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## Historic Movement Against Narco-Terrorism Has Risen Across Kashmir: LG Sinha

Over 1,100 Drug Smugglers Arrested in 55 Days

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 5:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday declared that a "historic movement against narco-terrorism" has emerged across Kashmir, describing the ongoing anti-drug campaign as a powerful people-led initiative aimed at protecting the region's youth and dismantling narcotics networks linked to terrorism.

The Lieutenant Governor made the remarks while joining the anti-drug campaign in Ganderbal, where he participated in a public march and addressed a large gathering. He said his visits to every district of

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### LG Inaugurates Yatri Bhawan at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 5:** The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated Yatri Bhawan at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, Tulmulla, Ganderbal. After dedicating the facilities to the public, the Lieutenant Governor said that the new Yatri Bhawan will substantially improve the pilgrimage experience

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## Demographic Changes in Border States Will Not Be Tolerated: Amit Shah

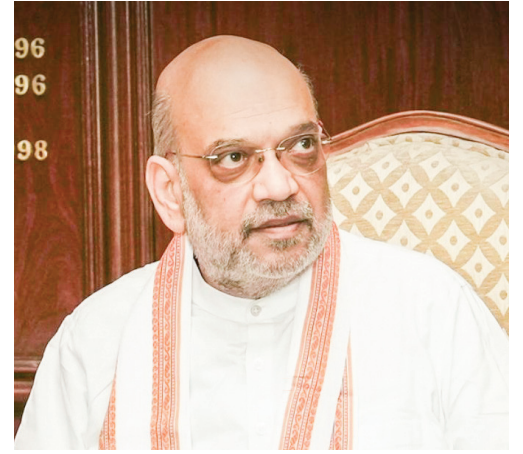
HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**AGARTALA, JUNE 5:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday declared that the Government of India would not permit demographic changes in the border states of West Bengal, Tripura and Bihar, while outlining a series of measures aimed at strengthening the country's border security framework.

Addressing Border Security Force personnel at the Lankamura Border Outpost, Shah said the Centre was committed to closing existing gaps in border management and ensuring more effective protection of India's international frontiers.

"Demographic changes in West Bengal, Tripura and Bihar will not be tolerated," the Home Minister said, adding that the government was taking all necessary steps to enhance border surveillance and prevent illegal cross-border activities.

Shah also announced that the Centre's "smart border" initiative has entered its final phase and is expected to be introduced as a pilot project at seven to eight locations across the country. The project is designed to integrate advanced surveil-



lance technology with the efforts of border personnel and local administrative agencies to create a more efficient and responsive security network.

He said the proposed system would employ modern technological tools to improve monitoring, strengthen border management and support security forces in safeguarding the nation's borders.

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## Govt Promoting Offbeat Destinations to Boost J&K Tourism: Sakeena

HT NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM, JUNE 05:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting at Civil Sec-



retariat here to review the tourism potential of the picturesque Panchanpatri area in Kulgam district.

During the meeting, the Minister took detailed assessment of various

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## Abuse of Official Position and Criminal Conspiracy Indicated in Zawoora Garden Project: ACB

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 5:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a corruption case against several government officials and a private contractor following an inquiry into alleged irregularities in the execution of development works under the Centre of Excellence project at Zawoora Garden in Srinagar.

According to an official statement, the case was registered after a Joint Surprise Check conducted by Police Station ACB Srinagar uncovered prima facie evidence of serious procedural and financial violations in the tendering and implementation

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## Violence, Not Special Status, Held Back J&K's Development: Omar Abdullah

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 5:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday asserted that Article 370 was never responsible for the region's developmental shortcomings, arguing that prolonged violence and instability—not constitutional provisions—were the principal obstacles to economic growth. Addressing The Hindu



Huddle, Abdullah

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## Ace Test Pilot Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Appointed Next IAF Vice Chief

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 5:** Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, a distinguished fighter pilot, experimental test pilot and senior military strategist, has been appointed as the next Vice Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force. He will assume charge on July 1.

Currently serving as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff at Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, Air Marshal Dixit has been closely involved in advancing integration among the armed forces and supporting the ongoing transition towards theatre-based military commands.

A highly accomplished officer with nearly four

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## No Decision Yet on Polymer Currency Notes: RBI Governor

Central Bank Evaluating Pros and Cons of Plastic Notes

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**MUMBAI, JUNE 5:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not yet taken a decision on introducing polymer currency notes, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Friday, clarifying that the proposal remains under consideration and is still at a preliminary stage.

Speaking at the post-monetary policy press conference, Malhotra said the central bank is carefully examining the feasibility of polymer notes and assessing whether their potential benefits outweigh the associated costs and operational challenges.

"As far as polymer notes are

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## Reaffirm Commitment To Protecting Environment: PM Modi

Says India has expanded green cover and recorded growth in wildlife populations

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 5:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for a renewed national commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development, stating that India's progress in expanding green cover and conserving wildlife reflects the success of collective efforts, science-driven policies and innovation.



Marking World Environment Day, the Prime Minister extended his greetings to citizens and praised individuals and organisations working towards environmental conservation.

In a message posted on social media, Modi said the occasion serves as a reminder to strengthen efforts aimed at safeguarding natural resources while ensuring economic growth remains

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## CS reviews preparations for NEET (UG) re-examination

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 05:** Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting to review and finalize foolproof arrangements for the smooth, secure and transparent conduct of the NEET (UG) re-examination scheduled to be held on June 21, 2026,

across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director General, National Testing Agency (NTA); Principal Secretary, Home; ADGP, Law & Order; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Divisional Commissioner,

Jammu/Kashmir; IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir, besides other senior officers. Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police from all districts participated through video conferencing.

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## Cloudburst-Hit Chisoti To Get Automatic Weather Station: Jitendra Singh

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JUN 5:** Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday announced the establishment of an automatic weather station in the cloudburst-affected Chisoti area of Kishtwar district, a major step to strengthen weather forecasting and disaster preparedness in the region. Jammu and Kashmir's Chisoti village, the gateway to the revered Machail Mata temple in Kishtwar district, was devastated by a cloudburst on August 14, 2025, in which 65 people, mostly pilgrims, lost their lives.

More than 30 people are still reported missing.

"Following last year's disaster in Chisoti, which continues to be discussed

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## Dr Jitendra Reviews Development Works at Malhori Outreach Camp

HT NEWS NETWORK

**DODA, JUNE 05:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister for State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today convened a public outreach camp at Malhori, Kalotha in Doda district.

The Union MoS held an

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**CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....**

**Historic Movement.....**

the Kashmir Valley during the campaign had convinced him that the fight against drug abuse had evolved into a mass movement supported by citizens from all walks of life.

Highlighting the results achieved during the past 55 days, Sinha said authorities had registered 1,036 criminal cases, arrested 1,128 alleged drug smugglers, attached more than 100 properties linked to narcotics trafficking, cancelled nearly 700 driving licences and recommended the cancellation of passports belonging to 130 accused drug traffickers.

Recalling the launch of the campaign from Jammu nearly two months ago, he said the administration had resolved to confront drug abuse and narco-terrorism with determination. What began as a government-led effort, he noted, has now transformed into a broad-based public movement driven by collective resolve and community participation.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that the administration remains committed not only to strict enforcement against traffickers but also to the rehabilitation of those affected by addiction. He said treatment facilities, counselling services and employment opportunities would be expanded to help recovering individuals reintegrate into society.

Describing narcotics trafficking as both a criminal activity and a national security threat, Sinha said proceeds from the illegal drug trade are often used to finance terrorist activities and destabilise society. He asserted that individuals involved in narco-terrorism, whether operating within Jammu and Kashmir or from across the border, would face severe consequences.

He further said the administration would ensure that those responsible for destroying the lives of young people through drugs are brought to justice and subjected to the strictest legal action.

Calling for greater public participation, the Lieutenant Governor urged women to play a leading role in protecting communities from the drug menace and appealed to young people to remain vigilant in safeguarding schools, colleges and neighbourhoods.

Reaffirming the administration's resolve, Sinha said narcotics networks would be systematically dismantled and that those involved in the trade would no longer find refuge in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the programme, the Lieutenant Governor also launched Sindh Samvad, a podcast series aimed at public engagement, and felicitated winners of competitions organised under the anti-drug campaign.

**LG Inaugurates.....**

at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple by providing safe, hygienic and comfortable accommodation facilities.

Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla is one of the most revered shrines in Jammu Kashmir. Located approximately 25 km from Srinagar and 5 km from Ganderbal town, the shrine attracts a large number of devotees throughout the year, particularly during the annual Mela Kheer Bhawani and Jyeshtha Ashtami, when thousands of pilgrims, including members of the Kashmiri Pandit community, visit the temple. In 2023, several delegations met the Lieutenant Governor to request a Yatri Bhawan. Subsequently, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj through Rural Engineering Wing (REW) designed the plan and the Lieutenant Governor laid the foundation stone in 2024.

"With Mata Kheer Bhawani's blessing, I had laid the foundation stone on Jyeshtha Ashtami in 2024. The project will enhance the capacity of the shrine to host pilgrims visiting from India and abroad. My goal has been to provide the Kashmiri Pandit community visiting the shrine with excellent facilities and a serene spiritual experience," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The facility constructed within the temple premises at a cost of Rs.3.85 Crore comprises a G+II RCC framed structure with a plinth area of 3,885 sq. ft. and is designed to accommodate approximately 800-900 pilgrims through floor bedding arrangements.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor paid obeisance at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple and prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of all.

**Article 370.....**

said the revocation of Article 370 had not produced the dramatic economic transformation that its supporters had predicted. He maintained that the region's economic challenges were rooted in nearly three decades of militancy, which discouraged investment, tourism and business activity.

"Article 370 was never a cause of any lack of development in Jammu and Kashmir, nor has its revocation suddenly resulted in massive development," the Chief Minister said.

He noted that investors are generally reluctant to commit resources to areas perceived as unsafe, adding that concerns over security had a far greater impact on the region's economy than its former constitu-

tional status.

According to Abdullah, the perception of Jammu and Kashmir as an insecure destination for business and tourism adversely affected economic prospects for years, limiting opportunities for growth and employment.

The Chief Minister also criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party for focusing disproportionately on Article 370, contending that similar constitutional protections and restrictions continue to exist in other parts of the country without attracting comparable political attention.

He pointed to regulations governing land ownership and entry requirements in regions such as Lakshadweep and parts of the Northeast, arguing that such provisions have not generated the same level of national debate.

Abdullah further reiterated that the restoration of statehood remains the foremost objective of his government. He expressed concern over the absence of a clearly defined framework or timeline for achieving that goal, stating that there is little clarity regarding the benchmarks required for the return of full statehood.

Emphasising the importance of democratic governance, the Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir would be better served as a state than as a Union Territory, arguing that elected governments function more effectively when vested with greater administrative authority.

His remarks come amid continuing political discussion over the long-term impact of the 2019 constitutional changes and renewed calls from regional parties for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

**Govt Promoting.....**

measures to be taken for bringing the Panchanpatri area of Kulgam on tourism map of Jammu and Kashmir. She directed the officers to establish all kind basic amenities in this picturesque area so that maximum visitors are attracted towards it.

The Minister directed the Tourism department to assess the scope for strengthening tourism infrastructure in the area for visitors. "Panchanpatri possesses immense natural beauty and holds tremendous potential to emerge as a major attraction for nature lovers, trekkers and adventure tourists", she stated.

Sakeena Itoo highlighted that the Government is focused on identifying and developing offbeat destinations to diversify the tourism landscape of Jammu and Kashmir and generate new livelihood opportunities for local communities.

"Promotion of unexplored tourist spots not only enhances visitor experiences but also contributes significantly to rural economic growth through employment generation and entrepreneurship", she stated.

Reaffirming the Government's vision for inclusive tourism development, Sakeena Itoo said that emerging destinations like Panchanpatri will play a vital role in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's position as a premier tourist destination and creating long-term economic benefits for local residents.

During the meeting, Joint Director Tourism Kashmir briefed the Minister about ongoing and proposed tourism initiatives in the Panchanpatri.

The meeting, among others, was attended by Joint Director Tourism Kashmir; senior officers of Tourism and other concerned departments.

**Abuse of Official.....**

of the project. The inquiry found that the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) allegedly lacked clear technical specifications and quality standards, creating scope for arbitrary decision-making during the award of the contract. Investigators also noted that certain financial provisions included in the tender exceeded those approved under the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The ACB further alleged that the financial turnover criteria prescribed for bidders were disproportionately high in comparison to the actual requirements of the project. The condition is believed to have restricted competition and provided an undue advantage to a particular bidder.

The findings, according to the bureau, indicate alleged abuse of official position, criminal misconduct and criminal conspiracy involving public servants and a beneficiary private firm. The alleged irregularities are believed to have resulted in wrongful financial gains to the contractor and losses to the government treasury.

Based on the findings, FIR No. 09/2026 has been registered under relevant provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-B of the Ranbir Penal Code.

Those named in the case include the then Director Horticulture Kashmir, members of the District Level Purchase Committee, members of the Inspection Committee, beneficiary firm M/S Fruit Master Agro Fresh Pvt. Ltd., and other individuals whose involvement may be established during the investigation.

The ACB said further investigation is underway to determine the extent of

responsibility of all accused persons and to ensure that legal action is taken in accordance with the law.

**Demographic.....**

The Home Minister's remarks come amid the government's continued focus on enhancing border infrastructure and adopting technology-driven solutions to address emerging security challenges along sensitive frontier regions.

**Ace Test Pilot.....**

decades of service, Air Marshal Dixit has made significant contributions to the modernization of the Indian Air Force and the promotion of indigenous defence capabilities. During various assignments at Air Headquarters, he played a leading role in shaping operational requirements, capability development and modernization plans for the force.

Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on December 6, 1986, he is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, the Defence Services Staff College in Bangladesh and the National Defence College in New Delhi.

A qualified flying instructor and experimental test pilot, Air Marshal Dixit has logged more than 3,300 flying hours on over 20 types of aircraft, including the Mirage-2000, MiG-21 and Jaguar fighter aircraft.

During his operational career, he commanded a premier fighter training base in southern India, where the station earned recognition as the best base in the command under his leadership.

As a test pilot and later Commanding Officer of the Flight Test Squadron at the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment in Bengaluru, he was actively involved in several indigenous aircraft development and upgrade programmes. His contributions included avionics modernization projects for the Jaguar and MiG-27 fleets, enhancing their operational effectiveness and service life.

In his tenure as Director of Air Staff Requirements, Air Marshal Dixit also played an important role in planning and conducting the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft trials, one of the most significant fighter acquisition programmes undertaken by the Indian Air Force.

Defence officials said his appointment comes at a crucial time as the Air Force continues efforts to strengthen operational readiness, expand indigenous capabilities and support broader military reforms aimed at improving joint operations among the three services.

Widely respected for his professional competence, operational experience and strategic vision, Air Marshal Dixit is expected to play a pivotal role in guiding the future growth and transformation of the Indian Air Force.

**No Decision.....**

concerned, the proposal is under consideration. As soon as any decision is taken on it, we will inform you," the Governor said.

He noted that while recent media reports on the issue contained some factual elements, no formal decision has been made. The RBI, he said, is studying both the advantages and drawbacks of polymer-based currency before determining whether it would be worthwhile to proceed.

India had earlier explored the possibility of introducing polymer notes. In 2014, the government informed Parliament that one billion polymer 10 notes would be tested in five cities selected for their diverse climatic and geographical conditions. The pilot project, however, was later suspended after technological and operational issues emerged.

The RBI Governor also sought to allay concerns regarding cash availability, stating that the banking system currently has sufficient currency reserves to meet public demand.

"If there is a shortage, we will certainly ensure that the shortage is met," Malhotra said, adding that the central bank stands ready to replenish ATMs and bank branches wherever temporary shortages occur.

He emphasized that the RBI's priority is to ensure uninterrupted access to cash and that any localised shortages would be addressed swiftly through timely distribution and replenishment.

The Governor's remarks come amid concerns in some quarters over cash availability at select locations, with the RBI maintaining that adequate currency stocks are available and that the supply network remains fully capable of meeting demand.

**Reaffirm.....**

sustainable. "Best wishes to everyone on World Environment Day. I would like to applaud all those passionate about environmental conservation," he said.

Highlighting the government's initiatives over the past decade, the Prime Minister said India has achieved significant gains in environmental protection, including an increase in forest and tree cover as well as growth in the populations of several wildlife species.

He also credited citizens for contributing to these achievements, saying that collective action, effective policies, scientific approaches and innovation have played an important role in improving environmental outcomes.

Observed annually on June 5, World Environment Day is the world's largest platform for promoting environmental awareness and action. Established by the United Nations Environment Programme in 1973, the event is celebrated across the globe to encourage governments, communities and individuals to address environmental challenges.

The 2026 edition of the global observance will be hosted by Azerbaijan. The event continues to serve as a key international platform for advancing environmental conservation and sustainable development.

**CS reviews.....**

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for meticulous planning and seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments to ensure the examination is conducted in a fair, transparent and secure manner. He directed the concerned authorities to prepare a comprehensive checklist of all arrangements and activities required for the successful conduct of the examination.

Emphasising accountability at the district level, Dulloo instructed the Deputy Commissioners to personally supervise the preparations in their respective districts in close coordination with the Police Department and the NTA-designated City Coordinators. He stressed that examination centres should, as far as possible, be established in government educational institutions and be thoroughly inspected well in advance of the examination date.

The Chief Secretary further directed the district administrations to ensure the availability and functionality of CCTV surveillance systems, mobile jammers, uninterrupted power supply with backup arrangements, drinking water facilities and other essential amenities at every examination centre.

He also reviewed district-wise preparedness and sought detailed inputs from the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners regarding the number of examination centres, candidates appearing and the arrangements being put in place within their jurisdictions.

Earlier, Director General, NTA, Abhishek Singh, briefed the meeting about the comprehensive and technology-driven measures being adopted to ensure the conduct of the examination in an exceptionally fair, transparent and efficient manner.

He stressed the need to effectively curb rumour-mongering on social media and other platforms, directing the concerned authorities to take proactive measures against the dissemination of any misleading or unverified information that could adversely impact the interests and morale of the aspirants.

The DG further informed that the inspection of all examination centres is scheduled to be completed by June 14. He also highlighted the constitution of State Level Coordination Committees (SLCCs) headed by senior officers and District Level Coordination Committees under the respective District Magistrates for effective monitoring and coordination.

Singh also revealed that question papers would be airlifted to the designated examination cities and answer sheets transported after the examination with the support of the Indian Air Force to maintain the highest standards of security and confidentiality. He added that mock drills would be conducted on June 20, a day before the examination, to assess preparedness and ensure smooth conduct of the examination.

The meeting was informed that each examination centre would be assigned a Magistrate by the district administration and a designated police officer for close monitoring. Flying squads would undertake surprise inspections, particularly at sensitive centres, while independent observers deployed by the NTA would also oversee the conduct of the examination.

It was further informed that all centres would be equipped with biometric verification teams, CCTV surveillance systems, mobile jammers, seating plans, generator sets and other necessary infrastructure. Adequate arrangements, including orientation of invigilators, establishment of frisking kiosks, candidate enclosures and verification desks, would also be put in place to ensure a secure, transparent and hassle-free examination process across the Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that all departments must work in close

coordination to uphold the integrity of the examination process and provide a conducive environment for candidates appearing in the prestigious national-level examination.

**Cloudburst.....**

frequently, an automatic weather station and a seismology centre will be established at the site," Singh told reporters here.

The Union minister said the project would be implemented shortly because the district administration has already approved the land required to set up the facilities.

"I spoke to the Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar only yesterday. He informed me that he had already approved the land, so we can proceed further. We had requested the administration to provide suitable land for the project," Singh said.

Emphasising the initiative's urgency, Singh said the project was pursued proactively without waiting for lengthy formal procedures. "Such initiatives move forward when pursued with dedication and passion. We did not wait for formalities or protocol. Instead, we followed up professionally to ensure progress. I am pleased to note that the required land has now been identified," he said.

**Dr Jitendra.....**

extensive interaction with the public representatives, district officers and local residents to review the developmental issues and address the public grievances.

The camp was attended by MLA Doda west Shakti Raj Parihar, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Krishan Lal, concerned officials, Ex-PRI members and others.

A large gathering of people from Malhori, Kalotha and adjoining areas participated in the camp, making it a significant public outreach programme aimed at strengthening the citizen-government engagement.

During the event, several deputations representing different villages, youth groups, women's organizations, farmers, traders and social activists met the Union Minister and projected their demands and grievances.

The deputations highlighted issues pertaining to upgradation of roads, augmentation of drinking water schemes, improvement of healthcare and educational facilities, strengthening of power infrastructure, expansion of mobile and internet connectivity, promotion of tourism potential, employment generation and timely implementation of welfare schemes. The deputations sought immediate intervention for resolution of long-pending public issues and requested inclusion of additional developmental projects to improve the quality of life in the region.

The Union Minister assured the deputations that their genuine demands would be examined and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner through the concerned departments.

During the programme, the Union Minister reviewed the developmental scenario of the area and sought suggestions from the public.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the government's commitment towards holistic development of remote and rural areas. He emphasized that the aspirations of the people must be addressed through responsive governance and effective implementation of developmental programmes.

The Minister directed the concerned departments to ensure time-bound execution of ongoing projects, speedy redressal of public grievances and better coordination among the departments for improving service delivery. He stressed the need for strengthening healthcare and educational infrastructure, improving road connectivity, ensuring uninterrupted power and water supply and accelerating the developmental works in underserved areas. He also instructed the officers to maintain regular public contact, conduct field visits, monitor progress of projects on a routine basis and ensure that benefits of the government schemes reach every eligible beneficiary without delay.

The Union Minister reviewed the status of key development projects and sought updates from the district administration and departmental officers regarding their implementation.

Senior officers from various departments, including Police, Revenue, Rural Development, Health, Education, Forest, Jal Shakti, PWD, Power Development, Irrigation, PMGSY, NHIDCL and other line departments, attended the outreach programme and provided feedback on departmental initiatives and ongoing works. The Union Minister assured the people that all their genuine issues highlighted during the camp would be taken up for redress on priority.



Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign

# DC Srinagar leads plantation drive at GHS School Khonmoh on World Environment day

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 05:** To mark the World Environment Day, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday led a plantation drive at Government Higher Secondary (GHS) School Khonmoh as a part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The plantation drive was organized by the District Administration Srinagar in collaboration with Axis Bank and GHS Khonmoh on the eve of World Environment day-2026 promoting environmental sustainability and encouraging community participation in creating a greener and healthier environment and also signifying a collective responsibility towards a shared commitment

to achieving the objectives of a drug-free society.

The event witnessed the participation of Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din, Principal GHS School Khonmoh, Nahid Shah, Cluster Head Axis Bank, Shiekh Gowhar, other officers as well as enthusiastic, Staff and school Students who actively participated in the programme and planted a variety of saplings within the school premises.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner planted a deodar sapling and highlighted the importance of such initiatives in increasing green cover, mitigating the effects of climate change and fostering environmental awareness among citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, the



Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and called upon the students to play a proactive role in protecting surrounding environment. He said that plantation drives not only contribute to ecological balance but also help instill a sense of responsibility and environmental awareness among citizens.

Emphasizing the significance of the Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign, he stated that building a healthy society requires collective efforts towards both environmental protection and the eradication of substance abuse. He urged students to act as ambassadors of positive change by spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the benefits of a clean and healthy lifestyle.

## Dr. Itoo Awarded Prestigious UK Professional Distinctions

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 05:** Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, a distinguished physician, and public health professional from Jammu and Kashmir, India, has been awarded the prestigious Chartered Scientist (CSci) and Chartered Biologist (CBiol) professional distinctions through the Science Council, UK, and the Royal Society of Biology, UK.

The internationally recognized CSci and CBiol designations are granted to professionals who demonstrate high levels of competence, leadership, professional integrity, and commitment to continuing professional development. These designations represent recognized standards of excellence within the scientific and biological professions worldwide.



The Chartered Scientist (CSci) designation recognizes advanced scientific knowledge, professional expertise, and leadership across scientific disciplines, while Chartered Biologist (CBiol) recognizes distinguished achievement, professional competence, and contributions within the biological sciences.

Dr. Itoo received confirmation that both applications had been successfully accepted by the assessors, with formal registration on the respective registers scheduled for July 2026. Upon registration, he will be entitled to use the post-nominal letters CSci and CBiol.

Dr. Itoo graduated in Biology from the University of Kashmir before pursuing medicine at the University of Jammu. He has established an international professional profile through his contributions to medicine, diabetes care, public health, medical education, scientific writing, and research.

His existing professional distinctions include Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH, UK), Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium), Member of the Academy of Medical Educators (MAcadMed, UK), International Practitioner of the Faculty of Public Health under the Royal Colleges of Physicians (IPFPH, UK), and Member of the Royal Society of Biology (MRSB, UK). He is also affiliated with several leading international medical and scientific organizations.

Commenting on the achievement, Dr. Itoo stated: "I am deeply honoured to receive both Chartered Scientist and Chartered Biologist status. These recognitions reflect my commitment to lifelong learning, scientific excellence, evidence-based practice, and advancing healthcare through research, education, and innovation. I remain grateful to my mentors, colleagues, and professional bodies that continue to inspire excellence in science and medicine." The dual award of CSci and CBiol further strengthens Dr. Itoo's standing as an internationally recognized physician and highlights his ongoing commitment to promoting excellence in healthcare, science, and public health.

## Kulgam Police Launches District-Wide Plantation Drive on World Environment Day

FAROOQ RATHER

**KULGAM, JUNE 5:** Marking World Environment Day, Kulgam Police on Thursday organized a district-wide plantation drive across all police establishments to promote environmental conservation and sustainable development.

As part of the initiative, ornamental saplings were planted at various police establishments, including the District Police Office (DPO) and District Police Lines (DPL) Kulgam. Police officers and personnel participated enthusiastically in the drive, reaffirming their commitment to environmental protection.

At DPO Kulgam, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), planted a sapling and highlighted the significance of World Environment Day. He stressed that protecting the environment is a collective responsibility and urged both police personnel and citizens to contribute towards building a greener, cleaner, and healthier future through sustained plantation and conservation efforts. The event was also attended by DySP Headquarters Kulgam and other officers, who joined the plantation campaign and appreciated the active participation of police personnel.

The drive was aimed at enhancing green cover, raising environmental awareness, and encouraging collective action for ecological sustainability. Senior officers reiterated Kulgam Police's commitment to supporting environmental initiatives and community welfare programmes alongside its law enforcement responsibilities.

## CRPF Plants 110 Saplings in Anantnag to Mark World Environment Day

FAROOQ RATHER

**ANANTNAG, JUNE 5:** Marking World Environment Day with a strong commitment to environmental conservation, the 90 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Uranhall, Bijbehara, organized a large-scale plantation drive at its Unit Headquarters and all Company locations across the district on Thursday.

The initiative was aimed at promoting environmental sustainability, enhancing green cover, and creating awareness about the importance of ecological preservation among personnel and the local community.

The plantation drive was led by Shri Ashish Bharti, IPS, DIG (Operations), Range Anantnag, who participated in the event along with Shri Ravinder Singh Sajwan, Commandant, 40 Battalion CRPF, Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, Second-in-Command, 90 Battalion CRPF, and other officers and personnel of the force.

During the drive, a total of 110 saplings were planted at the Unit Headquarters, while similar plantation activities were simultaneously carried out at all Company locations under the battalion's jurisdiction.

Addressing the gathering, DIG (Ops) Ashish Bharti highlighted the urgent need for environmental protection and stressed the importance of collective efforts in preserving natural resources. He encouraged officers and jawans to actively participate in green initiatives and contribute towards building a sustainable and environmentally responsible future. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from CRPF personnel, who planted saplings and pledged to nurture them while reaffirming their commitment to environmental stewardship. The participants emphasized that protecting nature is a shared responsibility and an essential step towards ensuring a healthier planet for future generations.

## CS calls for ambitious implementation of Agri Credit Schemes across J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 05:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a review meeting of the Agriculture Production Department (APD) to assess the implementation and progress of various agricultural credit schemes being extended across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, APD, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Managing Director, HADP; Directors of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture and Fisheries from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, while Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

Reviewing the performance of different credit-linked schemes, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for giving a major push to agricultural financing, observing that accessible and affordable credit remains the most effective means of unlocking the vast potential of the agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

He called upon the district administrations and banking institutions to pursue these schemes with greater ambition and commitment so that eligible farmers, entrepreneurs and producer groups are able to derive maximum benefit from them.

Highlighting the significance of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, Dulloo stressed the need for saturation of KCC coverage, timely renewal of existing accounts and prompt disbursement of repayment incentives to eligible farmers in accordance with the scheme guidelines.

He directed the concerned departments and banks to undertake exten-

sive awareness campaigns regarding the incentives available under the scheme and the conditions required for availing them, enabling farmers to fully leverage the benefits of this credit scheme.

The Chief Secretary also called for expediting onboarding under the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) in areas where digitization of land records has been completed. He further directed the concerned authorities to ensure that these records remain updated in tandem with the ongoing generation of Farmer IDs across the districts.

Emphasizing the role of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in strengthening rural economies, Dulloo underscored the need for systematic capacity building of FPOs to make them credit-worthy and financially sustainable. He asked the department to designate mentors from amongst its trainers for handholding and guiding FPOs in enhancing their productivity and institutional capacities in line with banking requirements and credit norms.

The Chief Secretary reviewed district-wise and scheme-wise performance and urged districts to identify areas where progress remained below expectations and undertake focused interventions to improve outcomes and emerge as leading performers.

The meeting also reviewed the performance of Agricultural Term Loans and the activities generating the highest demand among applicants. The Chief Secretary directed banks to provide granular activity-wise data regarding the sectors attracting maximum credit demand and explore the possibility of incorporating such activities under the Mission YUVA framework as well.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary, APD, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma presented a comprehensive overview of the agricultural credit ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the uptake of various schemes among eligible beneficiaries, discussed the challenges being faced and outlined the roadmap for achieving the desired outcomes.

During the meeting, it was informed that Jammu and Kashmir presently has around 11.57 lakh active KCC account holders, of whom nearly 3.5 lakh farmers availed the prompt repayment incentive during the previous financial year. It was further revealed that 7.99 lakh beneficiaries have been provided smart cards, while 41 per cent coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was achieved during the Kharif season.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of major schemes including the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), HADP Credit, JKICP Credit, National Livestock Mission (NLM) and PM-KISAN.

It was informed that under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, loans amounting to Rs. 680 Cr have been sanctioned, while Rs. 431 Cr have been disbursed among 392 beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir.

Similarly, under PMFME, 545 cases involving disbursement of Rs. 22 Cr were reported during 2024-25. Under HADP Credit, loans worth Rs. 302.78 Cr have been sanctioned, of which Rs. 172.69 Cr have been disbursed up to May 2026.

## KU begins international conference on climate action, sustainability and literature

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 05:** The Department of English, University of Kashmir (KU), commenced a two-day international conference on "Climate Action, Sustainability and Literature: The Ecosophical Proximity in the Contemporary Anthropocentric Epoch" in collaboration with the Ecosophical Foundation for the Study of Literature and Environment at the Main Campus.

The conference aims to examine the intersections of literature, environmental thought and sustainability, while promoting interdisciplinary dialogue on climate

change, ecological responsibility and the role of the humanities in addressing contemporary environmental challenges.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the importance of academic engagement with pressing ecological concerns.

"Climate change is no longer a distant possibility but a lived reality. Universities have a responsibility to encourage critical reflection and generate knowledge that contributes to environmental awareness, sustainable practices and informed public discourse," she said. She added that literature

and the humanities offer valuable perspectives for understanding the human dimensions of environmental crises and can play a meaningful role in shaping ecological consciousness.

Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, in his address, highlighted the need for integrating scientific understanding with policy interventions and governance frameworks to address the challenges posed by climate change. He emphasized that sustainable development requires coordinated efforts involving academia, policymakers, communities and institutions working

towards long-term environmental resilience.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, emphasized the significance of interdisciplinary research and academic collaborations in advancing discussions on sustainability and environmental stewardship. President, EFSLE, Dr. Rishikesh Kumar, spoke about the growing relevance of ecosophical approaches in literary and cultural studies.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Head, Department of English KU, Prof. Mufti Mudasar Farooqi, outlined the objectives of the conference and said the event seeks to create a platform for scholars,

researchers and practitioners to deliberate on contemporary ecological issues through literary, cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives.

The two-day conference includes a keynote lecture by Prof. Diana J. Fox, Department of Anthropology, Bridgewater State University USA, plenary talks, technical sessions and paper presentations by scholars and researchers from India and abroad, focusing on climate action, sustainability, environmental humanities, ecocriticism and related themes. The proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Prof. Iffat Maqbool, faculty, Department of English KU.

## Satish Sharma hails Jammu RMC inauguration as major boost to weather forecasting, public safety in J&K, Ladakh

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JUNE 5:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today described the inauguration of the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Jammu as a landmark achievement that will significantly strengthen the weather forecasting capabilities, disaster preparedness, scientific research and public safety across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Minister congratulated the Ministry for Earth Sciences, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and all stakeholders involved in establishing the Centre. He termed the elevation of the Meteorological Office Jammu into a full-fledged Regional Meteorological Centre as a recognition of the unique geographical and climatic challenges faced by the Himalayan region.

"Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are among the most climatically sensitive and meteorologically complex regions in the world. The establishment of this Centre marks a transformative step towards providing accurate, localized and timely weather services that are crucial for safeguarding lives, supporting livelihoods and strengthening disaster management systems," the Minister said.

Highlighting the importance of scientific infrastructure in a region prone to avalanches, flash floods, cloudbursts and extreme weather events, Satish Sharma said that the Centre



would provide dedicated expertise in mountain meteorology, cryosphere studies, avalanche forecasting and high-altitude weather services. He said the benefits of the Centre would extend to the farmers, security forces, tourists, researchers and disaster response agencies alike.

The Minister emphasized that improved forecasting and early warning systems would contribute significantly towards minimizing losses arising from natural calamities while enhancing resilience among the communities living in vulnerable areas.

Referring to the growing role of science and technology in governance, Satish Sharma stated that the Jammu and Kashmir government remains committed towards strengthening the scientific institutions and fostering innovation-driven develop-

ment. He underscored the importance of integrating advanced technologies, data analytics and digital platforms to improve weather forecasting and public service delivery.

"The future belongs to knowledge, innovation and scientific excellence. Institutions such as the Regional Meteorological Centre will not only strengthen weather services but also inspire research, innovation and technological advancement among our youth," he remarked.

The Minister further assured full support from the Jammu and Kashmir administration in ensuring the successful functioning and expansion of the Centre. He reiterated the administration's commitment towards providing all necessary assistance in terms of infrastructure, coordination and institutional support to help the Centre realize its full potential.

Addressing the young scien-

tists, meteorologists and researchers associated with the Centre, Satish Sharma encouraged them to pursue excellence in their work and remain dedicated to serving society through science. He observed that the data collected, forecasts generated and warnings issued by them would play a critical role in protecting lives and supporting sustainable development across the region.

The Minister also lauded the contributions of Union Minister for Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh and the leadership of the Ministry for Earth Sciences for facilitating the establishment of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Jammu.

Describing the inauguration as a significant milestone in the scientific and developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir, Satish Sharma expressed confidence that the Centre would emerge as a premier

institution for meteorological research, forecasting and climate services in the Himalayan region, contributing substantially to public welfare, economic growth and environmental resilience.

During the occasion, Satish Sharma also strongly reiterated the long-pending aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir for the restoration of full statehood. He emphasized that granting statehood would further strengthen democratic institutions, enhance administrative efficiency and empower the people to participate more effectively in the developmental journey of the region.

The Minister stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have consistently demonstrated their faith in democratic processes and deserve the restoration of statehood at the earliest. He expressed confidence that the Union Government would take a positive decision in this regard, fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Highlighting the need for improved transportation infrastructure, Satish Sharma also demanded expedited progress on railway connectivity projects in the Jammu region, particularly the proposed Jammu-Akhnoor-Khour belt and the Kaleeth-Dori Dager railway links. He said that extending rail connectivity to these strategically and economically important areas would boost tourism, facilitate trade and commerce, improve mobility for local residents and create new avenues for socio-economic development.

## ADC Budgam chairs District Level Telecom Committee Meeting

HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, JUNE 05:** Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, chaired the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) meeting to review the progress of key telecom infrastructure projects and address issues affecting digital connectivity across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the 4G Saturation Project was conducted, with discussions focusing on the identification of additional unserved and underserved locations. The ADC directed the concerned officers to expedite the process to ensure improved mobile connectivity in all eligible areas.

The committee also discussed site-specific issues, including those related to the Zinpanchal site, and directed the concerned revenue authorities to take necessary steps for their early resolution. The status of 4G towers established on land already transferred for telecom purposes across 23 locations in the district was also reviewed.

Progress under the BharatNet Project was assessed, with officials apprising the chair about ongoing works aimed at strengthening broadband connectivity in rural areas. The meeting further reviewed the status of 5G Street Furniture infrastructure, and the ADC told the Chief Planning Officer to verify the constitution of field-level teams for mapping and verification of potential sites.

Emphasizing the importance of robust telecom infrastructure for governance, public service delivery, education, and economic development, the ADC called for close coordination among all departments and telecom service providers to remove bottlenecks and ensure timely completion of projects.

The ADC directed all concerned departments and agencies to accelerate ongoing telecom initiatives so that the benefits of improved digital connectivity reach every corner of the district.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director Planning Budgam, Executive Engineer KPDCCL Budgam, Range Officer Budgam, AGM BSNL Srinagar, Tehsildar Chareshareef, DIO NIC, and other concerned.

## Shopian Administration organises multifaceted awareness activities under 'Nasha Mukt J&K Abhyan'

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, JUNE 05:** In a major push to foster responsibility among the youth, a series of comprehensive, high-impact activities were organized across multiple educational campuses and public areas in District Shopian under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukt J&K Abhyan (NMJKA).

The extensive campaign witnessed overwhelming, enthusiastic participation from students, faculty and the public across major focal points including GDC Shopian, GDC Zainapora and Government Polytechnic College Shopian.

At GDC Shopian, a vibrant multi-activity programme was held successfully aligning the fight against drug addiction with ecological responsibility. Organized under the supervision of the college Principal, Prof. Tariq Husain Mir, the institution conducted multiple events simultaneously.

Pledge Programme was organized where students and staff solemnly swore to keep their campus and society drug-free and essay writing competition giving a platform to creative and analytical student perspectives on tackling addiction.

Simultaneously, GDC Zainapora and Government Polytechnic College Shopian served as another place for youth mobilization. Faculty members at these higher education institutions sensitized hundreds of young students on the socio-economic consequences of substance abuse.

Interactive seminars focused on recognizing the early signs of addiction, promoting mental wellness and reinforcing healthy peer networks. Students proactively pledged to act as community ambassadors of change to keep their environments clean and healthy.

Taking the anti-drug campaign directly to the grassroots level, a public outreach and mass sensitization drive was held at Bongam Shopian. Local shopkeepers, youth groups and community elders actively participated in localized awareness sessions. Informational materials detailing helpline

numbers, rehabilitation options and counseling systems were distributed to ensure a robust community-driven defense framework against drug peddling and abuse.

Other departments including School education, Ayush, Sports, Poshan Projects, etc also organised multifaceted awareness activities across the district.

## "Trash to Treasure" Exhibition organized at GCOE Srinagar on World Environment Day 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 05:** Government College of Education, Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (GCOE-IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, organized a "Trash to Treasure" Exhibition on the occasion of World Environment Day 2026.

The event was jointly organized by the Department of Environmental Sciences (EVS) and the NSS Units of the college at the Front Park.

The exhibition featured innovative and creative items prepared by B.Ed. 1st Semester and UG 4th Semester students using waste and discarded materials. Through their exhibits,

the students highlighted the importance of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and sustainable living practices.

Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Principal GCOE-IASE Srinagar, visited the exhibition stalls and interacted with the participating students. She highly appreciated their creativity, innovation, and commitment to environmental conservation. Emphasizing the importance of sustainable living, she encouraged students to adopt eco-friendly practices in their daily lives and to become responsible ambassadors of environmental protection within their communities. She also commended the efforts of the



Department of Environmental Studies and NSS Units for organizing the exhibition and providing students with a mean-

ingful platform to showcase their talents while promoting environmental awareness.

The event aimed to promote environmental awareness and encourage eco-friendly practices among the college community. It also served as a platform for students to demonstrate how waste materials can be transformed into useful and artistic products, reinforcing the message of responsible resource management and sustainability.

The exhibition received an enthusiastic response from students and faculty members and successfully conveyed the significance of environmental stewardship, responsible waste

management, and sustainable living.

Among the faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Altaf Shah Syed (NSS Programme Officer), Dr. Shawana Manzoor (Department of Environmental Studies), Dr. Ab. Gani Kumar (Department of Urdu), Dr. Lateef Shah (Department of Education), Dr. Abdul Rashid (Department of History), Dr. Irfat Khan (Department of Psychology), Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Dar (Department of Geography), Dr. Gousia Nisar (Department of Education), Dr. Shabeena (Department of English), Dr. Syed Shabana Shabir (Department of Hindi), along with other faculty members.

## Agriculture Minister calls for collective efforts to protect environment on World Environment Day

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 5:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today extended greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of World Environment Day.

He emphasized the need for collective efforts to protect and preserve the environment for future generations.

The Minister said that World Environment Day serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility towards safeguarding the natural resources and maintaining ecological balance. He stressed that environmental conservation is not only essential for sustainable development but is also crucial for ensuring food security, agricultural productivity and the well-being of communities.

Javid Ahmad Dar highlighted the importance of adopting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, promoting afforestation, conserving water resources and reducing pollution. He urged the farmers, youth, educational institutions and civil society organizations to actively participate in environmental protection initiatives and contribute towards building a greener and healthier future.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to promote the



sustainable agriculture, climate-resilient farming practices and environmental conservation across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that various initiatives are being undertaken to enhance the green cover, encourage efficient use of natural resources and strengthen awareness regarding environmental protection.

"Let us pledge to work together for preservation of our environment and ensure that future generations inherit a cleaner, greener and more sustainable world," the Minister said.

He called upon all stakeholders to make environmental consciousness a way of life and contribute towards the collective goal of ecological sustainability and climate resilience.

## JKAACL organises Punjabi Kavi Darbar at Attina Beerwah

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 05:** Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today organised a Punjabi Kavi Darbar at Attina, Beerwah, Budgam, with the active participation of local literary enthusiasts and members of the younger generation.

The programme was attended by Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, S. Prehlad Singh, Master T.P. Singh, and other distinguished guests. A large number of Punjabi-speaking residents of the area also participated in the event.

Welcoming the gathering, S. Prehlad Singh, a prominent social and literary figure, appreciated JKAACL for organising a literary programme in the rural area of Attina. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting Punjabi language, literature, and cultural heritage among the younger generation.

In his address, Popinder Singh Paras highlighted the Academy's sustained efforts to promote Punjabi literature and culture across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the remote areas of the Kashmir Division. He stated that the Academy is committed to organising literary and cultural programmes in regions with a significant Punjabi-speaking population in order to encourage literary activities and strengthen cultural bonds.

On the occasion, noted poets and lit-



erary figures including Popinder Singh Vaid, Nanak Singh, Manjit Singh Raina, Kulwant Singh Vicky, Harpreet Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Kripal Singh, Suraj Singh, and others recited their Punjabi poems and received appreciation from the audience.

The programme concluded on a positive note with participants expressing gratitude to JKAACL for providing a platform to local poets and promoting Punjabi literary activities in the region.

# CPCO J&K, Ladakh visits Budgam

## Chairs Review Meeting on ongoing Census Operations in district

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, JUNE 05:** Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, along with Deputy Commissioner Budgam (Principal Census Officer Budgam), Athar Aamir Khan, chaired a review meeting at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Budgam, to assess the preparedness and progress of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) being conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026, as part of the Census exercise.

At the outset, the District Census Officer and Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Mehraj-Ud-Din Shah, briefed the chair on the district's geographical profile, preparedness for Census 2027, and the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the ongoing House Listing Operations. He also highlighted the training programmes being conducted for census personnel across the district and apprised the chair of the district administration's readiness for the Census exercise.

The Deputy Commissioner informed the meeting that all necessary administrative and logistical arrangements have been made to ensure the smooth conduct of Census-related activities across the district.

He emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders and reiterated the district administration's commitment to ensuring comprehensive coverage and



high-quality data collection during the enumeration process. He also directed all field-level officers to extend full support to census personnel and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on ensuring comprehensive coverage of all households, including migratory populations, and strengthening field-level census operations across the district.

Addressing the officers, Amit

Sharma appreciated the dedicated efforts of the field staff and encouraged enumerators and supervisors to discharge their responsibilities with utmost commitment and professionalism.

He emphasized the importance of effective coordination among census functionaries, quality and timely data collection, and strict adherence to census guidelines to ensure accuracy and completeness of the enumeration process. He di-

rected all concerned officers to extend full support to census personnel and take necessary measures to facilitate the smooth conduct of House Listing and Housing Census activities throughout the district.

Amit Sharma informed that for any query or clarification related to Census 2027 in the district, citizens can contact the dedicated toll-free helpline number 1855.

He appealed to the public to remain vigilant against fraudu-

lent calls, messages, or individuals claiming to be associated with the Census exercise and cautioned people against sharing personal, financial, banking, or OTP-related information with anyone in the name of Census.

He further clarified that the Census process is simple and transparent, and citizens are only required to answer the prescribed 33 Census questions during the enumeration process. He urged residents to cooperate with authorized Census personnel and provide accurate information to ensure the success of this important national exercise.

The meeting also reviewed field-level preparedness and discussed various operational aspects related to the Census exercise.

Amit Sharma reiterated that the Census is a crucial national exercise that serves as the foundation for evidence-based planning and development initiatives. Joint Chief Principal Census Officer, Arun Kumar, also briefed the participants on the monitoring framework for field operations and stressed the importance of real-time tracking and supervision of data collection activities.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), all SDMs, Charge Officers, Assistant Chief Principal Census Officer, District Coordinator for Census 2027 Budgam, and other concerned officers and officials.

## World Environment Day: DLSA Budgam conducts series of Awareness Programmes

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, JUNE 05:** As per plan of action for the month of June 2026 issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority Budgam in coordination with Vitasta Law College, Nowgam Srinagar organized series of awareness programmes on World Environment Day.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of O.P. Baghat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Budgam and under the supervision of Tabassum Qadir Parray, Secretary



DLSA Budgam.

In further observance of World Environment Day, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam in collaboration with Vitasta Law College Nowgam, Srinagar organized an awareness programme in the conference hall of Vitasta College.

At the outset of the conclusion of the programme plantation drive also took place in which number of plant saplings were planted at various spots of college ground. The saplings were planted by Secretary DLSA Budgam followed by the staff and Defense Counsel along with the pro-bono lawyer of DLSA Srinagar. The students, faculty members, and legal professionals participated in the programme enthusiastically.

The programme highlighted the significance of environmental preservation and the collective responsibility of citizens in safeguarding natural resources for future generations.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary DLSA Budgam highlighted the importance of celebration of World Environmental Day. In her speech she further emphasized upon the attendees to consider prime responsibility for the planting plant saplings for the safeguarding of the environment.

The other speakers along with the Deputy LADC Srinagar and pro-bono lawyer of DLSA Srinagar also spoke of the occasion and briefed the audience about the disadvantages of land degradation and soil erosion.

Simultaneously, a programme was also conducted at ADR Centre Budgam wherein in Chief LADC, DLSA Budgam spoke on the occasion.

It is worth to mention here that Chairpersons Tehsil Legal Services Committees Budgam organized various legal awareness programme on the occasion and conducted plantation drives in their respective jurisdictions as well. The events witnessed active participation from members of the legal fraternity, students, community representatives, PLVs and general public.

The programme was also carried out by the Legal Aid Clinics and Legal Literacy Clubs of DLSA Budgam.

During the programmes, resource persons emphasized the importance of environmental sustainability, waste management, afforestation, and the need for collective action to address contemporary environmental challenges. Participants were sensitized about various legal provisions relating to environmental protection and the role of citizens in ensuring a clean and healthy environment.

The events conducted concluded with a pledge by participants to protect and preserve the environment and work collectively towards building a greener and more sustainable future.

## World Environment Day: JKLCMA highlights need to protect Kashmir's Fragile Ecosystem

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 05:** Jammu and Kashmir Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA) today in collaboration with the Crescent Public School, Srinagar organized a World Environment Day programme with the objective of promoting environmental awareness and encouraging sustainable practices among students.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and officials of JKLCMA.

The event featured awareness sessions, environmental presentations, poster-making activities, and a plantation drive aimed at sensitizing young minds about the importance of environmental conservation and ecological sustainability.

The programme was graced by the Vice Chairman, JKLCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the need for collective action to tackle environmental challenges such as pollution, climate change, and loss of biodiversity.

He highlighted the crucial role of educational institutions in fostering environmental responsibility among the younger generation.

The Vice Chairman also spoke about the importance of conserving the fragile ecosystem of Kashmir, particularly its lakes, wetlands, forests, and water resources. He urged students to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles and become active participants in conservation efforts.

The Watershed Manager (Project Officer), JKLCMA, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat also spoke on the occasion.

The students presented awareness messages focusing on environmental protection, waste management of the Institution, and the preservation of natural resources. The activities reflected the creativity and commitment of the students towards building a greener future.

Speaking on the occasion, the School Management appreciated JKLCMA for organizing the awareness programme and providing students with an opportunity to engage with important environmental issues.

The event concluded with a pledge by students and participants to contribute towards environmental protection through responsible and sustainable practices in their daily lives.

## DLSA Bandipora observes World Environment Day with Plantation Drives at New Court Complex Kaloosa

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, JUNE 05:** As part of the observance of World Environment Day 2026, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora organized a series of plantation drives aimed at promoting environmental conservation.

The programme commenced at the New Court Complex, Kaloosa, Bandipora, where a plantation drive was inaugurated by Jeema Bashir, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora, along with Iqbal Ahmad Aakhoon, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bandipora, Sheikh Baber Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Bandipora, and Amandeep Singh, Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Bandipora.

The event was witnessed by Adv. Sofi Feroz, Administrative Officer, members of the Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC) System, and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs). On the occasion, the judicial officers planted saplings within the court complex premises and highlighted the importance of environmental stewardship and collective responsibility towards preserv-



ing nature.

Thereafter, a plantation drive was conducted at Chittarnar, Bandipora in collaboration with the Forest Department Bandipora.

The drive witnessed active participation from officials of the Forest Department, members of the LADC System, and PLVs, who collectively planted saplings and reaffirmed their commitment towards environmental conservation.

The participants emphasized the need for protecting forests, increasing green cover, and promoting environmental awareness to address the growing challenges of climate change.

They also underscored the importance of community participation in safeguarding natural resources and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

The programme concluded with a pledge by all participants to continue supporting initiatives aimed at environmental protection, ecological balance, and sustainable development.

## House Committee on Environment convenes meeting on World Environment Day

### Environmental protection a collective moral obligation, not just administrative duty: Tarigami

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 5:** Commemorating the World Environment Day, the House Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today held its introductory meeting under the chairmanship of MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami at the Legislative Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by members including Professor Gharu Ram, Baldev Raj Sharma, Daleep Singh, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Javaid Ahmad Mirchal, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Javaid Reyaz (Bedar), Dr. Rameshwar Singh and Devyani Rana.

Tarigami expressed gratitude to all the members for becoming part of a committee entrusted with a matter of universal concern affecting the human beings,

wildlife, flora and fauna and so the future generations. He stated that environmental protection is not merely an administrative responsibility but a collective moral obligation towards society and nature.

The Chairman highlighted several pressing environmental concerns confronting Jammu and Kashmir, including increasing pollution in water bodies, unscientific waste dumping, deforestation, excessive use of plastic, degradation of wetlands and shrinking green cover.

He expressed serious concern over the deteriorating condition of Anchar Lake and other water bodies of Kashmir, stating that continued pollution, encroachments and negligence pose a grave threat to the ecological balance of the



region.

Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami also stressed the urgent need for restoration and conservation of lakes, rivers and forests in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. He observed that unchecked urbanization, environmental degradation and climate change are adversely affecting the biodiversity, public health and the fragile ecology of the Union Territory.

All the members of the Committee gave their valuable suggestions and unanimously resolved that the Committee holds immense significance in safeguarding the environmental future of Jammu and Kashmir. The members emphasized that the administration should extend full cooperation and necessary institutional support for effective implementation

of the recommendations of the Committee.

The Committee further proposed to undertake extensive visits across every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir to interact with the general public, assess environmental concerns at the grassroots level and create mass awareness regarding the urgent need for protection and preservation of the environment for present and future generations.

The members also called for strengthening the waste management systems, preventing illegal dumping of waste, protecting water bodies and wetlands, promoting afforestation drives and discouraging indiscriminate use of plastic through strict enforcement and public participation.

**HT EDITORIAL**

**Truth Under Pressure :  
Rebuilding Trust in Journalism**

The media landscape in India in general and particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, is undergoing a period of profound change. The digital revolution and the rise of social media have transformed how news is produced, shared, and consumed. While these developments have expanded access to information and empowered citizen voices, they have also created serious challenges for professional journalism.

Today, one of the greatest concerns facing the media is the growing crisis of credibility. The pressure to be first often overshadows the responsibility to be accurate, allowing misinformation and half-truths to spread rapidly. Social media, despite its many benefits, has amplified this challenge by enabling unverified content to reach millions within moments.

Equally concerning is the rise of pseudo-journalism, where individuals without professional training or ethical accountability present themselves as journalists. Such practices not only mislead the public but also damage the reputation of genuine media professionals who remain committed to accuracy, fairness, and public service.

Mainstream media, too, must continually uphold the highest standards of professionalism. In an increasingly competitive and polarized environment, journalism must remain rooted in facts, balanced reporting, and independent judgment. Public trust can only be sustained when news is presented with responsibility and integrity.

Government institutions, media organizations, technology platforms, and citizens all share a stake in preserving a healthy information ecosystem. Timely dissemination of authentic information, stronger fact-checking mechanisms, and greater media literacy can help address many of the challenges confronting the profession.

At its core, journalism is not merely about reporting events; it is about serving the public interest. In an age flooded with information, credibility remains the media's most valuable asset. The future of journalism will depend not on who speaks the loudest, but on who earns and retains the trust of the people.

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**World Environment Day 2026:  
J&K Faces Climate Crisis as Lakes Vanish  
and Call for Urgent Action Grows**



■ **IMRAN RAINA**

As the world gathers on June 5, 2026, to observe World Environment Day under the urgent banner of "Climate Action," Jammu and Kashmir stands at a critical environmental crossroads. This Union Territory, celebrated for its breathtaking landscapes, pristine lakes, snow-capped peaks, and lush valleys, is experiencing the stark and accelerating impacts of climate change in ways that demand immediate, collective response. The global theme for 2026, "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future," resonates deeply here, where nature is not merely scenic backdrop but the very foundation of livelihoods, culture, and survival. From the snow-fed rivers of the Himalayas to the agricultural fields of the Jammu plains, the signals of ecological stress are unmistakable, and the time for half-measures has long passed.

A recent Comptroller and Auditor General audit has sounded an alarming warning: 74% of the 697 surveyed lakes and wetlands across Jammu and Kashmir have either disappeared or significantly shrunk over time. Of these, 315 lakes have vanished entirely, 203 have decreased in water area, and 63 lakes have lost more than half their original expanse, placing them on the brink of extinction. This catastrophic loss is not merely a statistical tragedy; it represents the erosion of natural water reservoirs that once regulated floods, sustained biodiversity, and provided irrigation to thousands of hectares of farmland. The devastating floods of September 2014, which submerged large parts of Srinagar and caused widespread destruction, were directly linked to the loss of these natural buffers. Rapid urbanization, unchecked encroachment, mismanagement, and the absence of sustained conservation efforts have been identified as primary drivers of this crisis. Despite the scale of the disaster, conservation remains a few prominent lakes like



Dal and Wular, leaving hundreds of smaller but ecologically vital water bodies across both Jammu and Kashmir neglected and vulnerable.

Climate change is further amplifying these challenges through rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and accelerated glacier melt. The Himalayan glaciers, which feed the region's major rivers including the Jhelum and Chenab, are retreating at an alarming rate, threatening long-term water security for agriculture, hydropower, and drinking supplies. Winters are becoming shorter and less predictable, disrupting the traditional agricultural calendar that has sustained communities for generations. Apple orchards, the backbone of Kashmir's economy, are facing unprecedented stress due to unseasonal hailstorms, late frosts, and rising pest populations linked to warmer winters. In Jammu's plains, heatwaves are becoming more frequent and intense, straining power grids and endangering public health, particularly among the elderly and vulnerable populations.

The environmental degradation is not limited to water bodies and glaciers. Deforestation, driven by illegal logging, infrastructure expansion, and rising demand for fuelwood, has stripped critical forest cover, leading to soil erosion, landslides, and loss of habitat for endangered species like the Hangul and the black bear. Air

quality in urban centers like Srinagar and Jammu has deteriorated significantly due to vehicular emissions, construction dust, and crop residue burning, posing serious health risks to residents. The Water Quality Index recently ranked Jammu and Kashmir 31st out of 36 regions, underscoring the severity of pollution in its water resources.

Yet, amidst these daunting challenges, there are glimmers of hope and grassroots action that embody the spirit of World Environment Day 2026. The Union Territory has launched the "Swachh Gaon, Surakshit Jalvayu" (Clean Village, Secure Climate) campaign across rural areas, running from June 1 to June 5, culminating on World Environment Day. This five-day initiative, implemented under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II, aligns with the national theme of "Climate Action" and promotes Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), encouraging citizens to adopt sustainable practices. The campaign calls upon Panchayati Raj Institutions, Self-Help Groups, youth volunteers, educational institutions, and citizens to actively participate in making villages cleaner and more climate-resilient. Special Gram Sabhas are being held across all Gram Panchayats on June 5 to promote environmental awareness and community action.

Last year, in 2025, Jammu and Kash-

mir witnessed a powerful display of collective climate action when Urban Local Bodies across the Territory united in a "plogging wave" on World Environment Day, combining jogging with pickle-up initiatives to clean streets and public spaces. Such movements demonstrate the growing environmental consciousness among the youth and the potential for community-led solutions to scale up into meaningful change. Educational institutions, including the University of Kashmir, have also been actively celebrating environmental days, organizing awareness drives, tree plantation ceremonies, and panel discussions on climate resilience.

The path forward requires an integrated, multi-stakeholder approach that combines policy reform, technological innovation, and community engagement. Strengthening coordination among key departments—revenue, forest, agriculture, and water resources—is critical to developing a cohesive management strategy for protecting ecosystems. Restoring degraded lakes and wetlands must be prioritized through scientific dredging, de-encroachment drives, and community stewardship programs. Investment in renewable energy, particularly solar and micro-hydro projects, can reduce dependence on fossil fuels while providing sustainable power to remote villages. Reforestation efforts must focus on native species and involve local communities as custodians of forestland.

Most importantly, climate action must become a way of life. Every citizen, from the farmer in the Kashmir Valley to the merchant in Jammu city, has a role to play—whether by reducing waste, conserving water, planting trees, or advocating for stronger environmental policies. World Environment Day 2026 is not just a date on the calendar; it is a call to action, a reminder that the future of Jammu and Kashmir's climate, ecology, and people depends on the choices we make today. Inspired by the resilience of nature itself, we must act now, together, to secure a sustainable future for generations to come.

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**No to Drugs Yes to Sports**

**Rising Sports Enthusiasm Among Valley Youth**



■ **SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI**

Sports are not just games; they are the heartbeat of lakhs of people in our nation. They provide a great platform to face challenges, build confidence, and develop leadership qualities. Sports activities keep us mentally, physically, and socially active. Great sportsmen never give up until the last moment and always follow the true spirit of the game. Sports bring joy, peace of mind, and immense pleasure while also improving our overall health and fitness.

Nowadays, the culture of sports has changed significantly. It has been observed that when educated, civilized, socially aware, and physically fit people take part in sports activities, more youth become attracted towards them. Today, IAS officers, senior officials, and politicians are inaugurating sports events, organizing tournaments, and encouraging Valley youth to participate and showcase their talent at different levels. Such opportunities help young players bring laurels to their families and society.

Every positive step in the sports sector is highly appreciable, and the administration has left no stone

turned in addressing youth-related issues. The youth of today need encouragement, sympathy, motivation, and hope. When we uplift and support them, they are less likely to move towards harmful activities. Valley youth are full of talent, energy, loyalty, and determination, but they still need a healthy environment where they can shine like the sun. It is our collective responsibility to recognize their potential and provide them with proper facilities such as playgrounds, quality equipment, trained coaches, and a motivating atmosphere. Such efforts are often more effective than counseling and legal action alone.

The environment plays a vital role in shaping the younger generation. Success is admired and respected by everyone, and when young people are provided with opportunities to succeed, they naturally move away from negative influences. A positive atmosphere can guide youth towards discipline, dedication, and excellence. Therefore, every governing body should work sincerely for the upliftment and welfare of society.

Public awareness is also essential in tackling serious issues like drug abuse. The government's campaign launched on 15 August 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aimed to make India drug-free and free from substance addiction. The campaign focuses on spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol, motivating youth to stay away from addiction, promoting counseling, and organizing seminars and rallies in schools, colleges, and universities. Such initiatives educate people about the dangerous effects of drugs on health, education, families, and

society.

A healthy and successful life comes through dedication, consistency, perseverance, and a positive mindset. Strong minds never choose laziness or unlawful activities when they have opportunities for growth and success. Youth should use their talent and energy for the betterment of society and always strive to bring pride to the nation.

**Why We Need Proper Academies**

The Valley needs proper cricket academies, football academies, gyms, and modern sports facilities in both urban and far-flung areas. Every talented youth deserves encouragement and equal opportunities. Modern technology and advanced training methods should also be introduced in the sports sector.

Sports academies can help players learn professional techniques and improve their performance. Playing any game without proper guidance and training can limit a player's growth and confidence. Therefore, the government should establish academies where youth can receive quality training before implementing their skills on the field. This will also generate employment opportunities for coaches, trainers, and other sports staff.

Government-constructed stadiums should be maintained properly so that people can enjoy sports in a disciplined environment. These facilities are valuable assets for future generations, and it is our duty to protect and preserve them responsibly.

Stay healthy, stay fit. Say no to drugs and yes to happiness, life, and success.

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# Child Protection: A collective responsibility for a safer future



■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Children are the foundation of every society and the hope of every nation. Their safety, education, emotional well-being, and healthy development determine the future strength and progress of a community. A society that protects its children protects its future; a society that neglects them risks moral, social, and human decline. In Jammu and Kashmir, where generations have lived through social uncertainty, economic challenges, and changing cultural realities, the issue of child protection has become more important than ever before.

Child protection is not limited to protecting children from physical harm alone. It includes safeguarding them from abuse, neglect, exploitation, violence, discrimination, child labour, trafficking, online threats, emotional trauma, and social exclusion. It also means ensuring that every child grows up in an environment of safety, dignity, education, care, and emotional support.

In recent years, the challenges faced by children have become increasingly complex. Rapid technological changes, social media exposure, family instability, economic pressures, substance abuse, and weakening social bonds have created new risks for children across societies. Jammu and Kashmir is no exception. Many children in the region continue to face emotional stress, educational disruption, poverty, domestic violence, and psychological insecurity. These realities demand urgent attention from families, communities, institutions, and policymakers alike.

Traditionally, Kashmiri society valued collective responsibility towards children. Families, neighbours, teachers, and community elders played an active role in nurturing and protecting young minds. Children grew up in close-knit communities where moral guidance, discipline, compassion, and social values were reinforced collectively. Respect for elders, empathy towards others, and social responsibility formed an important part of childhood upbringing.

However, modern social changes have weakened many of these traditional support systems. The rise of nuclear

families, migration for employment, economic pressures, and increasing dependence on digital technology have reduced community interaction and emotional bonding. Children today are often exposed to isolation, excessive screen time, social pressure, and emotional neglect. Many parents, due to professional commitments and financial struggles, find themselves unable to devote adequate time to the emotional and psychological needs of their children.

One of the most serious concerns in child protection today is the growing incidence of child abuse and exploitation. Many children silently suffer physical violence, emotional abuse, neglect, harassment, or exploitation without being able to express their pain openly. Fear, social stigma, family pressure, and lack of awareness often prevent children from speaking out. In some cases, abuse occurs within familiar surroundings, making the child even more vulnerable and emotionally traumatized.

Child sexual abuse remains one of the gravest threats to children across the world, including Jammu and Kashmir. Such abuse leaves long-lasting emotional and psychological scars that may continue throughout a child's life. It destroys trust, affects mental health, and damages emotional development. Therefore, it is essential for parents, schools, and society to create safe spaces where children feel protected, heard, and supported without fear or shame.

Awareness and education play a crucial role in prevention. Children must be taught about personal safety, boundaries, good touch and bad touch, online risks, and the importance of reporting unsafe behaviour. At the same time, parents and teachers must learn to identify signs of emotional distress, fear, withdrawal, or behavioural changes among children.

The digital age has introduced a new set of challenges in child protection. While technology has created educational opportunities and global connectivity, it has also exposed children to cyberbullying, online exploitation, harmful content, gaming addiction, and social media pressure. Many children today spend long hours on smartphones and digital platforms without proper supervision or guidance.

In Jammu and Kashmir, where internet access and digital exposure have expanded rapidly in recent years, there is an urgent need to promote responsible digital parenting and online safety awareness. Parents must remain involved in their children's digital lives without



violating their trust or privacy. Schools should educate students about cyber safety, responsible internet use, and the psychological effects of excessive digital dependence.

Mental health among children is another growing concern. Academic pressure, social comparison, family conflict, economic insecurity, and exposure to violence or instability can deeply affect the emotional well-being of children. Many children silently struggle with anxiety, depression, fear, loneliness, and low self-esteem. Unfortunately, mental health issues among children are often ignored or misunderstood because of social stigma and lack of awareness.

In Jammu and Kashmir, years of social and political uncertainty have affected the emotional environment in which many children grow up. Exposure to stress, insecurity, and instability can leave long-lasting psychological effects on young minds. Therefore, child protection must also include emotional and mental well-being.

Schools have a crucial role to play in this regard. Educational institutions are not merely centers of academic learning; they are spaces where children should feel safe, respected, encouraged, and emotionally secure. Teachers must be trained to identify vulnerable children and respond sensitively to cases of abuse, neglect, bullying, or emotional distress.

At the same time, schools should promote moral education, empathy, emotional intelligence, gender sensitivity, and social responsibility among students. Counseling services, awareness programs, and child-friendly grievance mechanisms can help create a safer

educational environment.

Families remain the first and strongest line of protection for children. Parents must create an atmosphere of trust, affection, and open communication at home so children feel comfortable sharing their fears and concerns. Children who receive emotional support and guidance at home are more likely to grow into confident, responsible, and emotionally healthy individuals.

Unfortunately, domestic violence, parental conflict, substance abuse, and financial stress often create unsafe environments for children. In such situations, the emotional damage suffered by children can be severe and long-lasting. Society must recognize that protecting children begins with strengthening families and promoting healthy relationships within households.

Child labour and poverty also continue to affect many children from economically weaker sections of society. Some children are forced to leave school and engage in labour to support their families, while others become vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation, or criminal activities due to poverty and lack of opportunities. Such conditions rob children of their education, dignity, and future.

Government institutions and welfare agencies must work actively to ensure that every child has access to quality education, healthcare, nutrition, and social security. Child protection laws and welfare mechanisms should be implemented effectively and sensitively.

India has several legal frameworks aimed at protecting children, including the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Juvenile Justice

Act, and laws prohibiting child labour and trafficking. However, laws alone are not enough. Effective implementation, public awareness, institutional accountability, and community participation are equally important.

Religious leaders, social organizations, community elders, and civil society groups also have an important role in promoting child protection awareness. Mosques, schools, and local institutions can help educate families about children's rights, emotional well-being, and safety. Communities must reject silence and stigma surrounding abuse and instead encourage support, justice, and protection for vulnerable children.

The media, too, carries a significant responsibility. Instead of sensationalizing incidents involving children, media platforms should focus on awareness, child rights education, mental health advocacy, and positive social values. Responsible reporting can play a powerful role in shaping public consciousness regarding child protection.

Ultimately, child protection is not solely the responsibility of governments or institutions. It is a shared moral and social responsibility. Every parent, teacher, neighbour, religious leader, and citizen has a role in creating a safe and nurturing environment for children.

Children deserve more than survival; they deserve dignity, safety, emotional security, education, affection, and opportunity. They deserve to grow up free from fear, violence, exploitation, and neglect. They deserve a society that listens to them, protects them, and believes in their potential.

In Jammu and Kashmir, where resilience, compassion, and cultural values continue to survive despite changing times, there remains hope that society can strengthen its commitment to protecting children and securing their future.

The future of any society is shaped in its homes, schools, and communities. If children grow up protected, educated, emotionally secure, and morally guided, society itself moves toward peace, stability, and progress. But if children are neglected, abused, or emotionally broken, the consequences ultimately affect the entire social fabric.

Protecting children, therefore, is not merely an act of responsibility – it is an investment in humanity itself.

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## My Journey From Difficult Roads To Beautiful Destinations



■ MOOL RAJ

Difficult road often lead to beautiful destination means life is filled with many obstacles and sometimes its seems to be impossible just to stay aloft. In every morning we all wake up with a lots of opportunity to change our life's it doesn't matter yesterday we can't do anything so we can't do it today. Every new days gives you a chance to start a new and maybe see the light shining through the cloud. Maybe we go through many hardship in life in order to fully appreciated by others.

Life requires great sacrifices and an understanding of the duality of the universe. Its take sadness to know happiness and pain to know pleasure and weakness to know strength and it's took hard time to know the good time, which is precisely why the most difficult road will lead to the most destination. I want to give you one example if you want to start a business of some sort you will have to work long hours for the first few year but the payoff will be worth it because of the sacrifices you made.

Keep thing in perspective so that you don't discouraged. If you sacrifices something in life you will definitely achieve something but don't loose hope it will take

some time but you will achieve what you want. In your life there will be up and down it's depend on you how you handle your situation. Everyone have problem in their life but how you can manage your problem it's depend on you. Your hard work will take to your destination.

Your question is your answer. when you know something is beautiful, you know its value. you know how hard its going to be for you to get it. even though the way to achieve it might not be that hard, somewhere at the back of your mind you know that this thing holds a lot of importance for you. its not that difficult roads lead to a beautiful destination, its that something, which has a beautiful result, has had a very tough journey. however, if you could tell me the exact aspect of your question, maybe i'll be able to answer it better.

This particular line has a very beautiful and relatable meaning. So do explain it in a better way let's take an example- during the exams we have to work very hard (difficult path) and when the result come and you score excellently the smiles on your face (beautiful destination) is the reflection of your hard work and success! A mother bears a lot of pain (difficult path) to give birth to her children. And the happiness after seeing her child (beautiful destination) is beautiful.

The truth is that many times in life and love, and family and friends the difficult road you find yourself traveling today, with all its frustration and pain and agony, will, in time, lead to a beautiful destination. The ultimate goal is to reach the destination. But to reach the destination, that may be your dream place, the position you want to reach in your

life or to live the life as you dreamed it, doesn't happen in a blink of an eye and even if it does, it won't last long, for it is said that one needs to strive for success and true one's don't come to you easily. Just like how a mother goes through painful and uncomfortable nine months to have her baby. She accepts all the pain happily and willingly. The beautiful journey she travels to bring a life into this world. After few years, all these will remain as beautiful memories and unforgettable bliss. All the hurdles you cross, the tears you spill because of pain and pleasure, aren't just there to make you suffer. You become a better person, you'll learn new things, meet new people and all these changes the way you view the world. Cherish every moment.

What started off as an impulse decision to simply accompany my husband on a biking trip from Leh Ladakh to Srinagar (every avid biker's dream), evolved into something much more – an amalgamation of experiences, which apart from an admiration of the raw beauty of this rugged terrain, brought with it enlightenment and a true appreciation for things which were erstwhile taken for granted.

The choice of undertaking this journey by car, whilst my husband took to biking was a deliberate one considering that I am not much of a biking enthusiast. I would rather be "comfortable" in a car, not having to worry about my hair and skin getting exposed to the harsh sun and dust (vanity of vanities), and having to hold on to the backrest of the bike for my dear life while my husband zips on the road like a bolt of lightning (speaking from experience).

Before embarking on this journey, I was

told by my tour operator (who transitioned from being just our tour operator to family at the end of the journey), that I would for sure not be in the car all the time. His contention was that once my senses were exposed to the magnificent and ever-changing landscapes, I would have the urge to be out in the open, on the bike, with my husband, to soak in the beauty firsthand. This would most certainly be accompanied by me embracing hubby dearest, with a smile on my face as I get transported into fantasy land – a Bollywood-style romantic escapade of sorts.

Well, that was not the case unfortunately or fortunately, as an approximately 20 km ride from Leh to the Thiksey Monastery with my husband before the actual ride could commence a day later, taught us better. My husband being the proud owner of high-powered bikes like the Triumph Bonneville (fondly rechristened by him as "Bonny") and the Triumph Tiger (rechristened as "Tina"), felt that the Royal Enfield Himalayan bike paled in comparison, especially when riding uphill. I too, with my little knowledge of bikes, but having had the privilege of sitting on "Bonny" and "Tina" could also experience the "drag" in the ride. This led him to relegate the Himalayan to the status of "Mee-na". Then again, someone not having been exposed to higher-powered bikes might not find this an issue at all, as the Himalayan is touted as one of the best bikes for the terrain... so again, vanity of vanities. But this sealed the deal – my husband would ride solo; I would allow him the benefit of enjoying his ride better without having to

worry about me at the back and eliminate all possibilities of me shifting his balance and focus. And that ultimately proved a good decision, with the added bonus of my hair and skin remaining intact.

This journey was truly one of a kind. As Anthony Bourdain said: "Travel isn't always pretty. It isn't always comfortable. Sometimes it hurts, it even breaks your heart. But that's okay. The journey changes you; it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you. Hopefully, you leave something good behind." – Anthony Bourdain

No other words could best sum up my journey through this vast, brown, mountainous expanse of land, interspersed with soothing, sparkling water bodies and patches of green, canopied by bright blue skies and pristine white clouds, evoking and at the same time jolting the senses.

And yes, the journey isn't always comfortable. Travelling to certain places I have to admit was long, arduous, nerve-wracking and gut-wrenching, but as one of the road signs on the way mentioned "Difficult roads lead to beautiful destinations". True that! The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow was worth pursuing. Apart from providing inspiration, the strategically placed yellow stone highway road signs, put up by the Border Roads Organization (BRO), provided comic relief and had me marvelling at the highly creative and witty nature of the one-liners posted.

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# Sleep to Clean Your Brain And Prevent Neurodegeneration

**B**rainwashing, more scientifically known as brain waste clearance, is a process during which harmful waste products, so called "biological trash", is removed from your brain. This is crucial for optimal brain functioning and to lower the risk of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and dementia, which are associated with buildup of such harmful waste products. Only recently scientists discovered that your brain is cleaned only when you are sleeping.

## Waste products build up in the body and brain throughout the day

First you might be wondering what needs to be cleaned and removed here? What is "biological trash"?

Throughout the day all cells in our body produce leftover molecules and metabolites due to cellular activity. There is also cellular debris and other harmful toxic molecules that get into our body from the surrounding environment. Moreover, due to various internal and external factors such as our genetic predispositions and UV exposure, certain proteins in our body might change their structure, lose their normal function and become harmful. All of these molecules need to be removed from our body to avoid health problems and disease.

## Brain has a different system to clean waste products than the rest of the body

Our body has a wonderful "cleaning system" that removes such "biological trash" and detoxifies our tissues, called the lymphatic system. It consists



of specific lymphoid organs, such as thymus, bone marrow and lymph nodes, lymphatic vessels and a fluid called lymph that circulates throughout our body and removes excess fluid and waste products.

However, not even a single trace of the lymphatic system is detected inside our brain. This is rather surprising as the brain is the most active organ of our entire body and therefore is likely to produce most waste products. In 2012 a groundbreaking study was published which showed that our brain has a different kind of waste clearance system than the rest of the body.

The study described the anatomical pathways and the working principle of the brain's waste disposal system, which was given the name of the

glymphatic system. Apparently, the brain uses a system of tunnels that are formed around the brain's blood vessels by special brain cells called the astrocytes. Astrocytes belong to a group of so-called glial cells, hence the name glial + lymphatic = glymphatic. A special brain fluid called the cerebrospinal fluid flows in these tunnels and then through our brain, collecting waste from around the brain cells and then draining it out of the brain and out of our body.

## Brains' waste disposal system is ON when we sleep

Another groundbreaking study was released just a year later in 2013 which showed that waste

products from the brain are removed almost only during sleep. Scientists injected a green dye into the brain of mice after which half of the mice went to sleep and the other half stayed awake. After two hours scientists checked how much of the green dye was left in the brains of these mice.

Surprisingly, brains of mice which stayed awake were still full of the green dye, while the brains of the ones that slept barely had any trace of green dye. These results indicated that substances are removed from the brain much faster during sleep when compared to being awake.

Now many studies in various animal species including humans support the finding that our brains are cleaned from harmful molecules almost exclusively during sleep. For example, a 2018 study with 20 healthy adults showed that a single night of no sleep is associated with significant increase in levels of a specific brain waste product, a protein called amyloid-beta.

A 2021 study investigated how well an externally delivered molecule is cleaned from the brain if you sleep compared to if you don't sleep. Scientists delivered a special molecule called contrast agent into the brains of patients. Half of them were allowed to sleep and half were asked to spend one night not sleeping. When scientists scanned the brains of these 2 groups of patients, they found higher levels of the contrast agent in the no-sleep group compared to the group that slept. This means that even one night of sleep deprivation impairs brain waste clearance.

## Too little sleep increases the risk of neurodegenerative diseases

Build-up of certain waste products in the brain is associated with increased risk of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's diseases and dementia. Now we know that our brain is cleaned and waste products removed when we are sleeping. This would mean that if we don't get enough sleep, we expose ourselves to higher chances of neurodegenerative diseases.

For example, one study examined nearly 8000 people and found that people who slept six hours or less per night in their 50s and 60s were 30% more likely to develop dementia later in life compared to those who slept 7 hours or more every night.

Another study investigated nearly 700 individuals who due to their genetic make-up were at risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. Researchers found that better sleep reduced the likelihood of developing clinical Alzheimer's disease and even reduced the amount of harmful proteins in the brain.

A recent 2020 study showed that sleep disturbances early on can even forecast how much of the harmful protein amyloid-beta will accumulate in a person's brain. The worse people sleep, the more likely they are to end up having larger amounts of amyloid-beta in their brain which is known to increase the risk of neurodegenerative diseases.

The build-up of waste products in our tissues is a physiological process that happens due to cellular activity. As long as these waste products are efficiently removed, we should not worry. Now we know that our brain has a different kind of waste disposal system than the rest of our body, which interestingly is ON only when we sleep. Therefore, make sure to get enough sleep every night to keep your brains "clean" (literally), and to reduce your risk of developing neurodegenerative diseases!  
**Courtesy Healthline**

## Study Finds Way to Help Teenagers Get More Sleep

Following a long summer of late nights and even later mornings, it can be hard for teenagers to readjust to a school schedule in the fall. A disturbed sleep schedule and lack of sleep can lead to fatigue, poor performance in school, and changes in mood and focus. Therefore, supporting teens and finding ways to help them get more sleep is crucial.

Although preliminary, the study's findings suggest that light therapy is a promising intervention for sleep problems in teenagers. It's also non-invasive, relatively low-cost, and could be easily implemented at home.

### The importance of sleep

Restorative sleep is critical for health. During sleep, the body rests and repairs itself. It's also when the brain consolidates memories and new information.

The benefits of a good night's sleep are especially important for teenagers, who are still growing and developing. They need a minimum of 8 to 10 hours each night.

Without enough sleep, the risk of chronic health conditions issues increases. These include:



- Heart disease;
- Kidney problems;
- High blood pressure;
- Diabetes;
- Stroke;
- Obesity.

Sleep deficiency also contributes to mental health problems like anxiety and depression, moodiness and irritability, impaired judgment, and increased accidents and injuries.

Although getting enough sleep is critical, around 7 in 10 high school students in grades 9 to 12 don't get enough sleep on school nights.

### Teenagers and sleep issues

The teenage years are a time of significant physical and emotional changes. Teens also experience changes in their sleep biology, meaning they tend to go to bed and wake up later.

The reason is a shift in the body's 24-hour circadian rhythm — the internal process that regulates the sleep-wake cycle. As a result, teens may develop delayed sleep phase syndrome (DSPS).

DSPS is a common condition that's accentuated during adolescence when there are two competing forces — the pressures of a school schedule and the need to go to bed early and the biological changes in the body. The result is that many teenagers are sleep-deprived.

### How light therapy could help

The conflicting relationship between the shift in circadian rhythm and the need for an early night's sleep prompted researchers' interest in light therapy. In the Sleep study, they tested a 2-week intervention focusing on the circadian system and using various behavioral measures. The aim was to help teenagers maintain a better nighttime routine.

The researchers recruited adolescents who typically had late bedtimes and less than 7 hours of sleep each night.  
**Courtesy Healthline**



establish a baseline. Then, they received bright light therapy for 2.5 hours on the 2 weekend mornings.

Bright light therapy, also known as phototherapy, is similar to sunlight. Exposing the eyes to intense but safe amounts of light for a specific and regular length of time resets the internal clock and helps shift the circadian rhythm. The therapy involves sitting in front of a light box for a predetermined amount of time.

The participants gradually advanced their week-night bedtime to 1 hour earlier than baseline during the first week and 2 hours earlier during the second week. They also received personalized time management plans — SleepRouTeen — to help facilitate earlier bedtimes.

The control group who didn't follow the same light therapy protocol slept as usual and had no evening time management plan. The weekday sleep onset time and duration were measured with sensors.

Ultimately, the researchers shifted the teenagers' bedtime by 1.5 hours and increased total sleep time by 1 hour each night through the intervention. Plus, the teens felt less tired, irritable, and worried and had improved concentration and alertness.

The authors noted that the participants with late circadian clocks shifted their sleep by up to 2 hours earlier. However, those with an earlier circadian clock didn't shift their bedtime but benefited from the behavioral support of time management to increase sleep duration.

### Changing sleeping patterns

The research findings suggest that it's possible to change the sleep patterns of young adults with DSPS by manipulating their exposure to light and providing time management strategies.

One significant advantage of light therapy is that it's safe and easy to administer at home. There are various personal light-therapy tools available. These include table-top light boxes that house several lighting tubes. They're popular because you only need to face the box, not look directly into the light, meaning you can do other activities during the session, like reading a book or working on a computer.

Alternatively, light visors, which are worn like a baseball cap, and lighted eyeglasses, which look like regular glasses but have small LED lights on the frames, are other options.

Besides light therapy, teens can improve their sleeping patterns with good sleep hygiene practices. This involves developing healthy habits and sleep behaviors, such as:

- Maintaining a regular sleep schedule throughout the week.
- Avoiding caffeine and alcohol before bedtime.
- Establishing a relaxing bedtime routine, such as having a warm bath.
- Exercising regularly.
- Limiting computer and phone screen time before bed.
- Creating a sleep-friendly environment in the bedroom, such as ensuring the room is dark and cool.
- Preparing for the morning the night before to

**Bright light therapy, also known as phototherapy, is similar to sunlight. Exposing the eyes to intense but safe amounts of light for a specific and regular length of time resets the internal clock and helps shift the circadian rhythm. The therapy involves sitting in front of a light box for a predetermined amount of time.**

reduce stress.

Although sleeping difficulties are troublesome, it's possible to re-train the body's internal clock and improve sleep quality.

Sleep is critical for overall health and well-being, but it's something that many teenagers struggle with. However, bright-light therapy appears to be an effective treatment.

In addition, practicing good sleep hygiene and establishing a regular sleep schedule can help improve overall sleep quality. By making a few simple changes, teens can get the recommended 8 or more hours of restorative sleep.  
**Courtesy EMJ**

## Do Females Need to Sleep More Than Males?

**B**ut when it comes to the male and female differences in sleep, research has shown that women tend to need more sleep. Let's look into some possible reasons below.

### How many hours should a female sleep?

There is a slight difference in the number of hours of sleep men and women need to get. On average, women need to sleep 12–13 minutes longer than men. It might seem like an arbitrary amount, but there are reasons why a woman's body requires a little a bit more rest than a man's.

### Why women need more sleep than men

Did you know that over 70 million Americans suffer from sleep problems, but men and women don't suffer equally? Women are more likely to have sleep issues than men — creating the need to catch up on sleep. Women are also more prone to developing various sleep disorders such as insomnia and restless legs' syndrome. Let's review the most common sleep issues that tend to affect women more than men.

### Pain

Pain makes it difficult to find a comfortable sleeping position and fall asleep. It also makes it challenging to stay asleep, as certain conditions may force you to turn and toss during the night to prevent waking up in pain.

Some illnesses associated with chronic pain are more typical among women. Cures for pain-related sleep problems may concentrate on targeting the area of pain, the sleeping difficulty, or both. Combining relaxation techniques, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), lifestyle changes, and over-the-counter and prescription medications may help.

### Insomnia

Insomnia is a difficulty falling or staying asleep throughout the night. As a result, sufferers don't feel refreshed upon waking up and have difficulty getting through the day. Insomnia is a prevalent sleep disorder, but women are 40 percent more likely to suffer from it than men.

### They are also more likely to experience

symptoms of daytime sleepiness. Women may be more prone to insomnia for several reasons:

Hormones. Hormonal changes associated with menstruation, pregnancy, and menopause can affect the sleep/wake cycle.

Mood disorders. Women are more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression than men, which can lead to insomnia and other sleep related issues.

Treatment for insomnia often begins with better sleep habits, such as following a regular sleep schedule, reducing caffeine and alcohol intake, and improving the sleep environment — like cooling down your room before sleep or using blackout blinds.

### Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS)

Restless legs' syndrome (RLS) causes tingling sensations in the legs which occur when you lay down — making you want to move your legs to reduce the discomfort. Because symptoms occur when lying down and can only be relieved through movement, many women with RLS have difficulty sleeping.  
**Courtesy EMJ**

# World Environment Day Celebrated with Zeal at GD Goenka Public School

HT NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA, JUN 05:** World Environment Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and active participation at GD Goenka Public School in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) and DEERS, reaffirming the collective commitment towards environmental conservation and sustainable living.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic involvement from students and staff, who participated in various awareness activities aimed at promoting environmental responsibility and eco-friendly practices.

Speaking on the occasion, Er. Bilal Ahmad Khan, District Officer, JKPC, highlighted the significance of World Environment Day and emphasized the importance of waste segregation at the source. He encouraged students to adopt environmentally conscious habits in their daily lives and underscored the role of individual responsibility in building a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Tanveer Ahmad Parry of DEERS inspired students with the slogan, "Go Green," urging them to become ambassadors of environmental protection and actively contribute towards creating cleaner and greener surroundings.

Adding to the spirit of the event, Ms. Sabiya Mahajan administered an environmental pledge, with students collectively reaffirming their commitment to protecting nature, conserving resources, and promoting sustainable practices.

The programme was organized by the team of GD Goenka Public School under the guidance of the school administration and HR Head Mr. Adil. The event concluded with a vote of thanks.

Speaking at the conclusion of the programme, Principal Mr. Jhomson P. J. expressed satisfaction over hosting the event and appreciated the collaborative efforts of JKPC, DEERS, and the school community in spreading environmental awareness. He emphasized that such initiatives play a crucial role in nurturing responsible, environmentally conscious citizens and inspiring young minds to become agents of positive change.

The celebration served as a meaningful reminder of the shared responsibility to protect the environment and work collectively towards a greener and healthier planet.

## 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

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of IRSHAD AHMAD DEADER S/O SAIEN 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 SAIEN 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

It is to inform the general public that in my SERVICE RECORD, my father's name has been mentioned as Mohd Akbar. While as my father's correct and true name is Mohd Akber. I am applying for its correction. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may file his/her objection before the Principal of the Government. Degree College Handwara within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained

Gh Nabi Najar, S/O Mohd Akber  
R/O: Kreeri Baramulla

### Public Notice

I am applying for fresh fertilizer license if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file in the office of CHIEF AGRICULTURE OFFICE BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name... MOHMAD ASHRAF MALIK  
S/O ... ABDUL RASHID MALIK  
R/O... WAGILA WAGOORA  
Distt ... BARAMULLA

### 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

### 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

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## Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
NIT No: 15 of RnB-Sopore of 2026-2027 e-tendering | Dated: 05.06.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract	M. H of Account	Position of TS
1	Installation/Laying of RCC pipes for Sopore Constituency.	6.93	300/-	13860/-	30 Days	20.06.2026	DEE/CEE	CDF of Hon'ble MLASopore	EE/R&B /Sopore/TS/09 of 2026-27 dated:05.06.2026

Project Authority: DDC Baramulla  
Position of funds: Available  
Position of AA: Accorded by District Development Commissioner Baramulla vide his letter No: 55 /DDC of 2026 dated: 20.5.2026

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	05 .06.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	05.06.2026 to 19.06.2026
3	Bid Submission start date	05.06.2026
4	Bid submission End date	19.06.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides ( online)	20.06.2026(12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released after submission of a performance security of 5% of the quoted cost which will be released after completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotag Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

Unbalanced Bid:- In case bid of the successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender receiving authority) vide Principal Secretary to Government Finance department's circular issued under endorsement No: DF-Code/ 44/ 2021-02-158 dated" 8.8.20025.

a. Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

b. Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

c. The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

D. The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance security shall be taken only after approval of next higher authority.

The additional performance security shall be released only after successful completion of work.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form..

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT,  
No: 2164-73  
Dated: 05.06.2026

DIPK: 1871/26 | Dated: 05-06-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore

## Obituary



It is with profound grief and sorrow that we inform of the passing of Mrs. Shehzada Akhtar, wife of former Forester Peer Mohammad Shafi, resident of Peer Takia Yurkshohipora, District Kulgam, who departed for her heavenly abode after a brief illness.

The deceased was a pious, dignified, and noble-hearted lady known for her exemplary character, kindness, and devotion to her faith. She was regular in her prayers and fasting, compassionate towards others, and possessed outstanding human values. Her entire life was devoted to serving humanity, upholding moral principles, and maintaining the highest standards of ethics and righteousness. With her passing, the family, relatives, and the local community have lost a sincere, caring, and respected personality whose absence will be deeply felt for years to come.

In this moment of grief, we express our heartfelt gratitude to all relatives, friends, well-wishers, social and political personalities, and members of the public who conveyed their condolences and sympathy either by visiting in person, through phone calls, or by other means. We are especially thankful to distinguished personalities, including MLA Abdul Majeed Bhat Larmi, MLA Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah, former MLA Mohammad Amin Bhat, and other respected dignitaries, who visited the bereaved family, offered their condolences, and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. The family remains sincerely grateful for their support, solidarity, and prayers during this difficult time.

May Almighty Allah grant the deceased complete forgiveness, overlook her shortcomings, fill her grave with divine light, bless her with the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and grant patience, strength, and steadfastness to the bereaved family in bearing this immense loss.

Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return.  
Ameen Ya Rabbal Alameen.

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2nd Merit List	09 June 2026
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## Government Reaffirms Citizen-Centric Governance as CM's Advisor Meets Diverse Public Delegations

Delegations Meet Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani; Assured Grievance Redressal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 05, 2026:** In line with the government's commitment to responsive, transparent, and people-first governance, a number of public delegations today visited the Chief Minister's Public Services and Outreach Office (Raabita) to present their concerns.

The delegations met with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, who interacted with the representatives to understand and solve their issues and grievances.

Among the prominent groups that called on the Advisor today



were the Crusher Owners Association, the Jhelum Riverside House Rehabilitation Union, the Radio

Taxi Drivers Association, delegations of young students, and various employee groups, along-

side other civil society members.

The visiting delegations apprised the Advisor of their respective issues, seeking institutional intervention for timely redressal.

The Advisor to Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations, noting down the specific issues and assuring timely resolution of the concerns raised during the interactions.

He reassured them that the Chief Minister led government is working to ensure equitable development, smooth delivery of public services and effective resolution of any issues that may arise for the common man.

## World Environment Day celebrated across Pulwama with enthusiastic Public Participation

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA, JUNE 05:** World Environment Day was celebrated across Pulwama today with a series of awareness, plantation and community outreach activities organised by various departments, educational institutions and Panchayati Raj Institutions under the theme "Inspired by Nature: For Climate, For Our Future."

The programmes were aimed at promoting environmental conservation, sustainable development and collective responsibility towards protecting natural resources and combating climate change.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports organised a range of activities across the district, including plantation drives, awareness rallies and nature walks. Students, youth and officials actively participated in sapling plantation campaigns and awareness marches to spread the message of environmental protection and encourage eco-friendly practices among the public.

The main function of the Department of Youth Services and Sports was organised at CB Nath, where students, officials and members of civil society participated in a plantation drive and environmental awareness activities. Participants planted saplings and organised an awareness march/padyatra, spreading the message of environmental conservation, ecological sustainability and the need to preserve natural resources for future generations.

Meanwhile, Educational institutions across the district observed the day with great enthusiasm by organising environmental awareness programmes, pledge-taking ceremonies, seminars, debates, essay writing and drawing competitions, quizzes, cleanliness drives and plantation activities. Students highlighted the importance of environmental conservation, biodiversity protection,



waste management, sustainable lifestyles and climate action through speeches, creative presentations and awareness campaigns. Participants were encouraged to adopt environmentally responsible behaviour and contribute towards building a cleaner, greener and healthier future.

Furthermore, the Rural Development Department commemorated the occasion through a plantation drive under the campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" in and around Amrit Sarovars and their catchment areas. Special Gram Sabhas were also convened across Panchayats to deliberate on environmental protection, solid waste management, water conservation, groundwater recharge, biodiversity preservation and climate resilience. The meetings emphasised the importance of community participation and Jan Bhagidari in maintaining cleanliness and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources.

The celebrations witnessed active participation from students, teachers, government officials, Panchayat representatives and members of the community. The programmes concluded with a collective pledge to protect the environment and work together for a cleaner, greener and more sustainable future.

## Mission Vatsalya Bandipora intensifies Anti-Tobacco Drive around Schools in Sumbal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, JUNE 05:** Continuing its efforts to curb the sale and consumption of tobacco and other harmful substances among children, Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services) Bandipora conducted a series of inspections in Sumbal, Inderkoot, Naidkhai, and Gulshanpora areas of Bandipora district.

The inspection drive focused on shops and commercial establishments located in the vicinity of educational institutions. Officials closely monitored compliance with child protection laws aimed at safeguarding children from exposure to tobacco products and other prohibited substances.



During the inspections, the officials sensitized shopkeepers, parents, and general public about the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, highlighting the importance of creating a drug-free and child-friendly environment. The awareness campaign emphasized the harmful effects of substance abuse on young people and encouraged community participation in preventing the sale of tobacco products to minors.

Officials also educated stakeholders about the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and other relevant child protection laws. The officials explained legal responsibilities relating to the welfare, care, and protection of children and warned against practices that could endanger their well-being.

During the enforcement drive, several violations were detected, and offenders were fined onspot in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. Authorities reiterated that strict action would continue against individuals and establishments found violating child protection norms, particularly those operating near schools and other educational institutions.

Officials urged citizens, educational institutions, and local communities to support the District administration's efforts in making Bandipora drug-free and ensuring a safe environment for children. They emphasized that sustained awareness, community vigilance, and strict enforcement of laws are essential to achieving the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan and strengthening child protection mechanisms across the district.

The authorities urged public to remain vigilant and promptly report any violations related to child protection laws, sale of tobacco products to minors, substance abuse, child labour, child marriage, or any form of exploitation involving children.

In case of any such violation, citizens are encouraged to immediately contact the Child Helpline (1098) or the Emergency Response Support System (112) for timely intervention and necessary action.

## DC Bandipora visits District Hospital

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, JUNE 05:** Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Friday visited District Hospital Bandipora to review the progress of the under-construction Public Health Integrated Laboratory being established at an estimated cost of approximately Rs 80 lakh under the National Health Mission (NHM). During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various components of the project and assessed the pace and quality of the ongoing construction works. She was briefed by the concerned officials about the status of the project and the facilities being developed under it. Officials informed the Deputy Commissioner that around 80 percent of the work has been completed. It was further informed that the project, which was originally scheduled for completion

in April 2026, is now expected to be completed by July 2026. The construction work is being executed by HSSC.

Highlighting the importance of the laboratory in strengthening healthcare services in the district, the Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agency to expedite the remaining work and ensure completion within the revised timeline while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

She emphasized that the facility will significantly enhance diagnostic capabilities and improve access to quality healthcare services for the people of the district. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Maqbool, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Bandipora, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Malla, representatives of NHM, officials of HSSC, and other concerned officers.

## DC Bandipora chairs DLRC, DCC meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, JUNE 05:** Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Friday chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting for the quarter ending March 2026 at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The meeting reviewed the performance of banks operating in the district during the financial year 2025-26, with discussions focusing on credit flow, financial inclusion, implementation of social security schemes, digital banking, and progress under the Annual Credit Plan.

During the meeting, Lead District Manager Bandipora presented a detailed overview of the banking sector's performance in the district. He informed the chair that banks had organ-

ized around 317 awareness camps during the year to promote various government schemes and improve financial literacy among the public.

The progress achieved under social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), was also reviewed.

The meeting was informed that J&K Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Bandipora, achieved 105 percent of its training target and recorded 116 percent achievement in credit linkage during FY 2025-26.

It was further informed that banks in the district achieved a Credit-Deposit Ratio (CDR) of 96 percent, with deposits amounting to Rs 2,124.49 crore and advances reaching Rs 2,032.50

crore up to the quarter ending March 2026.

Regarding credit flow, banks registered an overall achievement of 84 percent during FY 2025-26, including 79 percent achievement under the priority sector and 88 percent under the non-priority sector, with total credit disbursement of Rs 1,348.71 crore. The meeting also held detailed discussions on the implementation of PMEGP and other credit-linked schemes being implemented by various departments. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of regular monitoring of credit-linked schemes and called for enhanced efforts to improve performance across all sectors. She stressed the need to strengthen coverage under social security schemes so that more eligible beneficiaries can avail the

benefits of these welfare initiatives. Indu Kanwal Chib also urged banks and line departments to work in close coordination and conduct joint awareness programmes to ensure that information about government schemes reaches every eligible beneficiary.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress achieved under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), HADP Credit, PM Vishwakarma, PMEGP, and PMFME schemes. She directed the concerned departments and banks to make special efforts to enhance sponsorship, awareness generation, sanction, and disbursement. She emphasized the need for proactive coordination between banks and line departments to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are identified, sponsored, and provided timely financial assistance under

these flagship schemes.

Reviewing the status of PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar Yojana, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Agricultural Term Loans, and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), the Deputy Commissioner directed banks to dispose of pending cases within the prescribed timelines and facilitate timely financial assistance to beneficiaries.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Maqbool, Lead District Manager Bandipora Liyaqat Maqbool, RBI Representative Anok Sharma, DDM NABARD Dr. Rouf Zargar, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, district officers from various line departments, branch heads of different banks, and other concerned officers.

## ADC Handwara orders immediate damage assessment in Hailstorm-Hit Rajwar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**HANDWARA, JUNE 05:** In the wake of the severe hailstorm and heavy rains that struck the Rajwar area on Friday, causing extensive damage to agricultural and horticultural crops as well as public infrastructure, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, ADC, Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, has ordered an immediate joint assessment of

the affected areas.

According to an official order issued on June 5, 2026, the Tehsildar Zachaldara, Horticulture Development Officer Rajwar, and Agriculture Extension Officer Rajwar have been directed to conduct a joint spot inspection of the affected villages.

The officers have been tasked with assessing losses to horticultural and agricultural crops and submitting a detailed damage as-

essment report within three days.

The order further directs the Executive Engineer PMGSY Handwara, Executive Engineer R&B Handwara, Executive Engineer I&FC Handwara, Tehsildar Zachaldara, and Block Development Officer Rajwar to jointly verify damages caused to roads, drainage systems, water channels, and other public infrastructure due to the hailstorm and flash floods.

## ADDC Kulgam review implementation of HADP initiatives in district

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM, JUNE 05:** A review meeting of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) for Agriculture and Allied Sectors was held today under the chairmanship of Altaf Ahmad Khan, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Kulgam.

The meeting was attended by officers from the Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture, Horticulture, and Horticulture Planning & Marketing.

A detailed review of all HADP projects was conducted, focusing on the physical and financial progress achieved under various components of the programme.

During the meeting, the ADC reviewed the status of farmer registration, KYC completion, beneficiary coverage, and other key performance indicators. Special attention was given to those projects and sectors where achievements remained below the prescribed targets.

The concerned officers were directed to identify bottlenecks



and take immediate corrective measures to improve performance.

The chair emphasized the importance of timely implementation of HADP initiatives and

stressed the need for close coordination among all allied departments to ensure the successful achievement of programme objectives.

He expressed concern over

the slow progress in certain areas, particularly farmer registration, KYC verification, and other beneficiary-oriented interventions.

Khan directed all departments to bridge the existing gaps, accelerate field-level activities, and ensure that all pending targets are achieved within the stipulated timeframe.

He further informed that another review meeting will be held within the next few days to assess the progress made and review compliance with the directions issued during the meeting.

## Director (Technical), CSB calls SKUAST-K among India's Finest Sericulture Institutions

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA, JUNE 05:** Dr. Manthira Moorthy, Director (Technical), Central Silk Board (CSB), Bengaluru, on Thursday praised the College of Temperate Sericulture, SKUAST-K, Mirgund, for its outstanding contribution to sericulture education, research, and technological advancement, describing it as one of the finest institutions in the country dedicated to the discipline.

Dr. Moorthy made these remarks during his maiden visit to the college, where he was received by Associate Dean Prof. M. R. Mir and senior faculty members.

During the visit, Prof. Mir presented an overview of the college's academic, research, extension, and entrepreneurship initiatives, highlighting the institution's growing role in strengthening the sericulture sector in Jammu and Kashmir and beyond.

A significant issue raised during the interaction pertained to recruitment policies within the Central Silk Board, particularly the limited opportunities available to sericulture graduates in scientist-level positions. Prof. Mir emphasized the need for greater preference and representation for candidates possessing specialized qualifications in sericulture and allied disciplines.

Responding to the concern, Dr. Moorthy assured the faculty that the matter would be taken up with the higher authorities for appropriate consideration.

The discussions also focused on strengthening collaboration between CSB and SKUAST-K in areas such as joint research projects, capacity-building programmes, technology transfer, student training, and sectoral development initiatives. Faculty members and scientists actively participated in the deliberations and shared suggestions for advancing sericulture research and innovation in the region.

## India recognised as world's fastest-growing economy and will remain it for over two decades: Piyush Goyal

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 5:** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that India is recognised as the world's fastest-growing economy and expressed confidence that the country will maintain this position for over two decades in the future.

Addressing the Citi India Conference 2026 virtually in Mumbai, the minister noted that India has consistently converted crises into opportunities by reorienting processes and business strategies to suit changing geopolitical and economic circumstances.

Goyal highlighted the recent engagements of business leaders in Canada and the United States as strong global confidence in India's economic landscape.

The minister also noted a positive response to the India-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

"Discussions with leading investment firms and around 50 companies in New York reinforced the perception of India as the only credible alternative manufacturing hub, a trusted partner and a safe investment destination backed by democracy, rule of law, decisive leadership, technological capabilities and a vast consumer mar-



ket of 1.4 billion people," the Minister said.

Referring to the interactions with leading investors in New York and Toronto, he said, "Every discussion reinforced confidence in India's future growth trajectory."

He remarked that the question for investors is not whether to invest in India, but how quickly they recognize and participate in the India growth story.

Goyal highlighted India's expanding trade engagements with the world and noted that the country has signed nine free trade

agreements (FTAs) in the last three and half years covering 38 developed economies.

Pointing towards the recently concluded India-Oman FTA, the Minister informed that at least two to three additional substantive FTAs are expected to come into effect within six months.

"India is likely to execute another three to four significant trade agreements in the coming year and operationalize all nine recently concluded agreements over the next nine to ten months," he said.

Shedding light on some reforms, the Minister said the Jan Vishwas Act will decriminalise nearly one thousand offences across multiple central laws where there was no intention to cheat and no threat to public safety or public health.

The Minister also highlighted the recently announced Bhavya Scheme for the development of 100 industrial parks across the country with an outlay of nearly USD 3.5 billion.

Highlighting the country's response to recent geopolitical challenges, the Minister said, "The country successfully navigated the international energy crisis despite concerns arising from developments in West Asia and disruptions affecting energy supplies from the Gulf region."

The Minister noted that India's prior efforts to diversify energy sources ensure uninterrupted availability of petrol, diesel, aviation fuel, LNG, and PNG while maintaining relatively moderate prices.

In his concluding remarks, Goyal said that India offers immense potential, possibility, and profitability through high-quality products, goods and services designed and produced competitively in the country. UNI

## Govt examining policy frameworks to accelerate affordable adoption of flex-fuel vehicles: Puri

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 5:** The government is actively examining supportive policy frameworks to accelerate affordable adoption of flex-fuel vehicles, including fuel price support and targeted fiscal incentives, union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said.

He said India's future mobility ecosystem will be driven by a combination of electric vehicles (EVs), biofuels, hydrogen, and renewable energy as flex-fuel vehicles "offer a pragmatic and immediately deployable pathway" to reduce crude oil imports, strengthen the rural economy, and advance the country's low-carbon objectives.

Puri asserted that flex-fuel vehicles provide India with a practical solution to reduce dependence on crude oil imports, strengthen the rural economy through ethanol demand, and advance low-carbon mobility.

Highlighting the country's vast two-wheeler market, he said India has one of the world's largest two-wheeler ecosystems, with an active fleet of over 300 million vehicles. Flex-fuel technology has the potential to transform mobility on an unprecedented scale.

According to the minister, a large-scale shift towards flex-fuel mobility can cut crude imports, support farmers, and make vehicle ownership cheaper for consumers.

Puri said the latest developments mark India's entry into large-scale flex-fuel



mobility.

Puri said India imports nearly 88.5 per cent of its crude oil and every geopolitical disruption impacts our economy and energy security.

He recalled that ethanol blending was just 1.4 per cent in 2014, rose to 10 per cent five months ahead of the November 2022 target, and hit 20 per cent six years ahead of the 2030 goal. "That progress has already saved Rs1.84 lakh crore in foreign exchange, substituted 302 lakh metric tonnes of crude, cut 909 lakh metric tonnes of CO2 emissions, and delivered Rs 1.58 lakh crore in income to farmers," the minister said.

In a bid to increase the penetration of flex fuel vehicles, Hero has launched the E85-compatible iterations of Splendor and HF Deluxe for Indian market. Further, on the four wheeler segment, Maruti Suzuki has unveiled flex-fuel passenger vehicle, the WagonR flex-fuel which is capable of running on ethanol blends from E20 to E100. UNI

## Hyd: Vamsiram Builders Acquires Raidurgam Land Parcel for 1,040 Cr, Plans 20-Lakh-Sq-Ft IT Park

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD, JUNE 5:** In one of the biggest commercial land transactions in Hyderabad's real estate market, Vamsiram Builders has acquired a prime 5.09-acre land parcel in Raidurgam for approximately Rs. 1,040 crore and announced plans to develop a landmark 30-storey mixed-use commercial tower with a built-up area of 20 lakh square feet.

The strategically located Plot P4, situated adjacent to ITC Kohinoor in Hyderabad's prime commercial corridor, was secured through an e-auction conducted by the Telangana Government Infrastructure and Investment Corporation (TGIC), the Hyderabad based Real Estate company said in a release here on Wednesday.



The winning bid of Rs. 204 crore per acre represented a premium of 46.76 per cent over the reserve price of Rs. 139 crore per acre, underlining the strong

investor demand for premium commercial assets in Hyderabad's rapidly expanding business districts.

The proposed development

will comprise premium IT office space, retail zones and a hotel within a single integrated project.

Designed in a distinctive 'U'-shaped configuration, the tower will feature a landscaped central garden and rise to a height of 145 metres across 30 floors.

Vamsiram Builders Chairman and Managing Director B. Subba Reddy said Raidurgam has emerged as the nerve centre of Hyderabad's new economy and the company intends to create a landmark project that reflects the city's growing global stature.

"We are building a project that is worthy of the location and Hyderabad's global ambitions, setting new benchmarks in commercial design and functionality," he said.

The company plans to engage

an international architectural firm for the project and aims to complete construction within four years.

The project comes at a time when Hyderabad's office market continues to witness robust leasing activity, particularly in large-format transactions.

Technology and software companies account for more than 65 per cent of commercial space demand in the city, while vacancy levels in premium Grade-A developments remain among the lowest in the country.

The upcoming integrated development is expected to attract strong interest from global technology companies, institutional investors and hospitality operators looking to establish a presence in one of India's fastest-growing commercial hubs. UNI

## Liberty General Insurance unveils comprehensive cyber protection solution for growth-hungry businesses

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 5:** Strengthening its commercial insurance portfolio amid rising digital risks, Liberty General Insurance (LGI) has launched Liberty Cyber Resolution, a comprehensive cyber insurance solution designed to help businesses tackle increasingly sophisticated cyber threats and build long-term resilience.

As organizations across India accelerate their digital transformation journeys, cyberattacks, data breaches, ransomware incidents and operational disruptions have emerged as significant business risks. Recognizing this evolving landscape, LGI's new offering combines insurance coverage with incident response support, risk engineering capabilities and specialized claims assistance. Speaking on the launch, Parag Ved, CEO and Whole-Time Director of Liberty General Insurance, said the solution brings the company's global cyber expertise and risk insights to Indian businesses at a time when cyber resilience is becoming a critical business priority. He said the offering is aimed at helping organizations navigate a rapidly changing threat environment with greater confidence.

The solution provides a broad range of protections, including coverage for reputational damage, cyber-related property damage, supply chain interruptions and business interruption losses. It also offers optional protection against cybercrime risks such as funds transfer fraud, computer fraud and cryptojacking.

Gisha George, President - Product & Underwriting, Commercial Lines & Reinsurance, Liberty General Insurance, said cyber threats are growing not only in frequency but also in complexity, making it essential for businesses to have support before, during and after an incident. She noted that the new solution combines comprehensive coverage with risk engineering expertise and global cyber insights to help organizations strengthen their preparedness and response capabilities. A key feature of the offering is its round-the-clock cyber incident response support, backed by dedicated claims handling and access to specialist response partners across the Asia-Pacific region. The company also offers advanced cyber risk assessment tools and analytics-driven insights to help organizations identify vulnerabilities and improve their overall cybersecurity posture.

With the launch of Liberty Cyber Resolution, Liberty General Insurance aims to equip Indian businesses with the tools and support needed to operate confidently in an increasingly digital and interconnected economy. UNI

## TMUS Launches Global Technology Centre in Hyderabad; Expands India GCC Footprint

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD, JUNE 5:** TMUS Global Solutions (T-Mobile USA) today inaugurated its Global Technology Centre in Hyderabad, marking a major expansion of the company's international technology footprint and reinforcing India's role in global capability delivery.

The 2.5 lakh sq. ft. facility was inaugurated by Telangana IT, Electronics, Communications, Industries & Commerce Minister D. Sridhar Babu, who described the investment as validation of Hyderabad's ability to deliver high-quality technology talent at scale. The Hyderabad centre will function as a strategic innovation hub for TMUS Global Solutions, supporting capabilities across software engineering, DevOps, product development, data analytics, cybersecurity and next-generation digital solutions. The company plans to scale operations to nearly 1,000 employees by 2027. During the inauguration, state officials held discussions with company leadership on long-term expansion plans and Telangana's growing role as a global hub for telecom technology and digital engineering.

TMUS Global Solutions Vice President for IT Operations Chandra Gupta said the Hyderabad facility aligns with the company's long-term engineering and digital transformation priorities, citing the city's talent ecosystem and innovation capabilities as key drivers for expansion.

T-Mobile USA, one of the largest wireless operators in the United States serving over 140 million customers, said the new centre will strengthen its global technology delivery network.

Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad, which hosts more than 450 global capability centres employing over 3,00,000 professionals, continues to attract multinational companies across sectors including telecom, life sciences, BFSI, retail and FMCG.

The addition of TMUS Global Solutions further strengthens Telangana's positioning as a preferred destination for global technology and innovation hubs, the Minister added. UNI

## Stock Markets ends with little change, investors remain cautious ahead of RBI policy decision

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 5:** Indian Stock Markets on Thursday ended with little change as investors remained cautious ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary policy decision.

At Close, Sensex was up 13.84 points or 0.02 percent at 74,360.01, while the Nifty was up 10.95 points or 0.05 percent at 23,416.55. Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 indices advanced 0.5 percent each.

Among the sectors, buying was seen in consumer durables, capital goods, media, pharmaceuticals, oil & gas, banking and energy. Weakness was in information technology and metal shares, which capped the

upside and kept benchmark indices range-bound.

On the Nifty, Titan Company, Eternal, Coal India, Cipla and Adani Enterprises emerged as the top gainers, while Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, Hindalco Industries, SBI Life Insurance and UltraTech Cement were among the major laggards.

Over 120 stocks touched their 52-week high on the BSE. These included Cemindia Projects, Nippon Life India Asset Management, Jindal Saw, HFCL, Syrrma SGS, Laurus Labs, Polycab, Vodafone Idea, Federal Bank, IFCL, JK Bank, Welspun Corp, RBL Bank, among others.

Nearly 56 stocks hit their 52-week lows, including ITC, Praveg, Patanjali, and Go Digit, which slipped to

one-year lows.

Meesho extended its losing streak to the eighth straight session, falling another 5.7%. Bharat Heavy Electricals lost 4.2%.

Among the energy stocks, Hitachi Energy India, CG Power and Industrial Solutions, and Suzlon Energy rose between 2% and 4%. Among Adani Group stocks, Adani Total Gas ended the session with a solid gain of 3.7%.

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) gained 1 percent after the company reported strong growth in electricity trading volumes for May.

Rajesh Exports declined 5 percent after SEBI issued an interim ex parte order against the company and its Chairman and Managing Director, Rajesh Mehta. UNI

## ABB to Power India's Green Tug initiative with Electric Tug systems for Cochin Shipyard

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**KOCHI, JUNE 5:** Global technology company ABB has partnered with Cochin Shipyard Limited to support India's ambitious Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) by supplying advanced power and propulsion systems for two electric harbour tugs currently under construction at the Kochi-based shipyard.

The electric tugs, scheduled for delivery to Polestar Maritime in 2027, will operate at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), India's largest container port handling nearly half of the country's containerized cargo traffic.

The vessels are part of the first phase of the GTTP, a national initiative aimed at replacing conventional diesel-powered harbour tugs with environmentally sustainable alternatives in phases between 2024 and 2040.

Under the contract, ABB will provide a comprehensive package covering electrical, propulsion, automation and digitalization systems. Central to the solution will be ABB's Onboard DC Grid power platform and PEMS power and energy management system, which are designed to maximize battery utilization and efficiently manage fluctuating power demands during tug operations.

The systems are expected to improve drivetrain efficiency, extend operating range and facilitate seamless integration of onboard energy storage technologies.

ABB will also install its ABB Ability Remote Diagnostic System for Marine, enabling condition monitoring and remote troubleshooting to enhance vessel reliability and operational efficiency.

Cochin Shipyard Chairman and Managing Director Jose V.J. said the project marks an important step in integrating electric propulsion and advanced automation into harbour tug operations.

He noted that ABB's exten-

sive experience in marine electrification and automation made it the preferred technology partner for the project and underscored the capability of Indian shipyards to lead the maritime sector's green transition.

Rune Braastad, President of ABB's Marine & Ports division, described India's Green Tug Transition Programme as a significant initiative to reduce emissions from port operations.

He said ABB's selection for the project reflects the confidence placed in the company's marine electrification technologies by India's maritime sector. ABB's latest collaboration

with Cochin Shipyard follows its involvement in supplying power, propulsion and automation systems for two hydrogen-fuelled container vessels being built for the Samskip Group.

The company has also supported the electrification of short-distance shipping services across Asia, including projects in Singapore, South Korea and Japan.

ABB, which has been operating in India for more than 75 years, is a global leader in electrification and automation technologies with operations in over 100 countries and a workforce of approximately 1,10,000 employees worldwide. UNI



# Pant Back in His Strongest Format, Key for India

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**CHANDIGARH:** Rishabh Pant is taking diving catches, hugging Yashasvi Jaiswal, and laughing out loud with Gurjapneet Singh. Two days out from India's one-off Test against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh, the temperature is touching 40°C. Even in this sapping heat, Pant, donning a blue floppy hat, is in his element.

After 20 minutes of catching drills and fun at the main venue, he moves to the B ground for batting practice. He is now facing local spinners. The focus is on defence. After a big front-foot stride, Pant leans forward and defends right under his eyes. He does this ball after ball. Occasionally, he breaks the mould and launches one over the bowler's head. One of those hits clears the boundary fence and lands into the adjacent dump yard.

Even after nine years in international cricket and on the cusp of his 50th Test, Pant the batter remains a paradox. Given his vast range of orthodox and unorthodox shots, he should be a natural fit in T20s. Still, he has always looked more at home in Test cricket.

Since Pant's Test debut in 2018, no India batter has scored more runs than him, and only Ravindra

Jadeja has matched his tally of 26 50-plus scores. In fact, a strong case can be made that he is one of the greatest wicketkeeper-batters Test cricket has ever seen.

Now, he is returning to the Test arena after one of his leanest IPL seasons. In the lead-up to the tournament, he had trained under Yuvraj Singh, and was expected to unlock new gears. Instead, in a year where the scoring rates touched unprecedented heights, he finished with 312 runs at a strike rate of 138.05.

It was ironic, but perhaps fitting, that when his franchise Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) head coach Justin Langer tried to defend him, he had to turn to Test cricket: "We've seen him in Test cricket destroy teams at No. 5."

Pant began IPL 2026 as an opener, but the experiment lasted just one game. He then shifted to No. 3 for a few games before vacating that spot for Nicholas Pooran, and dropped to No. 4. In LSG's final game of the season, he came out at No. 5. Such shuffling can be justified if it is for any other regular batter. But when the player in question is also the captain, it is not a good look.

Pant's stocks as captain also took a big hit. LSG started hand-somely with two wins in three

games but managed only two more victories from the remaining 11, and finished with a wooden spoon. On more than one occasion, Pant spoke about having too many voices in the dressing room.

Langer tried to shield him. "As a captain in the IPL, you got to keep fronting up, don't you?" he said after one of the defeats. "He knows he is carrying a lot of pressure for the team, and he does it with a smile on his face 98% of the time."

Pant does have a naturally cheerful and chatty persona. But as the defeats kept piling, the smile at the post-match chats became increasingly forced. He struggled for words, often ending his replies with an awkward chuckle. With every loss, he looked more frustrated and emotionally drained.

Eventually, he could not keep up the façade. After LSG's ninth defeat in 13 games, he snapped: "We are a f\*\*\*ing good team". He continued to front up, but once LSG's campaign ended, he didn't wait for the tournament to get over to resign from captaincy.

It is no secret that Pant is yet to find the right template for white-ball cricket. He last played a T20I almost two years ago, when India travelled to Sri Lanka in 2024.

## Sciver-Brunt on course for batting role at World Cup after calf injury

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**LONDON:** Nat Sciver-Brunt hopes to bowl towards the back-end of England's home T20 World Cup, in which she expects to play her first international match in more than seven months.

A calf injury suffered while playing in the domestic One-Day Cup on April 29 ruled Sciver-Brunt out of the whole of England's competitive build-up to the tournament, which the hosts will open on June 12 against Sri Lanka at Edgbaston.

As revealed by head coach Charlotte Edwards following England's series-clinching victory over India in the third T20I at Taunton on Tuesday, Sciver-Brunt is on track to play as a batter in warm-up games against Australia on June 8 and India on June 10. She is also expected to play in a batting role for the start of the World Cup, but hasn't given up on bowling later in the tournament if required.

"There's no sort of pressure to be an all-rounder at this stage," Sciver-Brunt told ESPNcricinfo. "We've got a very balanced bowling attack that is covering a lot of bases, so there's not any pressure for me to bowl in the tournament."

"But from a personal point of view, I'd like to be available to bowl a bit later on. There's two warm-up games into the first match, which is three games over five days, so it'd be stupid of me to try and do everything all at once. Everything has gone to plan so far and all the sessions that I've done have been pain-free."

Sciver-Brunt's readiness will come as a relief to England, for on-field reasons as well as off. On Wednesday, she joined Lauren Bell and Sophia Dunkley in promoting a 17.6m by 44.6m display in London's Piccadilly Lights. The display made them the first England cricketers, male or female, to appear on London's Piccadilly Lights as part of the This Feels Different campaign by the ECB and Metro Bank, aimed at encouraging girls to play cricket.

But the fact her team were able, in her absence, to secure 2-1 T20I series wins against defending champions New Zealand and leading contenders India without her was also encouraging.

That's not least because the practicalities of building up Sciver-Brunt's bowling workloads in-tournament are, by her own admission, "not easy to predict" and a "day-by-day" prospect.

Bell has led the seam-bowling to great effect in her absence, particularly taking by wickets in the powerplay, which became a focus after last year's 50-over World Cup.

"When I came back from the World Cup in India, I looked at my game and highlighted the powerplay," Bell told ESPNcricinfo. "As an area as, I'm in the team to take powerplay wickets, I probably wasn't delivering on that."

## Wagila Premier League 2026

# Affarwat-XI Crush Rising Star by 8 Wickets

■ HT SPORTS DESK

**BARAMULLA:** Affarwat-XI Sports Club Baramulla registered a commanding 8-wicket victory over Rising Star Faqirbagh in a one-sided contest.

Batting first, Rising Star Faqirbagh posted 152/8 in their allotted 18 overs. Momin Khan top-scored with a brisk 33 off 21 balls, while Firdous Abbasi contributed a quickfire 26 off just 11 deliveries.

For Affarwat-XI, Ishfaq Wani and Ishfaq Mir claimed two wickets each, while Lone Moeid, Tahir Nabi, and Saqlain Mehranj chipped in with one wicket apiece.

In reply, Affarwat-XI Sports Club Baramulla chased down the target comfortably in just 13.2 overs, losing only two wickets. Shahid Bashir starred with a magnificent 84 runs off 43 balls, while Sajid Rather provided excellent support with 47 runs.

For his outstanding match-winning innings, Shahid Bashir was adjudged Player of the Match.



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