

Srinagar
 Sunday
 June 07 | 2026
 21 Dhu'l-Hijjah, 1447 AH
 Issue No: 136
 Volume: 16
 Pages: 08
 Price: Rs 02/-

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No Safe Haven for Narco-Terrorists, Networks Being Dismantled: LG Sinha

Drug-Free Campaign Reaches 19th District as LG Vows Relentless Action Against Smugglers

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 6: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday declared that Jammu and Kashmir's fight against drugs and narco-terrorism has entered a decisive phase, asserting that security agencies are targeting every link in the illicit drug network and leaving no room for smugglers, peddlers, or terror financiers to operate.

Addressing a public gathering in Kishtwar during the ongoing Drug-Free Jammu and Kashmir Campaign, Sinha said the administration remains firmly committed to eliminating the drug menace and protecting the

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LG pays obeisance at Ancient Shri Gauri Shankar Mandir in Kishtwar

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 6: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today paid obeisance at the ancient Shri Gauri Shankar Mandir, at Sarkoot, Kishtwar. He prayed for peace and prosperity of J&K UT and well-being of one and all.

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Measures To Further Boost Economic Growth Discussed Amid Global Turmoil: PM Modi

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting with members of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), focusing on measures to further accelerate India's economic growth amid growing global uncertainties and geopolitical tensions.

According to official sources, the meeting reviewed a range of policy ideas and strategies aimed at sustaining economic momentum and strengthening India's resilience in a challenging international environment. The discussions also covered the potential impact of the ongoing conflict in West Asia on India and the global economy.

Members of the EAC-PM presented their assessment of emerging economic risks and opportunities, while highlighting reforms that could support growth, investment and job creation. Improving ease of living and ease of doing business remained a key focus of the deliberations.

The Prime Minister and council members explored initiatives designed to enhance economic competitiveness, streamline governance



and create a more conducive environment for businesses and citizens alike.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretaries to the Prime Minister, P K Mishra and Shaktikanta Das, along with members of the advisory council.

The EAC-PM is an independent body that advises the Government on economic and

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Govt Fully Committed to Safeguarding Teachers' Interests: Sakina Itoo

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has filed a review petition before the Supreme Court seeking reconsideration of its order mandating the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for all in-service teachers of pri-



mary and upper primary classes, Education Minister Sakina Itoo said on Saturday.

Announcing the development, Itoo said the government had fulfilled its

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PM Nominates Ladakh LG To Lead Delegation Bringing Buddha Relics Back To India

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH/JAMMU, JUNE 6: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena will lead an Indian delegation to bring back the sacred relics of two eminent disciples of Lord Buddha from Mongolia following the conclusion of a 10-day exposition in the East Asian nation.

Officials said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has nominated Saxena to head the delegation accompanying the revered relics

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Ladakh Records Over 43% Rise In Tourist Arrivals In 2026, May Sees Over 121% Growth: LG

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH/JAMMU, JUN 6: Ladakh has witnessed a historic surge in tourist arrivals this year, recording a growth of more than 43 per cent during the first five months of 2026, a development that authorities

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Railways Order Detailed Inquiry After Katra-Bound Coach Suffers Structural Failure

No Injuries Reported as Damaged Coach Is Replaced and Train Continues Journey

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LUDHIANA, JUNE 6: The Railways has ordered a detailed inquiry after a sleeper coach of the Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Special train developed a crack and partially separated shortly after departing from Ludhiana railway station on Saturday, causing panic among passengers but leaving all occupants unharmed.

Officials said the S-2 coach suffered a structural

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Global tensions may impact LPG supply chain: Minister Satish Sharma

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

JAMMU, JUN 06: Minister for Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma on Saturday said that although the Union Territory presently has adequate LPG stocks, but rising geopolitical tensions and global uncertainty could impact fuel supply chains and markets in the coming days.

Talking to reporters here, Minis-

ter Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the government is keeping a close watch on the situation and assured the public that there is no immediate shortage of LPG.

"We currently have sufficient LPG stocks, but we must not ignore the fact that global conditions are not good. Geopolitical tensions will have an impact," the Minister said.

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UNSC Membership Not A Forum For Peddling False Narratives: India

India Refutes Pakistan Claims At UN Over Kashmir Remarks, Reaffirms J&K As Integral Part

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

UNITED NATIONS, JUN 6: India on Friday delivered a strong response to Pakistan at the United Nations, asserting that membership of the UN Security Council (UNSC) carries significant responsibility and should not be used to advance "biased and false narratives" on issues internal to other countries.

India's Permanent Representa-



tive to the United Nations, Parvathaneni Harish, made the remarks after Pakistan's envoy, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, referred to Jammu and Kashmir during a debate in the UN General Assembly on the Security Council's annual report.

Responding to the comments, Harish described Pakistan's reference to Jammu and Kashmir as unwarranted and said the issue

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CS reviews progress of health sector reforms in J&K

Calls for expansion of trauma, emergency and critical care services across health institutions

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the Health Sector Reforms being

implemented across Jammu and Kashmir over the past couple of years.

The meeting examined reforms aimed at strengthening tertiary and secondary healthcare services, expanding medical education, enhancing digital health infrastruc-

ture and improving access to specialized treatment facilities across the healthcare facilities of the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education was attended by Direc-

tor, SKIMS; MD, NHM; CEO, SHA; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director Health, Kashmir/Jammu representatives from AIIMS Jammu, SMVDIME and other senior officers associated with the

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Lavender Gave Bhaderwah National Identity: Dr Jitendra

HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH, JUN 6: "Lavender has given the small town of Bhaderwah a national identity and a national role in India's economic growth. What was once considered a remote hill town has today emerged as a beacon of India's rural StartUp movement".

These statements were made by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, and Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh who inaugurated the 2-day 4th Lavender Festival



2026. BCCI President Mithun Manhas, who also happens to be a son of the soil, was Guest of Honour on the occasion.

Organised by CSIR-Indian Institute

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No Safe....

region's youth from addiction and exploitation. "We are breaking the chain of the drug trade at every single link. Whether it is cross-border smugglers, peddlers, or terror financiers, there is no safe haven. Our agencies are hunting down every narco-terrorist and permanently dismantling their networks," he said.

The campaign, which has now covered 19 districts across the Union Territory, has witnessed participation from citizens, community leaders, youth groups, and civil society organizations, reflecting growing public support for a drug-free society.

The Lieutenant Governor said the initiative seeks to build a strong grassroots movement against drug abuse while simultaneously addressing the security challenges posed by narco-terrorism. He noted that people from all sections of society have joined the campaign over the past several weeks, helping raise awareness and support affected families.

Reaffirming the administration's resolve, Sinha said that for nearly two months efforts have remained focused on identifying and eliminating drug traffickers and those financing unlawful activities through narcotics.

He emphasized that while individuals battling addiction would continue to receive rehabilitation and support, those engaged in drug trafficking and related criminal activities would face stringent action under the law.

Describing the campaign as the beginning of a long-term effort, the Lieutenant Governor said the challenge requires sustained commitment and cooperation from government agencies, educational institutions, community organizations, and the public.

Calling for collective action, he stressed that teachers, local representatives, women's groups, religious leaders, and civil society members have a vital role in preventing drug abuse and safeguarding young people.

Sinha said the growing public participation in the campaign demonstrates a shared determination to free Jammu and Kashmir from the threat of drugs and narco-terrorism and secure a safer future for the coming generations.

LG pays....

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor took up the demand projected by the public representatives and local residents, and instructed the District Administration to set about appropriate measures for the rejuvenation of the pond adjoining the temple.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Shri Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly, Ms. Shagun Parihar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kishtwar, Shri Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar and other senior officials during the visit.

Measures To.....

related issues. It is currently chaired by SMahendra Dev and comprises full-time and part-time members drawn from diverse fields, including economics, finance, academia and public policy.

The council's mandate includes examining issues of macroeconomic importance, analysing matters referred to it by the Prime Minister and providing recommendations to support informed policy decisions.

Govt Fully....

commitment to pursue the matter and remains determined to protect the interests of teachers across the Union Territory.

"The review petition has been filed before the Honourable Supreme Court. The government has consistently pursued this matter and remains fully committed to safeguarding the interests of our teachers," the minister said in a post on X.

The Supreme Court, through an order issued last year, directed all in-service teachers teaching primary and upper primary classes to qualify the TET within two years in order to continue in service. The directive has raised concerns among sections of the teaching community, prompting the government to seek a review.

Itoo noted that the administration has been actively engaged with the issue and has taken concrete steps to address the concerns of teachers. On May 30, she reiterated that the government had acted responsibly and proactively and remained committed to protecting the interests of educators.

The minister said the government had already sanctioned the filing of a review petition, following which the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs instructed its Standing Counsel to initiate the necessary legal proceedings before the apex court.

In February, the School Education Department kept in abeyance its order designating the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education and the State School Standards Authority as the nodal agencies for conducting the Teacher Eligibility Test in Jammu and Kashmir.

The review petition is expected to be closely watched by thousands of in-service teachers, as its outcome could have a significant bearing on their future service conditions.

PM Nominates....

from Ulaanbaatar to New Delhi. The Lieutenant Governor is scheduled to leave for Mongolia on Sunday and will participate in the concluding ceremony of the exposition on June 10.

Following the ceremony, the relics will be flown back to India aboard a special aircraft, marking the culmination of a spiritually significant event that drew large numbers of devotees and dignitaries in Mongolia.

The exposition is part of India's ongoing efforts to strengthen cultural and civilisational ties with Mongolia through their shared Buddhist heritage. Officials said the initiative has served as an important symbol of the enduring historical and spiritual bonds between the two countries.

The visit follows the successful exposition of the sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha in Ladakh from May 1 to May 14. The event witnessed an overwhelming public response, with more than 118,000 devotees paying their respects, making it one of the largest spiritual gatherings organised in the Union Territory.

The return of the relics is expected to further highlight India's commitment to preserving and promoting its rich Buddhist heritage while deepening cultural engagement with nations linked by centuries-old spiritual traditions.

Ladakh Records....

attributed to improved infrastructure, better connectivity and sustained efforts to promote the Union Territory as a premier tourism destination.

Known as the "cold desert", Ladakh remains one of India's most sought-after tourist destinations, famed for its dramatic landscapes, pristine lakes, ancient monasteries and adventure tourism. The region is often cut off from the rest of the country during the winter months due to heavy snowfall that blocks the Srinagar-Leh and Manali-Leh highways.

Sharing the figures on the social media platform X, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena said the region registered a remarkable increase in visitor numbers, reflecting the success of initiatives aimed at boosting tourism in the high-altitude Himalayan destination.

"Delighted to share that Ladakh has witnessed a historic surge in tourist arrivals this year, reflecting the success of our sustained efforts to position Ladakh as a premier tourism destination," the Lieutenant Governor said. According to official data, May 2026 emerged as a landmark month for tourism in Ladakh, registering an unprecedented 121.20 per cent growth with 72,834 tourist arrivals compared to 32,927 visitors during the corresponding month last year.

Between January and May 2026, Ladakh welcomed 1,17,546 tourists against 81,827 during the same period in 2025, marking a year-on-year increase of 43.65 per cent, Saxena said.

Officials said major tourist destinations, including Pangong Lake and Nubra Valley, have witnessed a sharp increase in visitor footfall. Nubra Valley, known for its sand dunes and double-humped Bactrian camels, has remained packed with tourists in recent weeks, while Pangong Lake continues to attract large numbers of visitors.

The Lieutenant Governor attributed the surge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to promote domestic tourism and the administration's efforts to strengthen infrastructure, improve connectivity and diversify tourism experiences across the region.

He said the growth in tourist arrivals has brought renewed optimism among tourism stakeholders and local businesses dependent on the sector. "I sincerely thank all tourists visiting Ladakh and invite people from across the country to experience the confluence of nature, adventure, peace, culture, spirituality, clean air and serene atmosphere in Ladakh," Saxena said.

The revival comes after a temporary setback following the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, which affected travel sentiment and led to temporary disruptions, including airspace restrictions and travel advisories by some foreign governments last year.

With the restoration of normalcy, tourists have once again started arriving in large numbers, providing relief to thousands of residents whose livelihoods depend on the tourism industry.

Officials noted that domestic tourism remains strong this year despite global uncertainties, with destinations such as Pangong Lake, Nubra Valley and Khardung La continuing to receive steady inflows. "Hotels, homestays and tour operators are functioning with high occupancy levels".

Tourism in Ladakh witnessed rapid growth after the success of the Bollywood blockbuster '3 Idiots', parts of which were filmed at Pangong Lake. Improved connectivity, including the opening of the Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh in 2020, has further enhanced year-round access to the region, they said. From recording just a few hundred visitors when it was opened to tourism in 1970, Ladakh has evolved into one of India's leading travel destinations, attracting more than five lakh tourists annually in recent years.

The boom has significantly contributed to economic growth, employment generation and the expansion of the local service sector, they said.

Railways Order....

failure near the toilet section as the train began moving out of the station. The damaged portion of the coach caved in, causing toilet fittings and related fixtures to fall onto the tracks.

Passengers described feeling a sudden and violent jolt moments after the train started moving, sparking fears of a derailment. Several passengers rushed out of the coach as railway staff and emergency teams responded to the situation.

Authorities swiftly evacuated passengers from the affected coach and detached it from the train. A replacement coach was subsequently attached, allowing the service to resume its journey to Katra with minimal delay. Ludhiana Station Director Aditya said prompt action by railway personnel ensured passenger safety and helped restore normal operations quickly.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Government Railway Police, Tejpal Singh said preliminary investigations had found no indication of sabotage.

Officials believe the incident was likely caused by a technical defect that led to the failure of the coach body during the initial movement of the train.

Railway authorities noted that the consequences could have been far more serious had the structural failure occurred while the train was travelling at high speed. The inquiry will examine the cause of the incident, including the coach's condition and maintenance records, to determine responsibility and recommend corrective measures.

Global tensions....

Sharma said statements and actions by powerful nations continue to influence global trade and energy markets.

"Today, whatever the United States does, whether Trump speaks on Friday saying 'we will attack,' or traders speculate on markets on Tuesday saying the situation is fine, this is essentially a form of trade war," he said.

The minister said such uncertainty directly affects economies and supply systems across the world, including India.

He further expressed concern over social divisions within the country, saying people remain occupied with communal and caste-based conflicts instead of understanding broader global challenges.

"We are unable to fully understand it; in some ways, we are a hundred years behind. The British left behind divisions such as Hindu-Muslim conflicts and caste divisions 80 years ago, and yet we are still fighting over them like fools. We need to move beyond these issues," Sharma said.

The Minister stressed the need for social unity and awareness in the face of changing global realities, adding that countries must remain prepared for the economic impact of international conflicts and market instability—(KNO)

UNSC Membership....

was strictly an internal matter of India. He accused Pakistan of repeatedly misusing international forums to pursue its political objectives and of circulating misleading communications during its tenure as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

"Being a member of the UN Security Council is a huge responsibility. It is not a forum for peddling biased and false narratives," Harish told the Assembly.

Reaffirming India's long-standing position, he stated that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India," adding that assertions to the contrary were baseless and inconsistent with historical facts.

The exchange took place as Pakistan, which currently holds a non-permanent seat on the Security Council, once again raised the Kashmir issue at a UN platform. Pakistan's present term on the Council is due to conclude later this year.

Harish also used the occasion to underline the need for comprehensive reform of the Security Council, arguing that the current structure reflects the geopolitical realities of 1945 rather than the contemporary world order.

He said meaningful reform must include expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership to make the Council more representative and effective in addressing global challenges.

India has consistently advocated reform of the Security Council and, along with the G4 nations—Brazil, Germany and Japan—has called for an expanded Council with broader representation.

The Security Council currently consists of five permanent members with veto powers—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States—and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. India last served on the Council as a non-permanent member during 2021-22.

CS reviews....

healthcare sector.

During the review, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the significant strides made in establishing collaborative institutional frameworks among Government Medical Colleges, SKIMS, AIIMS Jammu and other healthcare institutions for strengthening specialty and super-specialty services, capacity building, academic collaboration, research initiatives and digital healthcare delivery.

While reviewing the progress achieved under the health sector reforms programme, the Chief Secretary emphasized that every tertiary care institution in Jammu and Kashmir should strive towards establishing and strengthening critical care, trauma care and emergency medicine services, observing that these areas are among the most significant determinants of quality patient care and healthcare outcomes.

He further directed that the benefits of the reform process should not remain confined to the newly established Government Medical Colleges alone. He called for inclusion of District Hospitals and Sub-District Hospitals, particularly in those areas where no Government Medical College exists, so that healthcare upgradation reaches all regions of the Union Territory in a balanced and equitable manner. He observed that future interventions should be planned according to the strengths, requirements and service potential of each healthcare institution.

The Chief Secretary assured the department of full administrative and financial support for viable and impactful healthcare initiatives and encouraged the officers to proactively formulate innovative proposals aimed at improving patient care, medical education and healthcare delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the growing role of technology in healthcare, he directed the department to expand the ambit of Virtual Medical Boards to cover more specialties and institutions. He also called for the

introduction of Grand Rounds, virtual academic sessions and online teaching platforms in peripheral healthcare institutions to facilitate continuous professional development, strengthen specialist support and improve clinical outcomes.

The Chief Secretary further advised the department to establish a clearly defined Roles, Responsibilities and Accountability Framework across healthcare institutions so that responsibilities at every level are well delineated and measurable. He stressed the need for instituting a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Mechanism supported by information technology platforms to facilitate real-time assessment of healthcare services, patient utilization patterns and institutional performance across the Union Territory.

Calling for a forward-looking approach, the Chief Secretary directed the Health & Medical Education Department to identify measurable milestones and targets for the next six months, one year and two years in the areas of healthcare services, medical education and research.

He also emphasized the need for making concerted efforts towards enhancement of MBBS, postgraduate and super-specialty seats across medical colleges to ensure optimal utilization of the infrastructure and human resources created under the health sector reforms programme.

Regarding the expansion of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education the Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M. Raju revealed that proposals have been submitted for enhancement of 300 MBBS seats, 243 MD/MS seats, 64 DM/MCh super-specialty seats and additional DNB seats across various medical institutions. He added that several proposals have already undergone inspection and approval processes with the National Medical Commission and other regulatory bodies.

The Commissioner Secretary further apprised that Tele-MANAS and tele-psychiatry services have been made operational in major institutions, while de-addiction and mental health facilities have been significantly expanded.

He divulged that a comprehensive three-tier Substance Use Disorder (SUD) service delivery framework has also been devised to strengthen prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and community-based support systems throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

It was given out by the Director, SKIMS, Dr Ashraf Ganai that the constitution of the J&K Research Consortium has been constituted at the Institute aimed at promoting collaborative research among SKIMS, Government Medical Colleges and AIIMS Jammu. The consortium is expected to strengthen medical research, innovation and evidence-based policy formulation in the healthcare sector in the days to come, he informed.

Earlier on Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) gave a detailed presentation about several reforms executed across the healthcare facilities of the UT.

He gave out that multiple Virtual Medical Boards have already been conducted in disciplines such as Neurology, Psychiatry, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Anaesthesiology, Surgery and Community Medicine.

Moreover he apprised the meeting that the Tele-ICU facilities are proposed to be established in seven new Government Medical Colleges under a hybrid hub-and-spoke model to strengthen critical care services across the UT.

Similarly, he made out that the process for establishing Tele-Radiology services is underway to ensure timely specialist radiological support to healthcare institutions in remote and underserved areas, he added.

The Head IMHANS Srinagar, Dr Arshid Dada threw light on the roadmap for expansion and augmentation of drug de-addiction services and the efforts made towards training over 3,200 grassroots-level workers under the proposed "Circle of Care" programme. He elaborated that the initiative aims to create a community-based support network for early identification, counselling, referral and rehabilitation of individuals affected by substance use disorders.

Reviewing the initiatives undertaken in the field of food safety, the Chief Secretary was informed about strengthening of regulatory and enforcement mechanisms, expansion of laboratory infrastructure, capacity building of field staff and enhanced public awareness campaigns.

He was apprised that more than 1,700 food safety cases were adjudicated during the last financial year, resulting in penalties exceeding Rs 1.67 Cr, while significant progress has been achieved towards laboratory modernization and expansion of testing capabilities.

The meeting further deliberated upon upcoming initiatives in the areas of mental health, liver transplant services and strengthening of dental healthcare services. It was informed that collaboration with premier institutions has been initiated to establish advanced liver and biliary care services in Jammu and Kashmir and to further augment specialty healthcare delivery here in the health facilities of the UT.

Emphasizing the need for sustained

reforms, the Chief Secretary stressed that the ultimate objective of these reforms should be to provide accessible, affordable and high-quality healthcare services to every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. He underscored the importance of leveraging technology, research, capacity building and institutional collaboration to transform the healthcare landscape of the Union Territory.

Lavender....

of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, the two-day festival under the theme "Lavender Goes Global" celebrated the remarkable transformation of Bhandarwah from a traditional agrarian region into India's leading lavender cultivation and aroma entrepreneurship hub.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Jitendra Singh described Bhandarwah as one of the most successful examples of technology-led rural transformation in the country. He said the Purple Revolution has demonstrated how scientific research can be translated into sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurship in remote mountainous regions.

The Union Minister credited Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Startup India and science-driven development for the success of the Lavender Mission. He recalled that Prime Minister Modi had dedicated a significant portion of the 99th episode of Mann Ki Baat to Bhandarwah's lavender success story.

Highlighting the economic impact of the mission, he noted that several young entrepreneurs associated with lavender cultivation are earning substantial incomes through cultivation, processing and marketing of value-added products. He said Bhandarwah's model is now being studied and replicated in other Himalayan and northeastern states.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Bhandarwah and the entire Doda region have witnessed remarkable developmental progress over the last twelve years. He highlighted the ongoing work on National Highway-244, stating that improved connectivity is transforming the socio-economic landscape of the region and opening new avenues for growth and opportunities.

Dr. Jitendra Singh attributed the success of the Lavender Mission to the active involvement of scientific institutions, industry experts and capacity-building initiatives. He said that sustained handholding, technology support and global-level conferences helped expand the model to other parts of the country.

Emphasising the vision of Viksit Bharat, he said that while the nation celebrates twelve years of transformative governance, planning is already underway for the next two decades. He stressed the need to unlock the potential of unexplored regions, particularly the Himalayan belt, and said that the Aroma Mission is inherently linked to the Himalayan ecosystem and will continue to play an important role in the region's sustainable development.

In her address, Director General CSIR Dr. N. Kalaiselvi said the Purple Revolution represents one of the most impactful examples of science reaching grassroots communities. She noted that the initiative has successfully linked laboratory research with rural livelihoods and has emerged as a model for sustainable agricultural development across the country.

Professor V.K. Singh of IIT Lucknow highlighted the role of science and innovation in driving rural transformation and praised the CSIR Aroma Mission for successfully translating research into livelihood opportunities for farmers. He said the Purple Revolution stands as a model of science-led development, fostering entrepreneurship, value addition and sustainable income generation. He also emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between research institutions, industry and farmers to further strengthen India's aromatic crop sector.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Director CSIR-IIIM Dr. Zabeer Ahmed highlighted the achievements of the CSIR Aroma Mission and its transformative impact on rural communities across the country. Dr. Ahmed said that lavender cultivation under the Aroma Mission has emerged as one of the most successful examples of science-led rural development in India.

"Over the last three phases of implementation, lavender cultivation has expanded to nearly 1,500 hectares, benefiting more than 4,500 farmers and farming families," he said. "The initiative has led to the extraction of over 4,000 kilograms of high-value lavender oil and generated cumulative revenues exceeding Rs. 18 crore, significantly enhancing rural incomes and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities," he added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that what began as a modest initiative in Jammu & Kashmir has now expanded to several parts of the country, including Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and other North-Eastern states, demonstrating the scalability and adaptability of the model. The venue of the festival witnessed a display of innovation and entrepreneurship with dozens of stalls showcasing lavender oil, perfumes, cosmetics, soaps, incense products, herbal formulations, value-added aroma products, agri-technologies and startup innovations developed under the CSIR Aroma Mission.



Div Com Kashmir reviews Muharram-ul-Haram arrangements

Calls for seamless coordination among Departments, Stakeholders

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Ahead of the forthcoming Muharram-ul-Haram, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a high-level meeting of senior officers and stakeholders to review preparedness and ensure the smooth, peaceful and hassle-free observance of religious rituals and processions across the Valley.

The meeting focused on assessing civic, infrastructural, logistical and administrative arrangements required during the holy month, with special emphasis on inter-departmental coordination and sustained engagement with community representatives.

During the meeting, MLA Budgam, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, highlighted several issues requiring attention in Shia-dominated areas to facilitate mourners. He stressed the need for uninterrupted electricity and drinking water supply, macadamization and repair of roads, functioning street lighting, and adequate deployment of medical personnel at major religious venues.

Representatives of various associations and stakeholders also projected a range of requirements, including enhanced sanitation and cleanliness measures, fumigation drives, availability of firewood, ration and LPG supplies, mitigation of the stray dog menace, deployment of water tankers, streamlined permissions for religious events, comprehensive traffic management plans, identification of parking spaces, and provision of shuttle services



between parking areas and procession routes.

Emphasizing the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments to designate nodal officers and share their contact details with community representatives to ensure effective communication and prompt resolution of issues.

The Deputy Director Planning, Divisional Commissioner's Office, was designated as the Divisional-level Nodal Officer for coordination and monitoring of arrangements.

Garg instructed Deputy Commissioners to prepare detailed district-wise checklists of requirements and ensure that all

short-term issues are addressed on priority. He further directed that larger developmental concerns raised by stakeholders be incorporated into future planning frameworks.

To facilitate smooth movement of mourners and processions, the Divisional Commissioner directed the preparation of a comprehensive list of roads requiring repair and macadamization in Shia-dominated areas and instructed the concerned departments to ensure timely execution of necessary works.

The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) were directed to ensure uninterrupted water and electricity supply throughout the Muharram period. Addition-

waste collection and disposal operations.

The Health Department was directed to deploy sufficient medical teams, ambulances and emergency response units at key locations and augment manpower, particularly in Srinagar and Budgam districts, to provide timely medical assistance to mourners.

The Divisional Commissioner also called for comprehensive traffic management plans, identification of suitable parking areas, and deployment of shuttle services wherever required to facilitate smooth movement of devotees and minimize inconvenience to the general public.

To ensure the peaceful conduct of all religious events, Garg stressed the need for foolproof security arrangements through close coordination among Police, civil administration and security agencies.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to facilitating the observance of Muharram-ul-Haram, the Divisional Commissioner urged all departments to put in place the requisite arrangements well in advance and work in close coordination to ensure that all religious gatherings and processions are conducted smoothly, peacefully and with utmost convenience for devotees.

The meeting was attended by the DIG Central Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners, officers from KPDCL, PHE, R&B, Health, FCS&CA, Fire&Emergency Services, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Police, security agencies and other concerned departments.

KVK Anantnag Wins Zone-I NAAS-Dhanuka Award

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, JUNE 06: It is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction to share that Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)-Anantnag, SKUAST-Kashmir has been conferred with the prestigious NAAS-Dhanuka Award for Best Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) - Zone-I (Ludhiana) at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi.



This distinguished recognition has been awarded by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) in collaboration with Dhanuka Agritech Limited, acknowledging the outstanding contributions of KVK-Anantnag in delivering impactful, science-led agricultural extension services, promoting agri-entrepreneurship, and nurturing grassroots innovation in agriculture for sustainable rural transformation.

KVK-Anantnag has consistently worked to bridge the gap between science and the field by fostering entrepreneurship development, promoting innovative farm-based enterprises, and supporting grassroots innovators, thereby enabling farmers and rural youth to transform agriculture into a viable and sustainable livelihood option. These efforts have significantly contributed to enhancing farm productivity, strengthening value addition, and improving rural income generation systems in the region.

The award is a reflection of the sustained efforts, dedication, and professional commitment of the entire team of KVK-Anantnag, who have worked tirelessly under the visionary guidance of SKUAST-Kashmir and in close coordination with ICAR and allied stakeholders to serve the farming community with excellence.

On this proud occasion, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Director Extension, SKUAST-K, ICAR, NAAS, Dhanuka Agritech Limited, and all our partner departments, institutions, and farming communities for their continuous support, encouragement, and cooperation in achieving this milestone.

This recognition further strengthens our resolve to continue advancing innovation-led agricultural development, climate-resilient farming systems, entrepreneurship promotion, and socio-economic upliftment of farmers in Jammu & Kashmir.

Congratulations to Team KVK-Anantnag, SKUAST-K!

Make Anti-Hail Nets Easily Accessible to Orchardists in Kulgam: Ghulam Ahmad Banday

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, JUNE 6: President of the Fruit Growers and Dealers Association South Kashmir, Ghulam Ahmad Banday, has expressed serious concern over the challenges confronting the horticulture sector, stating that Kulgam's horticulture industry has been facing immense difficulties for several years due to recurring natural calamities and other challenges, resulting in losses worth crores of rupees for orchard owners annually.

In a special statement, Banday said that Kulgam, one of the major apple-producing districts of Kashmir Valley, has repeatedly been affected by hailstorms, strong winds, unseasonal rains, heavy snowfall, counterfeit chemical fertilizers and substandard pesticides. He said that among all these factors, recurring hailstorms have caused the greatest damage, inflicting irreparable losses on apple orchards and other fruit plantations.

Bhat stated that although the concerned departments conduct assessments of the losses suffered by orchards and crops every year, it is unfortunate that most affected growers have not received any compensation so far. He urged the government to formulate an effective compensation policy for orchardists affected by natural disasters so that their economic losses can be adequately addressed.

He further said that continuous natural calamities, hailstorms and changing weather patterns have pushed orchard owners in the district into severe financial distress. Many growers are struggling to repay loans obtained from banks and other financial institutions, while repeated crop losses have further weakened their economic condition. He warned that if timely assistance, compensation and effective protective measures are not provided, the problems faced by thousands of families dependent on horticulture could become even more serious.

Bhat said that to protect orchards from hailstorm-related damage, the government has introduced Anti-Hail Nets and is providing a subsidy of 75 percent on their installation. However, he noted that the scheme has not produced the desired results on the ground. According to him, a majority of orchardists in the district are still deprived of this facility, and the installation of Anti-Hail Nets remains negligible in many areas.

JKAACL releases U-Turn and Other Stories, English translation of Kashmiri short stories by Gauri Shankar Raina

JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, JUNE 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today released U-Turn and Other Stories, an English translation of a collection of Kashmiri short stories by noted writer Gauri Shankar Raina, at an impressive literary function held in the Academy's Seminar Hall, Srinagar.

The book has been translated into English by Pankaj Bhan and represents a significant effort to bring contemporary Kashmiri literature to a wider national and international readership. The event was attended by writers, artists, academics, broadcasters, translators, scholars, students and lovers of literature.

Padma Shri Prof. Shafi Shouq, eminent academic, poet, translator and literary critic, was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Prof. Yasmeen Farooq, renowned educationist and Principal of Government Women's College, M.A. Road, Srinagar, and Prof. Farooq Fayyaz, noted academic, writer and critic, were the Guests of Honour.

In his address, Prof. Shafi Shouq underscored the significance of translation as a powerful medium of cultural exchange and literary preservation. He observed that Kashmiri literature embodies a unique sensibility, emotional depth and cultural richness, and that translations such as U-Turn and Other Stories serve as bridges connecting diverse linguistic communities. He lauded both the author and the translator for ensuring that the essence of Kashmiri storytelling reaches a broader audience without compromising its authenticity.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Farooq Fayyaz described the publication as a valuable addition to the corpus of Indian literature in translation. He noted that the stories offer a nuanced portrayal of Kashmiri



society, capturing its landscapes, memories, aspirations and everyday realities through sensitive and compelling narratives. He appreciated the translator's effort in retaining the cultural flavour, rhythm and emotional cadence of the original texts while rendering them accessible to English-language readers.

The author, Gauri Shankar Raina, reflected upon his long literary journey and his engagement with the social and cultural life of Kashmir. He remarked that the stories contained in the volume emerged from lived experiences, observations and memories that continue to shape the collective consciousness of the region. Expressing gratitude to the Academy, the translator, publishers, the Niyogi Books, New Delhi, and the literary fraternity, he hoped that the book would help introduce new readers to the richness and diversity of Kashmiri literature.

The programme also featured readings from selected stories by the author, which were warmly received by the audience. The readings provided listeners with a glimpse into the narrative style, thematic concerns and humanistic vision that distinguish Raina's literary work.

Welcoming the guests and participants, Mr. Ideel Saleem (JKAS), Additional Secretary, JKAACL, out-

lined the Academy's vision of creating a vibrant literary and cultural ecosystem through active engagement with writers, artists, scholars, students and youth. He reiterated the Academy's resolve to strengthen literary activities, encourage translations and provide meaningful platforms for creative expression.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Abid Ahmad, Editor (English), JKAACL, who also presented the vote of thanks. He expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests, participants and members of the literary community for their presence and support.

Among those who attended the function were Prof. M. Zaman Azurda, Dr. Rafeeq Masoodi, Mushtaq Ali Ahmad Khan, Ahsan-ul-Haq Chishty, Nisar Naseem, Bhawani Bashir Yasir, Rashid Barki, Mushtaq Bala, Mohiuddin Reshi, Shafi Ahmad, Dildar Ashraf, Shakeel-ur-Rehman, Prof. Reyaz Rifaie, Prof. Ishaq Wani, Prof. Tariq Ahmad, besides a large number of writers, scholars, students and literary enthusiasts.

The event reflected JKAACL's continued commitment to promoting literary excellence, fostering translation activities and preserving the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir through meaningful literary initiatives.

Food Safety Team Conducts Market Inspection in Kulgam

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, JUNE 6: To ensure compliance with food safety standards and promote consumer health, the Food Safety Department on Friday conducted a market inspection and awareness drive in Kulgam town and Super Market Kulgam.

The inspection was led by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, Syed Nighat Hassan, along with the Food Safety Officer. During the drive, several medical shops in Kulgam market were inspected, and owners were sensitised about the importance of adhering to food safety regulations, proper storage practices, and maintaining prescribed standards.

The team also carried out market checking in Super Market Kulgam, where shopkeepers were educated about maintaining hygiene and sanitation in their establishments. Traders were advised to ensure cleanliness in food handling and storage areas to prevent contamination and safeguard public health.

A special awareness session was held on food labelling requirements. Shopkeepers were informed about mandatory provisions regarding the display of manufacturing and expiry dates, batch numbers, ingredient details, nutritional information, and FSSAI licence particulars on packaged food products. They were urged to refrain from selling expired or improperly labelled food items.

Speaking during the inspection, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Syed Nighat Hassan stressed the need for strict adherence to food safety norms and urged food business operators to maintain high standards of hygiene and sanitation. He said that awareness among traders is crucial for ensuring the availability of safe and quality food products to consumers.

J&K Judicial Academy begins Pre-Appointment Induction Training for newly selected Civil Judges

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: The Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy today commenced the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme for 39 newly selected Civil Judges (Junior Division) at its Srinagar campus.

The programme was inaugurated by Justice Arun Palli, Judge, Supreme Court of India, in presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and other companion Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

Delivering the inaugural address, Justice Arun Palli described the judicial service as a public trust and emphasized that trial court judges represent the face of the judiciary for most citizens.

Justice Arun Palli urged the newly selected officers to uphold the highest standards of integrity, humility and fairness, remain committed to continuous learning and strive to strengthen public confidence in the justice delivery system through their conduct and decisions.

In his special address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh congratulated the newly selected officers and emphasized that judicial service demands integrity, impartiality, discipline and compassion.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar advised the participants to remain lifelong learners, maintain the high-



est ethical standards, embrace technology responsibly, avoid overdependence on artificial intelligence and discharge their duties fearlessly and fairly in accordance with law.

In his introductory remarks, Justice Rajnesh Oswal highlighted the significance of the transition from the Bar to the Bench and described it as a momentous milestone requiring a shift from partisan advocacy to impartial adjudication.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal reminded the participants that a judge's foremost allegiance is to

the Constitution and the rule of law. He emphasized the virtues of patience, restraint, independence and continuous learning as essential attributes of a judicial officer.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar, highlighted the importance of judicial education in strengthening the justice delivery system.

He informed that the induction programme has been designed to equip the newly selected officers with the knowledge, skills and ethical foundations neces-

sary for judicial service.

Following the inaugural ceremony, the academic proceedings commenced with Session-I on "Introduction to the Training Programme Module - Background", jointly conducted by Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Sanjay Parihar, Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The session familiarized the participants with the objectives, structure and expected outcomes of the induction training programme. It provided an overview of the professional journey that lies ahead for the newly ap-

pointed judicial officers.

Session-II of the programme was conducted by Director, J&K Judicial Academy, on "Role and Ethical Expectations of a Civil Judge (Junior Division)". The session deliberated upon the ethical responsibilities of trial court judges, courtroom discipline, judicial temperament and the need to maintain dignity, impartiality and professionalism in judicial proceedings.

In the post-lunch session, Justice Bashir Ahmad Kirmani conducted the last session of the day on "Foundations of Judicial Ethics". During the session, he highlighted the significance of ethics as the foundation of both personal and professional life, emphasizing that judicial ethics constitutes the cornerstone of a judge's conduct.

Stressing the vital importance of judicial independence, Justice Bashir Kirmani observed that true independence emanates from an individual's conscience and moral integrity, enabling judges to discharge their duties impartially and without external influence. The session underscored that judicial independence is not merely a matter of personal freedom but a solemn responsibility to uphold ethical values, fairness and the rule of law in the administration of justice.

The participants actively engaged in the deliberations and discussions throughout the day. The induction training programme shall continue with a series of thematic sessions aimed at enhancing the professional competence, ethical awareness and judicial excellence among the newly selected Civil Judges (Junior Division).

Startup India, JKEDI, District Admin Kupwara organise TEJAS workshop to strengthen grassroots entrepreneurship

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JUNE 06: In a significant initiative aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in remote regions, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and District Administration Kupwara, on Saturday organised a workshop under the TEJAS (Transforming Entrepreneurial Journeys Across State & Districts) programme at Government Degree College (Boys), Kupwara. The workshop formed part of Startup India's ongoing efforts to promote inclusive entrepreneurship and strengthen grassroots innovation ecosystems across the country. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 350 aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, startup founders, students, and other stakeholders from the district. TEJAS is a flagship nationwide initiative designed to identify, nurture, and support aspiring entrepreneurs and startups from non-metro and underserved regions by facilitating access to mentorship, institutional support, resources, and market opportunities. The programme is being implemented across 132 districts of India with a focus on capacity building, ecosystem development, and expanding entrepreneurial opportunities at the grassroots level.

The workshop featured a series of expert-led sessions on entrepreneurship, innovation, startup development, government support mechanisms, funding opportunities, market access, and sector-specific business prospects. The interactive sessions provided participants with practical insights into various stages of the entrepreneurial journey, from ideation to enterprise scaling.

Additional Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Ateesh Kumar Singh, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, delivered the keynote address and shared valuable insights into the Startup India ecosystem and the support framework available for entrepreneurs across the country.

Reflecting on his visit to Kashmir, Ateesh Kumar Singh remarked, "My visit to Kashmir helped me understand that startups not only have economic value but, more importantly, they bring dignity." He elaborated on various provisions under the Startup India initiative, including startup recognition, incubation support, funding avenues, mentorship opportunities, and other institutional mechanisms available to emerging entrepreneurs. He encouraged participants to transform innovative ideas into sustainable business ventures and underscored the role of startups in driving economic growth and employment generation.

Earlier, Ateesh Kumar Singh visited exhibition stalls set up by startups supported by JKEDI under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27. During his interaction with startup founders, he assured them of continued support under the existing policy framework and appreciated their innovative ventures.

Addressing the gathering, District Development Commissioner, Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse highlighted the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in remote and border areas. Referring to the Vibrant Villages Programme and other developmental interventions, he emphasized that entrepreneurship can serve as a powerful tool for employment generation and livelihood enhancement. He lauded JKEDI for organising the workshop and reiterated the district administration's commitment to supporting youth-led innovation and enterprise development.

In his address, Director JKEDI, Mohammad Younis Malik highlighted the immense entrepreneurial potential of Kupwara despite its geographical challenges. He informed participants about various Government schemes of Central and UT of J&K, aimed at promoting self-employment and enterprise creation. He identified sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, trout farming, honey production, handicrafts, and other locally available resources as areas offering significant opportunities for value addition and startup development. Encouraging youth to become job creators, he also stressed the importance of frugal entrepreneurship and innovative "Jugaad" solutions in building sustainable enterprises.

During the technical sessions, Pratiti, Senior Manager, Startup India, delivered a detailed presentation on Startup India initiatives and schemes. She guided participants on the startup registration process and explained how entrepreneurs can access various benefits available under the national startup ecosystem.

Earlier, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Kupwara, Ashan Qadir highlighted the objectives of the workshop. Irif Lone, In-charge CIIBM, JKEDI, presented an overview of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, highlighting its key provisions, enablement measures, and achievements recorded during the previous financial year. An interactive question-and-answer session was also held, enabling participants to seek clarifications regarding benefits and opportunities available under the Startup Policy. Representing the corporate partner, Prof. Anil Sharma delivered a presentation on JK Cement Foundry and Smart Logistics, highlighting industry perspectives and emerging opportunities in the sector. The participants were also familiarised with various Startup India initiatives, enabling them to better understand the advantages of DPIIT recognition, incubation support, and access to national-level entrepreneurial platforms.

SWD Srinagar conducts Awareness Programme on Skill Development for Adolescent Girls

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Social Welfare Department (SWD)-SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar organized a programme on the integration of out-of-school adolescent girls into various skill development initiatives, aimed at empowering young girls through vocational training and enhancing their opportunities for self-reliance and socio-economic development at Mustafad, Fruitmandi Srinagar on today.

The programme was attended by officials of SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar and out of school adolescent girls from different areas of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials from SANKALP-HEW Srinagar highlighted the importance of equipping out-of-school adolescent girls with market-relevant skills to improve their employability and livelihood prospects. Emphasis was laid on identifying vulnerable and marginalized girls and facilitating their enrolment in skill development courses aligned with their interests and local employment opportunities.

The participants were sensitized about various government-sponsored skilling programmes, vocational training opportunities, and support mechanisms available for adolescent girls. Interactive sessions were also conducted to address challenges faced by out-of-school girls and to encourage their active participation in skill enhancement initiatives.

The programme forms part of the Department's continued efforts to promote inclusive development, gender empowerment, and social protection by ensuring that no adolescent girl is left behind in accessing education, training, and livelihood opportunities.

The Department reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening convergence with relevant stakeholders and expanding the reach of skilling programmes to enable adolescent girls to become confident, productive, and economically independent members of society.

Six Dumpers Among 12 Vehicles Seized in Handwara Mining Crackdown

Rs 3.4 Lakh Fine Recovered as Mining Department Tightens Noose on Illegal Extraction

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

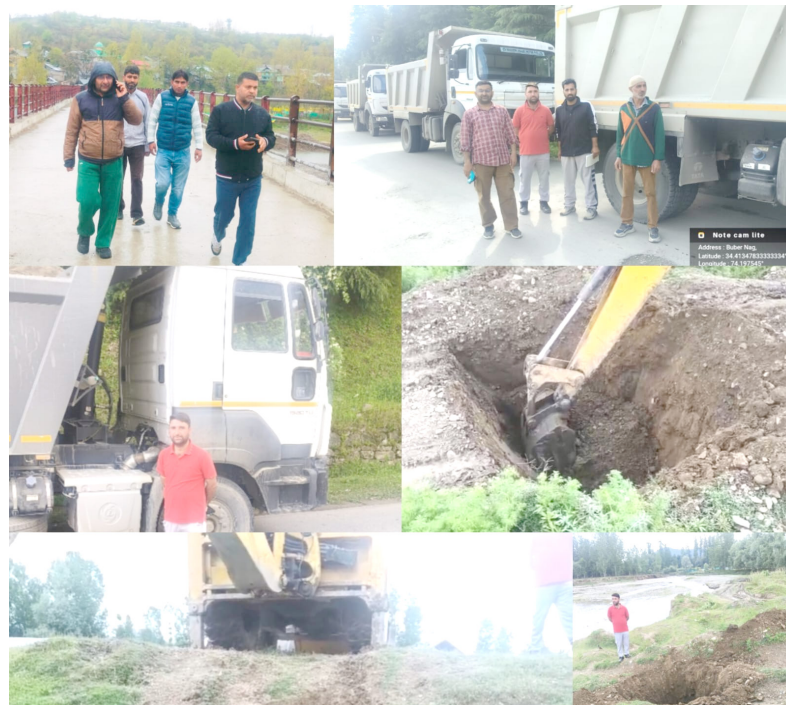
KUPWARA, JUN 06: In a significant crackdown on illegal mining and unauthorized transportation of minerals, the Geology and Mining Department Kupwara seized 12 vehicles during a special enforcement drive conducted across the Handwara subdivision over the past two days.

Speaking to Headlines Today, the Area Incharge Officer said that the drive was launched on the directions of the District Mineral Officer (DMO) Kupwara to curb illegal mining activities in the region.

"Despite limited manpower, our team is working round the clock to prevent illegal extraction and transportation of minerals across the Handwara subdivision," the officer said.

During the operation, officials seized four tractors, two tippers and six dumpers from different locations. Six dumpers were confiscated on the Bangus Road for allegedly transporting minerals in violation of mining regulations. The department also recovered Rs 3,40,477 as penalties from the vehicle owners for violating mining laws and transportation norms.

District Mineral Officer Kupwara said the action forms part of an ongoing campaign aimed at curbing unlawful mining activities and ensuring strict compliance with environmental and mining regulations. He added that all seized vehicles have been taken into custody and further



legal proceedings are underway.

"I am satisfied with the dedication shown by our field staff, who are doing an excellent job in tackling illegal mining activities in Langate and Handwara despite manpower constraints," the DMO said. He appealed to the general public to cooperate with the department in protecting the environment and safeguarding the district's water resources, which he described as the lifelines of Kupwara. As part of the drive, the enforcement team also blocked several unauthorized routes near Nallah Talri in

the Chalpora area of Rajwar, where illegal extraction activities had reportedly been taking place for the past few days.

The DMO warned individuals involved in illegal mining that strict action would be taken under the provisions of the Mining Act against anyone found violating the law. The department reiterated its commitment to continue regular inspections and enforcement drives to prevent illegal mining and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources in the district.

DC Bandipora Visits Army Goodwill School, Lauds Students' Presentation of National Anthem, National Song at NMBA Padyatra

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 6: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday visited Army Goodwill School Bandipora, where she inter-

acted with students and teachers and appreciated their participation in the recently held district-level Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) Padyatra, led by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, Shri Manoj Sinha.

The Deputy Commissioner lauded the students for their enthusiastic participation and their impressive presentation of the National Anthem and National Song during the Padyatra. She said the students

added a special spirit to the event through their confident performance, which drew wide appreciation.

As a gesture of recognition, the Deputy Commissioner presented an Appreciation Certifi-

cate to the school for its contribution to the successful conduct of the programme, and congratulated the students, teachers, and school administration for their collective efforts and commitment.

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani

Directs departments to ensure comprehensive facilities for Devotees

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Ahead of the annual Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess preparedness and ensure seamless arrangements for devotees visiting the revered shrine at Tulmulla, Ganderbal, as well as other prominent temple sites at Tikker (Kupwara), Manzgam and Devsar (Kulgam), and Logripora (Anantnag).

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Kupwara, Kulgam and Anantnag, along with senior officers from the Health Department, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), Public Health Engineering (PHE), Tourism, Transport, Fire & Emergency Services, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Jammu & Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKSRTC), Relief and Rehabilitation Department, and Police.

Representatives of various Kashmiri Pandit organizations, including Soan Kashmir Front and Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra Welfare Society, also participated in the meeting and shared their suggestions regarding the conduct of the

annual festival.

During the meeting, representatives briefed the Divisional Commissioner about the schedule of religious events and highlighted requirements relating to transportation, accommodation, tentage, mobile toilet facilities, blankets, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, sanitation and illumination of temple premises.

Reviewing the preparedness of all departments, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential services, including safe drinking water, reliable electricity, adequate transport facilities and medical aid for devotees.

He emphasized the importance of special cleanliness drives and directed the concerned departments to undertake desilting of the canal flowing through the Tulmulla temple complex to enhance the overall ambience and provide a clean, aesthetically pleasing and spiritually enriching environment for devotees.

The Divisional Commissioner instructed Srinagar Municipal Corporation to deploy adequate mobile toilet facilities at the shrine and directed the executing agencies to expedite all ongoing works at Tulmulla well before the commencement of the mela.



Highlighting the expected influx of devotees from Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country, he stressed the need for close coordination among all departments to facilitate smooth movement of buses and ensure timely arrival of pilgrims at their destinations.

He further directed all concerned agencies to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness, sanitation and public convenience at Tulmulla and other shrine locations that witness the participation of thousands of Kashmiri Pandit devotees during the festival.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), Dr. Arvind Karwani, along with members of various temple committees, joined the meeting virtually from Jammu.

They reviewed the preparations being made for the annual festival, expressed their readiness to facilitate the pilgrimage, and shared valuable feedback and suggestions aimed at ensuring comprehensive arrangements and a seamless experience for devotees visiting the shrines.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal was instructed to ensure effective coordination among all stakeholders and oversee the provision of requisite facilities at the temple complex and designated accommodation sites.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Ganderbal, was directed to put in place comprehensive and foolproof security arrangements to ensure a safe, peaceful and hassle-free pilgrimage for all devotees.

The Divisional Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment to facilitating the smooth conduct of the annual festival and called upon all departments to work in close coordination to ensure that devotees are provided with all necessary amenities and a comfortable pilgrimage experience.

DC Kulgam presides over Awareness Programme on Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Block Pahloo

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 06: As part of the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan, a farmers' awareness and outreach programme was organized today at Block Pahloo in District Kulgam. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers representing various villages of the block. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, presided over the event as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, the DC underscored the importance of protecting agricultural land and adopting scientific farming practices to ensure sustainable agricultural development and food security. He emphasized the need for collective efforts to preserve cultivable land, prevent its conversion, and enhance agricultural productivity for the welfare and prosperity of the farming community.

During the programme, officers of the Agriculture Department sensitized farmers about the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, including the protection of agricultural land from degradation, promotion of sustainable farming practices, efficient utilization of natural resources, and adoption of modern agricultural technologies. Farmers were also encouraged to avail themselves of various government schemes and programmes aimed at enhancing farm productivity and income.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Agriculture Officer reiterated the department's commitment to providing technical guidance and necessary support to farmers for increasing agricultural production and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the farming sector. The programme concluded with an interactive session during which farmers shared their experiences, concerns, and suggestions regarding agricultural development in the area. The programme was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam, District Agriculture Officer Kulgam, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Qaimoh, Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) Kilam, field functionaries of the Agriculture Department, and a large number of progressive farmers from different villages of Block Pahloo.

Karnah Admin marks World Environment Day with Awareness, Plantation Activities

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JUNE 06: In a significant step towards promoting environmental consciousness, the Sub-Divisional Administration Karnah today commemorated World Environment Day by organising an awareness-cum-plantation programme at Tar Behak in collaboration with the Forest Department.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, officials, and members of the local community, reflecting a collective commitment towards protecting the environment and preserving natural resources for future generations.

On the occasion, participants took part in a plantation drive at the Forest Department premises, where various saplings were planted to encourage afforestation and enhance green cover in the region.

Addressing the gathering, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Karnah (SDM), Raiyaz Ahmad highlighted the importance of environmental preservation and stressed the need for adopting sustainable practices in daily life. He urged people, especially the younger generation, to become active stakeholders in safeguarding the ecological balance.

Officials of the Forest Department spoke about the growing importance of forest conservation, climate awareness, and biodiversity protection, while encouraging greater public involvement in environmental initiatives.

A pledge on environmental responsibility was also administered, wherein participants resolved to contribute towards pollution control, conservation of water and forests, and promotion of a clean and green environment.

CPCO Amit Sharma visits Baramulla; Interacts with Officers, Enumerators, Supervisors Urges Field Staff to ensure Accuracy, Transparency, Complete Coverage

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 06: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO)/ Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, along with Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Baramulla SF Hamid, today chaired a review meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla 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 2027 exercise.

At the outset, Officers briefed the Chair on the district's preparedness for Census 2027 and the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the ongoing House Listing Operations. The meeting was informed about the training programmes conducted for enumerators and supervisors and the overall readiness of the district administration for the Census exercise.

Principal Census Officer, 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 towards ensuring comprehensive coverage and quality data collection during the enumeration process.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on ensuring complete coverage of all households, including remote and difficult areas, and on 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 stressed the importance of effective coordination among census functionaries, timely and accurate data collection, and strict adherence to census guidelines to ensure the success of the enumeration process.

Amit Sharma directed all concerned officers to extend full



support to census personnel and take necessary measures for the smooth conduct of House Listing and Housing Census activities throughout the district.

The CPCO further informed that for any query or clarification related to Census 2027, citizens can contact the dedicated toll-free helpline number 1855. He appealed to the public to remain vigilant against fraudulent calls, messages, or individuals falsely claiming association with the Census exercise and cautioned

people against sharing personal, financial, banking, or OTP-related information with anyone in the name of Census.

He clarified that the Census process is simple and transparent, and citizens are only required to answer the prescribed 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 planning across the country.

Joint Chief Principal Census Officer, Arun Kumar, also briefed the participants on the monitoring framework for field operations and emphasized the importance of real-time tracking and supervision of data collection activities.

Later, CPCO Amit Sharma also interacted with enumerators and supervisors and held a question-and-answer session regarding various aspects of the Census exercise. He addressed their queries and emphasized the importance of maintaining accuracy, transparency and professionalism during field operations.

Among others, District Census Officer Baramulla (ADC), Assistant Chief Principal Census Officer, Nodal Officer Census Baramulla (CPO) and other concerned officers and officials participated in the meeting.

CPCO briefs Media on Census 2027 during Baramulla Visit Focus on Public Participation, Awareness, Accurate data collection

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 06: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO), Amit Sharma who is also Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, today addressed a press conference at Dak Bungalow Baramulla regarding the Census of India 2027.

During the press conference, the CPCO highlighted the significance of the Census as the largest administrative and statistical exercise in the country and emphasized its vital role in planning, governance and socio-economic development.

He briefed media representatives about the objectives, methodology and key features of Census 2027.

He informed that the Census will be conducted in a system-



atic and scientific manner through designated enumerators and supervisors. He explained various aspects of the enumeration process, including household listing, collection of demographic and socio-economic data, use of digital technology and measures being adopted to ensure accuracy, transparency and confidentiality of information collected

during the exercise. 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.

The CPCO appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to census officials and provide accurate information during the

enumeration process. He stated that active public participation is essential for generating reliable data that forms the foundation for informed policymaking and development planning.

Emphasizing the role of the media, he urged media persons to create widespread awareness about Census 2027 through their respective platforms and ensure dissemination of authentic information among the public to encourage maximum participation in this important national exercise.

The Chief Principal Census Officer was accompanied by Arun Kumar, Joint Principal Census Officer, Vijay Kumar, Assistant Chief Principal Census Officer, District Census Officer, Baramulla and Chief Planning Officer, (Nodal officer Census Officer), Baramulla were also present on the occasion.

65 Persons with Disabilities in Baramulla receive Free Assistive Devices Worth 7.78 Lakh under J&K Bank CSR initiative

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 06: A distribution camp for the free distribution of aids and assistive devices among identified Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) was organized today at Dak Bungalow Baramulla under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of J&K Bank.

The camp was organized by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Mohali Unit, under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, in collaboration with the District Administration Baramulla and the Social Welfare Department. MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Baig and MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone attended the programme along with Chief Manager J&K Bank, Basharat Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer Baramulla, Sajad Ahmad Bhat, TSWO Rafiabad Bharat Bhushan, TSWO

Baramulla, Tanveer Kaur, and officials from ALIMCO. A total of 65 pre-identified beneficiaries from Baramulla received 102 aids and assistive devices worth approximately 7.78 lakh. The beneficiaries had been identified and registered during a special assessment camp conducted by ALIMCO in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department Baramulla in June 2025. The devices distributed included 8 motorized tricycles, 10 tricycles, 11 wheelchairs, 3 wheelchairs with commode, 24 hearing aids, 9 walking sticks, 6 crutches, 2 rollers, 6 Sugama canes, 3 smartphones, 10 knee braces, 3 LS belts, and 6 calipers.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted the importance of such initiatives in enhancing mobility, accessibility, and independence for persons with disabilities. They appreciated the efforts of J&K Bank, ALIMCO, and the Social Welfare Department in extending support to PwDs and promoting their inclusion and empowerment.

HT EDITORIAL

Dismantling the Economics of Drug Trafficking in J&K

The attachment of properties worth nearly Rs. 3.5 crore by Srinagar Police under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act marks a significant development in Jammu and Kashmir's ongoing campaign against drug trafficking. More than a routine enforcement measure, it reflects a strategic approach that seeks to weaken the financial foundations of the narcotics trade and reinforce the broader objective of building a drug-free society.

The drug menace remains one of the most pressing social challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir. Its impact extends beyond individual addiction, affecting families, educational institutions, communities and the overall social fabric. The consequences are particularly severe for young people, whose futures can be irreparably damaged by substance abuse. Addressing this challenge, therefore, requires not only determined policing but also a comprehensive and sustained societal response.

The latest action by the police is noteworthy because it strikes at the economic incentives that drive criminal activity. Drug trafficking is fundamentally a profit-oriented enterprise. As long as illegal earnings can be converted into assets and wealth, criminal networks retain the ability to survive, expand and recruit. By identifying and attaching properties allegedly acquired through proceeds of the drug trade, law enforcement agencies are sending a clear message that illicit gains will not be permitted to translate into economic power or social influence.

This approach aligns with the broader objectives of the "Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan," which has gathered considerable momentum under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor's administration and with the support of the elected government. The campaign reflects a recognition that the fight against narcotics must be pursued through a combination of strict enforcement, public awareness, preventive interventions and rehabilitation initiatives.

Encouragingly, the anti-drug drive in Jammu and Kashmir has increasingly adopted a multi-dimensional character. Alongside seizures and arrests, authorities have intensified efforts to track financial transactions, attach illegally acquired assets, conduct awareness programmes and strengthen rehabilitation mechanisms. Such measures indicate an understanding that long-term success requires addressing both the supply and demand sides of the problem.

Yet no campaign, however determined, can succeed without public participation. Families, educational institutions, community leaders and civil society organisations all have a crucial role to play in identifying risks, supporting prevention efforts and encouraging those struggling with addiction to seek help. Public cooperation with law enforcement agencies can significantly enhance the effectiveness of ongoing initiatives and help create an environment that is less vulnerable to the influence of drug networks.

At the same time, a balanced approach remains essential. While traffickers and those who profit from the narcotics trade must face the full force of the law, individuals affected by addiction require treatment, counselling and opportunities for recovery. Sustainable progress lies in combining accountability with rehabilitation and enforcement with social support.

The attachment of these properties in Srinagar should therefore be viewed as part of a larger and more consequential effort. It underscores the principle that combating drug trafficking requires more than intercepting contraband; it demands the systematic disruption of the financial structures that sustain the trade. By targeting illicit assets, the authorities are attacking the problem at its source.

The path towards a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir will undoubtedly be challenging. However, initiatives that focus on dismantling the economic underpinnings of narcotics trafficking represent an important step in that direction. If pursued consistently and supported by society at large, such measures can contribute significantly to safeguarding the future of the region's youth and strengthening the foundations of a healthier and more secure society.

Plantation and Its Miracles



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

World Environment Day is celebrated with enthusiasm and fervour across the globe every year on 5th June. Various stakeholders and educational institutions organize rallies and awareness programmes to encourage people not to pollute natural resources. Citizens are urged to keep their surroundings clean and to act responsibly towards the environment.

■ Planting Trees Can Beautify the Heart of Srinagar

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

In the modern era, we have effective communication tools that facilitate the exchange of business ideas from one corner of the world to another. Most trade-related activities are now conducted through virtual platforms such as email, WhatsApp, and video conferencing. For the progress of any country, development is crucial and plays a significant role in strengthening the economy. The development of roads, transport systems, trade and commerce, and the proper management of cities, while keeping environmental concerns in mind, are all essential aspects of sustainable development. The government has established



various departments to address environmental issues and issue guidelines from time to time to safeguard the environment. Development does not merely mean the construction of tunnels, large buildings, railway tracks, wide roads, or dams. It must go hand in hand with environmental protection. The development of any country requires proper planning, effective management, and coordination among different agencies while keeping environmental concerns at the forefront.

In this article, I would like to highlight the importance of planting trees in cities and major business hubs where there is heavy traffic movement. Day by day, our needs are increasing, and the rising volume of traffic contributes significantly to environmental pollution. Factories and industries also release pollutants into the air, water, and soil. Such activities cannot be stopped overnight; therefore, the most practical solution is to minimize

environmental damage through active participation in conservation efforts and sustainable practices.

The environment plays a vital role in our lives. It includes plants, water bodies, animals, birds, air, soil, and other natural elements. While development in the form of roads, bridges, buildings, railway tracks, airports, factories, industries, and hydroelectric projects is necessary, it can also negatively affect the environment if not managed responsibly.

One major cause of environmental degradation is the cutting down of trees during road widening and railway construction projects. This leads to soil erosion—the removal of the fertile top layer of soil. Soil erosion reduces soil fertility and increases the risk of flash floods, landslides, and other environmental hazards.

■ How to Maintain Temperature in Cities

Cities are important economic and commercial hubs that contribute significantly to the development of a country, state, union territory, or district. However, temperatures in cities often rise due to emissions from vehicles and industries. Greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere contribute to global warming and increase temperatures, especially in areas with heavy traffic movement.

Effective city management is therefore essential. While planning urban development, authorities must prioritize environmental protection, water conservation, improved air quality, and efficient drainage systems. These factors should be carefully considered during road widening, sewage installation, and waste management projects.

Planting more trees can significantly help lower urban temperatures, improve air quality, and enhance the beauty of cities. Trees act as natural air purifiers and provide shade, reducing the urban heat island effect. In addition, eco-friendly transportation options should be promoted. The use of e-rickshaws, electric vehicles, and public transport can further reduce pollution and support sustainable urban development.

■ Conclusion

Planting trees is one of the most effective and sustainable ways to beautify the heart of Srinagar while protecting the environment. Trees improve air quality, reduce temperatures, prevent soil erosion, and create healthier living spaces for future generations. It is a shared responsibility of both the government and citizens to ensure that development is balanced with environmental conservation. Only through collective efforts can we achieve sustainable growth and leave behind a greener, cleaner, and more prosperous world.

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The Farewell That Moved a Nation



■ M S NAZKI

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Emotions happen to be one of them!.....! The emotion that can break your heart is sometimes the very one that heals it.....! Commandant Archit Goswami!

Pity those who don't feel anything at all.....! Don't be ashamed to weep; 'tis right to grieve. Tears are only water, and flowers, trees, and fruit cannot grow without water. But there must be sunlight also. A wounded heart will heal in time, and when it does, the memory and love of our lost ones is sealed inside to comfort us.....!

The world is a tragedy to those who feel, but a comedy to those who think.....! I will start this one with two stories:

A silent understanding and unshakeable belief define the deepest teacher-student bonds.

Often, a single moment of empathy completely rewrites a student's trajectory, proving that the most profound lessons extend far beyond traditional academics.

The Hidden Burden: Elena was a dedicated high school literature teacher, always energetic and focused on her curriculum. However, her perspective completely changed the day she noticed Leo.

Leo was one of her brightest students, but over the course of a few months, he had become withdrawn, frequently missed assignments, and often fell asleep at his desk.

Frustrated by his sudden academic drop, Elena handed back his midterm with a red (42%) and a short, clipped note: "I expected much better from you."

"She expected Leo to come to her for extra credit or an apology. Instead, he simply looked at the paper, his eyes welling up with tears, and hurriedly packed his bag before rushing out of the classroom."

Breaking Through the Wall Later that afternoon, Elena went to the school library and found Leo sitting alone in the back, staring blankly at his notebook. She pulled up a chair and asked softly, "Leo, what's going on? This isn't like you."

"At first, Leo remained quiet, keeping his eyes locked on the table. But gradually, the wall broke down. He confessed that his parents were going through a highly contested divorce, and he was working late shifts at a local grocery store to help his mother pay the bills.

He was sleeping maybe three hours a night, terrified that his family was falling apart, and too proud to ask for help.

Elena didn't try to fix his life or change the circumstances of his home. Instead, she just listened. She put a hand on his shoulder and simply said, "You don't have to carry this completely on your own."

Let's adjust your deadlines, and you will always have a safe space here.

"A Lasting Legacy: That single conversation changed everything. With Elena's quiet support and accommodations, Leo managed to catch up on his work while navigating his family's crisis."

He graduated at the top of his class and went on to study education at a local university.

Years later, Elena was grading papers in her classroom when a familiar face appeared at the door. Leo was now a teacher himself, returning to share that he had just accepted his first full-time English teaching position.

He handed Elena a small, wrapped gift. Inside was the very same (42%) midterm, carefully framed. "You didn't just teach me literature that year, Mrs. Vance," Leo smiled. "You taught me how to actually see the people sitting in front of me."

The second one: Set against the lush, rain-soaked backdrop of a remote village in Assam, this is a heart-warming story of resilience, mentorship, and a bond that bridges cultural divides.

It is a tale about how one dedicated educator changed the trajectory of a young girl's life by introducing her to the wider world.

In a small, flood-prone district near Majuli, resources were scarce. For young Meena, getting to school meant a tedious walk and a rickety boat ride across the Brahmaputra River.

By the time she reached the eighth grade, the burden of household chores and the looming pressure of an early marriage nearly forced her to drop out.

She sat in the back of the classroom—silent, unmotivated, and convinced that her life was destined to be confined to the weaving loom. Enter Mr. Sharma, a passionate science teacher from mainland India who had recently relocated to the Northeast.

He noticed Meena's sparkling, albeit weary, eyes. Sensing her hidden potential, he didn't just teach her the curriculum; he taught her to dream.

Mr. Sharma began staying back after school to teach her the basics of computer literacy using his own laptop. He used the local flora and fauna of the Brahmaputra valley to make science and ecology fascinating, showing Meena that her own backyard held marvels worthy of global study.

When Meena's parents eventually announced their decision to pull her out of school for marriage, Mr. Sharma did the unthinkable.

He walked for two hours through the mud and slush to meet her parents in their stilt house. He didn't just plead with them; he presented a clear, actionable

vision for her future, offering to sponsor her higher secondary education and personally help her apply for state scholarships.

He spoke of the world-class education available at Cotton University in Guwahati, showing the family how her unique perspective could shape their community.

His unwavering belief in her shattered the generational barriers of the village.

Meena's parents, moved by the teacher's genuine respect and commitment to their daughter's future, relented.

Today, Meena is the first girl from her village to pursue a master's degree in Environmental Science. The bond she shares with Mr. Sharma remains unbreakable; he isn't just her former teacher, but a lifelong mentor and family figure. It is a beautiful testament to the profound, life-altering impact a teacher from any background can have when they see a student not as they are, but as who they can become. For a look at the real-life bonds and emotional moments often shared between teachers and students across schools in the Northeast, such as this viral farewell from Assam! He Served Like a Guardian": Emotional Farewell as Special School Students Bid Adieu to Assam Rifles Commandant Col Archit Goswami (SM)!

A Shalom Mizoram is a major social service organization and NGO based in Zarkawt, Aizawl, highly regarded for its grassroots work in addiction rehabilitation, HIV/AIDS intervention, and community welfare. Mizoram itself is famous for its lush, rolling blue hills, rich biodiversity, and deep-rooted cultural traditions.

Social Outreach: Shalom Mizoram plays a pivotal role in the state's social fabric by running drug rehabilitation programs and providing care and support for vulnerable groups affected by substance abuse and HIV.

Scenic Landscapes: Mizoram is renowned for its breathtaking mountainous geography, scenic lakes like Tam Dil, and cascading waterfalls.

Cultural Heritage: The state is famous for its exquisite hand-woven textiles and vibrant traditional festivals like Chapchar Kut. Community Spirit: It is known for its strong community-driven society, high literacy rate, and peaceful atmosphere.

The moment we cry in a film is not when things are sad but when they turn out to be more beautiful than we expected them to be!.....!

In early May 2026, a video quietly broke the internet not because of explosions or action sequences, but because of something far more powerful: tears. Special needs students at Serchhip's Shalom Special School (Vohbik School) in Mizoram, many of whom struggle to articulate words, were seen weeping uncontrollably, clinging to a man in uniform as he prepared to leave. Teachers wept. Parents wept. The man in fatigues — visibly moved — embraced each of them.

HT SUNDAY-GOSSIP

Tracing Numbers



■ **USUF MIR**

The capital city was at its busiest, doing what great cities do at noon. The sun shone brightly overhead, spreading both warmth and glare across the crowded streets. Pedestrians hurried along the pavements while vehicles pushed through the traffic with restless urgency. Horns blared, buses exhaled tired clouds of smoke, and people crossed roads with practiced impatience. Nearby stood one of the nation's most renowned medical institutions, drawing an endless stream of visitors from every corner of the country.

Amid that constant movement stood a small tent. It attracted little attention. To most passersby, it was just another temporary shelter occupied by the poor, the displaced, or those waiting for a turn of fate to smile upon them.

But inside that tent sat a middle-aged woman.

She was not selling anything. She was not asking for help. In her hands was a slightly crumpled sheet of paper covered with numbers from one to one hundred. Holding a pencil carefully between her fingers, she traced each number with remarkable concentration.

- One.
- Two.
- Three.

She paused often, looking at the paper, then at her hand, and then back at the



paper again. The world around her moved at great speed, but she moved at her own quiet pace.

I stood at a distance, observing. I did not know her language. I did not know her name. I knew nothing of her story.

Yet some things require no translation.

The seriousness in her eyes, the patience in her movements, and the determination with which she corrected every mistake spoke clearly enough. She seemed completely absorbed in her task, as though each number carried a significance far greater than its shape.

Perhaps life had never given her the opportunity to attend school. Perhaps circumstances had demanded labour

before they allowed learning. Poverty, responsibility, illness, or hardship may have interrupted a childhood that should have been spent in classrooms.

I did not know.

What caught my attention was not her past but her resolve.

There, in a noisy corner of a crowded city, she was doing something deeply personal: she was beginning.

Each number she traced was not merely a number. It was a small victory over fear. A quiet challenge to the belief that it was too late. A gentle rebellion against the idea that learning belongs only to the young.

People passed by without noticing her. Some walked so close to the tent that its ropes nearly brushed against

their clothes. Yet no one seemed interested in the woman sitting inside.

The city had no time for pauses.

But learning, I realized, is made of pauses.

It grows through slow breaths, uncertain hands, repeated mistakes, and the courage to begin again.

As she continued tracing the numbers, her pencil marks became steadier. Her hand appeared more confident. The hesitation that marked her early attempts gradually gave way to familiarity. The numbers no longer seemed like strangers.

When she finally reached one hundred, she did not smile, celebrate, or seek anyone's approval.

She simply looked at the page for a

few moments.

Then she turned it over and began again from one.

There was something profoundly moving in that simple act.

No audience.

No applause.

No certificate waiting at the end.

Only the quiet dignity of effort.

At that moment, I felt an overwhelming urge to salute her.

Not because she had mastered the numbers.

But because she had found the courage to start.

I did not know her words, and she did not know mine.

So I chose to salute her through this story.

Isalute the woman who chose to learn in the middle of chaos.

I salute the courage it takes to begin late.

Isalute the determination that refuses to surrender to age, circumstance, or fear.

And above all, I salute all those women who, despite life's countless obstacles, continue writing their way into possibility—one number, one word, and one step at a time.

This story is inspired by a real-life moment witnessed in the midst of a bustling city. Through the quiet determination of a woman learning to write numbers later in life, it explores the dignity of learning, the courage to begin anew, and the belief that education has no age limit. The story is a tribute to all those who refuse to surrender their dreams despite life's delays and hardships.
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Why Students Forgotten Fifth Subject



■ **MOOL RAJ**

Education is not only about securing marks or passing examinations; it is about building careers, developing skills, and preparing students for the future. However, one of the most neglected and misunderstood aspects of higher secondary education today is the importance of the 5th subject. Unfortunately, many students consider it merely an optional or easy subject instead of recognizing it as a powerful career-oriented opportunity.

Being a Lecturer in the discipline of Environmental Sciences, I often get puzzled when I see students struggling with confusion while choosing their specialization, even after scoring good marks in Class 10 and having great academic potential. The problem becomes more serious during the admission process at the higher secondary level, where students often make decisions without proper counselling, awareness, or long-term planning.

Being a subject-specialized Lecturer of Environmental Science, I have observed that most students from a science background are unaware of how valuable subjects like Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Environmental Science, and Mathematics can be as a 5th subject for their future careers. These subjects are not merely additional papers; they are directly connected with modern scientific fields, research opportunities, healthcare industries, pharmaceuticals, genetics, agriculture, laboratory sciences, and agronomy technologies.

Unfortunately, many students enter the admission room with only one mindset – "Which subject is easy?" rather than "Which subject can help me build my future?" This approach reflects the lack of proper academic and career counselling in our educational institutions.



For medical students especially, subjects like Biotechnology and Biochemistry can strengthen their understanding of biology, genetics, molecular science, diagnostics, and medical research. Similarly, Mathematics can support analytical thinking and open additional opportunities in engineering, statistics, data science, and technology-related careers. However, many students choose subjects that have little or no relation to their core stream simply because they believe those subjects require less effort.

The confusion among students is increasing because they rarely explore the syllabus or seek guidance from teachers and experts before selecting subjects. Many students do not even know the actual scope,

benefits, or career relevance of the subjects they are choosing. Instead of making informed decisions, they follow trends, peer pressure, or misconceptions.

Another serious issue is the careless attitude students develop after choosing the 5th subject. A large number of students treat it as an optional subject and fail to attend classes regularly. They focus only on the four major subjects and ignore the importance of the fifth one. Some students consider that period as free time and do not realize that the subject carries academic value as well as future career significance.

The situation becomes even more concerning among students preparing for competitive examinations such as JKAS,

IAS, NEET and JEE. Many students taking dummy admissions in schools remain disconnected from the school curriculum. Some of them do not even know which 5th subject they have opted for. During board examinations, students sometimes contact school administrations asking about their own subject details. This clearly reflects how seriously the issue of awareness and counselling needs to be addressed.

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) strongly emphasizes multidisciplinary learning, flexibility in subject selection, and skill-based education. The policy encourages students to choose subjects according to their interests, abilities, and career goals instead of being restricted to rigid educational patterns. NEP 2020 aims

to promote holistic and career-oriented education where every subject contributes to the overall development of a student.

One of the important visions of NEP 2020 is to integrate vocational education, critical thinking, scientific temperament, and interdisciplinary learning into mainstream education. The flexibility introduced in subject selection was never meant to reduce seriousness toward studies. Instead, it was designed to provide students with broader career exposure and practical knowledge. Therefore, the 5th subject should be treated as a meaningful academic and professional choice rather than a burden.

Schools and educational institutions must play a more active role in guiding students. Career counselling sessions, orientation programs, seminars, and interactions with subject experts should become a regular part of the admission process. Students must be encouraged to understand the scope, syllabus, and career opportunities associated with different subjects before making decisions.

Parents also need awareness regarding this issue. Many parents unknowingly encourage their children to select subjects that are considered easy or scoring rather than subjects that align with their interests and future ambitions. Parents must understand that the right subject choice at the higher secondary level can shape a student's academic journey and professional life.

The real purpose of introducing the 5th subject was to provide students with additional knowledge, specialization, and career opportunities after Class 12. However, due to lack of awareness, poor counselling, and careless attitudes, it is gradually becoming a burden instead of a benefit.

It is time for students, parents, teachers, and policymakers to understand the true value of the 5th subject. If chosen wisely and studied sincerely, it can become one of the strongest pillars of a student's future. Education should not only prepare students for examinations but also help them discover their interests, develop their potential, and build meaningful careers.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER



TOO LITTLE BAD CHOLESTEROL MIGHT JUST KILL YOU

What's the secret to good heart health? Well, the obvious answer for most of us might be low LDL levels. For the uninitiated, LDL or low-density lipoprotein is commonly referred to as "bad cholesterol" because of its propensity to make you more prone to heart disease.

But if you thought that keeping your LDL levels low might be the secret to a long, healthy life—boy, we've got some news for you. In today's dose of "damned if you do, damned if you don't", a study has found that too little levels of LDL can increase your

chances of having a bleeding stroke.

What's a bleeding stroke you ask? Also known as a haemorrhagic stroke, it is characterized by bleeding in the brain caused either by a blood vessel leak or a brain aneurysm. No points for guessing that a haemorrhagic stroke has a fairly high mortality rate.

The large-scale study, published in the journal *Neurology*, examined over 90,000 participants who had no history of stroke, heart attack, or cancer at the beginning of the research. After examining the participants for nine years, the researchers came to the

conclusion that people with LDL levels lower than 50 mg/dl had 169% higher chances of suffering from a haemorrhagic stroke than those with levels between 70–99 mg/dl.

Senior author, Xiang Gao—associate professor of nutritional sciences and director of Nutritional Epidemiology Lab at Pennsylvania State University, US—said: "We observed that the risk of hemorrhagic stroke increased in individuals with LDL cholesterol levels below 70 mg/dl. This observation, if confirmed, has important implications for treatment targets."

"And, if you're at a high risk for hemorrhagic stroke due to family history or risk factors like high blood pressure and heavy alcohol drinking, you may want to be extra careful about LDL cholesterol levels," he added.

So what now? Well, while we wait for more scientific research to confuse us even further, let us conclude with this: moderation is key. If you want to live a healthy and happy life, it is imperative that you neither indulge too much, nor refrain completely. Balance, our dear readers, is elementary—and essential! **Courtesy Healthline**

Beware! Short children could be at a higher risk of stroke in adulthood

NEW DELHI: A study has warned that children with below-average height could be at an increased risk of suffering a stroke when they grow up. Children—irrespective of their gender—who are two to three inches shorter than average for their age are at increased risk of clot-related (ischemic) stroke when they grow up, researchers noted.

A stroke happens when the blood and oxygen flow to the brain is suddenly obstructed.

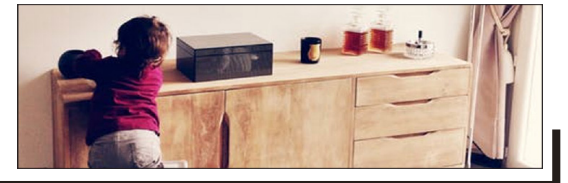
In addition, the risk of bleeding stroke—a condition whereby ruptured blood vessels cause bleeding inside the brain—is even more common in men.

While adult height is genetically determined, it is also influenced by factors such as maternal diet during pregnancy, childhood diet, infection and psychological stress. Several of these factors are modifiable and all are thought to affect the risk of stroke.

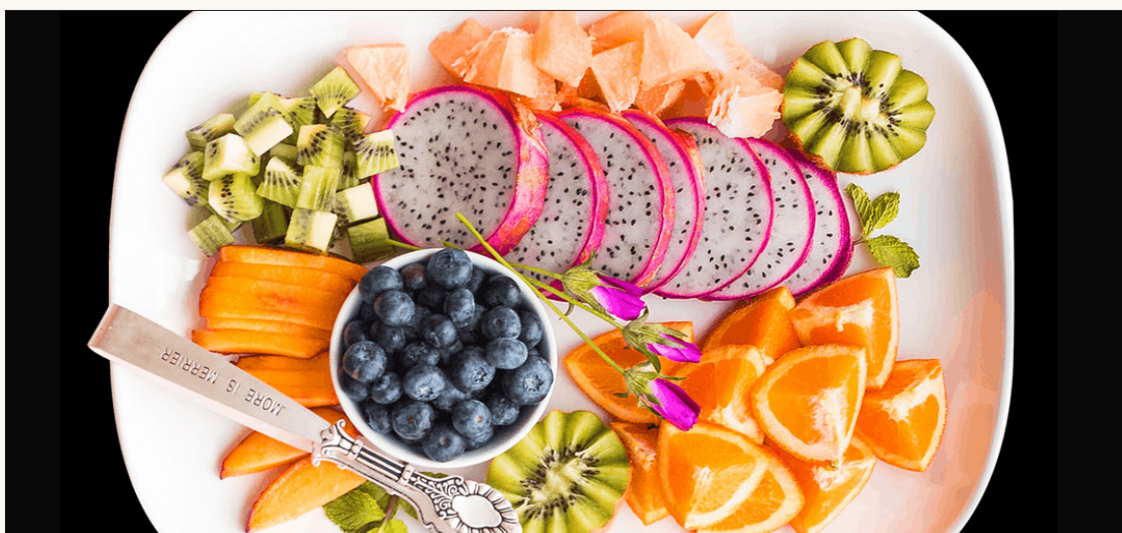
For the study, published in the journal *Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association*, the team examined data on more than 300,000 Danish school children at seven, 10 and 13 years of age.

"Our study suggests that short height in children is a possible marker of stroke risk and suggests these children should pay extra attention to changing or treating modifiable risk factors for stroke throughout life to reduce the chances of having this disease," said senior study author Jennifer L. Baker, Associate Professor at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

The researchers noted that a decline in stroke incidence and mortality rates in most high-income countries, primarily in women, occurred simultaneously with a general increase in attained adult height. **EMJ**



Surprising Way to control Blood Pressure



High blood pressure can be controlled through a number of ways. Other than taking medications prescribed by a heart specialist, the consumption of cholesterol-lowering foods and exercising regularly help keep the levels of LDL (low-density lipoprotein) or bad cholesterol in check, thus preventing the blood pressure from increasing and going off the charts.

It's a fact that the consumption of fiber- and antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables as well as fish loaded with healthy fatty acids can keep high blood pressure at bay.

Engaging in cardiovascular exercises like walking, swimming, bicycling or playing badminton 20 to 60 minutes a day, at least 5 times a week can also help you maintain an ideal blood pressure. But did you know that helping others is also an effective as well as a rewarding way to keep your blood pressure within normal levels?

This observation was revealed when researchers at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh did an experiment way back in 2006, spanning 4 years. The said experiment involved 1,164 participants, all of which are adults 51 to 90 years of age.

When the experiment began, all participating adults had normal blood pressure. Later on in 2010, the researchers found out that participants who devoted as many as 200 hours a year to volunteer works had 40% less likelihood of suffering from high blood pressure compared to those who didn't engage in volunteer works at all. What's even more surprising is the kind of volunteer work conducted didn't seem to matter at all. What mattered is the 200 hours a year spent on volunteering.

One possible reason behind this surprising outcome is lending a helping hand can be a very rewarding experience. Needless to say, something

that makes a person happy can have a favorable impact on the health. On the other hand, it's not unlikely for somebody who refrains from engaging in activities that help foster human relationships to suffer from illnesses that involve spiritual, mental and emotional aspects. Ultimately, these illnesses can have a measurable impact on the health.

Available volunteer works that may help you maintain normal blood pressure come aplenty. They range anywhere from feeding the homeless to participating in an athletic meet for a cause. You even don't need to be a part of an organization just to do volunteer works as you may also take certain steps that allow you to serve the community and its residents on your own. Some good examples include teaching a child to read or offering to drive an elderly who wants to do some grocery shopping. **Courtesy EMJ**

Microvascular disease may be linked to higher risk of leg amputation, says new study

Microvascular disease or the disorder of very small blood vessels may increase the risk of leg amputation, suggested a new study.

In microvascular disease, tiny

arterial disease (PAD). It noted almost 23-fold increased risk of amputation in people with microvascular disease compared to those without any vascular disease, whereas those with

considered a sign that a patient likely also has narrowed arteries leading to the heart or brain. If a patient has PAD, they have a higher risk of other cardiovascular diseases, such as heart



vessels that carry blood to muscles and other tissues throughout the body stop functioning properly. While the disease is commonly diagnosed in the eyes (retinopathy) or the kidney (nephropathy), study authors believe they indicate microvascular dysfunction throughout the body.

The new research noted that on an average of nine years, participants with microvascular disease had a 3.7-fold increased risk of lower limb amputation and experienced 18 per cent of all amputations, regardless of the location of disorder in the body.

Published in the *American Heart Association's journal Circulation*, the research studied patients with both microvascular disease and peripheral

PAD had a 13.9-fold increased risk of lower limb amputation and suffered 22 per cent of all amputations.

PAD causes narrowing of the arteries and is typically found in the legs. It causes cramping, pain or fatigue in the leg muscles while walking or climbing stairs. If left untreated, PAD can also lead to gangrene.

"This study advances the idea that microvascular disease is a system-wide disorder rather than only affecting one part of the body," said Joshua A Beckman, MD, lead author of the study and professor of medicine and director of Vascular Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

"PAD (in the legs) has long been

attacks and strokes," Beckman said. "Our study suggests that microvascular disease in any part of the body, such as the eyes, kidneys or feet (neuropathy) may be linked to decreased blood vessel function in other parts of the body, putting patients at risk for potential lower-limb amputations."

Based on the findings, Beckman suggested that patients with microvascular disease require close observation and care of their feet to detect sores or injuries early to promote healing and reduce amputations. "Patients with both microvascular disease and PAD have the highest risk of lower-limb amputation and need maximal medical therapies to reduce their risk," Beckman said. **Courtesy EMJ**

WEIGHTLIFTING BETTER AT REDUCING HEART FAT THAN AEROBIC EXERCISE

In the small study, researchers determined that a certain type of heart fat, pericardial adipose tissue, was reduced in patients who did weight lifting, but not in those who worked on increasing their endurance with aerobic exercise, according to a report published in *JAMA Cardiology*. Both forms of exercise resulted in the reduction of a second type of heart fat, epicardial adipose tissue, which has also been linked with heart disease.

"We were surprised by this finding," said the study's lead author, Dr. Regitse Hojgaard Christensen, a researcher at the Center of Inflammation and Metabolism and the Center for Physical Activity Research at the Copenhagen

University Hospital.

While the study doesn't explain why weight training would have a different effect from endurance training, "we know from other studies that resistance training is a stronger stimulus for increased muscle mass and increased basal metabolism compared to endurance training and we therefore speculate that participants doing resistance training burn more calories during the day—also in inactive periods—compared to those engaged in endurance training," Christensen said in an email.

To explore the impact of different types of exercise on heart fat, Christensen and her colleagues recruited 32 adults who were obese

and sedentary but did not yet have heart disease, diabetes, or atrial fibrillation.

The participants were randomly assigned to a three-month program of aerobic exercise, weight training or no change in activity (the control group). Each person had an MRI scan of the heart done at the beginning of the study and at the end.

Both types of exercise training reduced epicardial adipose tissue mass compared to no exercise: endurance training, by 32% and weight training, by 24%. However, only weight training had an impact on pericardial adipose tissue, which was reduced by 31% compared to no exercise.



"The resistance exercise training in this study was designed as a 45-minute interval

type, medium load, high-repetition, time-based training," Christensen said. **Courtesy Healthline**

'Swachh Bharat 3R concept': Eco-friendly garden comes up at Srinagar's Lal Chowk

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 06: In an innovative step towards sustainable urban beautification, the Floriculture Department, Kashmir, has developed an eco-friendly themed garden in the heart of Lal Chowk Srinagar's Polo Ground Park, by creatively reusing discarded material under the Swachh Bharat Mission's 3R concept of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

The initiative, led by Director Floriculture Kashmir Masooma Banoo, aims to promote environmental awareness while simultaneously creating a new attraction for tourists and local visitors in one of the busiest public spaces of the city.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Director said the project was conceptualised to give a new life to old unused material lying in departmental gardens while enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the area. "This garden has multiple purposes. Apart from providing a recreational space for people, it also sends a strong message about the reuse of waste material and environmental responsibility," she said.

Banoo said various discarded items collected from departmental gardens were transformed into decorative planters and artistic installations through innovative designs.

"All the material used here was lying unused in our gardens. We converted the scrap into planters and decorative structures and installed them here to create an added attraction," she said.

She said the department plans to plant colourful flowers and ornamental plants in these recycled structures to further beautify the garden and make it visually appealing for visitors. The Director said Lal Chowk witnesses heavy footfall throughout the day, making it an ideal location for such a public awareness initiative.

"There is always a huge rush in this area. Children visit the playstations while adults come here for walks and relaxation. We wanted people to experience something creative and meaningful at the same time," she added.

She further said the garden has also been designed to encourage people to rethink the way they treat household waste.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHD YOUSUF MALIK S/O ABDUL KRIM MALIK R/O DAULATPORA & ALI MOHAMMAD MALIK S/O MOHD YOUSUF MALIK R/O DAULATPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 03/01/1964 & 10/05/1994 event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

It is for information of general public that I am nissar hussain dar s/o ali mohd dar R/o Arampora . I have lost my 10th class discharge certificate now i apply for duplicate discharge certificate The public notice is issued with the intrest that if anybody has any objection same may be brought to and govt high school singpora pattan within period of 7 days of issuance of this notice after which no objection will be accepted.

Public Notice

This is for the information general public that MAQSOOD AHMAD LONE S/o: ABDUL GAFFAR LONE R/o: KACHWA MUQAM Tehsil WAGOORA district BARAMULLA expired on 1st of March 2026. Now the family of deceased including SHAHID MAQSOOD LONE (son), MUHAMMAD ASIF LONE (son), DILSHADA AKHTAR (daughter) , BISMA MAQSOOD (daughter), REHANA MAQSOOD (daughter) & SHAMEEMA BEGUM (wife), want to apply for issuance of dependent certificate of the deceased. Anyone having any objection in this regard may contact ACR Office Baramulla within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After the lapse of 7 days period no objection will be accepted.

SHAMEEMA BEGUM
W/O: LATE MAQSOOD AHMAD LONE,
R/o : KACHWA MUQAM,
Tehsil: WAGOORA BARAMULLA

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
DisttBARAMULLA

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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7006083461

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (for Road work/Bridges/Buildings)

TWO COVER SYSTEM (above Rs. 2.50 Crores)
NIT No:-13/1511-20/RnB/SPN/e-tendering/2026-27

Fresh To NIT 97 of 2025-26
Dated:- 05-06-2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on page basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Time & Date of Opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Class of Contractor
1	Restoration, Renovation & Development of Kapal Mochan Temple at Nagbal Deegam Shopian.	390.481 (Base Cost= 330.916 +GST= 59.565) Lakhs(INR)	5500	7,80,962/-	18 Months	19-06-2026	AAY Class Only having MoU with an Electrical & Mechanical Contractor/ Agency / Firm

Major Head of Account=Archaeology

Position of AAA= DAA&M-602 Of 2025 Dated:-05-12-2025

Position of TS = CE(R&B)SK/TS/353 of 2025-26 Dated:-14-03-2026.

Position of Funds = Committed .

Project Authority =Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K.

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 below schedule:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05-06-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 06-06-2026, 10:00 A.M to 18-06-2026, 2:00 P.M
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	08-06-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.Q Pulwama.
4.	Bid submission Start Date	06-06-2026 From 10.00 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	18-06-2026 up to 2:00 P.M
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	19-06-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.Q Shopian
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH-0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama/Shopian H.O Pulwama (Tender receiving Authority).

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Shopian

DIPK: 1904/26 | Dated: 06-06-2026

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SESSION 2026-27

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

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IMPORTANT DATES

Registration & Preference Filing	09 May - 27 May 2026
1st Merit List	30 May 2026
Admission (1st Round)	01 June - 06 June 2026
2nd Merit List	09 June 2026
Admission (2nd Round)	10 June - 15 June 2026
Spot Round	18 June - 25 June 2026

FOR DETAILS

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OR VISIT COLLEGE ADMISSION FACILITATION CENTER

ADMISSION COORDINATOR: Dr. Khurshed Wani (9682169453)

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Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written on my Driving Licence No. JK-1820160011154 as Shakir Hussain Ganie with Date of Birth *15/03/1998. Whereas my actual and correct name is. Shakir Hussain Ganie as per my Aadhaar Card and my correct Date of Birth is 15/03/1990 as per my Date of Birth Certificate and Aadhaar Card. Now I want to correct the above particulars in my Driving Licence records.

If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact the concerned authority within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: SHAKIR HUSSAIN GANIE
S/O: MOHD ABDULLAH GANIE
R/O: BADDARMUNA
Distt: ANANTNAG
Licence No. *JK-1820160011154

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 14/05/20,26 .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...SHAHNAAZ 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

DC Srinagar reviews District Capex Budget 2026-27, Heritage conservation projects, CDF Works

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: In order to review the progress of the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2026-27, a meeting of all executing agencies and line departments was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Joint Commissioner SMC, Hamid Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Bashir Ahmad, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, PDD, SMC, UEED, Block Development Officers and all other District & Sectoral Officers.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the progress achieved in the preparation and submission of estimates for works proposed under the District Capex Budget for 2026-27. He also reviewed the physical and financial status of ongoing works under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 and the progress of works being executed under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The Deputy Commissioner further reviewed the status of heritage conservation projects being undertaken in Srinagar district under the Government's Heritage Conservation Scheme aimed at preserving Srinagar's rich cultural and architectural legacy.

While reviewing the submission of estimates for the financial



year 2026-27, the Deputy Commissioner was informed that a total of 492 works have been proposed under the District Capex Budget, of which estimates for 232 works have been submitted by various executing agencies so far.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed all execut-

ing agencies to ensure timely submission of the remaining estimates so that administrative approvals can be accorded without delay, enabling early tendering, allotment and execution of works. He emphasized that the limited working season must be utilized effectively to maximize developmental outcomes and

public benefit.

The DC stressed that all works proposed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 should be executed in a qualitative and time-bound manner to achieve the intended objectives and strengthen service delivery across sectors.

Reviewing the progress of works under the Constituency Development Fund, the DC was informed that 540 works have been completed out of 756 works tendered across various sectors. He directed the concerned departments to accelerate the pace of ongoing works and ensure their completion at the earliest. He also emphasized the need for prompt submission of estimates for new works proposed under the CDF.

During the review of heritage conservation projects, the DC directed that tendering work be initiated immediately as administrative approval has been accorded to 45 projects under the Heritage Conservation Scheme involving an estimated cost of Rs 63 crore in Srinagar.

Taking an executing agency-wise review of these projects, the DC directed the concerned agencies to mobilize field staff and initiate the tendering process without delay to ensure timely execution of the approved works for preservation and conservation of rich cultural and architectural heritage.

The DC also underscored the importance of close coordination among line departments, strict adherence to timelines, maintenance of quality standards and proactive planning for optimum utilization of resources and effective implementation of developmental projects across the District.

DC reviews progress of Agriculture & Allied Sectors in Pulwama

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of Agriculture and Allied Sectors at the Administrative Complex Pulwama to assess the progress achieved under various flagship schemes and programmes including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, and other farmer welfare initiatives.

During the meeting, the officers of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries departments gave detailed presentations highlighting the physical and financial achievements under their respective sectors, status of applications, beneficiary coverage, credit linkage, expenditure and implementation of various schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress achieved under HADP and JKCIIP and stressed upon the concerned departments to ensure timely disposal of pending applications. He directed the officers to saturate the establishment of approved units and ensure regular monitoring and tracking of established units under the scheme to achieve the intended outcomes under various interventions.

Reviewing the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs), the DC emphasized the need for diversification of services being offered through these centres. He laid the stress on the functioning of KKGs and directed the Agriculture Department to transform KKGs into vibrant one-stop service centres by promoting testing facilities, agri-implements, vermicompost units, apiculture, mushroom cultivation and other income-generating activities. The DC also reviewed the status of

Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) and directed the concerned departments and banking institutions to expedite the processing of pending cases and ensure that all eligible farmers are covered under institutional credit facilities. Reviewing the status of inactive KCC accounts, he directed the concerned departments and banking authorities to take necessary measures for their activation so that farmers can effectively avail credit benefits. He further directed the officers to create awareness among farmers regarding the Prompt Repayment Incentive so that farmers can avail the benefit.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the implementation of the National Digital Livestock Mission and stressed upon the importance of accurate data management for effective planning and delivery of livestock services.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed the Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Departments to focus on quality asset creation, timely completion of approved units and effective tracking of beneficiaries under output monitoring systems. He emphasized regular field monitoring and verification to ensure that benefits reach the intended beneficiaries and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Highlighting the significance of the agriculture and allied sectors in the district's economy, Dr. Qayoom called upon all departments to work in a coordinated manner for achieving the objectives of HADP and other flagship programmes. He stressed the need to promote entrepreneurship, strengthen value chains, improve market linkages and enhance farmers' income through innovative and technology-driven interventions.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama; Chief Agriculture Officer; Chief Horticulture Officer; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; District Sheep Husbandry Officer; Assistant Director Fisheries; Lead District Manager; and officers from Agriculture and allied departments.

ADC Kupwara reviews Pre-Monsoon Preparedness in District

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JUNE 06: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the district's preparedness ahead of the ensuing monsoon season and to ensure timely measures for mitigating any potential risks arising from heavy rainfall, flash floods, landslides, and waterlogging.

The meeting was attended by officers from various line departments, including Disaster Management, Public Works (R&B), Jal Shakti, Health, Rural Development, Municipal Committee, Power Development Department, Irrigation & Flood Control, Fire & Emergency Services, and other concerned agencies.

During the meeting, the ADC reviewed the preparedness plans of all departments and assessed the status of preventive and mitigation measures being undertaken across the district.

Detailed discussions were held regarding the identification of vulnerable locations, flood-prone areas, emergency response mechanisms, availability of manpower and machinery, and inter-departmental coordination during any emergency situation.

The ADC directed the concerned departments to ensure the cleaning and desilting of drains, nallahs, and water channels to facilitate the smooth flow of water during the monsoon season. He stressed the importance of maintaining critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public utilities, and directed the concerned agencies to keep men and machinery ready for immediate deployment whenever required.

Reviewing the preparedness of emergency response agencies, the ADC instructed the departments to establish effective communication channels and maintain adequate stocks of essential supplies, including medicines, drinking water, rescue equipment, and other emergency materials. He also emphasized the need for round-the-clock monitoring of vulnerable areas and timely dissemination of weather advisories to the public.

The Health Department was directed to ensure the availability of medical teams, medicines, and emergency healthcare facilities, while the Power Development Department was asked to remain prepared for the prompt restoration of electricity in the event of disruptions caused by inclement weather.

The ADC impressed for safety audit of roads, bridges, embankments and school/hospital buildings. Besides, line departments were directed to update the available machinery and equipment for updation on IDRN portal. Volunteers and machinery available in private sector need also to be revisited to have real-time data available with DDM authority for utilisation during emerging situations.

The ADC underscored the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments and directed officers to remain vigilant throughout the monsoon season. He stressed that public safety and the protection of life and property must remain the foremost priority of the administration.

Conclave brainstorming India's veterinary education kicks off at SKUAST-K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: A gathering of the nation's top academic leaders, veterinary scientists, and policy architects commenced at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar campus marking the start of a two-day National Conclave dedicated entirely to re-shaping the future of veterinary education in India.

Organised under the theme 'Reimagining Veterinary Education for Viksit Bharat@2047', the conclave serves as a platform for turning traditional, decades-old educational models into modern, innovation-led, and globally competitive frameworks.

The conclave is a quadripartite initiative of SKUAST-K with Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU), Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), and the

National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (NAVS), to deliberate on the future trajectory of veterinary education in India.

As a major milestone, the host institution set the tone for the event by officially unveiling the 'SKUAST-K Action Framework for Reimagining Veterinary Education'. This strategic roadmap outlines immediate, transformative reforms across veterinary teaching, application-based research, technological competency, and public outreach - positioning veterinary professionals as vital drivers of the rural bio-economy, public health, and global trade corridors as India approaches 2047.

As part of the Quadripartite Vision Address, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, called for a decisive shift in mindset and urged institutions to challenge conventional approaches in order to transform the veterinary education in the

country.

Prof. Ganai, who was the chief guest at the inaugural address, emphasised that the future of veterinary education would be shaped by skilled human resources, technological integration, and innovation-oriented learning ecosystems, adding that agriculture and animal husbandry would remain central to realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh, former Vice Chancellor, BASU Patna; Dr. JPS Gill, Vice Chancellor, GADVASU Ludhiana; Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Vice Chancellor, BASU Patna; collectively highlighted the urgent need for curriculum reforms, global collaborations, and innovation-led institutional ecosystems. Dr. Victoria Brookes, Co-Lead, One Health SIG, Sydney University, Australia, who delivered an online address, emphasised the growing importance of application-based research,

professionalism, interdisciplinary learning, and globally aligned academic frameworks in veterinary sciences.

Dr. Riaz Ahmad Shah, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, who delivered the welcome address, underlined the significance of collaborative academic reform and innovation-driven learning in shaping the next generation of veterinary professionals.

Organizing Secretary of the conclave, Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Dar, presented the overarching vision and proposed models for reimagining veterinary education in India.

The technical session on "Gaps in Veterinary Education & Vision 2047" subsequently featured expert talks by Dr. Bhanu Pratap Chowdhary, Professor Emeritus, Texas A&M University, USA; Dr. Punniya Murthy, 2026 Padma Shri awardee and renowned expert in Ethno-Veterinary

Medicine, and Maj Gen Pramod Batra of Tata Trusts, Mumbai, each offering critical insights into the evolving global landscape of veterinary education and practice.

The conclave also featured an intensive brainstorming session involving detailed deliberations on reforms required in veterinary education, with presentations by Dr. Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar, SKUAST-K, and Dr. Pallav Shekhar, Dean, BASU Patna. A panel discussion on 'Industry-Academia Synergy: Addressing the Skill Gap and Industry Expectations from Veterinary Graduates' was moderated by Dr. Masood Saleem Mir, Associate Director Extension, SKUAST-K. The Conclave also witnessed the signing of an MOU between SKUAST-K and Agrinovate, marking another significant step towards strengthening institutional-industry collaboration.

BOMIS, Pampore Hosts "Young Voices: Interschool Youth Parliament 2026"

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PAMPORE, JUNE 06: Birla Open Minds International School, Pampore successfully organised its two-day interschool academic event titled "Young Voices: Interschool Youth Parliament 2026" on 6th and 7th June 2026, under the aegis of the Social Sciences Department. The event brought together student delegates from various schools, providing them with a vibrant platform to experience the functioning of a parliamentary system through a simulated and entirely student-led model.

The Youth Parliament aimed to foster democratic awareness, leadership skills, critical thinking, and effective communication among students. Participants engaged enthusiastically in structured parliamentary proceedings including Question Hour, legislative debates, bill discussions, and committee sessions, reflecting remarkable confidence, discipline, and understanding of contemporary social and national issues.

The Opening Ceremony was graced by esteemed dignitaries including Ravinder Pal Singh SDPO Pampore, along with distinguished academicians and

guests Prof. Dr. Saad Parvez (NIT Srinagar), Prof. M. A. Shah (NIT Srinagar), Rizwan Jeelani (Journalist) A. A. Mir (Chairman, BML Welfare Trust), G. M. Lone (General Secretary, BML Welfare Trust), Managing Trustees Younis Nisar Mir and Feroz Gul, and Principal Dr. Mehnaaz Rehman.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Dr. Mehnaaz Rehman stated that, "The Youth Parliament is a sincere effort to move beyond textbook learning and give students a real democratic experience. Seeing them debate, question, and deliberate with confidence reflects the success of experiential learning in schools. I am proud of their enthusiasm and maturity."

A. A. Mir, Chairman, BML Welfare Trust, appreciated the initiative and remarked, "This initiative is highly commendable as it nurtures leadership, responsibility, and awareness among students. Platforms like these are essential in shaping informed future citizens who understand the value of democracy and dialogue."

The dignitaries emphasized that such platforms play a crucial role in nurturing responsible citizenship and preparing students to become future leaders with strong ethical and social values.

PREPARATIONS FOR SOUTH-WEST MONSOON SEASON-2026 REVIEWED IN ANANTNAG

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 06: A meeting to review the preparedness and mitigation strategies of various line departments for the approaching South-West Monsoon Season 2026 was chaired today by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (CEO, DDMA), Vikas Ahlawat today at Dak Bungalow Khanabal. GM DIC, SDMs, CMO, CAHO, representatives of R&B, PDD, Police, SDRF, FCS&CA, Traffic Police and F&ES along with officials from other line departments attended the meeting.

The review aimed at initiating time-bound actions to mitigate risks associated with floods, urban waterlogging, landslides, cloudbursts and other disaster like events. During the meeting, the chair reviewed the status of the detailed preparedness reports submitted by the respective line departments. Emphasizing a proactive approach, the chair directed the officers to ensure the seamless activation of the Incident Response System (IRS) and to strictly follow the point-wise guidelines issued by the government.

Key directives calling for specific action were issued to the concerned departments and agencies. The engineering wings were directed to expedite the

cleaning and de-silting of drains and ensure the availability of portable dewatering pumps at vulnerable locations to prevent urban flooding. Response agencies, including the SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services, and Police, were instructed to take full stock of disaster management inventory including boats, life jackets, power saws, sandbags and ensure early prepositioning of essential items in high-risk zones. The health department and GMC Anantnag, were tasked with mapping out emergency medicine storage, securing ground-level wards against flooding, and keeping Rapid Response Teams ready to prevent post-flood communicable disease outbreaks. Similarly, the GM DIC was advised to coordinate with industrial estates to secure hazardous materials and implement preventative measures in wake of floods and waterlogging. The Information Department was tasked to ensure wide publicity of advisories including Do's and Don'ts issued by administration, control room helpline numbers besides promotion of the national "Sachet" mobile application and alert portals for real-time dissemination of weather updates and IMD nowcasts and awareness on water borne diseases post floods.

G Square Group launches 'Kshetra' as North Chennai emerges as next growth, connectivity corridor

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, JUNE 6: G Square Group, India's largest plotted developer, on Saturday launched 'G Square Kshetra', a large-scale premium residential plotted development located in Karandai, close to Red Hills in North Chennai, which has emerged as the next growth and connectivity corridor.

Positioned bang on the upcoming Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (CPRR) and in near proximity to the Outer Ring Road (ORR), the massive integrated development offers strong connectivity advantages and long-term growth potential in Chennai's emerging corridor.

G Square Kshetra is attractively priced at a special launch price of Rs 1,890 per sqft onwards for the first 50 bookings only - which is 50% lower than the prevailing market rates of Rs 4,000-Rs 6,000 per sqft in and around the corridor, making it one of the most compelling investment opportunities in the region.

The project offers homebuyers an opportunity to own plots within a secured community with easy bank loan assistance, while also presenting strong appreciation potential from day one owing to its strategic location, infrastructure growth, and competitive pricing.



Talking to reporters at the launch event, G Square Group Founder and Managing Director Bala Ramajayam said North Chennai is witnessing a significant transformation, driven by large-scale infrastructure upgrades, expanding industrial ecosystems, and the emergence of new economic corridors that are reshaping the city's growth map.

Karandai today sits at the centre of this evolution, benefiting from seamless connectivity across Chennai's major highways, ring roads, and industrial clusters. "With G Square Kshetra, we are introducing a strategically positioned plotted development that combines accessibility,

future-ready infrastructure, and strong long-term appreciation potential. As connectivity and employment growth continue to expand across this belt, we believe Karandai is poised to become one of North Chennai's most promising residential and investment destinations", he said. Karandai is emerging as one

of North Chennai's most well positioned developments, driven by a powerful combination of infrastructure growth, industrial expansion, metro connectivity, and long-term appreciation potential. The project enjoys seamless access to major economic corridors while offering excellent connectivity to key industrial and employment hubs such as Sri City, Theruvoy Kandigai SIPCOT, Gummidipoondi SIPCOT, Manallur and Arambakkam SIPCOT, the Michelin Tyres manufacturing facility, upcoming Mahindra World City and the rapidly expanding Sriperumbudur industrial belt.

The region also benefits from strong port-led connectivity through Kattupalli Port, Adani Port, and Ennore port-linked infrastructure, which continue to drive industrial activity, logistics growth, and workforce movement across North Chennai.

Adding to the area's growing prominence is its proximity to the renowned Siruvapuri Murugan Temple, a significant spiritual and cultural landmark that attracts visitors from across Tamil Nadu.

As a launch offer, company offers customers discounts of up to Rs 5 lakhs on villa construction through its construction partner - Brick and Bolt (Home & Commercial Construction).UNI

Govt expands G-Sec reforms to attract foreign capital, deepen bond market

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 6: The Government has unveiled a series of reforms aimed at significantly increasing foreign participation in India's government securities (G-Sec) market - a move expected to deepen domestic debt markets, attract long-term capital and strengthen the country's position as a preferred global investment destination.

The reforms include sweeping tax exemptions for foreign investors, expansion of the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) framework and relaxation of several investor restrictions, reflecting the government's broader strategy to integrate India's financial markets more closely with global capital flows.

Under the new tax regime, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) will no longer have to pay tax on interest income earned from government securities or on capital gains arising from their sale, transfer, exchange or redemption. The exemptions will apply to income generated on or after April 1, 2026.

Previously, interest income from G-Secs attracted a 20 per cent tax, while short-term capital gains were taxed at up to 30 per cent and long-term capital gains at 12.5 per cent.

Officials said the tax relief is expected to improve the attractiveness of Indian sovereign debt among global investors, particularly large institutional investors such as pension funds, insurance companies and sovereign wealth funds that typically seek stable long-term returns.

The government believes greater foreign participation in the G-Sec market will create an additional source of financing for infrastructure, manufacturing, urban development and climate-related projects while improving liquidity and efficiency in the bond market.

According to official data, FPIs held government securities worth Rs 3.75 lakh crore as of May 12, 2026, accounting for 3.34 per cent of the outstanding G-Sec stock of Rs 112.42 lakh crore. The bulk of these investments, amounting to Rs 3.21 lakh crore, came through the Fully Accessible Route, representing 6.74 per cent of the securities eligible under the scheme.

Recognising the growing popularity of FAR among global investors, the government has expanded the list of securities available under the route. New issuances of 15-year, 30-year and 40-year government securities, along with sovereign green bonds issued in FAR-eligible tenors, will now be accessible without the investment restrictions applicable under the general route.

The expansion is expected to broaden opportunities for foreign investors across the maturity spectrum and encourage greater participation in long-duration sovereign debt instruments.

In another major reform, the government has removed several investment restrictions under the General Route, including security-wise investment caps, concentration limits and short-term investment restrictions. However, the overall ceilings for foreign investment remain unchanged at 6 per cent of outstanding Central Government Securities and 2 per cent of State Government Securities.

The reforms also merge the existing "General" and "Long-Term" categories for FPI investments into a single investment limit structure, simplifying compliance requirements and operational processes for investors. Experts believe the measures could accelerate the inclusion of Indian government bonds in major global debt indices, attract more stable foreign capital inflows and strengthen India's financial market ecosystem.

By lowering barriers to investment and aligning regulations more closely with international practices, the reforms are expected to support deeper capital markets, improve price discovery, facilitate smoother monetary policy transmission and reduce borrowing costs over time.

The government said the measures form part of its continuing efforts to build globally integrated financial markets and attract long-term investment into one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. UNI

India's GDP growth rises to 7.7 pc in FY26: SBI Research

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 6: India's economy delivered a stronger-than-expected performance in the fourth quarter of FY26, helping annual GDP growth accelerate to 7.7 per cent and reinforcing the country's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, according to a report by SBI Research on Saturday.

The latest Ecovrap report said the economy expanded by 7.8 per cent in the January-March quarter of FY26, up from 7 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year. The robust fourth-quarter performance lifted full-year GDP growth to 7.7 per cent from 7.1 per cent in FY25. Gross Value Added (GVA), a key measure of economic activity, grew by 7.9 per cent in both Q4 and the full fiscal year, while core GVA expanded by a strong 9.7 per cent during FY26. The report highlighted broad-based growth across sectors, led by services and industry. The services sector grew 9.9 per cent in the fourth quarter, supported by a sharp 12.5 per cent rise in trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting-related services. Financial, real estate and professional services also remained resilient, recording growth of 10.4 per cent. Within industry, construction activity expanded by 8.4 per cent in Q4, while manufacturing registered growth of 7.3 per cent. For the full year, manufacturing emerged as one of the strongest performers with growth of 10.7 per cent. Agriculture, despite some moderation, posted growth of 3.6 per cent in the final quarter. According to SBI Research, the latest high-frequency indicators for April and May point to above-average acceleration in economic activity, raising the possibility that growth in the first quarter of FY27 could surpass the Reserve Bank of India's estimate of 6.6 per cent.

The report attributed part of the stronger growth performance to improvements in the new GDP series, which better captures the contribution of India's informal economy through datasets such as the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) and the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

It noted that nearly 7.9 crore enterprises are now registered under ASUSE, contributing around 12 per cent of overall GVA. Increased formalisation, digitisation and improved access to institutional credit have enhanced productivity and strengthened economic activity, it said. On the investment front, SBI Research pointed to a significant revival in private sector capital expenditure. Private investment announcements surged to Rs 56 lakh crore in FY26 from Rs 37 lakh crore in the previous year, while total investment announcements reached a record Rs 80 lakh crore.

The report said the manufacturing sector accounted for nearly 29 per cent of fresh investment announcements, closely followed by the power sector and building infrastructure projects. Corporate earnings also reflected the improving economic environment. Around 4,500 listed companies reported revenue growth of 10.3 per cent in the fourth quarter, while profit after tax rose by 26 per cent among non-BFSI companies despite some pressure on operating margins. SBI Research said India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, resilient financial sector and sustained policy focus on formalisation, infrastructure creation and productivity enhancement would help the economy weather global uncertainties and maintain its growth trajectory in FY27. The report also observed that stronger economic activity and a possible rise in the GDP deflator could push nominal GDP growth to 12.5-13 per cent in FY27, significantly higher than the budget estimate of 10 per cent. UNI

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE KEY TO INDIA'S GREEN GROWTH JOURNEY

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 6: As India accelerates its transition towards a low-carbon economy, the development of sustainable energy infrastructure will be critical in ensuring energy security, supporting industrial growth, and reducing environmental impact, according to industry experts.

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2026, Surbhi Puri, Director of Green Power International Pvt. Ltd., emphasized that India's green transition is fundamentally an infrastructure transformation that will shape how the country produces, consumes, and secures energy in the coming decades.

She noted that with energy demand expected to rise significantly as India pursues its goal of becoming a developed nation, investments in clean energy infrastructure are becoming increasingly important. These include renewable power generation, modern transmission networks, energy storage systems, green hydrogen projects, and electric mobility infrastructure.



According to Puri, expanding sustainable energy systems will not only help provide reliable and affordable energy access but also create substantial economic opportunities. She said that strong policy support, public-private partnerships, and long-term investments in clean energy infrastructure can position India as both a major consumer and a global leader in sustainable energy solutions.

Highlighting the significance of World Environment Day, she said the occasion serves as a reminder that achieving a greener future requires not only ambitious climate

and sustainability goals but also clear implementation strategies and robust infrastructure development.

"The transition to cleaner energy sources is no longer just an environmental necessity; it is also an economic imperative that will influence India's long-term growth trajectory," she added.

As countries worldwide intensify efforts to combat climate change, India's focus on building sustainable energy infrastructure is expected to play a pivotal role in driving economic development while advancing environmental sustainability. UNI

40 LAKH TONNES OF COAL MISSING? KTR SEEKS PROBE INTO ALLEGED RS 1,600 CR SINGARENI SCAM

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 6: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has demanded an immediate and comprehensive investigation into the alleged disappearance of nearly 40 lakh metric tonnes of coal worth around Rs 1,600 crore from Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCLL).

In a letter addressed to union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Friday, KTR questioned how such a massive quantity of coal, officially shown in Singareni's stock records, could have vanished without accountability.

KTR alleged that coal that should have been available in stockyards was illegally diverted and sold, causing a loss of nearly Rs 1,600 crore to the public sector undertaking. He demanded that the union Government immediately ascertain the whereabouts of the missing coal and bring those responsible to justice.

He stated that ever since the

Congress government assumed office in Telangana, Singareni has become synonymous with a series of scandals. From the Naini coal mine tender controversy to several other alleged irregularities, KTR said there has been no meaningful response from the Centre despite repeated demands from BRS.

According to KTR, official records on the Singareni website indicated the availability of approximately 40 lakh metric tonnes of coal across multiple mines, including Mandamarri, Srirampur, Ramagundam-I, Ramagundam-II, Bhupalpally, Yellandu and Sathupalli. However, physical verification reportedly revealed that the coal stocks were not available at the designated locations.

He pointed out that despite records showing payment of coal cess and income tax on these stocks, the actual coal was allegedly missing from the ground. KTR questioned who was responsible for this discrepancy and why neither officials from the



union Coal Ministry nor the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had conducted inspections so far.

"The coal of Singareni belongs to the people of Telangana. Both the State and Central Governments are collectively endangering the future of this institution," KTR said.

He further alleged that if there is no tacit understanding between Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and union Minister Kishan Reddy, the Centre should immediately order a thorough investiga-

tion and take stringent action against those responsible.

Demanding transparency, KTR called upon the union Government to send an all-party delegation to the concerned mines and stockyards for on-ground verification. Referring to the earlier Naini coal mine tender controversy, KTR alleged that the Congress government introduced conditions such as mandatory site-visit certificates to favour select bidders. He claimed that despite BRS exposing the issue, no meaningful action had

been taken against those involved. KTR also raised concerns regarding alleged irregularities in solar power tenders, diesel procurement, explosive purchases, diversion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds and the alleged misuse of Singareni funds for non-core activities.

He accused both the Congress and BJP of protecting those involved in various irregularities and demanded a judicial inquiry headed by a sitting judge into the Rs 1,600 crore coal scam.

He warned that if the Centre fails to order an investigation into the alleged scam, BRS, along with workers and employees of Singareni, would launch a large-scale agitation against both the State and Central Governments.

KTR reiterated that the workers of Singareni and the people of Telangana deserve complete transparency regarding the alleged disappearance of coal worth Rs 1,600 crore and demanded immediate corrective action. UNI

Shreyas Iyer to replace Suryakumar as India's T20I captain

Suryakumar had led India to the T20 World Cup title in March, but has been in poor batting form



■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Shreyas Iyer is set to replace Suryakumar Yadav as India's T20I captain, and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is set for his maiden call-up, as the national selectors look ahead to the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028 and the next T20 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand the same year.

The T20I squad will be announced on Saturday for the upcoming tour of Ireland and England, India's first T20I assignment since Suryakumar led them to the T20 World Cup title in March.

Suryakumar, 35, is likely to be dropped from the squad altogether. The debate around his position arose following a lukewarm 2026 T20 World Cup, where he scored 242 runs in nine innings at a strike rate of 136.72, and a poor IPL 2026 where he recorded only 270 runs in 13 innings at an average of 20.76 and a strike rate of 147.54.

His successor Shreyas is 31 but has not played a T20I since December 2023 due to India's inability to find a place for him due to squad combinations, with Suryakumar and Tilak Varma occupying middle-order positions. Shreyas was most recently called up to the T20I squad as an injury replacement during the home series against New Zealand in January this year, but did not play a game because India preferred to pick the players who were going to play in the T20 World Cup that followed.

Shreyas, however, has proven captaincy credentials, having led Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to the IPL title in 2024 and led Delhi Capitals (DC) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) to the final in 2020 and 2025, respectively. He scored 604 runs at a strike rate of 175.07 in IPL 2025 and 498 runs at a strike rate of 168.81 in IPL 2026.

It is the second successive year in which India's selectors are making such a decision. In 2025, Rohit Sharma had captained India to the Champions Trophy title in March, but the selectors replaced him as ODI captain before India's next series in Australia in October. Rohit, however, continued to be part of the ODI squad.

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Sooryavanshi is set to become the youngest player selected in an India men's squad since Sachin Tendulkar in the late 1980s, following a blockbuster IPL season where he made 776 runs at a strike rate of 237.30. Before the T20I tour of Ireland and England, Sooryavanshi will play for India A in a tri-series in Sri Lanka also involving Afghanistan from June 9 to 21.

Cricket Canada draws up 'comprehensive' plan in bid to overturn ICC suspension

■ AGENCIES

CHENNAI: Cricket Canada has submitted what it says is a "comprehensive" plan of action as it seeks the swift reinstatement of its suspended ICC membership. Earlier this week the ICC announced it had suspended Canada's associate membership for "serious breaches of its membership obligations," following on from the suspension of its funding to Cricket Canada. Cricket Canada told ESPNcricinfo the ICC had identified worries around governance structures, financial oversight and various executive and administrative processes during a routine compliance review.

The suspension is the culmination of a turbulent period for Canada off the field, which includes the appointment and subsequent removal of former CEO Salman Khan. Khan's appointment itself had attracted ICC attention, for failing to disclose prior criminal charges and he has been charged with theft and fraud by Calgary Police. Khan has denied the claims. In May, Arvinder Khosa was elected board president - after a brief interim stint - to head a newly elected nine-person board of directors. Canada is also subject to an ongoing corruption investigation by the ICC's anti-corruption unit, stemming from its match against New Zealand at the T20 World Cup earlier this year. A separate corruption investigation centres on a leaked audio recording of a telephone call last year involving then Canada coach Khurram Chohan, in which he claims that senior (now former) board members put pressure on him to select certain players to the national side. The new board is keen to distance itself from that period, however. "Most of the issues pre-date the newly elected board," Bhavjit Jauhar, the board's chief operating officer, told ESPNcricinfo in a statement. "The majority of the governance and financial control concerns raised by the ICC relate to historical practices and decisions made prior to the April/May elections."

"The new board has inherited these legacy issues and is now responsible for implementing corrective and preventive reforms. The ICC has been informed that the new board is committed to full compliance and has already begun implementing structural and governance reforms."

As part of its first steps, Cricket Canada says it has already submitted a detailed plan - a corrective and preventative action plan - to the ICC which includes an analysis of its governance and financial missteps, as well as a series of short and long-term measures to bring them back to ICC compliance.

Cricket Canada has also set up an independent committee, led by the lawyer Dasha Peregodova, which will investigate the issues the ICC has raised and make interim recommendations within a fortnight and a full report on the board's troubles within 45 days. Cricket Canada says the committee has "unrestricted access to financial records, personnel, and documentation."

'Positive move': Gambhir throws his weight behind red-ball-pink-ball switch

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has backed the ICC's idea of switching from a red ball to a pink ball before the start of a Test that is likely to be affected by bad light. "I love that because I've always believed that if there's an opportunity to get a result, you should always have that opportunity," Gambhir said on the eve of India's one-off Test against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh. "Imagine if you are playing the last Test match before the World Test Championship final and you have the chance to win that Test match to qualify, and because of bad light, it's not happening. So I'm all for it."

"If there's an opportunity to

get the result, if both teams agree to it... I know it could be a little unfair and difficult for the players, but imagine working hard for two years and the last Test match before the World Test Championship final, if you don't play five days because of bad light, how unfair that could be. So I think it's a proactive move, it's a positive move, and, hopefully, the teams will start taking it in a positive way." In their most recent Test series, against South Africa at home, India were white-washed 2-0. They are currently sixth on the WTC table with 48.15% points from nine games. But Gambhir was "very optimistic" of making the final.

"Till you have the opportunity to qualify for the World Test



Championship final," he said,

"you are always optimistic because we know the kind of quality we have and the kind of talent we have. I don't think there is any reason not to believe that we cannot win the World Test Championship and that is what not only we but everyone sitting in the dressing room believes."

"Yes, we can have one-odd bad series here and there but we know the kind of talent and how much hunger we have in the dressing room."

While the Afghanistan Test is not part of the WTC cycle, it remains a key fixture between now and August when India travel to Sri Lanka for two Tests. Then in November, they will play another two in New Zealand. India are looking to fill the

No. 3 position after Shubman Gill moved to No. 4 following Virat Kohli's Test retirement. Their options for this match are B Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal. Though Padikkal had a good Ranji Trophy season, scoring 543 runs at an average of 60.33, Gambhir made it clear that Sai Sudharsan deserved more opportunities. He has played six games so far, scoring 302 runs at an average of 27.45.

"Honestly, Sai hasn't got a fair chance," Gambhir said. "He has only played a handful of Test matches and he started his Test career in England, which we all know is not the easiest place [to bat in]. He has had a phenomenal run in the IPL as well and we have got to give him a fair chance."

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