffective or even dangerous. Proper storage and awareness are essential for your medications during peak seasonal temperatures

The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

The Growing Threat of Carcinogenic Substances to Human Health



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

The growing presence of carcinogenic substances in our environment has emerged as a significant public health concern in the modern world. Carcinogens are substances or agents capable of causing cancer by damaging cells and altering normal biological processes. With rapid industrialization, urbanization, and changing lifestyles, human exposure to these harmful substances has increased considerably, making cancer prevention and environmental safety more important than ever before.

Carcinogenic substances are found in many aspects of daily life. They exist in tobacco smoke, industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, pesticides, processed foods, and certain household products. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has identified numerous substances with cancer-causing potential, including benzene, formaldehyde, asbestos, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These chemicals can enter the human body through inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact and may cause serious health complications over time.

Scientific research conducted across the world has established a strong connection between exposure to carcinogens and the increasing incidence of cancer. Studies have shown that workers employed in



industries such as mining, construction, manufacturing, and chemical processing face a higher risk of developing lung cancer, leukemia, skin cancer, and various digestive system cancers. Continuous exposure to hazardous substances in occupational settings underscores the need for stronger workplace safety standards and effective protective measures.

The impact of carcinogenic substances extends far beyond industrial environments. Environmental pollution caused by factories, traffic emissions, waste burning, and improper disposal of hazardous materials exposes millions of people to

harmful toxins every day. Air pollution, in particular, has become a major health challenge. According to global health reports, polluted air contributes significantly to premature deaths and increases the risk of respiratory illnesses and cancer. Children, senior citizens, and individuals with weakened immune systems are among the most vulnerable groups affected by environmental carcinogens.

Modern dietary habits and lifestyle choices have further intensified the problem. Excessive consumption of processed foods, smoked and preserved meat products, alcohol, and tobacco can increase

exposure to cancer-causing agents. Combined with environmental pollution and sedentary lifestyles, these habits create conditions that elevate long-term health risks. As a result, exposure to carcinogenic substances has become an increasingly common reality for many people.

Addressing this challenge requires greater public awareness and preventive action. Health experts emphasize the importance of educating communities about the sources of carcinogenic substances and ways to minimize exposure. Avoiding tobacco use, choosing fresh and nutritious foods, limiting the use of harm-

ful chemicals, ensuring proper indoor ventilation, and supporting environmental conservation efforts can significantly reduce health risks and improve overall well-being.

Governments and industries also have a crucial role to play in safeguarding public health. Industries that rely on hazardous chemicals should adopt cleaner technologies, safer alternatives, and environmentally responsible production methods. Strong environmental regulations, strict emission controls, and continuous monitoring of industrial waste are essential for protecting communities and preserving natural ecosystems. At the same time, global cooperation is necessary to develop policies that promote sustainable development while reducing exposure to dangerous substances.

As scientific evidence continues to reveal the long-term consequences of carcinogenic exposure, collective action becomes increasingly important. Public awareness, responsible industrial practices, scientific innovation, and effective government policies must work together to combat this growing health threat. By taking proactive measures today, societies can reduce the burden of cancer and create a safer environment for future generations.

The rising threat of carcinogenic substances represents one of the most pressing health challenges of our time. Reducing exposure, strengthening environmental protections, and promoting healthier lifestyles are essential steps toward protecting human life and ensuring a healthier future for all.

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

SSP Kulgam Reviews Security Arrangements Ahead of Anti-Drug Padyatra

Officers Briefed on Deployment Plan, Coordination and Public Safety Measures

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, JUNE 1: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), on Sunday chaired comprehensive security review meetings at the District Police Office (DPO) and District Police Lines (DPL) Kulgam in preparation for the upcoming Anti-Drug Padyatra scheduled to be held in the district.

The meetings witnessed the participation of Commandant 18 Battalion CRPF, Additional SP Kulgam, Additional SP NHW Qazigund, CRPF officers, officers deployed for special duty, Gazetted Officers, Station House Officers (SHOs), and other senior police officers of the district.

During the deliberations, a detailed review of the overall security arrangements was undertaken to ensure

seamless coordination and effective security management during the event. Officers discussed the prevailing security scenario, emerging challenges, and measures required to address them effectively.

SSP Kulgam briefed the officers about the comprehensive deployment plan and emphasized the importance of maintaining a robust security grid to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Anti-Drug Padyatra. He also sought feedback and valuable suggestions from the officers present and assured them of all necessary support from the district police administration.

Highlighting the significance of coordinated efforts, SSP Chowdhary stressed the need for enhanced vigilance, effective counter-insurgency measures, and close coordination among all security agencies. He

directed officers to remain alert and proactive in addressing any potential security concerns.

The meeting also focused on reviewing intelligence inputs and strengthening security mechanisms to safeguard participants and the general public. Officers shared their observations and recommendations aimed at further reinforcing the security grid and ensuring a safe and secure environment throughout the event.

The Anti-Drug Padyatra is being organized as part of the ongoing campaign against drug abuse, aimed at raising awareness and mobilizing public support for a drug-free society. Authorities have expressed confidence that the event will be conducted peacefully with active cooperation from all stakeholders and security agencies.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreei

Subject: Application of ARSALAN NAZIR S/O NAZIR AHMAD TELI R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes) in his/her favor

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 1009764// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...NAZIR AHMAD TELI Father 49 Govt Employee
- 2...NAGEENA BEGUM Mother 41 years H/W
- 3... ARSALAN NAZIR applicant 18 years student
- 4...ZEENAT NAZIR sister 16 years student
- 5...FARHAN NAZIR Brother 10 years student

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

Naib Tehsildar Kreei

Public Notice

I, Bilal Ahmed Lone, S/o Mohammad Maqbool Lone, resident of Wagoora, Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, and holder of a bank account with Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Wagoora, bearing Account No. 048604100000200, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Bilal Ahmed Lone to Bilal Maqbool Lone for all official, legal, banking, and future purposes.

Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as Bilal Maqbool Lone, S/o Mohammad Maqbool Lone, in all records and transactions. If any person has any objection to this change of name, they may submit the same to the undersigned within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received within the stipulated period shall be entertained thereafter.

Old Name: Bilal Ahmed Lone
New Name: Bilal Maqbool Lone

Sd/-
Bilal Maqbool Lone
S/o Mohammad Maqbool Lone
Wagoora, Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir
Account Holder
Account No. 048604100000200

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical and Hospitals Division Handwara

E-mail: xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender (Short term)

e-NIT No: MHDH/TS/2026-27/eNIT/03

Date: 01/06/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bid in Two Cover system on items wise basis from registered/reputed experienced firms for the below mentioned work:

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	T.D Cost (In Rupees)	E/M (In Rupees)	Time	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01	SITC of Toe type Wheel mounted platform for existing 62.5 kVA DG Set of yatra (62.5kVA).	2.683	200/-	5370/-	15 Days	Accorded	Accorded

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01/06/2026 (1800hrs).

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 02/06/2026 (1000hrs) to 08/06/2026 (1400hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 08/06/2026 (1600hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.

4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

5. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II).

No: MHDH/TS/323-30

Dated: 01/06/2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara

DIPK: 1725/26 | Dated: 01-06-2026

KU flags off walkathon on World No Tobacco Day, holds lecture series under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR JUNE 01: The University of Kashmir (KU) organised a walkathon and lecture series on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan at the Main Campus on Monday.

The event was organised by the University Health Centre in collaboration with the Department of Public Health Dentistry, Government Dental College & Hospital (GDCH) Srinagar. It aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and encourage healthy lifestyle choices among students and the wider community.

The walkathon was flagged off by Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in the presence of Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmad, Dean, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences KU, Prof. Seema Singh, Dean Students Welfare KU, Dr. Khalid Nazir, Coordinator, Health Centre, KU and other University officials.

The walkathon commenced from the Department of Students' Welfare near Maulana Rumi Gate and concluded at the Ibn-e-Khalid Auditorium.

While flagging off the walkathon, Prof. Nilofer Khan said, "Awareness remains one of the most effective tools in addressing tobacco use and substance abuse.



Educational institutions have an important role in encouraging informed choices and promoting healthier lifestyles among young people."

She further said that collective efforts involving educational institutions, healthcare professionals, and the community are essential for building a healthier and addiction-free society.

The programme also featured lecture series by Dr. Naveed Nazir, Head, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Chest Disease Hospital Srinagar; Dr. Yasir Rather, Department of Psychiatry, IMHANS, GMC Srinagar; and Dr. Aasim Farooq, Head, Department of Public Health Dentistry, GDCH Srinagar. The experts spoke about the health risks associated with tobacco consumption, the psychological dimensions of addiction, and the importance of prevention and early intervention.

The event witnessed participation from several students, faculty members, and staff from the campus and the Government Dental College, Srinagar and students from Kashmir University Model High School. It was coordinated by Dr. Surayyah Jan and Dr. Azhar Wani, Medical Officers, University Health Centre.

Northern Army Commander Extends Greetings on 106th Army Educational Corps Day

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, Army Commander, Northern Command, on behalf of all ranks of Northern Command, extended warm greetings and felicitations to all personnel of the Army Educational Corps (AEC) on the occasion of the 106th Army Educational Corps Day.

The Army Commander lauded the Army Educational Corps for its unwavering dedication and exemplary service in enhancing the intellectual capabilities, professional competence, and mental resilience of Indian Army personnel. He acknowledged the Corps' pivotal role in developing human resources, fostering knowledge, and strengthening the overall effectiveness of the force. Lt Gen Sharma emphasized that the invaluable contribution of the Army Educational Corps continues to sharpen the intellectual edge of soldiers and significantly enhances the operational preparedness and combat effectiveness of the Indian Army. Through its commitment to education, training, and professional development, the Corps remains a vital pillar in building a knowledgeable, motivated, and future-ready force.

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that due to an inadvertent error, the name of my daughter has been recorded as "Arwa Mujtaba" instead of her correct name "Faizah Mujtaba" in the passport-related records. Likewise, her date of birth has been incorrectly mentioned as 17/02/2020 instead of the correct date of birth 27/07/2021.

The correction of the aforesaid name and date of birth in the passport records is required.

If any person has any objection or claim regarding the proposed corrections, he/she may submit the same to the concerned authorities within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice during office hours.

No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained, and the necessary corrections shall be made in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations.

Applicant:
Ghulam Mujtaba Bhat, House no E-16,
R/o Habiishi, Paray pora. Kulgam,
Jammu & Kashmir

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that in my Driving Licence bearing Registration No. JK1620120011385, my name has been recorded as Sarfaraz Ahmad. However, my correct name is Sarfaraz Ahmad Kasana S/o Aziz Ullah Kasana.

I intend to have my name corrected in the official records from Sarfaraz Ahmad to Sarfaraz Ahmad Kasana S/o Aziz Ullah Kasana.

If any person has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may submit the same in writing to the ARTO Office, Ganderbal within one week from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection or claim shall be entertained.

Applicant:
Sarfaraz Ahmad Kasana
S/o Aziz Ullah Kasana
R/o Sumbal Bala, Tehsil Gund,
District Ganderbal

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my father's name MOHAMMAD AKBAR BHAT R/O BANDI PAYEEN Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040016208 wants to be registered on my name BASHIR AHMAD BAHT S/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR BHAT R/O BANDI PAYEEN .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...BASHIR AHMAD BHAT
S/O ...MOHAMMAD AKBAR BHAT
R/O .. BANDI PAYEEN



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Javid Dar reviews functioning of Mandis, Kissan Ghars within, outside J&K; asks for renovation, protection of public assets

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 1: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of Mandis and Kissan Ghars established within and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Minister took a detailed appraisal of the facilities, occupancy, services extended to the farmers and issues faced in the operation of these Kissan Ghars. He emphasized that Kissan Ghars are vital infrastructure for providing affordable accommodation and support services to the farming community visiting for official work, training or market linkage activities.

Stressing the need for improved infrastructure, Dar

directed the concerned officers to undertake immediate renovation and upgradation of Kissan Ghars located in New Delhi and Kolkata to ensure better accommodation and essential facilities for the farmers visiting these centres for trade-related activities.

The Minister observed that Kissan Ghar serves as an important support system for the farming community by providing affordable lodging and logistical assistance during the marketing of crops and horticultural produce. He emphasized that strengthening these facilities would contribute significantly towards enhancing farmers' access to national markets and improving their overall trading experience.

Reviewing the functioning of agricultural mandis, Javid Dar instructed the officials to conduct a thorough verification of shop allotments to ensure that the allottees are utilizing



the premises strictly in accordance with the prescribed norms and guidelines. He

stressed that any misuse of public assets or deviation from the intended purpose of allotments must be identified and addressed promptly.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards strengthening the agricultural marketing infrastructure, the Minister said that sustained efforts are being made to develop and modernize the mandis across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Poonch, Akhnoor and Jammu, with the objective of providing farmers with better market access and enhanced trading opportunities.

Calling for protection and optimal utilization of public assets, Javid Dar directed the concerned departments to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to safeguard the government properties and ensure that these assets are used for welfare of the farming community. He also sought a comprehensive and long-term

plan for decongestion and modernization of the Sopore Fruit Mandi, aimed at improving the operational efficiency, streamlining trade activities and creating better facilities for the growers and traders.

The Minister underscored the need for coordinated efforts among all the stakeholder departments to strengthen the agricultural marketing infrastructure and create a robust ecosystem that supports the farmers from production to marketing.

Among others present in the meeting were Director Horticulture (Planning & Marketing), Jammu and Kashmir, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, Managing Director, J&K Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation, Mohammad Farooq Ahmad, President of Fruit Growers Mandi Sopore besides other senior officers of the concerned departments.

DC Doda reviews HADP, KCC and PM-KISAN progress

Calls for stronger Bank-Department coordination

HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JUNE 01: Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of credit-linked schemes under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), approval and rejection rates of beneficiary cases and issues affecting its implementation in the district.

The meeting was attended by functionaries from Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture, Fisheries, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry and the Employment and Counselling Centre, besides Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Nodal Officer HADP, Lead District Manager (LDM), representatives from banks and other stakeholders associated with the implementation of HADP.

The meeting deliberated upon challenges being faced in the registration process under HADP and explored measures to streamline beneficiary on-boarding. The concerned departments and banking institutions were asked to strengthen coordination for effective implementation of HADP schemes and timely resolution of bottlenecks.

Special focus was laid on the



promotion of innovative and high-value agricultural activities, including protected cultivation through greenhouses, cultivation of niche crops, honey production, mushroom cultivation and introduction of yellow and pink cauliflower varieties. The Deputy Commissioner encouraged departments to promote diversification and adoption of modern agricultural practices to enhance farmers' income and productivity.

The meeting further reviewed credit-linked applica-

tions under HADP and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) in the horticulture sector. Discussions were held regarding apple plantation initiatives in the District. The Horticulture Department was asked to encourage farmers to adopt advanced and high-yielding apple varieties for enhancing production and improving orchard productivity.

The Deputy Commissioner directed stakeholders to ensure

the accuracy of beneficiary data, particularly in cases involving farmers above 65 years of age. He stressed the importance of maintaining updated records to facilitate smooth processing of applications and effective delivery of benefits.

Additionally, the meeting reviewed Kisan Credit Card (KCC) registrations and credit linkage of farmers. It was informed that there are approximately 35,000 active KCC accounts in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to expand KCC coverage and urged departments and banking institutions to ensure that more eligible farmers are brought under the ambit of the scheme to strengthen agricultural and allied sector activities in the district.

The status of KCC applications under the Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry sectors was reviewed extensively. Detailed discussions were held on approval and rejection rates of cases. The Deputy Commissioner directed banks to carry out proper scrutiny and counselling of applicants to minimize avoidable rejections and ensure deserving beneficiaries receive

timely financial assistance.

Reviewing the coverage under PM-KISAN, the meeting was informed that presently the district has around 42,392 beneficiaries registered under the PM-KISAN scheme. Discussions were held regarding active and inactive; Aadhaar-linked and non-Aadhaar-linked PM-KISAN accounts, land-seeding status of active beneficiaries and issues affecting beneficiary authentication.

The Deputy Commissioner directed banks to expedite the KYC verification process of farmers whose registrations remain incomplete due to incorrect or insufficient information. "Eligible beneficiaries shall not be deprived of benefits due to procedural delays," he emphasized.

Reiterating the importance of convergence and coordination, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry departments to maintain close liaison with banking institutions to achieve the objectives of HADP and ensure maximum outreach of government schemes among farmers and rural entrepreneurs.

DC Bandipora reviews developmental works, Public Issues in Gurez

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 01: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a review meeting with district and sectoral officers at Dak Bungalow Dwar to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and implementation of various government schemes in Sub-Division Gurez. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner particularly reviewed ongoing health sector projects and healthcare facilities in the sub-division and stressed the timely completion of all works for improved public service delivery.



The meeting also reviewed fire and emergency preparedness measures and the functioning of recently constituted fire safety audit committees. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure proper preparedness, availability of necessary equipment and manpower, and strengthened coordination among departments for effective implementation of fire safety measures and developmental programmes across Gurez.

Various public issues and developmental concerns were also discussed, including matters related to Irrigation and Flood Control. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to take timely measures for ensuring smooth irrigation facilities and prompt redressal of public grievances. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed waste management measures, particularly plastic waste management in Gurez, including the progress of the segregation shed being established in the sub-division. She issued strict directions for clearance of all legacy waste and directed all BDOs to enforce effective cleanliness measures across Gurez. The DC further stressed the early operationalisation of the segregation shed to ensure proper waste disposal and sanitation management in the area. Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Bandipora, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gurez, District Information Officer Bandipora, Executive Engineers, Block Development Officers, Tehsil Sildars, Block Medical Officer and other concerned officers and officials.

DLSA Reasi organises legal awareness programs

HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, JUNE 01: Under the visionary leadership of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, an awareness programme on Lok Adalat and the Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act was organised by the Para Legal Volunteers here today.

The participants were sensitized to the benefits of Lok Adalat as an effective, speedy, cost-effective and amicable mechanism for settlement of disputes. Awareness regarding the provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act-1881 was also imparted, particularly those related to cheque dishonour cases under Section 138 of the NI Act. The participants were apprised of the legal consequences of issuing cheques without sufficient funds and the remedies available under law.

Another awareness programme on "Say No to Drugs" was organized at Government Middle School Karua by the Panel Lawyers/Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Katra.

The PLVs sensitized students, teachers and locals about the harmful effects of drug abuse on physical health, mental well-being, family life and society.

Information regarding the legal consequences of drug-related offences and the role of legal services institutions in generating awareness and providing assistance was also shared. The participants actively interacted with the resource persons and pledged to spread the message of a drug-free society among their peers, families and communities.

DLTFC approves 45 JKREGP Scheme cases at Jammu

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 01: The Jammu District Office of the Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) today convened a meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) to scrutinize and recommend applications seeking financial assistance for establishment of self-employment ventures.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Vidhu Shekhar and attended by Lead District Manager

(LDM) SBI Ajay Thapa; Regional Officer JK Gramin Bank Abhishek Gupta; Cluster Head J&K Bank Neena Gupta; representative from the District Industries Centre (DIC) Amit Kumar and the Principal ITI Jammu, besides officials from KVIB.

A total of 55 applications were placed before the Committee for consideration. After detailed scrutiny and deliberations, the Committee approved 45 cases for financial assistance under the JKREGP scheme. One case was deferred for want of requisite documents and further clarification, while one application was declared overage as per the pre-

scribed eligibility criteria. Eight applicants remained absent during the interview process.

The ADC emphasized the importance of self-employment initiatives in generating sustainable livelihood opportunities and strengthening the local economy.

The JKREGP scheme continues to play a pivotal role in encouraging establishment of micro and small enterprises by providing financial support to eligible unemployed youth, thereby contributing to economic growth and employment creation across Jammu and Kashmir.

Door-to-Door Enumeration takes off in Kathua under Census 2027

DC appeals for active public participation; ADC oversees on ground activities

HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, JUNE 01: The House Listing and Housing Census, the first phase of Census 2027, commenced across Kathua district today with field functionaries fanning out across urban and rural areas to undertake the month-long enumeration exercise. Under this phase, enumerators have started visiting households to collect information relating to housing conditions,

household amenities and other prescribed particulars as per the Census framework.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua and Principal Census Officer, Rajesh Sharma, has appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to the enumerators by providing correct and complete information. He urged the residents to participate actively in the Census exercise, emphasizing that Census data serves as a critical foundation for planning

and implementation of various welfare and development programmes. To oversee the smooth conduct of the exercise, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mahima Madan conducted field visits in various areas of the district and reviewed the progress of enumeration activities on the ground. She interacted with enumerators and supervisors, inspected the enumeration process and assessed the preparedness of the field staff engaged

in census operations. The ADC underscored the importance of accuracy, completeness and timely collection of data, describing the Census as a vital exercise for evidence-based planning and formulation of developmental policies. She directed the field functionaries to adhere strictly to the prescribed guidelines and ensure effective coordination for the successful conduct of the exercise. The House Listing and Housing Census shall continue

till June 30, 2026, during which enumerators will undertake door-to-door visits to ensure coverage of every household in the district. Pertinently, the Self-Enumeration facility under Census 2027 concluded on May 31, 2026. With the commencement of the House Listing and Housing Census phase, enumerators will authenticate and validate the information submitted online by households through the Self-Enumeration portal.

Diplomacy under fire as Iran-US talks continue amid regional escalation

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON, JUNE 01: Negotiations between the United States and Iran are continuing through mediators, even as missile strikes, maritime tensions, and domestic unrest intensify across the Middle East.

The talks that are centered on a proposed memorandum of understanding remain unsettled, with revised drafts reportedly exchanged multiple times while neither side shows clear signs of compromise, underscoring a widening gap between diplomacy and escalating regional conflict.

According to a report by CBS News, mediators are currently facilitating discussions over a proposed memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington, with the draft having been revised multiple times by US President Donald

Trump before being sent back to Iran for consideration.

The proposal has reportedly moved back and forth between the two sides through intermediaries led by Pakistan. While the latest U.S. revisions are described as "somewhat significant," details remain undisclosed, and Iranian authorities have not yet issued a formal response. No deadline has been set, underscoring the fragility and open-ended nature of the talks.

At the same time, the broader regional security environment has grown increasingly volatile. In northern Iraq, an Iranian missile struck a base linked to the Kurdistan Freedom Party near Erbil early Sunday, according to Rudaw.

The group said the strike occurred near Darashakran and caused no casualties, but described it as part of a pattern of repeated attacks on its positions. The incident adds to a



growing list of cross-border actions linked to ongoing regional hostilities, Iran International reported.

Maritime and energy infrastructure have also come under pressure. Iran's officials say the country's southern ports

are effectively operating on the "front line" of conflict-related disruptions, with concerns about attempts to interfere with trade routes and supply chains. Despite this, Iranian authorities reported partial restoration of gas pro-

duction at several South Pars offshore platforms after earlier disruptions, rerouting output to alternative processing facilities while repairs continue.

Security in critical waterways remains another focal

point. Iran's Revolutionary Guards Navy said 28 commercial vessels, including oil tankers and cargo ships, passed through the Strait of Hormuz within a 24-hour period after receiving clearance, highlighting continued efforts to maintain controlled maritime passage amid heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf.

Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and French President Emmanuel Macron discussed regional stability, maritime navigation, and diplomatic coordination in a phone call, reflecting ongoing international concern over the risk of wider escalation and disruption to global trade routes.

meanwhile, Iran is facing economic strain. In Khuzestan province, workers and retirees staged protests in Shush over unpaid wages, low pensions, inflation, and worsening living conditions. The demonstrations underscore growing domestic

pressure as households grapple with economic hardship.

At the political level, tensions over governance and diplomacy continue to surface. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf reiterated that no agreement with the United States would be approved unless Iran's "rights" are fully secured, signaling persistent skepticism toward negotiations.

Meanwhile, President Masoud Pezeshkian criticized state broadcaster IRIB for presenting what he described as unrealistic narratives about the country's situation, calling for reporting based on evidence and factual analysis.

Adding to the uncertainty, Iranian authorities addressed reports of explosions near Qeshm Island and Bandar Abbas, saying the sounds were caused by the disposal of leftover wartime munitions. UNI

Israel issues mass displacement orders in southern Lebanon, seizes strategic Beaufort Castle

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, JUNE 01: Israel has ordered the forced evacuation of residents south of the Zaharani River in southern Lebanon as it intensifies military operations in the country and advances toward the city of Nabatieh. In a statement posted on social media platform X on Sunday, Israeli military Arabic spokesperson Avichay Adraee instructed civilians to immediately move north of the river, warning that anyone remaining in the designated area could be killed. The order follows more than 10 similar displacement warnings issued in the past 24 hours as Israel expands its ground operations.

The escalation comes after Israeli forces crossed the Litani River earlier this week for the first time since 2006, marking a significant expansion of the offensive against Hezbollah. As part of the advance, Israeli troops seized Beaufort Castle, a 12th-century fortress located on a strategic hill overlooking Nabatieh in southern Lebanon. The site previously came under Israeli control in 1982 before being withdrawn from in 2000. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz described its capture as a "significant tactical victory."

"Under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and my direction, the Israeli military expanded operations in Lebanon, crossed the Litani River, and captured the Beaufort Ridge— one of the most important strategic points," Katz said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the operation marked a broader shift in Israel's military posture across multiple fronts, including Lebanon, Gaza and Syria, adding that Israel was "taking the initiative" and had "broken the barrier of fear."

Israel's military invasion has drawn international criticism.

France has condemned Israel's actions in Lebanon as "unjustifiable" and requested an "emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said that while Israel has a right to self-defence, "nothing can justify the continuation of Israeli military operations in Lebanon and its ever-deeper occupation of Lebanese territory."

On the ground, residents in southern Lebanon reported heavy airstrikes and widespread panic as evacuation orders forced large-scale displacement.

Reports from Tyre indicated that entire neighbourhoods were being emptied, with civilians fleeing under ongoing drone surveillance and strikes on roads and residential areas. It appears that Israel's main aim behind expanding presence in southern Lebanon is establishing a broader security buffer zone to reduce cross-border drone and rocket attacks. However, questions remain over the effectiveness of such tactics in countering Hezbollah's capabilities.

Lebanese officials and observers have warned that continued military escalation risks further destabilising the country, with southern Lebanon now effectively becoming an active conflict zone. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday that he had ordered the military to expand the incursion into southern Lebanon and tighten its grip over territories dominated by the Hezbollah movement.

Japan fires back at China's 'new militarism' label, warns of Opaque military buildup

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SINGAPORE/NEW DELHI, JUNE 01: Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi took the stage at the Shangri-La Dialogue on Sunday and delivered one of Tokyo's most pointed responses yet to Beijing, rejecting accusations of "new militarism" and turning the lens squarely on China's own military expansion, which he called a matter of "serious concern" for the entire region.

Speaking at the forum's 5th Plenary Session on "Managing Regional Tensions Amid Global Competition," Koizumi framed Japan's defence modernisation not as a deviation from its post-war pacifism but as a responsible, transparent update required by an increasingly dangerous environment— one shaped, in large part, by China's growing arsenal.

"There is a country that has a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons and strategic bombers. Japan has neither of these weapons. And yet Japan is labelled 'new militarism.' Isn't it strange?" Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said.

The remark drew immediate attention in the room. It was a deliberate inversion of Beijing's framing, one that has grown louder in recent months as Japan has expanded its defence budget for a 12th consecutive year, with its latest allocation exceeding 9 trillion yen (approximately \$57 billion), pushing toward a target

of 2 per cent of GDP.

China's defence ministry had earlier accused Japan of "remilitarisation," with an official spokesperson warning that a "grey rhino of a remilitarised Japan" was accelerating and calling on neighbouring countries to "contain Japan's neo-militarism."

During the question-and-answer session, a Chinese military representative pressed Koizumi on Japan's wartime responsibility and historical apologies, an exchange that underscored the depth of mistrust shaping bilateral relations.

Koizumi's critique of China centred on a single word that appeared repeatedly throughout his speech: transparency. He argued that opaque military buildups are themselves destabilising not merely because of what they suggest about intent, but because ambiguity breeds miscalculation.

"China continues to increase its defence spending at a high level and is rapidly expanding its military capabilities across a wide range of areas without sufficient transparency. This is a matter of serious concern," Shinjiro Koizumi said.

By contrast, Koizumi pledged that Japan's own defence evolution would be conducted with full public accountability. He announced that a revision of Japan's three strategic documents is expected later this year, alongside continued investment in AI, unmanned systems, cyber ca-

pability, and space — framing each as a natural response to new forms of warfare rather than a break with Japan's pacifist tradition.

"It is only natural that every country, including Japan, updates its defences to meet new challenges and contribute to peace. Japan will carry out this update with a high degree of transparency, making a clear explanation to the international community of what we are developing these capabilities for, and based on what thinking," he said.

Koizumi framed much of his address around three principles— trust, transparency, and talks—which he described as the indispensable foundations of any regional security architecture.

He was emphatic that dialogue must continue even where differences are sharpest, and notably expressed regret that a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart had not taken place on the sidelines of this year's forum.

"All nations have different positions. All nations have different views. But that is precisely why we need to have talks. We engage in talks because we have differences. We continue to talk because there exist tensions between us," Koizumi added.

"International law is upheld. Sovereignty is respected. Unilateral change to the status quo by force or coercion cannot be tolerated. Without sharing this

conviction, regional order does not make sense. Transparency. Opaque military buildups and action without clear intentions will be the cause of distrust and miscalculation. Transparency is the baseline for reducing tensions and preventing crises," he said.

Stressing that dialogue is the only option available to resolve differences, he said, "What is needed at such times is not the repetition of unfounded claims in the other side's absence. What is needed is direct and candid dialogue. Japan's door is always open."

Beyond the rhetorical battle with Beijing, Koizumi outlined a concrete and expansive vision for Japan as a defence partner to its regional neighbours. In April, Tokyo fundamentally revised its domestic framework on defence equipment transfers, a significant policy shift for a country whose post-war constitution has long constrained arms exports.

Cooperation on frigates with Australia, provision of radar systems and patrol vessels to the Philippines, joint destroyer and frigate development, and a new cooperation framework with Indonesia were all cited. New Zealand, Koizumi noted, has expressed interest in Japanese naval vessels.

"These efforts are not exclusive and not directed at any particular country. These are efforts to support each country to choose for itself, to defend itself, and to contribute to re-

gional stability. Japan is hoping to be a reliable partner for that purpose."

The minister closed with a passage that distilled his argument to its most fundamental level — framing the contest in the Indo-Pacific not as a clash of powers but as a struggle over the basic right of nations to make their own choices without coercion.

"Division weakens deterrence. Unity strengthens deterrence. If gaps emerge among the United States, Europe, and allies and like-minded countries, forces that take it as an opportunity will surely come in. We must prevent such a situation," Koizumi said.

"A Free and Open Indo-Pacific is not something to be given by someone. It is something we must build and protect ourselves and something we must pass on to the next generation," Koizumi added.

The sharp exchange between Tokyo and Beijing at this year's Shangri-La Dialogue is unlikely to resolve the underlying tensions between Asia's two largest economies, whose relationship remains shaped by deep historical grievances and an intensifying strategic rivalry. But Koizumi's performance signalled clearly that Japan under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is prepared to make its case loudly, and on the record, in the region's most prominent security forum. UNI

France calls for urgent UNSC meeting over Israeli incursion in Southern Lebanon

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, JUNE 01: France has requested an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council in response to Israel's military operation in southern Lebanon, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said on Sunday.

Speaking on BFM TV, Barrot confirmed, "I have requested an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council," and described Israel's actions as unacceptable, calling the incursion a "serious mistake." He added that nothing can justify the continuation of Israeli military operations in

Lebanon or its advance deeper into Lebanese territory.

This comes after the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have captured Beaufort Castle, a Crusader-era fortress located on a strategic hilltop in southern Lebanon, as part of a military operation against the Hezbollah movement, Defense Minister Israel Katz said on Sunday.

"By order of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and myself, the IDF expanded its maneuver in Lebanon, crossed the Litani River, and captured the Beaufort ridge — one of the most important strategic points for protecting the settlements of

Galilee and ensuring the safety for our forces... This is a clear signal to our enemies — whoever threatens Israeli citizens will lose their strategic assets one by one," Katz wrote on X.

Israeli forces have controlled the area during the 1982-2000 Lebanon War, until Israel withdrew from Lebanon in 2000.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday that he had ordered the military to expand the incursion into southern Lebanon and tighten its grip over territories dominated by the Hezbollah movement.

Iran reopens underground missile sites, highlighting limits of US attack: Report

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, JUNE 01: Iran appears positioned to potentially fire a significantly larger number of long-range missiles at Israel after rapidly restoring access to its buried arsenals, a development analysts say highlights the limitations of US and Israeli airstrike strategies.

For weeks, coordinated strikes by the United States and Israel targeted Iran's underground missile infrastructure, focusing

on disabling operational capability by destroying access roads and collapsing tunnel entrances used to store and deploy missile systems.

The campaign initially succeeded in restricting Iran's ability to move equipment and operate from key underground facilities, temporarily reducing missile activity and complicating launch logistics.

The images show Iranian forces using bulldozers and dump trucks to clear rubble

and restore access to multiple underground sites, in what analysts describe as a low-cost but effective recovery effort that underscores the limits of airstrikes alone in disabling deeply buried military infrastructure, CNN reported.

"If hostilities do resume, Iran is in position to 'continue launching missiles so long as they have launchers and crews, even if production has halted," CNN quoted Sam Lair, a research associate at the James Martin Cen-

ter for Nonproliferation Studies who analyzes Iran's missile capabilities. "There's nothing to prevent the launchers from being armed with the ample stockpile of missiles that the Iranians still have."

CNN reported that 50 out of 69 tunnel entrances struck during recent military operations across 18 missile facilities have now been reopened. Roads previously cratered to prevent launcher movement have also been repaired, and in some

cases repaved.

Experts cited in the report say the rapid reconstruction suggests Iran can continue operating its missile force even after sustained bombing campaigns, as long as launchers and crews remain intact.

Iran's underground network of missile bases—some reportedly located hundreds of meters beneath rock—has long been designed to withstand aerial attacks. UNI

IAEA inspects Zaporizhzhia plant damage as Ukraine, Russia trade strikes

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, JUNE 01: Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have inspected damage at Unit 6 of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant following a reported Ukrainian drone strike on May 30, Russia's envoy to international organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, said on Sunday.

Ulyanov said on X that IAEA personnel were examining damage allegedly caused by a drone strike, and shared images from the site.

Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom said a combat drone hit the turbine hall of Unit 6 and detonated, though it reported no casualties or critical damage to key equipment. The International Atomic Energy Agency said Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi had expressed serious concern over the incident, warning that any attacks on nuclear facilities carry significant safety risks.

The Zaporizhzhia plant, Europe's largest nuclear power station, has remained under heightened international scrutiny since the start of the conflict, with ongoing accusations between Russia and Ukraine over actions that threaten nuclear safety. The IAEA continues to monitor conditions at the site.

Separately, Ukrainian drones have struck energy and industrial infrastructure across multiple Russian regions, according to local authorities.

In Russia's Saratov region, Governor Roman Busargin said civil infrastructure was damaged in overnight strikes, while Ukraine's military confirmed it had targeted the Saratov oil refinery but denied hitting the Zaporizhzhia plant. UNI

Tendulkar: Sooryavanshi is 'truly special'

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

AHMADABAD: Sachin Tendulkar called the 15-year-old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi "truly special" and said no one should "play around with his natural instincts".

Sooryavanshi had a record-breaking IPL 2026, scoring 776 runs at a strike rate of 237.31 for Rajasthan Royals. Along the way, he smashed 72 sixes, beating Chris Gayle's record (59) of most sixes in an IPL season.

"Everyone is talking about Sooryavanshi, and I watched him bat - it was magnificent," Tendulkar, who was named the best men's international batter of the 21st century at Honours in Mumbai, said. "I mean he is something truly special. And not just the ability to hit the ball, but what also fascinated me was the wrist work that he has."

"To be able to play in all directions of the ground, you need good wrist work. And he is not slogging the ball. He is just picking the line and length earlier than the rest of the guys and he is able to clear the rope comfortably."

Tendulkar said while he would like Sooryavanshi to play Test cricket eventually, he should not be rushed. He urged people to encourage and support him without putting him under constant pressure.

"I would tell him to just be himself,"

he said. "There is always a first time. In Test cricket, along with age, he will learn how to deal with various challenges. [It's about] having a solution-oriented mindset. Problems are always going to be there. Problems will be there till the last day of your career, till the last ball you face. The bowler is asking a question every ball. Now, what solutions do you find? He's kind of a player who looks very confident, very, very sure of what he wants to do and I would not want to play around with his natural instincts."

"The way he sees the ball and the way he responds to that, if that signal is interrupted - if you put a lot of hurdles in between that by telling him multiple things - that's where the real challenge would be. I would give him the freedom to go out and bat the way he does. Along with time, he will learn to deal with other challenges of the game."

"Not just me, but everyone would want to see him [playing Test cricket] at some stage. I don't know when that is going to happen. But an exciting talent needs encouragement. And if he's doing well, then we need to encourage and support him and enjoy above all and not put pressure on him constantly, you know, he should play this, or he shouldn't be doing this, or he should be picked in whatever squad. Leave that to the guys [selectors] who are responsible for that."



Ruturaj Gaikwad replaces Riyan Parag for India A's tri-series in Sri Lanka

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Ruturaj Gaikwad has replaced Riyan Parag in the India A squad for the 50-over tri-series featuring Afghanistan A and hosts Sri Lanka A. Parag has been ruled out due to a hamstring injury and his rehabilitation will be managed by the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Gaikwad will be the vice-captain, the role that was assigned to Parag in the original squad. Parag played the last leg of IPL 2026 with the injury. His team, Rajasthan Royals, reached the playoffs but lost to Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2 in New Chandigarh.



Gaikwad had a tough season as Chennai Super Kings' captain as they finished eighth on the points table. Gaikwad's returns with the bat were also middling: 337 runs in 14 games at an average of 28.08 and a strike rate of 123.44.

His 50-over form, though, has been good. In November 2025, he was the leading run-getter during the one-day series against South Africa. He made 210 runs in three games and was named the Player of the Series. Then, in the 2025-26 Vijay Hazare Trophy, he scored 413 runs for Maharashtra, at an average of 82.60 and a strike rate of 115.04.

Tilak Varma will lead India in the tri-series. They will play their first match against Sri Lanka A in Dambulla on June 9.

Tendulkar, Kallis, Murali & Perry Named Greatest of 21st Century

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CAPETOWN: Jacques Kallis, Sachin Tendulkar and Muthiah Muralidaran have been named the greatest men's international cricketers of the 21st century by an all-star ESPNcricinfo jury of players and former players. Tendulkar was voted the greatest batter, Muralidaran the greatest bowler, and Kallis the greatest all-round cricketer, for their performances in the 2000-2025 period across international formats. Ellyse Perry was voted greatest women's international cricketer of the century in a separate exercise. The picks were the culmination of a roll-out on ESPNcricinfo, where the top 25 greatest men's internationals were revealed. The selections were made on the basis of voting by a 25-member jury that included Wasim Akram, Greg Chappell, Faf du Plessis, Matthew Hayden, Angelo Mathews, Tom Moody, Eoin Morgan, Ravi Shastri, Daniel Vettori and Shane Watson.

Tendulkar, the most prolific scorer across formats in the history of the game, is the leading run-maker in Tests and ODIs; has the most hundreds and fifties in Tests; the most fifties in ODIs, and till recently held the record for most hundreds in that format.

Kallis, who ranks alongside Garry Sobers as the greatest all-round performer in the history of the game, finished with 13,289 runs and 292 wickets in Tests, which places him fourth among the all-time Test run-scorers. His international career lasted just short of two decades and he was pivotal in the South Africa teams of the 2000s.

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