

Srinagar
Friday
June 05 | 2026
19 Dhu'l-Hijjah, 1447 AH
Issue No: 134
Volume: 16
Pages: 08
Price: Rs 02/-

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Equal Respect for All Religions Is India's Greatest Gift to the World: LG Sinha

Calls for Unity and Collective Social Responsibility

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the principle of equal respect for all religions is India's greatest gift to the world, asserting that the country's enduring tradition of coexistence and diversity provides a powerful example for societies struggling with social and religious divisions.

Addressing the Rishiwar Inter-Faith Conference 2026 in Srinagar, Sinha said the idea of honoring all faiths equally has been deeply rooted in India's philosophical and cultural traditions for thousands of years.

"While many nations today
● Turn on Page 2



LG Attends Rang-e-Kashmir Cultural Festival

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the 'Rang-e-Kashmir Cultural Festival' in Srinagar today. This week-long event showcases J&K's priceless handlooms and handicrafts and draws both art lovers and buyers. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said that Jammu Kashmir is a living canvas, painted with centuries of wisdom, innovation,
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Mission YUVA's Real Strength Lies in Creating Entrepreneurs Who Generate Opportunities for Others: CM Omar Abdullah



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday asserted that the success of Mission YUVA will be measured by its ability to transform young people into entrepreneurs who create employment opportunities for others, as he handed over disbursement letters worth Rs. 1.12 crore to six beneficiaries at the
● Turn on Page 2

CM Omar Abdullah meets delegations

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Several public representatives, senior army officers, and civil officers today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat and discussed key developmental and public welfare issues across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the day, MLAs Dr Rameshwar Singh (Bani) and Sajad Shaheen (Banihal) called on the Chief Minister and raised various constituency-related developmental and public welfare issues. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing
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Dr Jitendra Chairs Joint Meeting of Union Secretaries

Announces Portal For 'Patent' Training

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUN 4: In a major step towards strengthening India's research ecosystem, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today announced an ANRF-supported digital portal aimed at facilitating training in patent filing and research paper writing for researchers, students and innovators across the country.

The announcement was made while chairing a Joint Review Meeting of the Secretaries of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space during which the Minister reviewed progress on key scientific initiatives, institutional
● Turn on Page 2

Initiative Aims To Popularise Dogra Legacy, Culture And Cuisine

Royal Legacy Heritage Hub Opens At Mubarak Mandi Palace

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 4: A major heritage tourism initiative aimed at preserving and promoting the rich cultural legacy of Jammu was unveiled at the historic Mubarak Mandi Palace with the opening of the "Royal Legacy" heritage complex, a facility that combines history, culture, entertainment and traditional cuisine under one roof.
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Maintain Highest Level of Preparedness for Pilgrimage: IGP Birdi

Security and logistical arrangements reviewed at Baltal Base Camp

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

GANDERBAL, JUNE 4: Inspector General of Police Kashmir, V.K. Birdi, on Thursday directed officers to maintain the highest level of prepared-



ness and ensure that all arrangements are completed well in advance of the annual pilgrimage, following a detailed
● Turn on Page 2

Verify Credentials Before Any Financial Deal: Police Advise Yatra Stakeholders

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

GANDERBAL, JUNE 4: Police have dismantled an alleged fraud racket targeting vendors and service providers linked to the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, arresting a man accused of posing as a government official to extract money from unsuspecting victims.

The operation was carried out by Police Station Sonamarg following credible information that a person was falsely claiming to be a government employee deployed along the pilgrimage route and using the fabricated identity to gain the confidence of
● Turn on Page 2

Employment Is About Creating Opportunities, Nurturing Talent And Enabling Aspirations: LG Saxena

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH, JUNE 4: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Thursday launched the Integrated Job Portal Ladakh, a comprehensive digital platform aimed at enhancing employment opportunities and streamlining recruitment across the Union Territory.

The portal has been designed as a single-window employment platform that brings together job seekers and employers, offering a centralised system for accessing vacancies, submitting applications and managing recruitment processes.

Addressing the launch event,
● Turn on Page 2

Public welfare remains foremost priority of the Government: Sakeena Itoo

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today presided over a Mega Public Outreach Programme at Banquet Hall here during which scores of public delegations, individuals and representatives of civil society orga-



nizations projected their grievances and developmental demands. MLA Eidgah, Mubarak Gul; MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar; MLA Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Pardeesi; MLA Chanapora, Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo; Director School Education Kashmir, ADDCSrinagar, Director Colleges, other senior officers of district
● Turn on Page 2

Chief Secy Pushes Solarisation Drive Across J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting of all the concerned Government stakeholders to review the progress of large-scale solarization initiatives being undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir and to resolve the bottle-

necks identified by the Science & Technology Department in advancing these efforts across the Union Territory. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology &
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J&K PDD Secures National Recognition under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) has achieved a significant milestone in the implementation of

the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, securing 2nd position (First Runner-Up) in the country for the month of May 2026 for RTS Applications, Installations and Inspections.
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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Equal Respect.....

struggle with the challenge of coexistence, diversity has been our natural rhythm of life," he said, adding that India embraced the values of unity and peaceful coexistence long before such principles became global aspirations.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that respect for differing beliefs and ideas has remained a defining feature of the country's spiritual heritage. He said India has consistently upheld the principle of unity in diversity and extended respect to all faiths throughout its history.

Referring to ancient teachings that emphasize harmony of thought and purpose, Sinha said the nation's philosophical traditions have long promoted social cohesion and collective well-being. He noted that scholars and researchers across the world recognize the roots of religious tolerance and mutual respect in India's ancient wisdom and intellectual heritage.

He said the teachings of the country's sages and philosophers continue to offer valuable guidance for achieving lasting peace and fostering understanding among communities.

Calling for stronger social unity, Sinha stressed that every section of society must work together with a shared commitment to the welfare of humanity. He said nurturing the spirit of mutual respect among religions remains essential for building a peaceful, prosperous and inclusive society.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the strong public participation witnessed during the three phases of the Vande Mataram initiative, describing it as a reflection of the people's patriotic spirit and commitment to national unity.

Praising the widespread support for the Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir campaign, he said the response from citizens had been encouraging and organic. He urged people, institutions and community leaders to transform the initiative into a sustained public movement aimed at creating a drug-free and healthier society.

The conference was attended by senior members of the judiciary, civil administration, police, academia, students and representatives from various faith communities.

LG Attends.....

artistry, and craft. "A nation's true strength lies not only in its wealth or might, but also in richness of its spirit, depth of its traditions and the vitality of its culture. India is a land where knowledge blossomed, traditions endured, and culture remained the soul that bound its people together," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor applauded the efforts of Pumbuch Cultural Heritage Foundation and its Director Mrs. Superna Sapru, for conserving, nurturing, and reviving Jammu Kashmir's abundant cultural heritage. He said the mission of foundation, injects new energy into traditions so the voices of our artisans, craftsmen, and traditional artists will continue to resonate for generations to come.

Culture is not the static artifact of history but in fact it is a living force that shapes our present and guides our future. Jammu Kashmir is home to exceptional artisans who can turn an ordinary piece of wood into something timeless. There are hundreds of esteemed craftspeople who weave thousands of years of cultural stories into fabric. There are papier-mache artisans who carve the very soul of Jammu Kashmir into each piece," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that there are renowned musicians in Jammu Kashmir who are carrying the region's melodic traditions.

"These musicians are guardians of our identity, keepers of our memories, and the makers of our tradition's continuity. This event is a vibrant classroom where tradition and innovation converge, where the old inspires the new, and where people come together to celebrate the diversity that defines us. I believe one of our foremost responsibilities is to connect Jammu Kashmir's youth with handloom, handicraft, and the arts. The future of our culture rests in youth's hands and they must be made aware of the invaluable heritage," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated various renowned artists for their significant contribution at the event organised by Pumbuch Cultural Heritage Foundation in collaboration with Department of Tourism J&K.

Shri Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce; Ms. Superna Sapru, Director, Pumbuch Cultural Heritage Foundation; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Shri Masratul-Islam, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir; senior officials of police and civil administration, members of Pumbuch Cultural Heritage Foundation and prominent artists and artisans were present.

Mission YUVA's.....

Civil Secretariat in Srinagar. The event highlighted the growing reach of the government's flagship youth entrepreneurship programme, which has disbursed Rs. 209 crore among 3,367 beneficiaries during April and May this year. Officials informed the gathering that 5,016 cases involving financial assistance of Rs. 269 crore have been sanctioned so far, with a substantial share already released.

Addressing the beneficiaries and officials, the Chief Minister said Mission YUVA represents a significant step towards building a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the government's objective is not merely to help young people secure employment but to enable them to establish enterprises that generate jobs and contribute to economic growth.

Congratulating the beneficiaries, Omar Abdullah expressed confidence that the financial support would help them launch and expand sustainable ventures, strengthen local economies and create new employment opportunities.

He said the programme has been designed to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with access to institutional credit, skill development, mentorship and continuous support. According to the Chief Minister, Mission YUVA seeks to bridge the gap between innovative ideas and successful businesses by improving coordination among banks, government departments and training institutions while simplifying access to finance.

Highlighting the long-term vision behind the initiative, he said youth empowerment remains central to the government's development strategy. He noted that sectors such as tourism, services, agriculture-based enterprises and small-scale manufacturing offer considerable opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment generation.

The Chief Minister reiterated that inclusive economic growth and self-reliance remain key priorities of the administration, adding that Mission YUVA is playing an important role in unlocking the potential of Jammu and Kashmir's youth.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and several senior officials, along with representatives of financial institutions and development agencies, attended the programme.

CM Omar.....

to the issues projected by the legislators and assured their appropriate consideration and follow-up action.

Chairman & Managing Director, HUDCO, New Delhi, Sanjay Kulshrestha also called on the Chief Minister. During the meeting, they discussed a wide range of housing and urban infrastructure projects, including the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), water supply, sewerage, drainage, road connectivity and power infrastructure, among other matters.

Later, Lieutenant General Harpal Singh, Director General, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various ongoing Beacon projects and infrastructure works being executed across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister reviewed the progress of ongoing infrastructure initiatives and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening development delivery and addressing public issues across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

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Dr Jitendra.....

coordination mechanisms, science administration reforms, outreach activities and preparations for upcoming national science programmes.

The review meeting was attended by Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood; Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale; Chief Executive Officer of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman; and senior officials from the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the newly announced portal will serve as an important capacity-building resource for researchers and young innovators by providing structured support in scientific writing, publication processes, intellectual property protection and patent-related procedures. He noted that improving access to such resources would strengthen the quality of research output, enhance innovation outcomes and help researchers translate scientific work into publications and intellectual property assets.

Emphasising the need for greater coordination among scientific departments and institutions, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that scientific organisations working under different departments must function in a collaborative and integrated manner to maximise national outcomes from research, innovation and public investments in science and technology.

Initiative Aims.....

Developed under the Jammu Smart City initiative and overseen by the Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society, the project is being seen as a significant step towards transforming the former seat of the Dogra rulers into a premier cultural and tourism destination.

General Manager Shiv Kumar said the project has been conceived to promote the region's heritage while creating a unique experience for visitors. "The initiative is aimed at popularising the Dogra legacy, culture and cuisine, while creating a complete family tourism destination," he said.

The newly opened complex features an open-courtyard library dedicated to the history, culture and heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, a first-of-its-kind 12D theatre in Jammu, indoor and outdoor dining facilities, and dedicated recreational spaces for children.

Officials said the library offers visitors an opportunity to explore the historical evolution of the region, including its rulers, leaders and significant events, with special emphasis on Dogra heritage and tradi-

tions. The facility is expected to serve as an educational resource for students, researchers and tourists alike.

A major attraction of the complex is the immersive 12D theatre, designed to provide entertainment and educational experiences for visitors of all ages. The venue also includes gaming and recreational facilities intended to make the heritage destination more appealing to families.

The project places special focus on preserving and promoting traditional Dogra cuisine. Alongside a diverse menu featuring Indian, Chinese and Japanese dishes, visitors will be offered authentic regional delicacies that reflect the culinary traditions of Jammu.

Adding to the heritage experience, the interiors have been designed with artwork inspired by the renowned Basohli school of miniature painting. Historical themes and traditional motifs have been incorporated throughout the facility to showcase the region's rich artistic heritage.

Located adjacent to the complex, the Dogra Art Museum further enhances the cultural appeal of the site by displaying a collection of ancient and medieval artefacts, manuscripts, paintings and weapons associated with the history of Jammu and Kashmir and its former rulers.

The heritage hub has been developed through a public-private partnership between Jammu Smart City Limited and the Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society. Officials said the project has already begun attracting visitors and is expected to play a key role in boosting tourism while preserving the architectural and cultural legacy of one of Jammu's most significant historical landmarks.

To further improve visitor convenience, a multi-level parking facility is also being developed near the palace complex as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen tourism infrastructure in the heritage precinct.

Maintain.....

review of security and logistical preparations at the Baltal Base Camp in Ganderbal district.

The review was conducted as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen security and streamline facilities for the forthcoming pilgrimage. Accompanied by senior officers Rajiv Pandey and Sudhanshu Dhama, the IGP inspected various facilities established for personnel of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Armed Police Forces deployed for pilgrimage duties.

During the visit, the officers assessed the readiness of security infrastructure, accommodation facilities, communication systems and other essential support mechanisms designed to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the annual religious event.

Emphasising the need for close coordination among all agencies involved, Birdi instructed officers to remain vigilant and maintain a high state of operational readiness. He stressed that all security, logistical and administrative arrangements must be completed before the commencement of the pilgrimage.

The IGP reaffirmed the commitment of police and security agencies to providing a safe, secure and seamless experience for pilgrims.

According to Ganderbal Police, extensive measures are being put in place to maintain a secure environment and facilitate the smooth conduct of one of the region's largest annual religious gatherings.

Verify Credentials.....

vendors and service providers. According to police, the accused, identified as Mohd Ayob Jara of Poonch district, was operating in the Domail area and allegedly offered to facilitate pilgrimage-related arrangements and access in exchange for money. Investigators said he used the false claim of official authority to deceive individuals seeking assistance for their operations during the pilgrimage season.

Following the receipt of information on May 27, police registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and launched an investigation. The accused was arrested on June 3 after sustained efforts by the investigating team.

Police said the probe is continuing to determine the full scale of the alleged fraud, identify additional victims and establish whether others were involved in the scheme.

Issuing a public advisory, police urged vendors, service providers and other stakeholders associated with the pilgrimage to remain vigilant and verify the identity and credentials of anyone claiming to represent a government department before making payments or entering into financial transactions.

The crackdown comes as security agencies intensify surveillance and enforcement measures ahead of the annual pilgrimage to ensure a safe and orderly conduct of the event.

Employment.....

Saxena underscored the broader significance of employment generation, stating that employment is not merely about filling vacancies but about creating opportunities, nurturing talent and enabling aspirations. He said the new portal would serve as a bridge between job seekers and employers by providing a seamless and accessible digital interface.

Describing the initiative as a complete employment ecosystem rather than just a website, the Lieutenant Governor said the platform would empower young people, simplify hiring procedures and foster a transparent recruitment environment. He added that the portal would ensure equal access to employment opportunities for residents of both remote villages and urban areas of Ladakh.

Officials said the portal was developed to address longstanding challenges faced by job seekers, many of whom had relied on multiple websites, social media platforms and informal channels to search for employment opportunities. By consolidating vacancies from various sectors onto a single platform, the system is expected to make job searches more efficient and accessible.

The portal will offer a wide range of employment opportunities, including full-time, part-time, contractual and outsourced positions. It is also expected to reduce paperwork, ease administrative burdens and provide real-time employment analytics to support informed decision-making.

Among its key features are professional profile creation, online job searches, simplified application submission, real-time tracking of applications and direct communication between employers and candidates. Employers will be able to post vacancies, define job requirements, screen applicants through advanced filters and connect directly with prospective employees.

Public welfare.....

administration and large number of locals and public delegations were also present on the occasion.

Interacting extensively with the participants, Minister Sakeena Itoo patiently listened to their concerns and assured them that the Government remains fully committed to addressing genuine public issues in a prompt and effective manner. "Public outreach programmes serve vital platforms for strengthening the connection between the administration and the people while ensuring that governance remains accessible and responsive to citizens' needs", she stated.

The Minister directed the officers present to maintain a proactive approach in resolving public grievances and stressed the importance of ensuring timely disposal of complaints. She said that every grievance must be treated with seriousness and sensitivity, adding that responsive governance is essential for building public confidence in Government institutions.

"Public welfare remains the foremost priority of the Government. Officers must ensure that issues brought before them are addressed within stipulated timelines and citizens do not face unnecessary delays in availing government services," she stated.

Sakeena Itoo further underscored the need for enhanced coordination among various departments to facilitate swift resolution of public issues. She instructed the concerned officials to undertake regular field visits, monitor developmental works on the ground and maintain continuous engagement with the people to better understand and address their concerns.

During the programme, several delegations sought augmentation of healthcare services, upgradation of educational institutions, upgradation of roads, filling of vacant posts in health and education departments, improvement of civic amenities and inclusion of deserving beneficiaries under various welfare schemes. The Minister issued on-the-spot directions in a number of cases and instructed the concerned departments to submit action taken reports on issues requiring further examination.

Highlighting the Government's vision of inclusive development, the Minister reiterated that sustained efforts are being made to strengthen healthcare delivery systems, improve educational infrastructure and expand the reach of social welfare programmes across Jammu and Kashmir. "Government is working tirelessly to ensure that the benefits of developmental schemes reach every section of society without discrimination", she remarked.

Chief Secy.....

Environment Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology Department; Managing Director, JPDC/JPDC, besides representatives of several other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for sustained and result-oriented follow-up by the Science & Technology Department on the issues deliberated upon, observing that a clear roadmap for addressing the challenges had emerged through collective consultations with all stakeholders.

He underscored that the department should fully leverage the support being extended by the Finance Department and other agencies to achieve the solarization targets within defined timelines. Emphasizing the immense potential of renewable energy in Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary advised the department to undertake a comprehensive review of the land parcels identified on the PM Gati Shakti Portal and assess their suitability for establishment of mega solar parks under Government of India-supported programmes.

He called for a focused and mission-mode approach, directing the department to set measurable targets for the next six months, one year and two years, and ensure visible progress on the ground at each stage.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on a range of issues critical to the successful implementation of solar projects, including land acquisition and transfer, obtaining statutory clearances from various departments, execution of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with distribution companies for evacuation of power generated from solarized buildings, and measures required to maintain grid stability for optimal utilization of solar energy assets.

Discussions also centred on the installation of Virtual Net Metering systems in Government buildings, adoption of a Unified Billing System for departments in place of separate billing for individual buildings, and provision of fresh

power connections wherever required to facilitate seamless implementation of solar projects.

The stakeholders further deliberated upon the need for rationalization and levelization of rates for projects being implemented under the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model to ensure greater efficiency of solar energy solutions across departments.

J&K PDD.....

The award was conferred by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, during the national event "2 years of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana" held at New Delhi.

The award, on behalf of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir was received by Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited. The prestigious recognition reflects the collective efforts of the J&K Power Development Department, DISCOMs (KPDCL & JPDC), field functionaries, district administrations, empanelled vendors and consumers in advancing the objectives of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana across the Union Territory.

The Government of India's flagship PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana aims to provide rooftop solar systems to one crore households across the country within a three-year implementation period from April 2024 to March 2027. At the national level, the scheme has achieved remarkable progress with 33,57,505 rooftop solar installations completed so far.

In the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, although the scheme gained momentum slightly later, with on-ground implementation commencing in July 2024, rooftop solar adoption has witnessed a consistent upward trajectory since its launch. The growing public response reflects increasing awareness of renewable energy benefits and the attractiveness of the financial incentives available under the scheme.

As of date, a total of 98,601 applications have been registered on the National Portal from J&K, comprising 29,402 applications under Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC) and 69,184 applications under Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL). Against these registrations, 33,987 rooftop solar installations have been successfully commissioned, including 12,730 installations in the Jammu region and 21,255 installations in the Kashmir region. The increasing deployment of rooftop solar systems has resulted in the addition of 121.61 MW of renewable energy generation capacity across the Union Territory, with 44.68 MW contributed by JPDC and 76.92 MW by KPDCL. This significant capacity addition is expected to contribute substantially towards reducing dependence on conventional power sources while promoting sustainable energy generation at the consumer level.

A cumulative central subsidy (CFA) amount of Rs. 258.18 crore has been disbursed directly to beneficiaries across J&K and additional Rs. 10 Crore UT subsidy has been given as well.

A key feature of PM Surya Ghar Yojana is the availability of affordable bank financing, with loan facilities offered at interest rates as low as 6 percent. In Jammu & Kashmir, J&K Bank has emerged as the principal financing institution supporting the scheme. A total of 45,321 loan applications have been received under the scheme, out of which 27,075 applications have already been sanctioned/dispensed. The support extended by financial institutions has been instrumental in the successful implementation of the programme, with more than 80 percent of rooftop solar installations in the Union Territory being financed through low-interest loan facilities.

Simultaneously, vendor participation under the scheme has expanded considerably. Out of approximately 900 vendors registered nationally on the PM Surya Ghar portal, Jammu & Kashmir presently has over 300 active State-level empanelled vendors. These vendors compete alongside national-level service providers, ensuring competitive pricing, improved service delivery and quality installations. The growing vendor ecosystem has also generated significant employment and entrepreneurship opportunities within the renewable energy sector across the UT.

The progress achieved during the month of May 2026 has been particularly encouraging with 4,559 new applications registered on national portal, 2,579 rooftop solar installations completed and 2,688 DISCOM inspections subsequently carried out to facilitate timely processing of subsidy claims and subsidy disbursement to beneficiaries.

The rooftop solar programme in Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed remarkable growth over the past year. Compared to May 2025, the Union Territory recorded an impressive 77% increase in rooftop solar installations, reflecting the growing confidence of consumers and adoption of green energy under PM Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Expressing gratitude on the occasion, the J&K Power Development Department conveyed its heartfelt appreciation to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for recognizing the achievements of the Union Territory. The Department reaffirmed its commitment towards the successful implementation of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and towards achieving the larger national objective of promoting clean, affordable and sustainable energy.



Javed Rana reviews development works in Baramulla Constituency

Asks for expeditious clearances, timely completion of key schemes

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today directed the officers to expedite clearances, resolve pending issues and ensure timely completion of key developmental and public utility projects in Baramulla Assembly Constituency.

The directions were issued during a review meeting convened by the Minister at the Civil Secretariat to assess the status of ongoing development works and public welfare schemes in the constituency represented by MLA Javid Hassan Baig.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding afforestation and greening initiatives for Baramulla town, pending issues related to the Janbazpora-Kandikhan Irrigation Scheme and progress on the Sheeri Lift Irrigation Schemes under Phase-I and Phase-II.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to take all necessary measures for expeditious completion of works and early resolution of the pending issues.

Regarding establishment of the City Forest at Azad Gunj, Baramulla, Javed Rana directed the concerned officers to actively pursue the proposal pending with the Government of India. He emphasized the need for close coordination and regular follow-up with the concerned authorities so that the project is accorded due priority and taken up at the earliest.

The Minister said that the proposed City Forest would not only enhance the green cover in the area but also provide recreational spaces for the public while



promoting environmental conservation and sustainable urban development.

During the meeting, issues concerning the tribal welfare also came up for discussion, particularly those related to forest clearances, road connectivity in tribal areas, public utility infrastructure and implementation of tribal rights.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to proactively address the pending forest-related issues, improve access to essential services in tribal habitations and ensure effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) so that the rightful benefits envisaged under the Act reach tribal communities in a timely and transparent manner. He reiterated the government's commitment towards safeguarding the rights and interests of tribal people and promoting their socio-economic development through improved infrastructure, connectivity and public service delivery.

Regarding the Girls Hostel in Baramulla, the Minister directed

to complete all the pending formalities related to its handover and takeover at the earliest. He stressed that the hostel should be made fully operational without further delay so that benefits reach the students, particularly girl students from remote and underserved areas, thereby strengthening access to educational facilities and accommodation.

The Minister also reviewed matters relating to the Sangri Top-Sheeri Road, Kattianwali Road and Kawhar Road, particularly issues concerning forest clearances and No Objection Certificates (NOCs). He instructed the Forest Department to facilitate timely processing of cases in accordance with prescribed norms so that developmental works are not unnecessarily delayed.

Reviewing the Delina Irrigation Scheme and major water supply schemes serving Delina, Jalsheeri and adjoining areas, Javed Rana emphasized the need to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply and directed the Jal Shakti

Department to address all technical and infrastructural deficiencies on priority.

The meeting also discussed flood protection and restoration works along Seesri Nallah.

The Minister called for comprehensive measures to safeguard the habitations and agricultural land from flood-related risks and directed the concerned agencies to prepare a time-bound action plan.

Special attention was given to the upgradation and strengthening of rural water supply schemes across the constituency.

The Minister stressed the importance of improving the service delivery and ensuring equitable access to safe drinking water in both urban and rural areas.

Reviewing the Chandsama Water Supply Scheme, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to explore viable options for identification and development of a sustainable water source and take necessary steps for mobilization of resources required for the project.

He also had detailed discussion on issues related to drinking water shortage in Kalayban, Heewan, Sheeri, Kanispora and other adjoining areas. He instructed the officers to undertake immediate interventions to mitigate public inconvenience and ensure adequate water supply to affected areas.

Reaffirming the government's commitment towards people-centric governance, the Minister directed all the concerned departments to maintain close coordination and regularly monitor ongoing works with efficient utilisation of available resources. He emphasized that developmental projects should be completed within stipulated timelines and that public grievances must be addressed promptly.

MLA Javid Hassan Baig highlighted various development issues and put forth several demands concerning infrastructure development, drinking water supply, road connectivity, public utilities and other civic amenities in the constituency. He sought the Minister's intervention for early resolution of these issues and expeditious implementation of the ongoing development projects.

Several deputations and individuals from Baramulla constituency also raised certain issues related to their respective areas and urged the intervention of the Minister for their early redressal.

Senior officers of the Jal Shakti, Forest, Tribal Departments and other allied departments attended the meeting. They briefed the Minister on the status of various projects and measures being undertaken to resolve pending issues.

Young Talent Takes Centre Stage at Art & Craft Exhibition in Poonch

■ FAROOQ RATHER

POONCH, JUNE 4: Creativity, innovation and artistic excellence were on full display as the Department of School Education, Jamia Zia Ul Uloom Group of Institutions, Poonch, organized a one-day Art & Craft Exhibition showcasing the remarkable talents of its students.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Mohd. Shamun Shakir, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Poonch, and Mohammad Sayeed, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Poonch. They were accompanied by



Azhar Majid, Tehsildar Haveli; Hanief Tantray, District Treasury Officer (DTO), Poonch; Akshay Sharma, Accounts Officer, Deputy Commissioner's Office, Poonch, besides other officers, educators, parents and members of the public.

The exhibition featured an impressive collection of student creations, including paintings, sketches, calligraphy, handmade crafts, decorative items, culinary preparations, innovative projects, working models, recycled art creations and a variety of other exhibits. The displays reflected the students' imagination, creativity, technical skills and dedication.

The visiting dignitaries toured the exhibition stalls and interacted with the young participants. They highly appreciated the creativity and innovation demonstrated by the students and encouraged them to continue exploring and nurturing their talents. The guests also commended the institution for providing a vibrant platform that promotes creative thinking, self-confidence and holistic development among students.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Waheed Ahmed Bandy welcomed the distinguished guests and highlighted the significance of co-curricular activities in enhancing practical learning, self-expression and overall personality development.

Chairman Sayeed A. Habib expressed gratitude to the dignitaries for inaugurating and gracing the event. He appreciated the efforts of the students, teachers and organizing committee in making the exhibition a grand success and reiterated the institution's commitment to nurturing talent and delivering quality education.

The exhibition concluded on an encouraging and inspiring note, with visitors praising the exceptional talent, hard work and enthusiasm displayed by the students. The event served as a memorable celebration of creativity, innovation and learning, leaving participants and visitors alike motivated and inspired.

Bhaderwah Unites: Thousands Brave Rain in Mega Rally Against Drugs, Pitch for Communal Harmony

■ AMIR IQBAL KHAN

BHADARWAH, JUNE 04: A massive awareness rally under the twin banners of 'Nasha Mukht Abhiyan' (Drug-Free Campaign) and 'Communal Harmony' swept through this historic town on Thursday, drawing thousands of students, traders and local citizens who braved sudden downpours to pledge against substance abuse and fortify regional brotherhood.

The grand event was jointly organized by Beoparmandal Bhaderwah and the Youth Action Committee Bhaderwah (NGO) in close collaboration with the Doda District Administration, Civil Administration Bhaderwah, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and various local civil society bodies.

The mega rally was officially flagged off from the main gate of the Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) Bhaderwah by the Chief Guest, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Doda, Kartik, alongside a panel of top civil and security officials. Following the flag-off, a mammoth crowd traversed the designated tracks of the town, chanting high-decibel slogans like "Say No to Drugs." The marchers sent a powerful, unified message across the region against the growing menace of substance abuse while simultaneously reinforcing the age-old bonds of communal harmony in the valley.

"The overwhelming participation from every section of society today sends a resounding message that Bhaderwah stands entirely united against the menace of drugs and our social fabric remains unbreakable," a representative of the organizing committee said.

Demonstrating exemplary dedication, the gathering later converged at the historic Seri Bazar Park, where participants refused to disperse despite sudden flashes of rain. At the venue, the leadership of Beoparmandal Bhaderwah extended a warm, traditional welcome to the dignitaries. A central highlight of the program was the administration of a solemn anti-drug and communal harmony pledge. The oath was read out by SSP Doda Kartik and was passionately repeated by the massive gathering, echoing across the packed park.

The mega event witnessed cross-sectional participation from all spheres of society including the Ex-Pradhan of Sanatan Dharam Bhaderwah, the President of Anjuman Islamia Bhaderwah, members of the All India People's Welfare Society (AIPWS) team, ex-servicemen, NCC cadets and a massive contingent of students from various local schools and colleges.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of NH-444, Inspects Brazloo Bridge

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited the under-construction Brazloo Bridge on the NH-444 project and reviewed the progress of works being executed on the vital road corridor.

During the inspection, the DC was informed by the executing agency that the Brazloo Bridge is nearing completion, with most of

the construction work already finished. He directed the concerned officials to expedite the remaining works and ensure their timely completion so that the bridge can be dedicated to the public at the earliest.

The DC emphasized the importance of the bridge in improving connectivity and facilitating smoother movement of commuters along the NH-444 corridor.

He also took stock of the overall progress achieved under the

NH-444 project and reviewed the status of ongoing works at various stretches. The concerned officers briefed him about the pace of execution and the measures being taken to ensure completion of the project within the targeted timeframe.

The DC instructed all stakeholders to work in close coordination and remove any bottlenecks hindering progress so that the project is completed efficiently for the benefit of the people.

DC Budgam visits Markazi Imambara Yousuf Abad Bemina

Reviews on-site arrangements for upcoming month of Muharram-ul-Haram

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited Markazi Imambada Yousuf Abad, Bemina, to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth observance of the ensuing holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the visit, the DC inspected the facilities available at the Imambara and interacted with local residents, religious leaders, and members of the management committee to assess their requirements and concerns ahead of the month. The local representatives projected several demands and issues which included repair and restoration of damaged stretches on the Mirgund Bemina Road, ensuring uninterrupted power supply with adequate backup arrangements, augmentation of potable water supply, strengthening of medical facilities, and devel-

opment of a dedicated parking space at the Imambara to facilitate devotees and visitors.

During the visit the DC directed the concerned departments to take all necessary measures to ensure seamless arrangements during Muharram-ul-Haram.

He instructed the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department to examine and address the damaged road stretches on priority. He also emphasized the need for a comprehensive traffic management plan to ensure the convenience of mourners. The DC further directed the Power Development Department (PDD) to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply and adequate backup arrangements during religious gatherings.

He also instructed the Jal Shakti Department to maintain regular and sufficient water supply throughout the Muharram days.

Regarding healthcare services, the DC directed the Health Depart-



ment to ensure the availability of medical teams, ambulances, and essential healthcare facilities during major congregations.

He also assured the local representatives that the proposal for

development of parking facilities at the Imambada would be examined and taken up with the concerned authorities. The DC stressed the importance of close coordination among all line departments

and directed officers to complete all necessary arrangements well in advance. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the District Administration has already initiated advance preparations for the smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram-ul-Haram across the district.

He informed that necessary directions have been issued well in advance to all concerned departments to ensure adequate arrangements and essential facilities for mourners, including power and water supply, healthcare services, sanitation, traffic management, and other public utilities.

Besides, Joint Director Planning Budgam, Javid Ahmad Najar; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Budgam; Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti and PDD, representative of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, officers from the concerned departments, were present during visit of the DC.

Javed Rana reviews development works in Sonawari Constituency; emphasises timely completion

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to review the development works being executed in Sonawari Assembly Constituency.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress of various development projects and public welfare initiatives under implementation in the constituency besides discussing the measures for expediting the priority works. Detailed deliberations were held on issues relating to the civic amenities, infrastructure development, public services and other sectoral requirements raised by the local Legislator.

During the meeting, the Minister took a comprehensive review of the ongoing and proposed works being executed across the departments. He emphasised the need for close

inter-departmental coordination to ensure timely completion of the projects with effective service delivery.

The Minister sought details regarding the partially functional schemes and directed the officers to undertake upgradation and replacement of pumping machinery wherever necessary. He took up the matter of desilting of canals and stressed the need for rejuvenation of water bodies, urging a focused approach towards the ground-water works. He also directed that the approved hand pumps be executed at the earliest without further delay.

Javed Rana directed the officers to identify and remove the bottlenecks hampering the progress of works and ensure prompt redress of public concerns.

"Accountability, transparency and efficiency must define the execution of every developmental project. The officers must maintain regular monitoring so that the benefits of various schemes reach the people



in a time-bound manner," maintained the Minister.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Hilal Akbar Lone highlighted several developmental requirements of the constituency and sought intervention of the concerned departments for their resolution.

During the meeting, the Minister was informed that 21 Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes have been completed in the

constituency and are ready for inauguration.

The Minister stated that these schemes would significantly improve the access to safe drinking water across several areas of the constituency, providing much-needed relief to the residents. He expressed hope that the projects would soon be dedicated to the public, enabling people to avail the intended benefits and strengthening the drinking water infrastructure in the region.

The Minister appreciated the progress achieved in the constituency and directed the concerned departments to complete all requisite formalities for operationalisation of the completed projects at the earliest.

The Minister also reviewed the progress of various tribal welfare and development works

being undertaken in the constituency. He emphasized the need for effective implementation of schemes aimed at the socio-economic upliftment of tribal communities.

MLA Hilal Lone raised the issue of timber availability in the constituency and urged the government to establish a timber sale depot at Sumbal to facilitate easier access to timber for the local population. The Minister directed the concerned officers to examine the proposal and take appropriate action.

The MLA also highlighted the growing menace of wild boars in several areas of the constituency, stating that the increasing population of animals has caused considerable inconvenience and losses to the local residents, particularly farmers.

The Minister directed the Wildlife Protection Department to assess the situation and explore suitable measures for mitigating the problem.

Hilal Akbar Lone further stressed the need for undertak-

ing desilting and conservation measures for the Wular Lake to preserve its ecological significance and improve its overall health. He also called for enhanced efforts towards promotion of eco-tourism around the lake, emphasizing its immense potential for generating sustainable livelihood opportunities and boosting the local economy.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, Director Finance, PHE, Director Planning, PHE, Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control, Jal Shakti Department, Conservator of Forests, North Kashmir, Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Division, Bandipora, Divisional Forest Officer, Bandipora, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, Bandipora, Executive Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control, Bandipora, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, North Sopore, Executive Engineer, Ground Water, Srinagar, and Wildlife Warden, North Kashmir.

Dr. Sagar Doifode Dattatray reviews functioning of APD in Baramulla

Stresses strengthening KKGs, promotion of mushroom cultivation, micro-irrigation, polyhouse farming

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 04: Dr. Sagar Doifode Dattatray, Special Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD) and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), today chaired a review meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to assess the performance and progress of Agriculture Production and Allied Departments in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, SF Hamid, along with officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture and other allied departments attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Dr. Dattatray reviewed the implementation and progress of various flagship



schemes and programmes being executed under the Agriculture Production and Allied sectors. He emphasized the need for effective coordination among departments, timely achievement of targets and greater outreach to farmers for maximizing the benefits of government initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the chair about the district's performance under various agricultural and allied sector programmes and highlighted the measures being undertaken to strengthen service delivery and enhance farmer welfare.

Dr. Dattatray stressed the need to ensure that all Krishi Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) are fully functional and effectively cater to the needs of the farming community. He directed the concerned officers to strengthen farmer outreach and improve the delivery of agricultural services and advisory support through these centres.

Reviewing mushroom cultivation activities, he directed officers to create awareness among mushroom growers regarding scientific packaging, branding, marketing opportunities and various support mechanisms available under government schemes. He also emphasized the introduction and promotion of additional high-value mushroom varieties to help farmers diversify cultivation and enhance their income.

The Special Secretary further stressed the promotion of micro-irrigation systems and polyhouse cultivation across the district to improve water-use efficiency, increase productivity and facilitate year-round cultivation. He directed the concerned departments to encourage farmers to avail benefits under relevant schemes and ensure wider adoption of modern agricultural technologies. The meeting concluded with directions to all departments to expedite implementation of ongoing projects and work in a coordinated manner to achieve the objectives of sustainable agricultural growth and improved livelihoods for farmers across the district.

DDC Anantnag chairs Bankers' DLRC meeting

Emphasises Priority Sector Lending, enrollment in Social Security Schemes

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 04: A District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of the banking sector in Anantnag district for the quarter ending March 2026 (Q4 FY 2025-26) and FY 2025-26 was held today under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat at DC Office.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC, CPO, CAO, CAHO, DD Fisheries, DSWO, AD Handicrafts, District Officers KVIB, KVIC and NRLM, LDO RBI, DDM NABARD, Cluster Heads of J&K Bank, Chief Manager SBI, Director RSETI, District Coordinators of various Banks and officers from KVIB, KVIC and NRLM.

At the outset, the minutes of last DLRC meeting held in March 2026 were unanimously confirmed by the committee.

Presenting a comprehensive review, Lead District Manager (LDM), informed the chair that the total deposits in the district as of March 31, 2026 stood at Rs 9697.54 crore, while advances amounted to Rs 7433.41 crore, resulting in a Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio of 79.65%.

Under the District Credit Plan (DCP) of FY 2025-26, the banking sector disbursed Rs 3314 crore

under the priority sector against a target of Rs 3676.11 crore, thereby achieving 90% of the allotted target. Non-priority sector lending stood at Rs 2083.10 crore against the target of Rs 2025.74 crore, thereby achieving 103% of the target. Cumulatively, the total credit disbursed in the district was Rs 5397.04, registering 95% achievement of the overall credit target of Rs. 5701.86 for FY 2025-26.

During the meeting, the DDC reviewed the performance of banks for the Q4 as well as the whole FY 2025-26 in detail. He laid special emphasis on improving the Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio and enhancing credit flow to priority areas, particularly agriculture and allied sectors.

Reviewing the status of crop loans, the DDC advised the banks to ensure adequate and timely credit to farmers. He appreciated the progress shown in crop loan disbursement and urged the banks to intensify the efforts and achieve targets in coordination with the Agriculture Department.

Observing the decline in some loan segments, the DDC directed the banks to take immediate corrective measures and improve lending performance. He further reviewed the progress of other priority sector advances and instructed the banks to increase



lending to productive sectors.

The meeting stressed the need for greater awareness among farmers regarding government schemes, agricultural credit facilities and crop insurance schemes. Need for better coordination between banks and line departments to ensure effective implementation of schemes and improved credit delivery was emphasised.

On the occasion, Dr. Bilal also reviewed progress under govern-

ment-sponsored schemes like Svanidhi, Mudra, PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, PMEGP, JDY, among others. He called the Social Security and Financial Inclusion Schemes as important interventions and directed the banks and concerned departments to ensure enrollment of all prospective beneficiaries in a time bound manner.

Highlighting the need for greater coordination and streamlining credit disbursement process by banks,

the DDC instructed LDM and concerned officers to ensure swift disbursement of credit to the beneficiaries under flagship initiatives like HADP, Mission YUVA and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

It was informed that against 3784 sanctioned cases under Mission YUVA, loans to the tune of Rs 19842.00 lakh have been disbursed in favour of 3307 cases so far. Similarly, under PM Surya Ghar credit amounting to Rs 3613 lakh has been disbursed to 2143 beneficiaries.

Regarding working of RSETI, it came out that 614 candidates received training, out of which 529 cases were settled with 313 credit linkage settlements. Further, five Centres for Financial Literacy have carried out 299 outreach camps, ensuring a total of 6086 linkages.

During the meeting, it was decided that target driven methods and better procedures be adopted for improving the performance of banks in PSL, Social Security and Financial Inclusion Schemes, Mission YUVA, HADP, PM SGBMY and other key areas.

At conclusion, directions were issued to all banks to improve lending performance, strengthen financial inclusion initiatives, and work closely with line departments for overall growth, prosperity and public welfare in the district.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Mela Kheer Bhawani in district

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a comprehensive meeting with officers to review and finalize the arrangements for the smooth conduct of Mela Kheer Bhawani at Manzgam and Mata Tripur Sundari, Khanbarni, Devsar.

The meeting focused on key aspects including security arrangements, availability of essentials, accommodation facilities, traffic management, medical services, sanitation, and uninterrupted power and water supply.

DC Kulgam emphasized the importance of ensuring that all necessary facilities are in place to enable devotees to perform religious rituals with ease and comfort. He directed officers from KPDC and Jal Shakti to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply at both locations during the Mela.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was instructed to establish medical camps at both sites. Executive Officers (EOs) were directed to ensure proper sanitation, while the ARTO and traffic authorities were asked to put in place a smooth and efficient traffic management plan.

Additionally, concerned departments were instructed to install solar lighting at the venues. The R&B Department was directed to make arrangements for spa-



acious and waterproof tents to accommodate devotees.

Highlighting the need for coordinated efforts, the DC stressed the importance of close inter-departmental coordination to ensure the Mela is conducted smoothly and efficiently.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Additional SP, JD-Planning, ACR, Tehsildar, Executive Engineers Jal Shakti, R&B, EOs and other officers besides, the president and members of management committee attended the meeting.

DC Pulwama chairs District Level Telecom Committee Meeting

HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) at the Administrative Complex here to review the status of telecom infrastructure, mobile network coverage, BharatNet implementation and other connectivity-related issues across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation highlighting the progress achieved under various telecom connectivity initiatives being implemented in the district was presented. Discussions focused on mobile tower saturation, augmentation of signals, phase-wise coverage network status, Right of Way (RoW) issues and the progress of the BharatNet project.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the project-wise status of mobile tower installations and the progress of the BSNL 4G Saturation Project across the district. He also reviewed the status of signal augmentation, coverage in underserved and shadow areas, and issues related to pending sites, including power connectivity, land availability and other logistical requirements necessary for their early completion.

Reviewing the progress of BharatNet,

Dr. Qayoom stressed the need for expediting the remaining works to ensure seamless broadband connectivity in rural areas. He directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat to closely monitor the progress of BharatNet works and facilitate coordination among the concerned departments and executing agencies for their timely completion.

On the occasion, the DC also sought details from the Superintending Engineer, KPDC, regarding the status of power extension to the constructed towers and directed him to ensure timely power extension to all constructed and planned towers.

Dr. Qayoom further directed all stakeholder departments and telecom service providers to work in close coordination for the timely completion of ongoing projects and resolution of pending issues. He emphasized the importance of strengthening digital connectivity, particularly in remote and underserved areas, to facilitate improved access to communication services, online platforms and digital governance initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Pulwama; Superintending Engineer KPDC Circle Pulwama; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Pulwama; Officers from R&B, PMGSY, Municipal Bodies, Forestry and representatives of various telecom service providers.

Sakeena Itoo reviews performance, functioning of J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the performance and functioning of the Jammu & Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited.

During the review, the Minister undertook a detailed assessment of procurement mechanisms, inventory management, medicine distribution networks, quality assurance protocols, supply chain operations, vendor performance and ongoing procurement projects relating to medicines, medical equipment and healthcare infrastructure.

Addressing the officers, Sakeena Itoo underscored the pivotal role played by JKMSCL in ensuring uninterrupted availability of quality medicines, surgical consumables, diagnostic supplies and medical equipment in government healthcare institutions. She observed that a responsive and well-monitored supply system is fundamental to strengthening public healthcare services and improving patient outcomes.

She directed the officers to install procured equipments at designated health facilities well on time, besides process should be expedited for procuring other necessary medical equipments.



The Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening healthcare delivery through an efficient, transparent and accountable medical procurement and distribution system across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister emphasized that transparency, accountability and efficiency must remain the guiding principles of JKMSCL's operations. She directed the corporation to further strengthen monitoring mechanisms and adopt best practices in procurement and distribution to eliminate delays, reduce wastage and ensure optimal utilization of resources.

Highlighting the importance of quality assurance, Sakeena Itoo stressed that no compromise should be made on the quality of

medicines and medical equipment supplied to healthcare institutions. She instructed the corporation to reinforce quality control procedures at every stage, from procurement and testing to storage and final delivery, while ensuring strict adherence to established standards and regulatory norms.

The Minister also called for regular quality audits, enhanced laboratory testing and rigorous vendor evaluation processes.

Expressing concern over delays in the supply of essential drugs and equipment, the Minister directed the corporation to maintain strict timelines for procurement and delivery. She instructed the concerned officials to closely monitor supplier performance and initiate appropriate

action against firms failing to meet contractual obligations.

The Minister laid special emphasis on ensuring uninterrupted availability of life-saving medicines and critical healthcare equipment, particularly in remote, rural and underserved regions. She directed officials to maintain adequate buffer stocks of essential drugs and strengthen logistics planning to prevent shortages in hospitals and health centres.

Reviewing the status of digital inventory and supply management systems, Sakeena Itoo called for greater utilization of technology-driven monitoring tools to improve real-time tracking of medicines and equipment. She stressed the importance of accurate record-keeping and data-driven decision-making for

improving efficiency and responsiveness across the healthcare supply chain.

The Minister also urged healthcare institutions to regularly update their requirements and coordinate closely with JKMSCL to facilitate timely procurement and distribution. She highlighted the need for stronger institutional coordination to ensure that patients receive uninterrupted access to quality healthcare services.

She also directed the hospital administrators to submit monthly reports on number of essential medical tests like CT Scans, MRI, and other tests carried in Government hospitals.

Reaffirming the government's resolve to strengthen the healthcare sector, Sakeena Itoo stated that accessibility, affordability and quality of healthcare services remain among the top priorities of the administration. She emphasized that JKMSCL must continue evolving into a more responsive, efficient and patient-centric organization capable of meeting the growing healthcare needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among others, the meeting was attended by MD NHM, Akriti Sagar; Director SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganie; MD JKMSCL, Tariq Hussain Ganie; Principals of all GMCs, Medical Superintendent of various hospitals, and other concerned officers of Health and Medical Education department.

Muharram-ul-Haram arrangements reviewed at Kulgam

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today convened a meeting of officers to review arrangements for ensuing holy month of Muharram ul Haram at mini-secretariat, here.

The DC directed the officers from PDD and PHE to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply during the holy days especially in Shia dominated



areas of the district.

The PHE authorities were also asked to keep tanker service available at Imam baras while PDD officers were directed to install gensets near Imam baras.

CA&PD authorities were asked to ensure adequate availability of essentials in Shia populated areas while Health authorities were instructed to set up first aid camps near Imam baras of the district besides keeping ambulance service ready.

R&B authorities were directed to ensure repair of all roads, link-roads especially the ones leading to Imam baras wherever required.

The authorities of Municipal Committees of the district were asked to ensure cleanliness in and around Imam baras.

The meeting was attended by ADC, JD-Planning, Additional SP, ACD, officers from PDD, PHE, Health, Municipality, Revenue, CA&PD and other departments besides Pahlou and representatives from Shia Community also attended the meeting.

Government College of Education holds Cycle Rally to promote sustainability

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: NSS Wing of Government College of Education, in collaboration with the Physical Education Department and the College Wellness and Anti-Substance Cell (CWASC), organized a cycle rally on Thursday under the theme "Pedal Towards Sustainability" to promote environmental conservation and sustainable living.

The rally commenced from the college campus and concluded at Nishat Garden, covering a distance of approximately 11 kilometers. It was flagged off by Dr. Altaf Shah Syed in the presence of Dr. Syed Bilquees Aslam Shah, Daljeet Kour, Dr. Qazi Inam Saboor, faculty members, and students.

A total of 35 students enthusiastically participated in the event.



Dr. Seema Naz, Principal Government College of Education (IASE), congratulated the NSS Wing, the Physical Education Department, and CWASC for successfully organizing the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Altaf Shah Syed, NSS Programme Officer said that the initiative aimed to promote environmental sustainability, encourage eco-friendly modes of transportation, and foster healthy lifestyles among students and the wider community.

He emphasized that such activities help sensitize young people to environmental challenges and inspire them to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.

Dr. Syed Bilquees Aslam Shah Department of Education also highlighted the significance of the rally, stating that awareness-driven initiatives play a vital role in encouraging environmental responsibility and sustainable habits among students and society at large.

During the rally, participants carried placards and displayed messages emphasizing the importance of reducing carbon emissions, conserving natural resources, and protecting the environment. The organizers also underscored the benefits of cycling as an environmentally friendly mode of transport that helps reduce pollution, conserve energy, and improve physical well-being.

The event witnessed active participation from students and staff, reflecting the institution's commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable development. The rally concluded at Nishat Garden, where participants pledged to support green initiatives and contribute towards building a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future.

State Taxes Commissioner reviews Kashmir division's tax compliance, enforcement measures

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Commissioner, State Taxes Department, P.K. Bhat, today chaired a review meeting of the State Taxes Department, Kashmir, to assess the progress of tax compliance, enforcement, and revenue monitoring across the division.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Commissioner, State Taxes Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina, along with State Taxes officers from all circles of the Kashmir Division.

During the meeting, the Commissioner reviewed the action taken report on cases identified through BISAG, audit cases, and the demand raised and realised for the year 2021-22. He also took stock of action initiated against non-filers, taxpayers who have received TDS payments but have not filed tax returns, scrutiny cases assigned for the year 2022-23, scrutiny of credit flow, and follow-up on notices issued by the department.

The review further covered action taken against taxpayers whose registrations have been cancelled, as well as those who have filed R1 and passed credit but have not filed GSTR-3B. The



Commissioner also directed special focus on circles with a predominant hotel industry, keeping in view the revival in tourism activity, so as to check any possible revenue leakages and ensure proper tax compliance.

Commissioner P.K. Bhat emphasized the need to leverage technological tools such as PRIME, BISAG, and BIFA for more effective tax compliance, detection of irregularities, prevention of fraud, and promotion of fair trade practices. He underscored that the department must continue to strengthen enforcement mecha-

nisms while ensuring taxpayer facilitation and accountability.

In his concluding remarks, the Additional Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the officers and urged all circles to intensify follow-up action, dispose of pending cases in a time-bound manner, and maintain a proactive approach toward revenue realization and compliance enforcement. He stressed the importance of coordinated field action, regular monitoring, and close attention to sectors with higher compliance sensitivity to further improve departmental performance.

Director Agriculture stresses widespread adoption of NPSS Mobile App for Digital Transformation of Agriculture Sector

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah today stressed the widespread adoption of the NPSS Mobile Application, focusing on its practical implementation and strategies for enhancing user adoption, during a programme, held at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

The programme was attended by officers and officials from across the department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director Agriculture Kashmir highlighted the importance of digital technologies in modernizing agricultural service delivery and ensuring greater transparency, efficiency, and accessibility for farmers. He emphasized that the NPSS Mobile Application has been developed as a vital digital platform to streamline various agricultural services and facilitate real-time data management.

The Director urged field functionaries to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the application's features and ensure its effective implementation at the grassroots level. He stressed the need for creating awareness among farmers and stakeholders to maximize the benefits of the platform and accelerate its adoption across the Valley.



During the programme, technical experts provided detailed demonstrations of the application, explaining its functionalities, operational procedures, and practical utility in day-to-day departmental activities. Participants were also given hands-on training to enhance their understanding of the platform and its field-level applications.

Interactive sessions were held to address queries and gather feedback from participants regarding the implementation process. The suggestions and observations received during the programme will help further strengthen the application and improve user experience.

The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of the department's commitment to leveraging digital innovations for efficient service delivery and promoting technology-driven agricultural development in Jammu and Kashmir.

MP Rajya Sabha Ghulam Ali Khatana Visits Uri, conducts Public Darbar at Lagama

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 04: Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Ghulam Ali Khatana today visited Uri and conducted a Public Darbar at Town Hall Lagama to listen to public grievances and assess developmental needs of the area.

During the Public Darbar, various delegations and public representatives from different blocks of Uri, including Paranpilan, Bihama and Boniyar, met the MP and apprised him of several issues and demands concerning infrastructure development, public services, healthcare, education and other local concerns.

The MP patiently heard the grievances and suggestions put forth by the delegations and assured them that their genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate action.

Later, Ghulam Ali Khatana chaired a meeting with district and sectoral officers to review the status of public services and developmental works in the region. He stressed the need for prompt redressal of public grievances and directed officers to ensure timely and effective resolution of issues affecting the people.

The MP reiterated his commitment to



the welfare and development of Uri and emphasized coordinated efforts among all departments to improve service delivery and address public concerns in a responsive manner.

Officers from various departments, local representatives and members of the public were present during the programme.

HT EDITORIAL

Building a Better Airport, But Keeping Kashmir Connected

The proposed runway maintenance and upgrade at Srinagar International Airport is a development that deserves broad support. As Kashmir witnesses record tourist arrivals, increasing business activity and growing air traffic, the need for modern aviation infrastructure has become more pressing than ever. Upgrading the Valley's primary airport is not merely a matter of convenience; it is an investment in safety, efficiency and the region's long-term economic future.

The government's initiative to strengthen airport infrastructure reflects a forward-looking vision. A world-class tourist destination cannot depend on outdated facilities. Better runways, improved operational capabilities and enhanced passenger services are essential if Srinagar is to meet international standards and accommodate the growing number of travellers choosing Kashmir as a destination. Yet, while the objective is unquestionably laudable, the concerns emerging from the tourism industry cannot be ignored.

The proposed closure schedule—partial restrictions from July to September and a complete shutdown for over two weeks in October—comes at a time when Kashmir remains heavily dependent on tourism-driven economic activity. For a region where air travel serves as the principal gateway for visitors, any disruption in flight operations inevitably raises questions about preparedness and continuity.

The challenge before the authorities is not whether the runway should be upgraded. It should. The real question is whether adequate alternative arrangements should have been put in place simultaneously to ensure that connectivity remains uninterrupted during the maintenance period.

Kashmir's economy today is deeply intertwined with tourism. From hotels and guest houses to houseboats, transport operators, travel agencies, restaurants, handicraft businesses and countless small enterprises, thousands of livelihoods depend directly or indirectly on the steady arrival of visitors. Air connectivity is the lifeline that sustains this ecosystem.

The tourism sector has worked hard over the years to build confidence among travellers. Improved infrastructure, better security conditions and aggressive promotion have helped position Kashmir as one of India's most sought-after destinations. Any uncertainty regarding access to the Valley, particularly during peak travel months, risks creating avoidable anxiety among tourists and tour operators alike.

What makes the issue particularly significant is the scale of dependence on Srinagar Airport. With more than 12,000 passengers using the facility daily during the busy season, even temporary disruptions can have a cascading impact across multiple sectors. Visitors planning holidays months in advance seek certainty. Businesses dependent on tourism require predictability. Both become difficult when alternative travel arrangements remain unclear.

This is why contingency planning should accompany major infrastructure projects from the outset. Development and public convenience are not mutually exclusive goals. In fact, successful infrastructure planning requires balancing both.

The demand from tourism stakeholders for exploring the temporary use of Awantipora airport for civilian operations merits serious examination. While operational and security considerations will naturally determine feasibility, the suggestion highlights a broader need for alternatives. Similarly, expanding direct rail connectivity from major cities during the closure period could provide an additional cushion and help reduce the burden on travellers.

The encouraging aspect is that the concerns have already reached the attention of senior decision-makers. The engagement of the Chief Minister and the expected intervention of other authorities indicate a willingness to address the issue constructively. There remains adequate time for the government, aviation authorities and tourism stakeholders to work together in crafting practical solutions.

The runway upgrade will ultimately serve Kashmir well. In the years ahead, a stronger and more capable airport will support higher tourist volumes, improved connectivity and greater economic opportunities. Few would dispute the necessity of that investment. However, infrastructure development achieves its fullest success when it strengthens the future without disrupting the present. As Kashmir prepares for a better airport, equal attention must be given to ensuring that the Valley remains accessible, connected and open for business throughout the transition.

The goal should not simply be to build a modern airport. It should be to do so while keeping the wheels of tourism, commerce and public mobility moving smoothly. With timely planning and effective alternatives, the government can achieve both objectives and in doing so, reinforce confidence in Kashmir's growth story.

A Living Laboratory: A Structural Roadmap for Net-Zero Campuses under NEP 2020



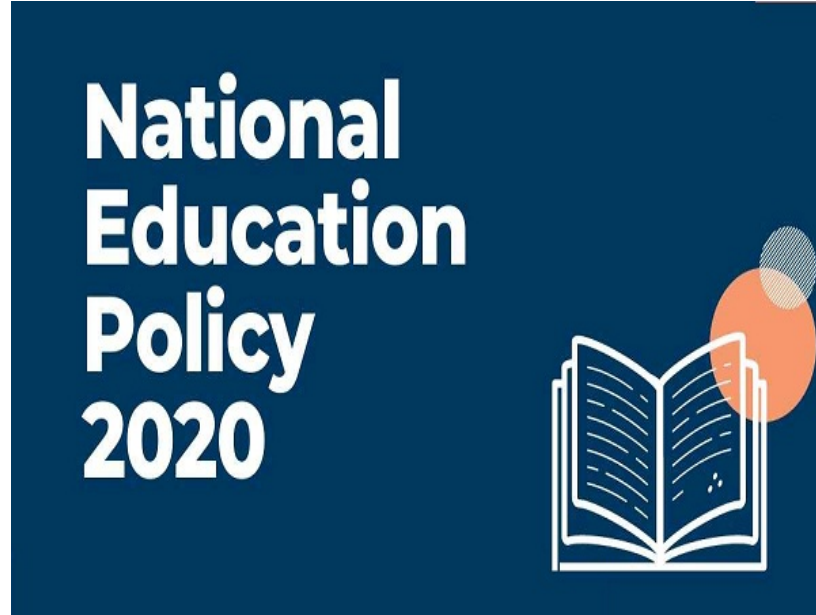
PROF. DINESH CHANDRA

World Environment Day always brings about a crucial discussion when June 5 arrives, aimed at safeguarding our environment. People come together in huge conference halls from all over the world, looking forward to designing plans for the sustainable future that lies ahead of us. However, what we must not overlook in this regard is that while we educate the youth about saving the planet, the university itself remains tied down to conventional practices.

Given that in India the new policy is implemented already over five years since the introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, it is high time for a fundamental reform in our educational facilities. Environmental education should not remain a mere topic in textbooks. In case the principles of socially responsible governance become embodied in our modern HEIs, we need to turn them into "living laboratories."

The Tokenism Game

Pushed by mandatory regulations, the UGC's "U75: Not Zero-Net Zero" program and AICTE's initiative to create Climate Action Units have generated unprecedented levels of awareness at all HEIs. They are really doing something. A carbon-neutral republic cannot emerge through the installation of individual solar panels on the roof or through annual tree planting drives. For the realization of complete carbon neutrality in the Indian Higher Education Institutions, a strategic process needs to be followed through four stages of system-



atic approach.

Making higher education institutions more sustainable would require a strategic plan involving a series of four steps, which should begin with a comprehensive audit. No matter how small, any university has the metabolic complexity similar to that of a mini city. The first step in this case is creating the baseline that includes a mandatory calculation of the direct emissions generated through activities carried out in the institutions such as those resulting from burning fuels and other machinery and commuting. It would be important to include in such calculations not only the scope 1 emissions but also the scope 2 resulting from purchased energy or electricity used and the scope 3 associated with commuting and logistical emissions.

After collecting data, implementing a sustainability program would involve integrating this strategy within the structural framework of the universities themselves through Institutional Development Plans (IDPs). As required under Chapter 19 of the NEP 2020, every higher education institution is obliged to create a

10-year development plan. In such a plan, it would be necessary to mandate net-zero strategies as well as integrate sustainability indicators into the university's KPIs.

In terms of operations, institutions will have to evolve into a decentralized energy and waste infrastructure. With local energy being limited by the amount of rooftop space available, universities will have to open up their infrastructure to become a part of open-access power systems where they will enter PPAs with solar plants off-campus to cover 100 percent of their energy requirement. Waste management systems will also have to evolve to be more sustainable and circular.

Lastly, and most importantly, the key driver for change lies in the implementation of NEP 2020 in its true spirit and the interplay between the two. As stated in Chapter 11 of NEP 2020, transitioning towards a multidisciplinary education approach means overcoming academic silos of disciplines. Taking advantage of CBCS, universities will be able to make their Net Zero infrastructure projects not only functional utilities, but research

centres as well.

The student studying Data Sciences would be earning core credits through creation of machine learning algorithms to optimize the solar micro-grid on campus, considering the real-time meteorological changes. Moreover, with the mandate of Credit-based Community Engagement and Service from the NEP (Chapter 11.8), the university campus itself turns into an anchor micro-grid for the immediate neighbourhood, enabling the students to export tested and data-driven models of conservation of resources within the neighbouring rural communities.

Financing the Transition

Such a transformation within educational institutions calls for a lot of investment, which is catered to by Chapter 14 of NEP through the creation of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). With a mandate of seeding democratized research within state universities, ANRF serves as the key financial institution enabling such living laboratories as decarbonisation of campus as a critical national security research project.

With India committing to becoming a net zero-emission nation by 2070, there must be a fundamental restructuring in terms of heavy industries, agriculture, and urban infrastructure. However, it is impossible to build a carbon-free republic based on a carbon-intensive education system. The special human resource that will play the role in helping realize this socio-ecological transition resides in our classrooms. The translation of the regulatory framework of the UGC and AICTE in structural terms through the NEP 2020 must become a necessity, not a progressive luxury.

About the Author:
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World Environment Day 2026



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5th June to raise awareness about protecting our environment. It reminds us that a clean and healthy environment is essential for life on Earth. On this day, people take part in tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, and awareness programmes. The day encourages everyone to reduce pollution, save water, protect forests, and use natural resources wisely. Students, teachers, and communities work together to spread environmental awareness. By adopting eco-friendly habits and taking climate action, we can create a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future for ourselves and future generations.

- Plants reduce harmful gases from the environment
- Planting Trees Can Beautify the Heart of Srinagar

Development is essential for every country. Today, only a few countries in the world are economically strong and capable of generating a large number of employment opportunities through beneficial schemes. These countries have well-developed sectors that offer employment with good earnings to their educated and skilled youth. It is expected that in the future many more nations will join the list of developing countries.

In the modern era, we have immense and effective communication tools that help in exchanging business ideas from one corner of the world to another. Most trade-related deals are now carried out through virtual means such as emails, WhatsApp, and video conferencing. For the progress of any country, development is crucial and plays an important role in strength-

ening the economy. Development of roads, transport systems, trade and commerce, and proper management of cities while keeping environmental concerns in mind are essential aspects of development.

The government has established various departments that look after environmental issues and issue guidelines from time to time to safeguard the environment. Development does not only mean the construction of tunnels, large buildings, railway tracks, wide roads, or dams. Development must go hand in hand with environmental protection. The development of any country requires proper planning, effective management, and coordination among different agencies while keeping environmental concerns in mind. There is also an intellectual class within the government sector that continuously addresses the grievances of the public and ensures the availability of essential facilities.

In this article, I would like to highlight the importance of planting trees in cities and major business hubs of the district where there is heavy movement of traffic. Day by day our demands are increasing, and the rising flow of traffic pollutes the environment in many ways. Factories in the manufacturing sector release a significant amount of pollution into the air, water, and soil. Such activities cannot be stopped overnight. Therefore, the only viable option is to minimize environmental damage by actively participating in environmental protection measures and addressing the threats we face today. The government administration is doing commendable work by taking notice of environmental issues and implementing necessary measures.

The environment plays a vital and significant role in our lives. Environment means our surroundings; it includes plants, water bodies, animals, birds, air, soil, and other natural elements. It is a broad and essential concept in our day-to-day life. First and foremost, we must understand the importance of the environment and its role in sustaining life. However, development in the form of roads, bridges, buildings, railway tracks, airports, factories, industries, and hydroelectric dams is, in some ways, harming our environment.

If we analyze how this damage occurs, one major reason is the cutting down of trees during road widening and railway construction. This leads to soil erosion, which means the wearing away of the upper fertile layer of the soil. Soil erosion adversely affects soil fertility and increases the risk of flash floods, landslides, and other environmental hazards.

How to Maintain Temperature in Cities

Cities are busy business hubs. They enhance the beauty and economic strength of a country, state, union territory, or district. However, temperatures in cities often rise due to the emission of polluting gases from vehicles. Greenhouse gases are responsible for the increase in temperature in areas with heavy vehicular movement, and cities are the most affected.

Effective city management is crucial for the administration. While planning urban development, authorities must prioritize a clean environment, protection of water bodies, improvement of air quality, and proper drainage systems. These aspects should be carefully considered while widening roads, installing sewage systems, and managing solid waste generated from hospitals, business establishments, and households.

Planting more and more trees can significantly help lower city temperatures, improve air quality, and enhance the overall beauty of urban areas. Trees act as natural air purifiers and provide shade, thereby reducing the heat island effect in cities. In addition, eco-friendly transportation options should be promoted. The use of e-rickshaws should be increased, as currently there are only 314 e-rickshaws operating in the city (source: Daily Sheherbeen). 2024. The graph might be hiked in thousands.

In conclusion, planting trees is one of the most effective and sustainable ways to beautify the heart of while protecting the environment. It is a shared responsibility of both the government and citizens to ensure balanced development that harmonizes economic growth with environmental preservation.

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HT PERSONALITY

Er. Faheem Ahmed: Driving Growth and Transformation in Kashmir's FMCG Sector

The Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector in Kashmir has experienced significant growth over the past decade, driven by changing consumer preferences, expanding retail networks, and visionary business leaders committed to strengthening the region's supply chain and distribution ecosystem. Among these influential leaders is Er. Faheem Ahmed, a dynamic entrepreneur, industry strategist, and advocate for organized trade practices, dedicated to transforming the FMCG landscape in Jammu & Kashmir.

■ **A Journey Built on Vision and Industry Understanding**

Born and raised in Kashmir, Er. Faheem Ahmed developed a keen understanding of business, distribution networks, and market dynamics from an early stage of his career. With a strong professional background and extensive experience in the FMCG trade, he gained valuable insights into distribution management, retail operations, brand development, supply chain systems, and market expansion.

His hands-on involvement with distributors, manufacturers, retailers, and trade associations enabled him to develop a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the FMCG industry, laying the foundation for his future leadership role.

■ **Championing Organized Trade and Industry Growth**

Recognizing the need for greater coordination between manufacturers, distributors, and retailers, Er. Faheem Ahmed emerged as a prominent voice

in Kashmir's FMCG sector. Through his leadership, strategic vision, and commitment to fair trade practices, he has consistently worked to strengthen the distribution network, improve industry standards, and create a sustainable business environment for all stakeholders.

His efforts have focused on fostering collaboration, resolving trade-related challenges, and encouraging professional business practices that benefit both the industry and consumers.

■ **Driving Growth Through Innovation**

What distinguishes Er. Faheem Ahmed is his ability to combine traditional business values with modern market strategies. His expertise spans:

- **FMCG Distribution & Supply Chain Management**
- **Trade Relations & Industry Coordination**
- **Market Development & Expansion**
- **Brand Building & Retail Strategy**
- **Business Operations & Management**
- **Sales & Marketing Excellence**
- **Consumer Market Analysis**
- **Industry Advocacy & Policy Engagement**

Through innovative approaches and strategic planning, he has contributed to improving market efficiency, strengthening distribution channels, and enhancing business opportunities across the FMCG sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

■ **A Vision for the Future of FMCG in Kashmir**



Er. Faheem Ahmed believes that Kashmir possesses immense potential to become one of the most organized and rapidly growing consumer markets in North India. His vision extends beyond commercial success; he is committed to building a stronger FMCG ecosystem that promotes transparency, fair competition, employment generation, and sustainable economic growth.

He actively advocates for modernization of trade practices, adoption of new technologies, and stronger partnerships between manufacturers, distributors, and retailers to ensure long-term industry development.

■ **Leadership That Inspires**

As a business leader, industry representative, and advocate for trade excellence, Er. Faheem Ahmed represents a new generation of entrepreneurs shaping the future of Kashmir's FMCG sector. His dedication, market expertise, and commitment to industry welfare have earned him recognition as a respected figure among distributors, manufacturers, and retail partners alike.

With a clear vision, strong leadership, and unwavering commitment to progress, Er. Faheem Ahmed continues to inspire growth, innovation, and transformation across the FMCG industry of Jammu & Kashmir, contributing significantly to the region's economic development and business excellence.

This version is suitable for a company profile, magazine feature, association publication, website biography, or industry recognition article.

Combating Environmental Contamination: Insights from Islamic teachings



■ **MASROOF MANZOOR**

Presently, our planet is confronting the biggest conundrum in the form of an environmental contamination which according to the experts can turn into a bigger menace than terrorism. Mountains of garbage, trash spread alongside streets and highways and the unrestrained upsurging of plastic bags have denuded our cities of their glamor. Poisonous fumes from smoking, industrial emissions and the constant dissonance from vehicles, rickshaws, motorcycles, factories and aircrafts have polluted the air.

The repercussions are apparent; arising diseases, erratic climate patterns and startling threats to life. These have turned into defining challenges of our time.

Yet the solution was unveiled 1400 years ago. The guidance and ideal life of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) proffer eternal ethics for safeguarding the environment. Contemplating and accomplishing these ethics is now more integral than ever.

The Quran and hadith spot uncleanness as an underlying cause of pollution, instructing purification from every impurity. The stress on cleanliness is so deep that Allah asserts those who purify themselves as his favourite. Allah states: "Indeed Allah loves those who purify themselves" (Al-Baqarah). Likewise the Prophet (Pbuh) clarified that Allah himself is beautiful and he loves beauty in his creation (Sahih Muslim). The Prophet stressed the value of cleanliness so highly that he asserted, "cleaness is half of imaan". This directly demonstrates Islam's



stand, Keeping ourselves and our surroundings clean isn't just hygienic, it's part of faith itself.

Islamic teachings promote sensible and amenable use of resources, encouraging believers to shun wasting food, clothing, water and all other resources. Allah says, "And don't be extravagant, surely He doesn't like the extravagant" (Al-An'aam:141). Following these ethics is the quiddity of sustainable living which promotes mindful consumption, reduces waste and lessens our environmental footprint.

Anas ibn e Malik reported that Allah's

Messenger (Pbuh) stated: "There is no muslim who plants a tree or sows seeds and then a bird or a person or an animal eats from it, except that is regarded sadaqa (charity) for him" (Sahih Muslim). This is a beautiful hadith and it illustrates so much in so few words. Planting a tree or sowing seeds isn't just about food or shade. The Prophet (Pbuh) framed it as sadaqa jariyah—a charity that keeps giving long even after your death. Every bird that eats, every traveler who rests under the shade and every animal that benefits, the reward keeps flowing to the one who planted it. It ties care for the

earth directly to care for people. Protecting the environment wasn't an extra, it was worship.

Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (Pbuh) stated, "Beware of the two acts that bring curses upon their doer." The people asked, "What are the two acts that bring curses, O Messenger of Allah?" He replied: "Relieving oneself on the pathways of people or in their shaded places." (Sahih Muslim:269). In another narration recorded in Sunan Abu Dawood, he further stated that; None of you should urinate in standing (stagnant) water, nor should he perform ghusl (bath) in it while in a state

of janabah. This ardent environmental approach of the Prophet (Pbuh) serves as an eternal and impressive framework. Even in our technology driven era, achieving meaningful pollution control remains distant without enforcing these prophetic guidelines.

In crux, an analysis of the Quran and the biography of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) unveil both subjective and public driven initiatives to protect environment from all forms of contamination, laying down clear guiding principles to address this critical issue. For soil conservation the Prophet (Pbuh) encouraged agronomy and plantation of more and more trees. For water purity, he prohibited polluting water sources. For air quality, he guided his sahaba to keep the atmosphere free from filthy smells and pollutants.

■ **Conclusion:**

Therefore, propagating islamic guidelines on environmental issues now is a scholarly obligation. Religious rector, as influential voices, bear the accountability of directing people away from practices that harm the environment.

Colloquium proceedings on this issue should reach to Madrasas and pulpits so that scholars can harmonize these teachings and educate the common masses. Academic write ups must also be published in newspapers and journals to extend public awareness.

Moreover integrated attempts by electronic and social media can implant a sense of accountability among masses to avoid contributing to contamination, thereby lessening this global issue.

Last but not least, governments must act by conducting expert led colloquiums, framing laws based on scientific evidence and asserting powerful enforcement to effectively tackle environmental contamination.

The author is a M.A., Bed Student from University of Kashmir, Presently working as a teacher, From shopian



Coffee not a carcinogen, but 'very hot' drinks may cause cancer: WHO

The World Health Organization's research arm has downgraded its classification of coffee as a possible carcinogen, declaring there isn't enough proof to show a link to cancer.

But the International Agency for Research on Cancer, or IARC, also announced in a report published on Wednesday that drinking "very hot" beverages of any kind could potentially raise the cancer risk, and it classified them as "probably carcinogenic" to humans.

In particular, it cited countries including China, Iran and those in South America, where teas such as the bitter herbal infusion mate are traditionally drunk at extremely high temperatures — above 65 or 70 degrees Celsius (150 or 160 Fahrenheit) — considerably hotter than drinks would normally be served in cafes across North America and Europe.

Experts convened by the Lyon-based IARC concluded that there was inadequate evidence to suggest coffee might cause cancer, according to a letter

published in the Lancet Oncology. "I'm not really sure why coffee was in a higher category in the first place," said Owen Yang, an epidemiologist at Oxford University who has previously studied the possible link between coffee and cancer. He was not part of the IARC expert group. "The best evidence available suggests that coffee does not raise the cancer risk," he said.

Drinking very hot beverages, however, just might.

Dana Loomis, deputy head of the IARC program that classifies carcinogens, said they began to look into a possible link after seeing unusually high rates of esophageal cancer in countries where drinking very hot beverages is common. He said that even at temperatures below 60 degrees Celsius (140 Fahrenheit), hot beverages can scald the skin, and that consuming drinks at even higher temperatures could be harmful.

Loomis said very hot beverages might cause a "thermal injury" in the throat that could eventually promote



the growth of tumours, but that evidence was limited. He said there wasn't enough evidence to suggest if eating very hot food might also be risky.

Other experts said that people should remain focused on the leading causes of cancers including of the oesophagus and that there were more important changes they could make other than waiting for their drinks to cool.

"Quitting smoking and reducing alcohol consumption are much more significant for reducing cancer risk than the temperature of what you're drinking," said Dr Otis Brawley, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society. Brawley said the cancer risk posed by drinking hot beverages was similar to that posed by eating pickled vegetables.

Still, he welcomed the news that coffee would no longer be deemed a possible carcinogen.

"As a heavy coffee drinker, I have always enjoyed my coffee guilt-free," he said. "But now there is scientific evidence to justify that." (SCIAM)

Migraine can put women at higher risk of heart diseases

Women who suffer from migraine headaches have an increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease in later life, says a study.

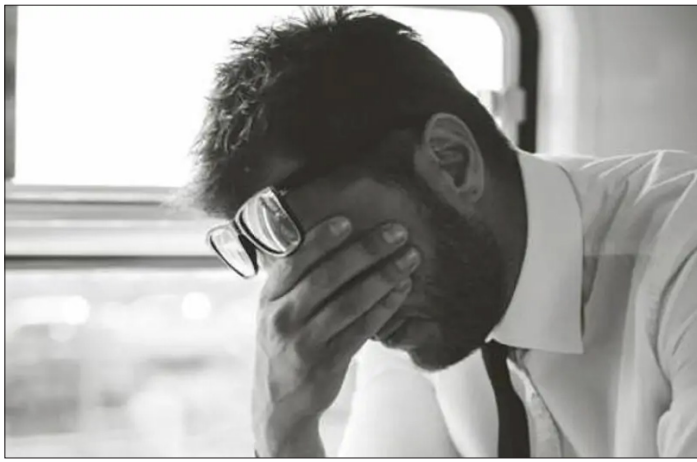
The findings showed that women with migraine have a higher risk of stroke or heart attacks than those without the condition.

"Our analysis suggests that migraine should be considered an important risk marker for cardiovascular disease, particularly in women," said lead researcher Tobias Kurth, Head of the Institute of Public Health (IPH) at Charite - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, a teaching hospital in Germany.

Their findings are based on an analysis of data collected as part of the US-based Nurses' Health Study II.

A team of US and German researchers analysed data from more than 115,500 women enrolled in the Nurses' Health Study II.

The participants were aged between 25 and 42 years at baseline and free from cardiovascular disease and, of them, 17,531 reported a physician's diagnosis of IANS



migraine.

Between 1989 and 2011, cardiovascular events were observed in 1,329 of these women; 223 died as a result.

"The risk of developing cardiovascular events was shown to be 50 per cent higher in women with a diagnosis of migraine," Kurth said.

"When compared to women unaffected by the condition, the risk of developing a heart attack was 39 per cent higher for women with migraine, the risk of having a

stroke 62 per cent higher, and that of developing angina 73 per cent higher," Kurth explained.

The results were published in the British Medical Journal.

The researchers said that further research would be necessary in order to identify the underlying causes responsible for the links between migraine and cardiovascular diseases.

The question of whether male migraine sufferers also have an increased risk of cardiovascular disease remains to be elucidated.

Courtesy Healthline

Want to live longer? Include whole grains in your daily diet

Including three servings of whole grains in everyday diet can increase your longevity while cutting the risk of death from heart disease and cancer, claim researchers.

For each 16-gram serving of whole grains, public health researchers at Harvard University noted a seven percent decrease in overall risk of death, including a nine percent decline in risk of heart disease death and five percent decline in risk of cancer-related death.

Upping whole grain intake to three servings per day, or 48 grams, brought about a 20 percent drop in overall risk of death, including a 25 percent decline in risk of heart disease death and 14 percent decline in risk of cancer-related death.

For their research, scientists analysed results of more than 12 previous studies conducted between 1970 and 2010 in the United States, Britain and Scandinavian countries, involving 786,076 male and female participants.

"These findings further support current dietary guidelines that recommend at least three daily servings (or 48 grams) of whole grains to improve long-term health and pre-

vent premature death," senior author Qi Sun of Harvard's Department of Nutrition said in a statement.

He warned against popular low-carbohydrate diets that ignore the benefits of whole grains, saying they should be "adopted with caution" because they may be linked to higher risk of heart disease and death.

Whole grains include foods such as whole wheat, oats, brown rice and quinoa. They contain fibre, which may improve cholesterol levels and lower the risk of heart disease, stroke, obesity and type two diabetes.

Whole grains also provide nutrients like B vitamins and minerals that are lost during the refining process.

The American Heart Association recommends a diet rich in fruit and vegetables, and says least half of grain consumption should be whole grains.

Among the participants in the combined studies, there was a total of 97,867 deaths, including 23,597 deaths from cardiovascular disease and 37,492 deaths from cancer.

The study was published online in Circulation, the journal of the American Heart Association. (AFP)

When fasting helps you kick the butt

Some people fast to seek God's blessings, others fast because of compulsion imposed by their elders and now, a few people have started fasting to quit smoking. You read right. While observing fast during the month of Ramadan, one is also supposed to abstain from smoking and this has been helping a large number of youngsters kick the butt. "I've been trying to quit smoking for the last five years, but did not succeed. But last year, on my friend's suggestion, I observed fast for 15 days during Ramadan and it really helped. I didn't quit completely, but I am not a chain smoker anymore. This year, I am planning to fast the whole month and hope it will help me quit," says Ajay Pal Singh. "In a country where Tobacco-related diseases kill over 300,000 people every year, and 87 per cent of the fatal lung cancer cases are caused by smoking, this can be positive change," says Ajay's mother, who is happy with her son's efforts.

Dr Vinay Manchalwar believes that fasting is a good way to beat the habit of smoking, and has also helped a few of his patients who attempted the same. "More than 80 per cent smokers want to quit but cannot because of the nicotine addiction. There are nearly 90-95 per cent who quit on their own. It all depends on the will power of the individual. My only advice is that you should start gradually. If you are smoking 10 cigarettes a day, don't cut it down to zero suddenly as it can have bad side effects. Initially, fast on alternate days, then gradually increase. As most relapses occur within the first three months, one should be very careful during this time," he says.

For Minal Jain (name changed), fasting proved to be helpful when quitting was getting difficult. "It took five years of fasting during Ramadan for me to finally quit smoking. Nobody at home knew about my smoking habit, so I could not seek their help. When you are a chain smoker and don't smoke for a whole day suddenly, it affects your health very badly. But this is not the case during Ramadan. At the end of the day you are filled with so much positive energy and that helps in overcoming the withdrawal symptoms. I fasted for four consecutive years. Initially, when my parents noticed that I was fasting they thought that I was getting spiritual and were happy about it," smiles Minal, a student.

"It is true that we fast to seek forgiveness for our sins, but if some are fasting to quit smoking there's nothing offensive about it. On the contrary, it is good news because, according to me, smoking is an evil habit just like stealing or any other. Even I was a chain smoker in my teens and after years of fasting, I quit by the time I reached my twenties. My only advice to such people is that after quitting smoking, one should avoid a relapse. For this you must consult a doctor or check on the internet," says Ashraf Khan, a retired school teacher who hopes that more people quit smoking this Ramadan. (TNN)

Diet tips to beat the bloat for a lighter summer

Tummy troubles often turn us into fart and burp factories. Now, you can beat the bloat with these expert nutrition tips. Extreme heat can aggravate gastrointestinal problems and so, Dr Rakesh Tandon, Head of Gastroenterology and Medical Director, PSRI Hospital, New Delhi, has shared some remedies that can provide quick and easy relief.

He said, "If you do not take enough water and get exposed to hot sun, you may suffer heat exhaustion or heat stroke and faint. So, keep yourself well hydrated with drinking water, lime water, cold beverages and fresh fruits."

Dr Tandon suggested taking cool drinks and food items that are known to beat the heat, like dahi, raita and other milk preparations like butter milk and 'Chhach', coconut water, mango, 'pana', 'Sattu' made of barley, wheat and gram, watermelons, cherries, corns, tomatoes, cold coffee and fresh fruits and greens.

Taking too much of non-vegetarian preparations and excessive amounts of coffee and not balancing that with adequate amounts of salad, green vegetables and fruits and drinking water and clear liquids can give you a hard time during summer, noted Dr Tandon.

He added, "Heat does lead to early putrefaction of cooked or uncooked food. It is therefore essential to check before eating if the eatables have not become stale. Consuming stale food may result in acute gastroenteritis i.e. diarrhoea and vomiting or infective diarrhoea."

Dr Tandon said, "Scarcity of water in summers may compromise cleanliness, resulting into increased occurrence of enteric and other infections. It is therefore very important that you go an extra mile in maintaining personal hygiene albeit using water judiciously. Extra care is needed to ensure proper washing and cleaning of vegetables and fruits." (ANI)

Herbal extracts holds promise to heal women bone fractures in 7 days, say experts

Natural extracts from the leaves of Dalbergia sissoo or the Indian rosewood tree (also called the shesham), and Ulmus wallichiana or the Himalayan elm, have the potential to treat bone loss in women soon after menopause and also heal fractures quite efficiently. The nutraceutical extracts were under tests at central drug research institute (CDRI), Lucknow and now the technology has been transferred to a Petlad based herbal pharmaceutical manufacturing company in Anand district to manufacture it as a herbal drug.

The herbal extracts have the ability to reduce the healing time for bone fractures from 21 days to seven days, CDRI scientist Ritu Trivedi told Nature magazine.

Both the extracts have the potential to offer an alternative treatment to bone loss during osteoporosis, which is a 'porous bone' condition. This happens when bones lose proteins and minerals, especially calcium, in excessive quantities. It sets in women after menopause—a state when their ovaries stop producing the hormone estrogen.

Till date, medical practitioners suggest human parathyroid hormone (PTH), which is an 'anabolic' substance to treat bone fractures. The hormone helps cells build bone tissue. But PTH is costly, and has the potential to cause bone cancer. (TNN)

EAT CRANBERRIES TO KEEP URINARY INFECTIONS AT BAY

If you are one of those who often suffer from urinary tract infections (UTIs), then you must start having cranberries, as a new study has found that it can be nutritional approach for reducing symptomatic UTIs.

Weber Shandwick Worldwide researchers have found that drinking an eight-ounce (240 ml) glass of cranberry juice a day reduces symptomatic UTIs by nearly 40 percent in women with recurrent UTIs, reducing the burden of UTIs and reducing the antibiotic use associated with treating recurrent UTIs.

Dr. Kalpana Gupta, infectious disease specialist and Professor of Medicine at Boston University's School of Medicine, said currently, the primary approach to reducing symptomatic events of UTI is the use of chronic antibiotics for suppression, an approach associated with side effects and development of antibiotic resistance.

She added that the research has proved that consuming one eight-ounce (240 ml) of cranberry juice a day reduces the number of times women suffer from repeated episodes of symptomatic UTIs and avoid chronic suppressive antibiotics.

Dr. Gupta believes that cranberries can help reduce the worldwide use of antibiotics and significantly improve the quality of life for women, who suffer from recurrent UTI symptoms.

Researchers set out to find whether recurrent (or repeat) UTI sufferers could be protected from repeat infections by drinking cranberry juice. Participants were all healthy women with an average age of 40, who had experienced at least two UTIs within the past year.

During the study, participants were ran-



domly chosen to drink a daily dose of eight ounces (240 ml) of either cranberry juice or a "placebo" beverage without cranberries.

The rate of UTIs decreased significantly among the cranberry drinkers, with just 39 diagnoses during the six-month study compared with 67 in the placebo group.

According to Gupta, those who suffer from UTIs can feel confident that this nutritional approach is a potential solution, further validating more than 50 years of well-documented cranberry research.

The study is published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition journal. (TOI)

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of MEEMA BEGUM D/O ZAHOR AHMAD BHAT R/O ATHOORA RESHIPORA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that ZAHOR AHMAD BHAT S/O MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT has passed away on 14/05/2026. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... MEEMA BEGUM wife 41 years widow
- 2... WASIF ZAHOR son 17 years student unmarried
- 3...LUKMAN ZAHOR Son 13 years student unmarried
- 4...SALMAN ZAHOR Son 09 years student unmarried
- 5...MOHD MAQBOOL MIR Father 70 years Farmer married
- 6...SITARA BEGUM Mother 63 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self. If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

My daughter's name has been wrongly written as MIR AREEBA D/O REYAZ AHMAD MIR in her Date of Birth certificate bearing Registration no 101002531095 while her correct name is MIRHA D/O REYAZ AHMAD MIR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH/BMO office kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name...REYAZ AHMAD MIR
F/O ...MIRHA, R/O... KREERI**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my son Name spelling DOB has been wrongly mentioned in adhar regards bearing adhar no 6073 2293 5134 Ayaan Zahor DOB 10/11/2009 instead of Pir Ayan Ahmad DOB 26/05/2010 as for School regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of the concerned authority / Block Development Office Magam within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

**PIR AYAN AHMAD, DOB 26/05/2010
S/O ZAHOR AHMAD PIR
R/O NEELIPORA MAGAM TEHSIL HANDWARA
DISTRICT KUPWARA**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of IRSHAD AHMAD DEADER S/O SAJEN MOHD DEADER R/O BANDIBALA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that PATHANI BEGUM W/O SAJEN MOHD DEADER has passed away on 25/04/2026. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... ABDUL HAMID son 43 years labour married
- 2... PARVEENA BEGUM daughter 46 years H/W married
- 3...SHAMEEMA BEGUM daughter 37 years //
- 4...SHAHNAZ BEGUM // 27 years //
- 5...IRSHAD AHMAD son 26 years Labour unmarried

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self. If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

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

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticide and Fertilizer License under the name / style of MUZAMIL FAROOQ deals in Pesticides, Fertilizers and agricultural tools situated at HAIL Kreeri, Baramulla. 193108. In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Name....MUZAMIL FAROOQ, S/O..FAROOQ AHMAD DAR
R/O .HAIL JAGIR KREERI , dist....BARAMULLA**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of MEEMA BEGUM D/O ZAHOR AHMAD BHAT R/O ATHOORA RESHIPORA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that ZAHOR AHMAD BHAT S/O MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT has passed away on 14/05/2026. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... MEEMA BEGUM wife 41 years widow
- 2... WASIF ZAHOR son 17 years student unmarried
- 3...LUKMAN ZAHOR Son 13 years student unmarried
- 4...SALMAN ZAHOR Son 09 years student unmarried
- 5...MOHD MAQBOOL MIR Father 70 years Farmer married
- 6...SITARA BEGUM Mother 63 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self. If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

**DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES KASHMIR
BEMINA BYE PASS SRINAGAR**

Subject: First Tentative Seniority List of Sup Ophthalmic Technicians Division Cadre Kashmir

CIRCULAR

It is hereby notified for the Information of all concerned that the First Tentative Seniority List of Sup Ophthalmic Technicians (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) working under the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has been prepared on the basis of available service records maintained in this Directorate and information furnished by the subordinate offices.

While due diligence has been exercised in compilation of the said seniority list, the possibility of inadvertent omissions, clerical errors, or discrepancies in the service particulars cannot be ruled out.

Accordingly, the Tentative Seniority List of Sup Ophthalmic Technicians is hereby circulated for information of all concerned and for inviting objections, if any. All the concerned Sup Ophthalmic Technicians are advised to carefully verify their particulars.

In case of any discrepancy, the concerned official may submit a representation duly supported with documentary evidence through proper channel to this Directorate within a period of seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this circular. After the stipulated period no objection shall be entertained.

The Tentative Seniority List shall also be uploaded on the official website of this Directorate and will be published in two leading newspapers of the Valley for wider circulation.

The Tentative Seniority List shall also be uploaded on the official website of this Directorate and will be published in two leading newspapers of the Valley for wider circulation:

S. No	Name of the official	D-O-B	D-O-A	Date of promotion as Supervisory Ophthalmic Technician	Present place of Posting	Category	Remarks
1	Naima Akther	05-03-1969	04-05-1994	13-02-2022	GMC Ang		
2	Vijay Kumar Bhat	21-04-1968	15-02-1996	24-01-2023	DH Pulwama		
3	Mushtaq Ahmad Mir	10-02-1969	01-05-2000	25-01-2023	SDH Tral		
4	Lateef Ahmad Bhat	28-02-1968	19-02-1996	13-07-2023	SDH Beerwah		
5	Bashir Ahmad Mir	06-03-1967	01-03-1996	13-07-2023	SDH Kreeri		
6	Nisar Ahmad Bhat	11-06-1968	01-03-1996	13-07-2023	SDH Kupwara		
7	Bilal Ahmad Wani	27-07-1974	18-09-2003	13-07-2023	DH Budgam		
8	Mudasirah Nabi	23-12-1977	05-02-2003	24-07-2025	Gousia Hospital		
9	Manzoor Ahmad Naikoo	15-10-1970	30-10-2003	24-07-2025	CHC Kremshore		
10	Ab Rawoof Hussain Sofi	29-03-1973	30-10-2003	24-07-2025	DH Anantnag		
11	Ab Waheed Wani	24-11-1972	19-05-2004	24-07-2025	SDH Khansahib		

Est-5th/NG/2021-51 Dated: 02-06-2026

Sd/- Director Health Services Kashmir

DIPK: 1840/26 | Dated: 04-06-2026

**DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES KASHMIR
BEMINA BYE PASS SRINAGAR**

Subject: First Tentative Seniority List of Sup Lab Technicians Division Cadre Kashmir

CIRCULAR

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the First Tentative Seniority List of Sup Lab Technicians (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) working under the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has been prepared on the basis of available service records maintained in this Directorate and information furnished by the subordinate offices.

While due diligence has been exercised in compilation of the said seniority list, the possibility of inadvertent omissions, clerical errors, or discrepancies in the service particulars cannot be ruled out.

Accordingly, the Tentative Seniority List of Sup. Lab Technicians, is hereby circulated for information of all concerned and for inviting objections, if any. All the concerned Sup Lab Technicians are advised to carefully verify their particulars.

In case of any discrepancy, the concerned official may submit a representation duly supported with documentary evidence through proper channel to this Directorate within a period of seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this circular. After stipulated period no objection shall be entertained.

The Tentative Seniority List shall also be uploaded on the official website of this Directorate and will be published in two leading newspapers of the Valley for wider circulation:

First Tentative Seniority List of Supervisory Lab Technicians:

S. No	Name of the official	D-O-B	D-O-A	Date of promotion as Supervisory Ophthalmic Technician	Present place of Posting	Category	Remarks
1	Javid Ahmad Mir	02-03-1970	28-01-1991	01-08-2009	SDH Char I Shareef	OM	
2	Zaffar Ahmad Rather	03-03-1969	27-02-1991	12-04-2012	SDH Chadoora	OM	
3	Bashir Ahmad	20-05-1966	15-12-1992	06-04-2021	SDH Beerwah	OM	
4	Farooq Ahmad Naik	06-01-1968	11-01-1992	14-04-2021	SDH Tral		
5	Rubiya Saleem	11-03-1970	12-04-1992	16-04-2021	AYSM DH Budgam	OM	
6	Mufti Zahoor	24-08-1968	19-11-1992	16-04-2021	SDH Chattergam	ST	
7	Gh. Mohd. Dar	15-09-1970	20-11-1992	01-05-2021	SDH Kreeri	OM	
8	Gowhar Amin	06-01-1968	11-01-1992	24-01-2023	CHC Kremshore	OM	
9	Sajad Qadir	15-03-1968	19-11-1992	24-01-2023	SDH Magam	OM	
10	Gh. Nabi Khan	26-02-1967	07-04-1995	13-07-2023	SDH Pattan	OM	
11	Narinder Singh	01-01-1967	08-04-1995	13-07-2023	CMO Srinagar	OM	
12	Altaf Hussain Malik	11-03-1968	08-04-1995	13-07-2023	SDH Kralpora	OM	
13	Javid Ahmad Khosa	13-12-1969	08-04-1995	13-07-2023	Epidemiology Srinagar	OM	
14	Safarat Nisa	11-04-1971	07-04-1995	08-01-2023	SDH Kangan	OM	
15	Shameem Abdullah	27-07-1972	07-04-1995	08-01-2023	SDH Pampore	OM	
16	Shafiq Ahmad Wani	31-12-1972	08-04-1995	08-01-2023	CHC Kellar	OM	
17	Syed Murtaza	04-12-1966	08-04-1995	08-01-2023	SDH Tangmarg	OM	
18	Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat	16-02-1967	25-04-1995	14-11-2023	DTC Sopore	OM	
19	Manzoor Ahmad Turray	03-05-1967	04-08-1999	03-11-2023	DTC Anantnag	OM	
20	Gh. Mohammad Najar	05-01-1974	11-03-2002	24-01-2023	Block Langate	OM	
21	Shabir Ahmad Teli	01-03-1971	17-01-1998	24-07-2023	SDH Sopore	SC	

Est-5th/NG/1989-2020 Dated: 02-06-2026

Sd/- Director Health Services Kashmir

DIPK: 1841/26 | Dated: 04-06-2026

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Secretary RDD reviews sanitation preparedness on Baltal axis for SANJY-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BALTAL, JUNE 04: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today conducted an extensive inspection of the Baltal axis to review the sanitation preparations for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

The Secretary had a detailed on-ground assessment of sanitation facilities from Nilgrath Helipad to Baltal Base Camp and Domail Camp.

He was accompanied by Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra, Assistant Commissioner Development Ganderbal Altaf Hussain, Block Development Officer and other district officers.

During the visit, Asad directed the field officers to closely monitor the installation of sanitation assets and accelerate execution to ensure completion within the prescribed timelines. He emphasized the need for increasing the



daily pace of toilet installation and maintaining strict adherence to the approved plans.

The Secretary inspected waste collection system including drain cradles and directed the officials

to ensure their continuous functionality to prevent blockages. He also stressed the deployment of dedicated sanitation personnel at key road junctions and Yatra route, with clearly defined areas

of responsibility.

Reviewing toilets, washrooms, dustbins, greywater drainage systems, waste segregation sites and plastic waste management units, he underscored the need

for maintaining high standards of cleanliness, accessibility and uninterrupted utility services.

Highlighting the importance of behavioural change initiatives, the Secretary called for intensified IEC activities to encourage proper use of sanitation facilities by pilgrims. He also stressed the use of smart sensors and digital monitoring tools for effective implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. He reviewed the arrangements related to polyethylene waste and scientific disposal of biomedical waste.

Reaffirming the department's commitment to a clean, safe and dignified pilgrimage experience, Aijaz Asad directed that all sanitation and bathing facilities be maintained to odour-free standards with no scope for pilgrim complaints. He stressed that every effort must be made to provide pilgrims a clean, hygienic and dignified environment throughout their spiritual journey.

Secretary Transport inspects ARTO offices in Rajouri, Poonch

Stresses transparency, efficient public service delivery

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI/POONCH, JUNE 04: Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa today conducted an extensive inspection of the Assistant Regional Transport Offices in Rajouri and Poonch to review their functioning and assess the quality of transport-related services being provided to the public.

The Secretary reviewed the disposal of online applications, grievance redress mechanisms and overall public service delivery. She emphasized the



need for maintaining transparency, accountability and efficiency in functioning of the Transport Department to ensure hassle-free and citizen-friendly services.

The Secretary directed the officers and staff to ensure timely processing of applications and prompt resolution of public grievances. She underscored the importance of leveraging the digital platforms and technology-driven solutions to enhance service delivery and public convenience.

At Chingus, the Secretary also inspected the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) System and reviewed its functioning in strengthening enforcement and monitoring mechanisms.

Avny Lavasa reviewed the infrastructure and facilities available at both ARTO offices and took stock of the requirements for further strengthening their operational efficiency. She stressed the importance of adopting a citizen-centric approach and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in service delivery.

The Secretary also held meetings with DC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma and DC Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, to discuss the transport-related issues and measures for improving transport services and road safety in the respective districts.

During the inspection, she interacted with the officers and staff members and encouraged them to continue working with dedication and commitment towards providing efficient, transparent and responsive services to the public.

ARTO Rajouri, Ashiq Rafiq Malik and ARTO Poonch, Mohd Nawaz, accompanied the Secretary during the inspection. They briefed her about the functioning of their respective offices, ongoing initiatives and measures being undertaken to further improve public service delivery.

Multi-Departmental Awareness, Outreach Activities conducted across Budgam under NMBA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 04: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a series of awareness, outreach, environmental and community mobilization activities were conducted across District Budgam by various government departments and educational institutions to promote the vision of a healthy and drug-free society.

The Excise Department organized awareness and



outreach programmes in the villages of Kanihama and Mazhama in Tehsil Magam. During the programmes, local residents and farmers were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The School Education Department carried forward the campaign through awareness activities in Zone Zanigam, where students and community members were educated about the adverse consequences of drug addiction and encouraged to play an active role in spreading awareness against substance abuse.

As part of the campaign, Environmental Week activities commenced at Government Degree College Khansahib under the banner of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. The initiative seeks to promote environmental responsibility alongside the message of healthy living and drug-free lifestyles among students.

The Forest Department also intensified its outreach efforts under NMBA. Doodganga Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division organized an awareness programme at High School Wassamarg, where students were sensitized about the social and health impacts of drug abuse and motivated to contribute towards building a drug-free society. In another significant initiative, a plantation drive was conducted at Government Primary School Wassamarg under the theme "Ek Ped Nashe Ke Virudh." Organized in collaboration with the school, the programme combined environmental conservation with anti-drug messaging, highlighting the importance of positive community action and youth engagement in nation-building.

The various programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, officials and members of the public. Through awareness drives, educational activities and community engagement initiatives, the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan continues to strengthen public awareness and encourage collective efforts towards realizing the goal of a drug-free Budgam. The District Administration reiterated its commitment to sustaining the momentum of the campaign through coordinated efforts of departments, institutions and community stakeholders, ensuring that the message of a healthy and drug-free society reaches every section of the population.

Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives reviews preparations for Cooperation Ministry's zonal review workshop in Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the preparedness of committees constituted for the upcoming Zonal Review workshop of the Union Ministry of Cooperation. The workshop is scheduled to be held in Srinagar from June 24 to 26, 2026.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary was apprised of the operational readiness and action plans of the specialized committees constituted for the purpose. The event is expected to witness the participation of senior officers from the Union Ministry for Cooperation besides Administrative Secretaries and Registrars of Cooperative Societies from various States and Union Territories across the country.

Reviewing the protocol and liaison arrangements, the Commissioner Secretary directed all the committees to maintain effective communication and coordination through the centralized Control and Liaison Committees. She emphasized strict adherence to timelines and instructed the Protocol & Delegate Committee and Transport Committee to work in close coordination to ensure smooth, secure and



dignified movement of delegates and dignitaries.

The meeting also reviewed the arrangements related to transportation, accommodation, hospitality and logistics.

Yasha Mudgal underscored the importance of advance planning, route management and inter-committee coordination to ensure a comfortable and hassle-free experience for all participants. She stressed that the hospitality arrangements should reflect the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism.

The Commissioner Secretary further reviewed the conference management and venue preparedness, directing that all technical infrastructure, including IT connectivity, audio-visual equipment and support sys-

tems, be fully tested and made operational well before commencement of the workshop.

Highlighting the need for coordinated efforts, she called upon all the concerned departments and agencies to work in close collaboration and maintain continuous monitoring of the arrangements. She also directed the committee heads to put in place appropriate contingency measures to effectively address any unforeseen situations.

The Commissioner Secretary instructed all the officers to expedite pending works and ensure that every aspect of the preparations is completed within the prescribed timeframe.

The meeting was attended by the senior officers of the Cooperative Department and members of the various committees constituted for successful conduct of the workshop.

CPCO Amit Sharma visits Shopian; Reviews Census operations in meeting with officers

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 04: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, today chaired a high-level meeting at Mini Secretariat, Shopian to review the preparations and operations of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO), being conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026.

At the outset, DSEO, Bilgees Zahoor briefed the chair about the topography and preparedness regarding census enumeration process and other training programmes being held in Shopian district.

Principal Census Officer (PCO)/ Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta, also briefed the CPCO about final preparedness for ongoing HLO while attending the meeting and held discussions on the ongoing conduct of census operations in the district.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on ensuring comprehensive enumeration of migratory households and streamlining field-level census operations.

Amit Sharma, in his address, highly appreciated the hard work



of the field staff and motivated all the enumerators and supervisors to perform their duties with dedication. He emphasized the importance of co-ordination amongst the census functionar-

ies, timely data collection and strict adherence to census guidelines to ensure accuracy and completeness of the enumeration process.

Officers were instructed to

extend full support to census functionaries and undertake necessary measures for smooth conduct of the House Listing and Housing Census activities across the district.

The meeting also reviewed preparedness at the field level and addressed various operational issues related to the census exercise.

The CPCO urged people to actively participate in the census exercise to ensure its smooth and timely completion and also co-operate with census enumerators and provide the required information. He reiterated the significance of the Census as a vital national exercise and stressed the need for collective efforts to achieve accurate and reliable population data for informed planning and development.

Arun Kumar, Joint Chief Principal Census Officer, also briefed the meeting regarding the monitoring framework of field operations and emphasized the need for real-time tracking of the data collection process.

The meeting was attended by prominent Census related officers including Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer), Dr Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, Charge Officers, Vijay Kumar, Assistant Chief Principal Census Officer, District Coordinator, Naveen Raghav among other concerned officers and officials.

Public Notice

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TCS to modernise Sweden's Central Securities Depository

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JUN 4: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) officially announced here on Wednesday its long-standing partnership with Euroclear Group has been expanded, in order to drive the modernisation of Sweden's Central Securities Depository (CSD).

As part of this initiative, Euroclear Sweden will deploy TCS BaNCSTM for Market Infrastructure and QuartzTM, which is TCS' advanced digital solutions, to build a resilient, future-ready, and scalable CSD platform aligned to evolving European market standards, according to the TCS statement.

Euroclear is a financial market infrastructure group which acts as a central securities depository (CSD), much like the Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL), which is India's largest central securities depository for active demat accounts.

TCS BaNCSTM for Market Infrastructure will enable Euroclear to meet the evolving needs of financial market infrastructure institutions, supporting end-to-end operations across asset classes, including core registry, depository services, cross-border settlement, and asset servicing.

Complementing this, TCS' Quartz will leverage distributed ledger technology and artificial intelligence to support tokenised assets, decentralised settlements, and real-time, actionable insights,



according to the statement.

According to the statement, TCS BaNCSTM for Market Infrastructure offers a sophisticated double-entry system with support for both omnibus and end-investor accounting, as well as multiple settlement models, including a unique settlement optimisation capability which helps manage liquidity across both securities and cash.

The solution provides compliance with European and global standards such as the Securities Market Practice Group (SMPG), Joint Working Group on Corporate Actions (CAJWG), Central Securities Depositories Regulation (CSDR), and others, the statement mentioned.

Additionally, Quartz's co-ex-

istence approach for supporting both ISO 15022 and ISO 20022 standards enables a seamless and efficient transition to ISO 20022.

According to the statement, these solutions will help Euroclear to implement its Nordic transformation strategy, aimed at driving standardisation and growth through the deployment of a modern, cloud-ready and scalable CSD platform across Sweden and Finland.

The unified platform will enable continued compliance with European standards.

The implementation of a unified platform will be achieved through a phased infotech transition, including the migration of the Swedish market to the Euro-

Securities (T2S) platform for secure and efficient pan-European settlement, the statement mentioned.

Commenting on the development, Euroclear's CEO for Sweden & Finland Hanna Vainio said, "Having established one of Europe's most advanced CSD infrastructures in Finland, we are pleased to extend our decade-long partnership with TCS to Sweden. This collaboration is a pillar of our 'One Nordic' vision, allowing us to harmonise business and infotech practices onto a single, resilient platform. By integrating our regional operations, we are not only enhancing efficiency for our clients, but also reinforcing our position as the preferred Nordic CSD, dedicated to the long-term prosperity of the Nordic financial ecosystem".

TCS President for BFSI Products & Platforms R Vivekanand said, "We are pleased to expand our relationship with the Euroclear Group through this strategic multi-country harmonization initiative. Building on our joint success in Finland, we look forward to working with Euroclear to bring high levels of sophistication in functionality, standards compliance and technology to the Nordics market leveraging TCS BaNCSTM and Quartz, our market-leading products for financial market infrastructures. We are deeply committed to ensuring the platform is future-proof, resilient, scalable, while leading the way for transformation in European markets." UNI

Hyderabad emerges as major Data Centre Hub, capacity rises to 151 MW with 1.9 GW Pipeline: Knight Frank report

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 4: Hyderabad has emerged as one of India's fastest-growing data centre markets, with its live data centre capacity more than doubling to 151.4 MW by the end of 2025 and a massive 1.9 GW development pipeline positioning the city as a leading hyperscale and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure hub, according to a report released by Knight Frank India.

The report on 'India Data Centre Market update 2025: Tracking Capacity, Demand and Supply Pipeline', stated that Hyderabad's live capacity increased from 60.9 MW in 2022 to 151.4 MW in 2025, reflecting the city's rapid transformation from an IT/ITES-driven market into a strategic destination for hyperscale and AI-focused investments.

Knight Frank noted that Hyderabad's pipeline of under-construction, committed and early-stage projects has expanded to nearly 1.97 GW, second only to Mumbai among India's major data centre markets.

The growth is being driven by strong operator preference for large campus-scale developments and Telangana's push to establish itself as a global AI data centre hub.

The report highlighted that state incentives for high-density graphics processing units (GPUs), large-scale AI training infrastructure and liquid cooling technologies, coupled with Hyderabad's disaster-resilient geography, are making the city an attractive alternative to more expensive coastal locations.

Major operators such as NTT and AdaniConneX are aggressively expanding their footprint in the city.

Among India's key data centre markets, Hyderabad's live capacity of 151.4 MW

places it ahead of Kolkata and close to Pune and Bengaluru, while Mumbai continues to lead with 766.6 MW.

The report also pointed to the growing presence of global hyperscalers in Hyderabad. Microsoft is set to launch its India South Central data centre region in Hyderabad in 2026, while Amazon Web Services (AWS) currently operates three availability zones in the city and accounts for 46 per cent of Hyderabad's live IT capacity.

Oracle has also announced plans to establish a data centre in Hyderabad to expand its cloud infrastructure in India. Demand patterns in the city are evolving rapidly. Hyderabad recorded a historic data centre absorption of 19.2 MW in 2024, signalling increasing dominance of hyperscale demand.

Although absorption moderated in 2025, vacancy levels averaged 23 per cent, indicating that the market remains in an expansion phase as operators prepare for future AI-driven requirements.

At the national level, India's data centre market crossed 1.6 GW of live IT capacity by the end of 2025. The country added 371.5 MW of live capacity during 2025, following a substantial addition of 361.6 MW in 2024, underscoring sustained growth driven by AI adoption, cloud computing, enterprise digitisation and data localisation requirements.

Commenting on the findings, Shishir Bajjal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India, said the Indian data centre sector is undergoing a structural transformation and has become one of the foundational pillars of the country's digital economy, supported by AI-led workloads, hyperscaler investments, cloud adoption and sovereign data requirements. UNI

Markets end lower; IT stocks drag Sensex, Nifty down

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 4: The Indian Stock Markets on Wednesday ended lower, erasing the previous session's gains.

At close, Sensex was down 303.67 points or 0.41 per cent at 74,346.17, while the Nifty was down 77.95 points or 0.33 per cent at 23,405.60. Nifty Midcap 100 index shed 0.4 per cent and Nifty Smallcap 100 index was down 0.1 per cent.

Among the sectors, IT index shed 5.5 per cent, FMCG and realty slipped 1 per cent each, and Consumer Durables fell 0.8 per cent. On the other hand, Telecom index rose 2 per cent, PSU Bank index jumped 1.7 per cent, and healthcare index was up 0.5 per cent each.

On Nifty, TCS, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Infosys, and Wipro were in decline. While gainers were Apollo Hospitals, Max Healthcare, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, SBI and ICICI Bank.

On BSE, over 100 stocks touched their 52-week high. These included Apar Industries, IFCL, Vodafone Idea, Chennai Petro, HFCL, Federal Bank, Welspun Corp, JK Bank, NMDC, Technologies India, PTC Industries, ACME Solar, among others.

Among the IT stocks, Tata Consultancy Services led the decline, tumbling 8.4 per cent. Persistent Systems, Coforge, ITIMindtree, Tech Mahindra, L&T Technology Services, eClerx Services, HCL Technologies, Birlasoft, KPIT Technologies, Mphasis, Tata Elxsi, Sonata Software, and Oracle Financial Services Software followed the fall.

Among the global markets, S&P 500 futures were little changed, while Nasdaq 100 futures hovered around the previous session's closing levels. UNI

TheraNym Biologics to set up Rs 1,200-cr manufacturing facility in Telangana; 1,500 jobs to be created

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SANGAREDDY (TELANGANA), JUNE 4: Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu along with Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility of TheraNym Biologics at Borpatla village in Hatnoora mandal of Sangareddy district.

Hyderabad-based TheraNym Biologics, a subsidiary of Aurubindo Pharma

The facility will be established with an investment of Rs 1,200 crore and is expected to significantly strengthen Telangana's

position as a global hub for life sciences and biotechnology, according to officials.

The upcoming plant will manufacture advanced medicines used in the treatment of cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

The products will cater to both domestic and international markets, including the United States and other major global destinations.

The project is expected to generate around 1,500 direct and indirect employment opportunities, providing a major boost to the local economy and creating skilled jobs in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical



Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar Babu said Telangana continues to attract major investments in life sciences owing to its industry-friendly policies, world-class infrastructure and strong innovation ecosystem.

He noted that the establishment of the TheraNym Biologics facility would further enhance the global reputation of the "Made in Telangana" brand and reinforce the state's leadership in the life sciences sector.

The project is expected to contribute significantly to Telangana's growing biotechnology ecosystem while supporting the state's vision of becoming a leading destination for high-value pharmaceutical and biologics manufacturing, he added. UNI

Subhasis Sengupta assumes charge as Director (Operations) of RINL

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 4: Subhasis Sengupta, a seasoned steel industry professional with more than three decades of experience in steel production, maintenance, project execution and plant management, assumed charge as Director (Operations) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), here on Wednesday.

Born on July 14, 1969, in Kolkata, Sengupta is a Mechanical Engineering graduate from The Ben-

gal Engineering and Science University, West Bengal, and holds an M.Tech in Design and Production Engineering from the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Durgapur, the steel plant said in a release here.

He began his career with Reliance Industries before joining Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) as a Management Trainee (Technical) in 1992.

Over the years, he has held several key positions across SAIL's operations and project divisions.

Prior to joining RINL, Sengupta

served as Chief General Manager (Projects) at Durgapur Steel Plant, where he spearheaded major brown-field expansion projects valued at more than Rs 5,500 crore.

He was also associated with the proposed 3 MTPA greenfield expansion project estimated at Rs 28,000 crore.

Earlier, as Chief General Manager (Works) and Unit Head of SAIL Growth Works, he led a significant turnaround of the unit, resulting in a 51 per cent increase in production and a 108 per cent rise in turnover during his tenure.

India emerges as fastest-growing major insurance market, global premiums top USD 8 tn: Report

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 4: India is set to emerge as the world's fastest-growing major insurance market over the next decade, driven by rising demand for financial protection, demographic changes and ongoing regulatory reforms, according to the latest Global Insurance Report 2026 released by Allianz Research on Wednesday here.

The report said India's insurance industry recorded robust growth of 9.4 per cent in 2025, with total premium income rising to USD 146 billion from USD 133 billion a year earlier. Growth was broad-based across all major segments, reflecting increas-

ing awareness of protection needs among consumers and businesses. Life insurance, which accounts for nearly three-fourths of the country's insurance market, expanded by 9.7 per cent during the year. Health insurance remained the fastest-growing segment with premium income rising 10.4 per cent, supported by high medical inflation and continued gaps in public healthcare coverage. Property and Casualty (P&C) insurance, which includes motor, property and liability coverage, grew by 7.5 per cent. Despite becoming one of the world's ten largest insurance markets, India remains significantly underinsured. Insurance penetration stands at

just 3.8 per cent of GDP, while only around 46 per cent of the working-age population is effectively covered by pension systems. A large share of healthcare expenditure also continues to be borne directly by households. The report projects that India's insurance market will expand at an annual rate of 10.7 per cent over the next decade, outpacing the country's expected nominal GDP growth of 10.1 per cent. Rising life expectancy, population ageing and persistent gaps in social security coverage are expected to drive demand across life, health and general insurance products. Allianz Research also highlighted the role of regulatory initiatives, includ-

ing the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's "Insurance for All by 2047" vision, in supporting the long-term expansion and efficiency of the sector. Commenting on the findings, Ritu Arora, Country Head of Allianz Services India, said insurance is becoming increasingly critical to economic resilience in an environment marked by growing uncertainty and fragmentation. She noted that India's strong growth reflects rising awareness of protection needs across life, health and general insurance, while also underscoring the significant untapped potential that remains in the market. According to her, the industry's focus will increas-

ingly be on improving affordability, expanding access and ensuring broader financial protection for individuals and families. Globally, the insurance industry continued to expand strongly in 2025, with total premiums rising 7.1 per cent to reach USD 8.1 trillion. Although growth moderated from 9.4 per cent in 2024, it remained well above the long-term average, adding USD 536 billion to the global premium pool.

Life insurance remained the largest segment globally with premium income of USD 3.36 trillion, followed by Property and Casualty insurance at USD 2.73 trillion and health insurance at USD 1.98 trillion. UNI

Coworks adds over 2.9 lakh sqft to its growing footprint in Chennai

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, JUNE 4: Coworks, India's premium flexible and managed workspace provider backed by Brookfield Properties, today announced a significant expansion in Chennai, reinforcing its commitment to one of India's fastest-growing commercial real estate markets.

With 6 new centres, Coworks is bringing 2.9 lakh sqft of world-class workspace and 3,900 desks to the city. Now the Chennai footprint has grown from 4 centres with over 2.1 lakh sqft and 2,900 desks to a network of 10 centres spanning nearly 5 lakh sqft and 6,800 desks, strengthening its presence in one of the country's key office markets.

Strategically located across key business hubs such as Perungudi, GST Road and Radial Road-Pallikaranai, the portfolio offers a mix of flexible workspaces and managed office solutions, designed to serve the full spectrum of enterprise needs, a company release said.

Matthew Parambil, Vice President and National Head - Revenue, Coworks said: "With flex now accounting for a significant share of office absorption and demand being led by GCCs and large enterprises, we are seeing a clear shift towards managed, high-quality environments that offer both agility and control. Chennai, in particular, has emerged as a preferred destination for GCCs across IT/ITES, BFSI, engineering, and manufacturing, drawn by the city's strong talent pool and the need for scalable, cost-efficient workspace. Enterprise demand here requires solutions that combine speed, design, and operational excellence. Our managed office solutions are built to deliver exactly that, enabling companies to scale faster while optimising capital and maintaining a premium workplace experience." UNI

New Zealand home summer to start with blockbuster all-format India tour

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BELFAST: The New Zealand men's team will kick off their international home summer later this year by hosting India for an all-format tour from October 22 to December 1. The tour of 12 matches will feature five T20Is, five ODIs and two Tests to be played across five major venues, making it the most number of international matches scheduled "for an in-bound tour in NZC history", a New Zealand Cricket statement said. New Zealand will also host Sri Lanka for an all-format tour of three ODIs, three T20Is, and two Tests in late January and February to finish their home international summer that will see 42 days of international cricket across eight cities. The Sri Lanka series will take place once New Zealand return from an away tour of four Tests in Australia scheduled for December-January.

The India tour will begin in Christchurch's Hagley Oval for the first two T20Is on October 22 and 24. Wellington, Auckland and Hamilton will then host the last three T20Is on October 27, 30 and November 1 respectively. After a two-day gap, the ODI series will begin on November 4 in Auckland, followed by the second ODI in Wellington (November 7), the third in Hamilton (November 10), and the last two in Mount Maunganui (November 13 and 15).

"The New Zealand government will be supporting the in-bound India tour alongside adjacent sport-



No Repeat of Dot-Ball Mistake at WC: Mandhana

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

TAUNTON: Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana pinned India's six-wicket defeat against England in the third T20I to their failure to bowl enough dot balls, and hoped not to repeat the mistake in the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup.

England dented India's build-up for the ICC showpiece, registering a come-from-behind 2-1 win in the three-match series. "We definitely started extremely well with the ball, (reducing England to) 35 for 3. I wouldn't really take anything away from the partnership they had. I think they played really good cricketing shots," Mandhana said at the post-match press conference.

After an early wobble, England recovered through a 137-run alliance for the fourth wicket between Alice Capsey (82) and Heather Knight (70 not out) to chase down the target of 181.

"In hindsight, we would have been able to build pressure with a few dot balls, but we were not able to do that. We will definitely look at this game in a way where we can do better and not repeat these mistakes in the World Cup coming ahead," she added. Despite the defeat, the left-handed opener took some positives from the series such as the return to form of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur.

Harmanpreet struck a 40-ball 56 to take India to 180 for five. "She batted amazingly well. Harman, when she is at her best, is a delight to watch. She played all over the ground. It's a really important innings under pressure, especially when we needed that knock to get us to 180+."

"I feel everyone is in good nick. It is a good sign going forward for the World Cup that Jamie, Harman, everyone is looking really beautiful to watch from the outside. Hopefully, I can watch from the non-strikers end," she said.

New Zealand Men's 2026-27 home schedule		
2026 INDIA		
Oct 22: 1 st T20I Christchurch	Nov 4: 1 st ODI Auckland	Nov 19 - 23: 1 st Test Wellington
Oct 24: 2 nd T20I Christchurch	Nov 7: 2 nd ODI Wellington	Nov 27 - Dec 1: 2 nd Test Christchurch
Oct 27: 3 rd T20I Wellington	Nov 10: 3 rd ODI Hamilton	
Oct 30: 4 th T20I Auckland	Nov 13: 4 th ODI Mount Maunganui	
Nov 1: 5 th T20I Hamilton	Nov 15: 5 th ODI Mount Maunganui	
2027 SRI LANKA		
Jan 16: 1 st ODI Napier	Jan 26: 1 st T20I Christchurch	Feb 4 - 8: 1 st Test Mount Maunganui
Jan 19: 2 nd ODI Wellington	Jan 29: 2 nd T20I Nelson	Feb 12 - 16: 2 nd Test Hamilton
Jan 22: 3 rd ODI Dunedin	Jan 31: 3 rd T20I Nelson	

ing tours by India later in the year, as 100 years of sporting ties between New Zealand and India are commemorated," the NZC statement said.

The home season will also see the return of Sky New Zealand as the host broadcaster of NZC's international fixtures for the next six seasons. Once the New Zealand side returns from Australia after the tour concludes with the SCG Test scheduled from January 4 to 8, they will host Sri Lanka, starting with the ODI series from January 16 (Napier), followed by the second and third ODIs on January 19 (Wellington) and 22 (Dunedin). The first T20I will be played on January 26 (Christchurch) before the last two are played on January 29 and 31, both in Nelson. The two Tests are scheduled to start on February 4 (Mount Maunganui) and February 12 (Hamilton).

The New Zealand women's team, meanwhile, will host Bangladesh for three T20Is and as many ODIs from December 10 to 23, their only series in the home summer. As the inaugural T20 Champions Trophy for women has been moved to February 2027 from its original window of June 2027, New Zealand's tour of Australia around the same time will be re-scheduled. "It simply doesn't get bigger than India and we're determined to deliver New Zealanders a tour like no other," NZC chief marketing and commercial officer Glenn Critchley said. "This will be about more than just the cricket on the field - it will be a celebration of New Zealand's shared history and culture with India, and our burgeoning rivalry and friendship through cricket. "The passion and the following this team has is staggering - not to mention some of the players expected to tour such as Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah - so we're bracing for the intensity and fandom that will accompany the tour. "Experiencing the noise, colour and atmosphere of an Indian cricket international is a bucket-list event and I'd encourage the Kiwi public to take up the opportunity to witness it first-hand." "It's always a special occasion playing India. They're an unbelievable cricket team, full of talent and star power - you know every time you face them it's going to be seriously challenging. The rivalry we've built in recent years is pretty staggering and I'm sure this tour will deliver many more big moments"

"It's always a special occasion playing India," Ish Sodhi said at the launch of the home schedule in Papatoetoe on Wednesday. "They're an unbelievable cricket team, full of talent and star power - you know every time you face them it's going to be seriously challenging. The rivalry we've built in recent years is pretty staggering and I'm sure this tour will deliver many more big moments. "Then there's the Indian fans and the energy and noise they bring - it really is like nothing else and something everyone should experience at least once in their life.

Urgent meeting called for amid BBL chaos; ACA says merger has caused 'anxiety'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MELBOURNE: New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland have requested a meeting with Cricket Australia (CA) for Thursday to discuss the fallout from Cricket Victoria's announcement about the merger of Melbourne Stars and Renegades, while the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) says the development has created "confusion, uncertainty and anxiety" among the players and believes the game is not unified on a way forward for BBL privatisation.

The revelations on Tuesday that Cricket Victoria plans to merge Stars and Renegades under a new name and colours for the upcoming BBL, while selling off the second BBL license entirely to a private owner, has caused chaos and confusion across Australian cricket.

ESPNcricinfo understands that NSW are particularly angered by the situation and held a call with SA and Queensland, the other two states with varying concerns over privatisation, to discuss the issue on Wednesday before requesting an unscheduled meeting with CA on Thursday.

It is also understood NSW were not informed of an executives trip to Chennai - which included leaders from CA, the BBL, Victoria, WA and Tasmania - to discuss the BBL match that is planned to be played there and to speak to prospective investors interested in buying a stake in clubs from those states when CA push ahead with a hybrid privatisation model.

NSW has also long requested a formal meeting with CA, beyond the face-to-face meeting that CA chair Mike Baird and NSW chair John

Knox had on May 11, to discuss their alternative proposal to self-fund the BBL without private investment but say they are yet to get a response. State executives are due to meet in Melbourne next week ahead of the chairs meeting on June 15.

Paul Marsh, the chief executive of the ACA, delivered the strongest statement yet in the aftermath of CV's announcement amid uncertainty among players. ESPNcricinfo had been contacted by players seeking further details while a number from both Melbourne clubs have reached out to the players' union since the news broke on Tuesday evening about the merger. Marsh delivered a statement via social media strongly urging a fractured Australian cricket to come together. "There has been much recent discussion around privatising the Big Bash League clubs," Marsh said.

After 60 years of hurt England turns to a German coach to end World Cup title drought

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANCHESTER: In a bid to end its decades-long wait to win a second World Cup, England has put its fate in the hands of a German. It's fair to say the appointment of Thomas Tuchel was not universally well received. "I'm sorry I have a German passport," the serial-winning former Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Bayern Munich coach quipped at his official unveiling in 2024. He had woken that morning to some unflattering headlines in the British media.

The Daily Mail described it as a "dark day for England" and said the national team had gambled on a "GERMAN." The leader of the right-wing Reform Party Nigel Farage asked on X: "Why can't we have an English manager?" Never mind that Tuchel was a Champions League winner who had lifted trophies in three different countries. Or the fact that England has gone down the foreign route before: a Swedish coach in Sven-Goran Eriksson and an Italian in Fabio Capello. And in the days before Tuchel's appointment, there were rumors that Pep Guardiola was also a leading candidate.

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