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“Zojila Tunnel Breakthrough Marks a Golden Chapter in India’s Infrastructure History”: Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister Says landmark Project will Ensure Year-Round Connectivity to Ladakh and J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 9: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday hailed the breakthrough of the Zojila Tunnel as a “golden chapter” in India’s infrastructure history, stating that the project will provide uninterrupted, all-weather connectivity between Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh while opening new avenues for economic growth, tourism and strategic mobility.

Speaking after the breakthrough ceremony, Gadkari described the 14-kilometre tunnel as one of the country’s most significant engineering achievements, completed under challenging geographical and climatic conditions. He said the project represents a major step toward overcoming the long-standing connectivity barriers posed by heavy snowfall and harsh winters in the region.

The minister praised the engineers, workers and agencies involved in the construction, **Turn on Page 2**



Zojila Tunnel Will Emerge as a Lifeline for J&K and Ladakh: LG Sinha

HT NEWS NETWORK

MINAMARG (DRASS), JUNE 9: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday hailed the breakthrough of the Zojila Tunnel as a landmark achievement that will transform connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. **Turn on Page 2**

Zojila Tunnel Will Transform Daily Life Across the Region: Omar Abdullah

HT NEWS NETWORK

MINIMARG (DRASS), LADAKH, JUNE 9: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday described the Zojila Tunnel as a transformative infrastructure project that will significantly improve the lives of people in Jammu and Kashmir. **Turn on Page 2**

Kashmir Witnessing Era of Peace, Stability and Development Under PM Modi: Sanjay Seth

Defence Minister Highlights Tourism Surge, Expanding Healthcare Infrastructure

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 9: Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth on Tuesday said Jammu and Kashmir is undergoing a period of peace, stability and development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing rising tourist arrivals, the revival of the film industry and major infrastructure projects as evidence of the region’s transformation.

Speaking to reporters after reviewing the progress of the AIIMS project at Awantipora in Pulwama district, Seth said the Union Territory has witnessed remarkable growth across several sectors in recent years.

He noted that Jammu and Kashmir attracted 2.41 crore tourists last year, while 1.77 crore visitors have already arrived this year, reflecting growing confidence in the region and its improving environment.

The minister also pointed to the resurgence of filmmaking in Kashmir, saying the Valley has regained its position as a preferred destination for film producers after decades of decline. According to Seth, around 400 films were shot in the region last year, marking a significant revival of the sector.

Emphasising the Prime Minister’s focus on promoting Kashmir and the North-East, Seth said the government has consistently encouraged citizens to explore all parts of the country, reinforcing national unity and economic growth.

Drawing on his long association with the region, Seth said he has been visiting Kashmir since the 1970s and described the changes over the years as substantial. He maintained that the pace of development witnessed during the past 12 years has been unprecedented. **Turn on Page 2**

India Witnessed Unprecedented Development Alongside Social Welfare in Last 12 Years : Amit Shah

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 9: Marking 12 years of the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said India had witnessed an unprecedented combination of social welfare and development during the past decade, describing



it as a transformative period in the country’s growth journey.

In a post on social media, Shah praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for what he termed dedicated and tireless service to the nation, asserting that the government had succeeded in delivering welfare benefits to millions while **Turn on Page 2**

Major Blow to Drug Network as Police Seize Rs. 25.50 Lakh Cash and Narcotics in Anantnag

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

ANANTNAG, JUNE 9: In a major success against narcotics trafficking, Anantnag Police on Tuesday seized suspected narcotic substances and Rs. 25.50 lakh in cash during a raid in the Tulkhan area of Bijbehara, arresting an alleged drug peddler and launching an investigation into possible links with a larger drug distribution network.

Police said the operation was conducted following specific intelligence inputs indicating that narcotics had been concealed at an under-construction house in the area. **Turn on Page 2**

Special Train Introduced To Facilitate Pilgrims And Manage Extra Rush: Railways

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 9: In anticipation of a sharp increase in pilgrim traffic next week, the Northern Railway has announced a special train service between Katra and Haridwar to accommodate the expected rush of passengers.

The fully reserved special train will operate one round trip between the two destinations in connection with the increased movement of devotees visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine. Railway officials said the initiative has been taken to ensure smoother travel arrangements and ease pressure on regular services.

According to the schedule, Special Train No. 04606 will depart from Katra at 6:15 pm on June 14 and **Turn on Page 2**

CS Reviews Monsoon Preparedness

Calls for proactive disaster mitigation measures



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 09: In view of the floods and other natural calamities witnessed in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir last year, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness of various departments and agencies for dealing with disasters and emergencies. **Turn on Page 2**

CS calls for saturation of beneficiary-oriented schemes across J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 09: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level review meeting attended **Turn on Page 2**

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

“Zojila Tunnel.....

noting that work was carried out at an altitude of nearly 3,000 metres and in sub-zero temperatures. He also highlighted the contribution of local workers, who formed a substantial portion of the workforce.

Emphasising the transformative impact of the project, Gadkari said the tunnel would reduce travel time between Sonamarg and Minamarg from nearly two hours to about 30 minutes, significantly improving transportation efficiency and reducing weather-related disruptions.

“The Zojila Tunnel is more than a transportation project. It is a gateway to development that will strengthen tourism, trade, employment and regional integration while improving access to remote areas,” he said.

The minister added that year-round connectivity would also enhance the movement of defence personnel, equipment and supplies, strengthening strategic preparedness in the border region.

Highlighting the project’s modern features, Gadkari said the tunnel has been designed with advanced ventilation systems, automated fire detection mechanisms, high-definition surveillance networks and dedicated pedestrian escape passages. Additional infrastructure includes avalanche protection systems, snow galleries, bridges, culverts and approach roads aimed at ensuring safety and operational reliability.

Announcing further infrastructure initiatives for Ladakh, the minister said work is progressing on major projects including the Leh South Bypass and Leh North Bypass, while construction of the Fatu La Twin-Tube Tunnel is expected to commence within the next three months. The Tela Pass Tunnel project is also advancing and is expected to enter the implementation stage after completion of planning formalities.

Gadkari said road and tunnel projects worth approximately Rs. 18,000 crore are currently being implemented between Kargil and Leh, with several new tunnel projects planned along key routes to improve all-weather connectivity and reduce travel time.

Turning to the broader infrastructure landscape, the minister said highway development projects worth nearly Rs. 1.35 lakh crore are underway across Jammu & Kashmir. These include major corridors connecting Jammu, Srinagar, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch and other regions, aimed at improving mobility, logistics efficiency and economic activity.

He also highlighted strategic connectivity initiatives, including the Katra-Srinagar High-Speed Corridor, the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri corridor and road projects linking border areas. A new corridor connecting the Pir Panjal region with the Kashmir Valley is also under consideration.

The minister said ring road projects in Srinagar and Jammu are expected to ease urban congestion and improve links to highways, airports and rail networks, while the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway will strengthen connectivity between northern India and Jammu & Kashmir.

Concluding his remarks, Gadkari said the Zojila Tunnel symbolises India’s growing capacity to execute complex infrastructure projects in difficult terrain and reflects a broader vision of development, connectivity and national progress. He described the breakthrough as a milestone that will reshape the economic and strategic landscape of the Himalayan region for decades to come.

LG Sinha.....

describing the project as a future lifeline for the region.

Joining Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari at the breakthrough ceremony, Sinha said the tunnel represents a major step towards ensuring uninterrupted, all-weather connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh while accelerating economic growth and development.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gadkari for making the project a reality, the Lieutenant Governor said the tunnel would strengthen supply chains, boost tourism and provide critical support for national security in the region.

“Today is undoubtedly a historic day,” Sinha said while congratulating the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. He noted that the project reflects the government’s commitment to expanding modern infrastructure in some of the country’s most challenging geographical conditions.

Describing the tunnel as an engineering milestone, the Lieutenant Governor said it will significantly reduce travel time, improve road safety and ensure dependable connectivity throughout the year, overcoming the disruptions caused by harsh winter conditions along the Zojila Pass.

He said improved connectivity has been a key driver of economic progress and pointed to substantial advancements in road, rail and air infrastructure over the past decade. According to Sinha, the tunnel will not only facilitate trade and tourism but also strengthen strategic mobility in border areas.

The Lieutenant Governor also praised the engineers, technical experts and workers involved in the project, acknowledging their dedication and perseverance in carrying out construction work under extreme weather conditions and at high altitude.

He further observed that the tunnel would provide greater convenience to pilgrims visit-

ing the annual Amarnath pilgrimage by improving access and transportation facilities in the region.

The approximately 14-kilometre bi-directional tunnel is being constructed at a cost of around Rs. 6,800 crore and is considered one of the most challenging mountain infrastructure projects undertaken in India. Built at elevations ranging from 2,900 to 3,310 metres, the project incorporates advanced safety systems, including modern ventilation, fire detection mechanisms, surveillance infrastructure and dedicated pedestrian safety passages.

Upon completion, the tunnel is expected to reduce travel time between Sonamarg and Minamarg from nearly two hours to approximately thirty minutes, marking a major advancement in connectivity, economic integration and regional development.

Omar Abdullah.....

and Ladakh, as a historic breakthrough connected both ends of the strategically important tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway.

The milestone was achieved during a ceremony attended by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, senior government officials and representatives of the executing agencies. The breakthrough was initiated when Gadkari remotely triggered the final blast at the East Portal near Minimarg, successfully linking the two ends of the tunnel.

Speaking on the occasion, Omar Abdullah said the project would have a far-reaching impact on the region by improving access to education, healthcare and markets, while creating new opportunities for tourism, trade and economic growth.

“This tunnel will transform daily life across the region,” the Chief Minister said, noting that its full benefits would become increasingly evident in the years ahead. He congratulated the people of the region and described the breakthrough as the fulfilment of a long-standing aspiration.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of completing the remaining works within the stipulated timeframe so that the tunnel can be opened to the public at the earliest.

One of the country’s most significant road infrastructure projects, the Zojila Tunnel is expected to provide seamless all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh. Once operational, it will reduce travel time across the Zojila Pass from up to 90 minutes to approximately 15 minutes, greatly enhancing mobility and reliability of transportation throughout the year.

Constructed at an altitude of nearly 11,600 feet above sea level, the 13.153-kilometre tunnel is designed as a single-tube, two-lane structure and is being executed by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.

Highlighting the need for stronger regional connectivity, Omar Abdullah also called for regular air services to Kargil. He said improved air connectivity remained an important requirement for the region and urged the Union Government to support efforts to make regular flight operations a reality.

The ceremony was attended by senior civil and military officials, project engineers and public representatives, who hailed the breakthrough as a landmark achievement in strengthening connectivity and accelerating development in the Himalayan region.

Kashmir.....

The minister further highlighted the growth of the cricket bat industry, stating that nearly 30 lakh bats manufactured in Kashmir have been exported to international markets, including the United Kingdom, Australia and Saudi Arabia, boosting local industry and employment.

Referring to the AIIMS Awantipora project, Seth described it as a landmark healthcare initiative that will provide advanced medical facilities within the region and reduce the need for patients to travel outside Jammu and Kashmir for specialised treatment.

He also highlighted the expansion of healthcare infrastructure across the country, noting that the number of AIIMS institutions has increased significantly since 2014. Seth said flagship healthcare programmes have strengthened access to medical services and improved healthcare delivery for millions of people.

The minister said the twin AIIMS institutions in Jammu and Kashmir are expected to play a vital role in strengthening the region’s healthcare system and improving medical services for residents.

India Witnessed.....

simultaneously accelerating infrastructure and economic development.

According to Shah, major welfare initiatives undertaken during the period include free food support for around 800 million people, permanent housing for more than 40 million economically disadvantaged families, health insurance coverage of up to Rs. 500,000 for nearly 500 million citizens, and clean cooking fuel connections for over 100 million households.

Highlighting infrastructure achievements, the Home Minister said more than 90 airports had been developed, over 140 Vande Bharat trains introduced, about 145,000 kilometres of roads constructed and nearly 3,000 kilometres of modern expressways built across

the country.

Shah also credited the Modi government with strengthening India’s economic position, stating that the country had emerged as the world’s fastest-growing major economy under the Prime Minister’s leadership.

He said the scale of transformation achieved over the last 12 years reflected a leadership committed to national development, public welfare and long-term progress.

Modi first took office as Prime Minister in May 2014 and has since secured three consecutive terms, most recently taking oath for a third term on June 9, 2024, following the National Democratic Alliance’s victory in the general elections.

Major Blow to.....

Acting on the information, a police team carried out a search of the premises and recovered 104 grams of a cannabis-based substance along with Rs. 25.50 lakh in cash.

According to officials, the recovered material and cash were hidden beneath boulders on the ground floor of the building.

The accused, identified as Farooq Ahmad Dar, a resident of Tulkhan, Bijbehara, was taken into custody during the operation.

Police have registered a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and initiated further investigations to determine the source of the seized substance and uncover any connections to organised drug trafficking networks.

Officials described the recovery as a significant step in the ongoing campaign against narcotics and reiterated their commitment to dismantling drug supply chains operating in the district.

Anantnag Police also appealed to the public to assist law enforcement agencies by providing information related to drug trafficking, assuring that the identities of informants would remain protected.

The police said sustained action against narcotics-related crimes would continue as part of efforts to curb the spread of drugs and safeguard young people from substance abuse.

Special Train.....

arrive in Haridwar at 6:30 am the following day. On the return journey, Train No. 04605 will leave Haridwar at 5:20 pm on June 15 and reach Katra at 7:00 am on June 16.

A railway spokesperson said the service will consist of 16 coaches, including Sleeper, General, AC 3-Tier and AC 2-Tier classes, providing accommodation for a large number of passengers. The train will halt at key stations along the route, including Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Station, Jammu Tawi, Pathankot Cantonment, Jalandhar Cantonment, Ludhiana, Ambala Cantonment, Saharanpur and Roorkee.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Jammu, Uchit Singh, said the special service has been arranged in view of the substantial rise in pilgrim arrivals witnessed during the occasion.

“A huge increase in the number of devotees is witnessed during this period. This special train is being run with the objective of facilitating passengers and managing the extra rush,” he said.

Railway authorities have urged passengers to make reservations at the earliest and travel only with valid tickets. Information regarding seat availability and reservation status can be obtained through the railway enquiry helpline.

CS Reviews.....

during the forthcoming monsoon season. The meeting was attended by senior Administrative Secretaries, Commandant SDRF, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IGP, Kashmir/Jammu; Chief Executive Officer ERA, Managing Director, JPDCL/KPDCL; Chief Engineer, Project Sampark/Beacon, besides all Deputy Commissioners who joined from their respective districts.

Emphasising the need for proactive planning and preparedness, the Chief Secretary directed the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department (DMRR&R), divisional administrations and district authorities to take all necessary preventive measures well in advance to minimise the loss of life and property in the event of floods, flash floods, landslides, cloudbursts and other natural disasters.

Drawing lessons from past experiences, Dulloo stressed that preparedness should not be limited to departmental arrangements alone but must be complemented by robust inter-agency coordination. He observed that effective coordination among departments, emergency responders and district administrations remains the key to successful disaster response, relief, restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

The Chief Secretary called for comprehensive mapping of vulnerable areas based on disaster risk profiles and topographical conditions. He directed the concerned authorities to identify hazard-prone locations and formulate mitigation strategies accordingly.

Underscoring the importance of safeguarding public infrastructure, Dulloo instructed departments to undertake safety audits of schools, hospitals and other high-footfall government buildings.

He further directed agencies including BRO, NHAI, PWD and other road construction

organisations to ensure swift restoration of roads and connectivity during emergencies, noting that uninterrupted access is critical for rescue and relief operations.

The Chief Secretary also emphasised expeditious completion of all works related to permanent restoration of infrastructure damaged during previous disasters. He asked the Power Development Department to carry out detailed risk assessments of its assets and installations to minimise vulnerabilities and ensure uninterrupted services during adverse weather conditions.

During the meeting, the Administrative Secretaries, including the Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, and Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, presented detailed assessments of measures undertaken to protect critical infrastructure and accelerate restoration works damaged in earlier calamities.

Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti informed the meeting that a series of review meetings had been conducted at various levels over the past several months to finalise preparedness measures in accordance with disaster management protocols. He stated that adequate funds have already been placed at the disposal of Deputy Commissioners for procurement of essential safety gear and emergency equipment.

Bharti further informed that fire safety audits of government infrastructure are currently underway and that the process of providing satellite phones to Sub-Divisional Magistrates and vulnerable tehsils is being taken up for completion shortly. He urged all District Magistrates to strictly adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures framed by the department and act in accordance with the Disaster Management Act to prevent encroachments on water bodies and natural drainage systems.

Commandant SDRF, Intiyaz Hussain Mir, highlighted the need for strengthening SDRF units at the district level by equipping them with modern rescue equipment. He also advocated greater mobilisation of Civil Defence volunteers and enhancement of their remuneration in line with Government of India guidelines.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir gave detailed presentations on preparedness measures undertaken across their respective divisions. The presentations covered manpower deployment, machinery availability, contingency plans and mitigation works being carried out by departments including Irrigation and Flood Control, Public Works, Jal Shakti, Power Development, Rural Development, Health, Urban Development, Municipal Bodies and other stakeholder agencies.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, briefed the meeting on the operationalisation of flood control rooms, emergency reporting mechanisms, early warning systems, emergency response units and road clearance strategies developed by district administrations and concerned departments.

He also highlighted zoning and vulnerability mapping exercises, mock drills conducted by District Disaster Management Authorities, deployment of Aapda Mitras and Civil Defence volunteers, and regular update of inventories on the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) portal.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, presented a detailed account of the administrative and engineering interventions being undertaken across the Valley to protect life and property. He informed the meeting that each district has designated a nodal officer to coordinate preparedness and response measures.

He also shared district-wise assessments of vulnerable villages, exposed populations, rescue centres, their holding capacities and the status of essential facilities available at these locations.

Garg further apprised the meeting of the elaborate arrangements being put in place for the safety and security of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims, including the functioning of the Integrated Command and Control Centre at HMT, Srinagar, and deployment of specialised Mountain Rescue Teams along the pilgrimage routes.

Meanwhile Chief Executive Officer, ERA, Shreya Singhal, informed the meeting that work on the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at Ompora, Budgam, is progressing rapidly and is nearing completion.

She stated that several supporting structures have already been completed and are ready for handover to DMRR&R for immediate utilisation. She added that the main EOC building is expected to be handed over by the end of July, enabling full operationalisation of the facility.

The Deputy Commissioners also presented district-specific preparedness measures and initiatives undertaken to

strengthen local response capabilities and improve readiness for disaster management.

The Chief Engineers of Project Sampark and Beacon assured the meeting that all necessary arrangements have been put in place from their side to ensure uninterrupted connectivity and timely restoration of roads in the event of any weather-related disruptions.

Reiterating the administration’s commitment towards safeguarding lives and property, the Chief Secretary directed all departments and district administrations to remain vigilant, maintain a high level of preparedness and ensure seamless coordination for an effective response to any eventuality during the monsoon season.

CS calls for.....

by the concerned Administrative Secretaries to assess the implementation and saturation of individual beneficiary-oriented schemes being executed by various departments across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for ensuring complete saturation of all eligible beneficiaries under these welfare schemes by proactively reaching out to the people and generating mass awareness through different communication channels.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon all the concerned departments to bridge the gap between identified targets and beneficiaries already covered under different schemes. He directed them to make concerted efforts to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach every intended beneficiary in a time-bound manner.

Emphasising the importance of grassroots outreach, Dulloo called for the formulation of concrete action plans to identify and enrol all eligible individuals and households under the schemes. He maintained that it is the responsibility of the administration to ensure that every deserving beneficiary receives the benefits meant for them and that leaving eligible persons uncovered would amount to a disservice to the people.

He further directed the departments to undertake periodic reviews of their respective schemes and fix measurable targets at every administrative level so that the benefits are extended to all eligible beneficiaries in a systematic and efficient manner.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, R. Alice Vaz, informed the meeting that a total of 66 beneficiary-oriented schemes are currently being implemented in the Union Territory through 18 departments. She highlighted that these schemes are designed to provide direct benefits to the people and play a crucial role in improving their socio-economic well-being.

Giving a detailed presentation, the Commissioner Secretary outlined the targeted beneficiary groups under each scheme and the nature of assistance being extended through cash transfers, food security, housing support, healthcare services, educational assistance and livelihood promotion initiatives.

The meeting was informed that among the 66 schemes under implementation, 21 are being executed by the Social Welfare Department, eight by the Health Department, seven each by the Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and School Education Department, three by the Tribal Affairs Department, while the remaining schemes are being implemented by other departments.

Several flagship and high-impact schemes were reviewed during the meeting, including the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), PM-KISAN and Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) of the Agriculture Department; National Livestock Mission of the Animal Husbandry Department; PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme of the Horticulture Department; One Nation One Ration Card initiative of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department; PMAY-Gramin and Himayat of the Rural Development Department; PM Surya Ghar Yojana; PM Vishwakarma; besides various scholarship and pension schemes being implemented by the Social Welfare Department.

The meeting also reviewed schemes being implemented by the Health, School Education and Skill Development Departments aimed at enhancing health indicators, educational opportunities and strengthening skill development among the population of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that the targeted outreach, regular monitoring and public awareness would be key to achieving saturation under these schemes and ensuring that the intended benefits reach every eligible citizen across the UT.



Div Com Kashmir reviews SMRDA Projects, Stresses timely completion of Development Works

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RINAGAR, JUNE 09: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting of the Srinagar Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (SMRDA) to assess the physical and financial progress of ongoing developmental projects.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Commissioner Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Vice Chairman Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), Additional Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar and Budgam, Chief Engineer R&B, and senior officers of SMRDA.

During the meeting, SMRDA Officers presented comprehensive presentation outlining the status of various projects being



executed through different implementing agencies. It was informed that a total Capex outlay of Rs. 2,702 lakh has been

approved for the financial year 2025-26, against which Rs. 846 lakh has been released.

The meeting was informed that

out of 15 ongoing projects, one project has been completed both physically and financially, while seven projects have achieved

physical completion. Additionally, six more projects are expected to be completed by the end of the financial year 2026-27.

On the occasion, The Div Com reviewed key infrastructure projects, including the upgradation of the General Bus Stand at Parimpora, upgradation of Transport Nagar at Parimpora under the SASCIP project, construction of community facilities and community halls in various parts of Srinagar, and several developmental works in Ganderbal and Budgam districts.

Emphasizing the need for accelerated execution, Anshul Garg directed the concerned agencies to ensure timely completion of all projects and maintain quality standards. He also approved the release of funds for ongoing works to facilitate their smooth and expeditious implementation.

Workers' Committee Formed to Pursue Issues Before Authorities

Kashmir Copper Workers Trade Union Resolves to Strengthen Representation and Seek Better Facilities for Workers

■ HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 8: The Kashmir Copper Workers Trade Union on Sunday constituted a Workers' Committee with the objective of effectively representing employees' concerns before the authorities and pursuing measures aimed at improving their welfare and working conditions. The decision was taken during a meeting held at the union office under the chairmanship of Chairman Jan Mohammad Misgar and attended by union president Arshad Ahmad Khan and other members. According to the union, the meeting focused on a detailed review of workers' grievances, organizational matters, and issues affecting employees associated with the trade.

Participants exchanged views on a range of concerns facing workers and discussed ways to strengthen coordination within the organization. Following deliberations, the gathering unanimously approved the formation of a representative committee to take up workers' matters with the relevant departments and agencies. Union leaders said the newly constituted committee would work to ensure that employees' concerns are presented effectively and that efforts are made to secure improved facilities and timely resolution of issues affecting the workforce. The meeting also finalized the panel of office-bearers and committee members who will be responsible for coordinating with workers and advancing the union's objectives.

The union expressed hope that the new committee would serve as a stronger platform for addressing workers' concerns and promoting their welfare through constructive engagement with the authorities.

Ensure seamless arrangements, essential services during Muharram-ul-Haram: Deputy Chief Minister to officers

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, June 09: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today undertook an extensive tour of several Shia-majority areas of Srinagar to review the arrangements being put in place for smooth and peaceful observance of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the day-long visit, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected various Imam Baras and prominent religious sites, including the revered Shrine of Mir Shams-ud-Din Araki (RA) at Zadibal, the historic Imam Bara Zadibal and historic Imam Bara Has-sanabad.

He assessed the facilities and services being arranged for the devotees and mourners during the holy month.

The Deputy Chief Minister, accompanied by MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, also visited Imam Bara Gulshan Bagh,



Baghwanpora, Nawabagh in Lal Bazar and Bota Kadal, where he interacted with the local representatives and residents to gather first-hand feedback regarding the ongoing preparations.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to ensure seamless inter-departmental coordination and make all necessary arrangements for uninterrupted health-care services, drinking water supply, electricity, sanitation, road connectivity, street lighting and other essential civic amenities.

"Deploy water tanks in all the affected areas on regular basis so that the residents do not face any inconvenience during the Muharram observance," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister instructed the officers to maintain round-the-clock readiness and establish effective grievance redressal mechanism for prompt resolution of the public concerns.

Senior officers from various departments accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the visit and briefed him on the arrangements and developmental works underway in their respective areas.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the public that the government remains fully committed to ensure adequate facilities and a conducive environment for observance of Muharram-ul-Haram across J&K.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the Soura area and reviewed progress on key infrastructure projects, including the Donibagh-Soura road widening project. He directed the concerned authorities to remove the existing bottlenecks and encroachments hampering the pace of work. He stressed the need for ensuring smooth traffic movement and improved connectivity for the public.

He also reviewed the status of ongoing City Gateway development works in the Hazratbal and Zadibal areas and called for their timely completion while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

Awareness Programme on "Effects of Drugs on the Next Generation" Held at GGHSS Kothibagh, Srinagar



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, June 9: The Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association Kashmir (CGPWAK), in collaboration with Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Kothibagh, Srinagar, organized an awareness programme on "Effects of Drugs on the Next Generation" to educate students and the community about the growing menace of drug abuse among youth.

The programme was presided over by CGPWAK President Kifayat Rizvi, who, in his address, emphasized the importance of spiritual guidance, parental care, and social responsibility in safeguarding the younger generation from the dangers of drug addiction.

Prominent speakers including Maulana Shaikat Hussain Keng, Dr. Muzaffar, Maulana G.R. Noori, & IGP Kashmir VK Birdi deliberated on the medical, social, psychological, and legal dimensions of drug abuse. They called for collective action by schools, families, civil society, and law enforcement agencies to ensure a healthy and drug-free environment for youth.

Students of the institution delivered impactful presentations through speeches and posters highlighting the harmful effects of drugs, which were widely appreciated by the audience.

Ms. Samina Wani, Principal of GGHSS Kothibagh, welcomed the guests and underscored the vital role of civil society in the fight against drug abuse. The programme was anchored by Shri G.M. Bhat, Secretary,

CGPWAK.

G.M. Wani (Dilshad), General Secretary of CGPWAK, highlighted the devastating impact of drug addiction on human life and conveyed a strong message through poetry, urging society to remain vigilant and proactive against the menace.

While presenting the vote of thanks, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi appreciated the active participation of the media, school administration, teachers, and students, which contributed to the successful conduct of the programme. The event concluded with an anti-drug pledge taken by all participants.

CGPWAK reiterated its commitment to creating awareness against drug abuse and made a strong public appeal for collective efforts to curb the growing drug menace in society.

Viksit Bharat is a vision of empowered citizens, effective institutions, responsible leadership: Speaker

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh, June 9: The vision of Viksit Bharat is ultimately a vision of empowered citizens, effective institutions and responsible leadership. It is a vision where every citizen becomes a stakeholder in national progress and every legislator becomes an agent of positive transformation.

This was stated by the Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, while addressing a two-day conference of CPA India Region Zone-II held at Chandigarh on 8 and 9 June in presence of Speaker Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla, Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha Harivansh, Speaker Haryana Legislative Assembly Harvinder Kalyan, Presiding Officers and legislators.

The Speaker, while speaking on the topic "Role of Aware Society and Legislators in realizing future challenges and goal of Viksit Bharat - 2047", said that under the vision of a developed India or Viksit Bharat, our Nation is moving with confidence towards becoming a global leader in economic growth,

innovation, governance, sustainability and human development.

The Speaker said that no vision can be realized by the governments alone. The true architects of a developed Nation are its citizens and the true custodians of democratic aspirations are its legislators. He added that a democracy flourishes when the citizens are informed, engaged and conscious of both their rights and responsibilities.

"An aware society is not merely one that participates in elections; it is one that actively contributes to public discourse, respects constitutional values, upholds social harmony and remains vigilant in safeguarding democratic institutions" maintained the Speaker.

Rather stated that unprecedented technological advancement has empowered the citizens but it has also created new challenges in the form of misinformation, polarization and declining trust in institutions. Therefore, the need of the hour is not just access to information but access to credible information, critical thinking and civic education.

"As Legislators it is our responsibility to strengthen the democratic literacy, promote transparency and make governance more accessible, accountable and encourage a culture where the citizens are informed participants rather than passive observers", asserted the Speaker.

The Speaker underscored that India's greatest strength is its youth so the role of young legislators assumes extraordinary significance. They bring energy, innovation, technological understanding and contemporary perspectives into legislative institutions, he added.

Rather exhorted that the young Legislators understand the language of the digital age, the aspirations of emerging entrepreneurs, the concerns of students and the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

"Young legislators can act as bridge between the traditional governance structures and the expectations of a modern society. They can introduce innovative policy solutions, encourage citizen participation through technology

and make the democratic institutions more responsive and inclusive" he said.

The Speaker stated that as Presiding Officers and legislators, we have a special responsibility to nurture future leaders. Legislative institutions must become platforms for democratic learning, he added.

The Speaker also highlighted several emerging national challenges, including climate change and environmental sustainability, technological disruption and the ethical use of artificial intelligence, employment generation and future skills development, urbanization and infrastructure demands, cybersecurity and data protection and maintaining social cohesion in an increasingly interconnected world.

The Speaker stressed that meeting these challenges requires anticipatory governance. Legislators must proactively study the emerging trends and formulate policies that are adaptive, resilient and future-oriented, he said.

He also said that the journey towards Viksit Bharat requires a

collective commitment to certain foundational principles which included quality education and skill development, good governance and institutional accountability, innovation and entrepreneurship, social inclusion and equitable development and the legislative community has a central role in advancing these priorities.

The Speaker highlighted that in Jammu and Kashmir, we have witnessed the transformative impact of citizen participation, youth engagement and developmental initiatives. "Our young people increasingly aspire to become innovators, entrepreneurs, professionals and public representatives. Their enthusiasm and determination reflect the spirit of a confident and forward-looking India" he said.

The Speaker emphasized that the success of Viksit Bharat will not be measured only by economic indicators or infrastructure projects. It will be measured by the strength of our democratic institutions, the awareness of our citizens, the participation of our youth and the inclusiveness of our development.

MP Ruhullah Mehdi convenes Public Darbar at Pulwama

HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 09: Member of Parliament, Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Agha Syed Ruhullah Mehdi today convened a Public Darbar at Circuit House Pulwama to listen to public grievances and developmental concerns of the people.

During the interaction, delegations from various areas of the district besides representatives of trade bodies, social organizations, Auqaf committees, senior citizens and other stakeholders projected a wide range of public issues and development demands.

The issues raised during the Public Darbar pertained to various sectors including education, agriculture, horticulture, health, augmentation of sports infrastructure, widening and upgradation



of roads, deployment of adequate staff in health and educational

institutions, traffic management and other developmental matters.

Addressing the gathering, the Member of Parliament assured the participants that issues requiring policy-level intervention would be taken up at appropriate forums, including forthcoming sessions of Parliament.

The MP further assured the public that their genuine concerns would be pursued for redressal. On the occasion, he also directed the officers of concerned departments to take prompt action on genuine grievances and issues raised during the interaction and ensure their timely resolution.

The Public Darbar witnessed participation from people and different stakeholders.

District and sectoral Officers of different departments attended the event.

DC Ganderbal reviews SANJY-2026 preparedness; Directs timely completion of all works for smooth and safe Yatra

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a comprehensive review meeting here to assess the preparedness and progress of developmental and logistical arrangements being undertaken for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026 along the Baltal axis.

During the review, the DC took a department-wise assessment of works included in the Action Plan-2026 and directed all executing agencies to ensure completion of pending works by June 20th, well ahead of the commencement of the annual pilgrimage.

Superintending Engineer Public Works (Roads and Buildings) Department informed the meeting that works relating to development of parking facilities, improvement of footpaths and pony tracks and installation of barricades for crowd management at Baltal are progressing satisfactorily.

Superintending Engineer KPDCL apprised the meeting that the augmentation of the electricity distribution network, installation of street lighting and other works are being carried out on priority to ensure uninterrupted power supply at Baltal, Domail, Transit Camp and other Yatra locations.

Similarly Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department informed the meeting that significant progress on water supply infrastructure, including augmentation of pipe networks and strengthening of facilities to cater to pilgrims, service providers and security personnel along the Yatra route has been achieved, and rest of the works shall be completed within set timelines.

Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control department was directed to complete all assigned works within the stipulated time.

The Health Department informed that adequate medical arrangements have been put in place, including deployment of ambulances, emergency response teams, manpower and medical equipment at designated health facilities and base camps.



The Labour Department and Animal Husbandry Department informed the meeting that registration of labourers and service providers associated with the Yatra is being carried out on a priority basis. DC directed the Assistant Commissioner Labour to expedite the registration process.

In order to ensure optimal utilisation of parking spaces, and plying of smooth traffic along the yatra route, concerned officers were directed to compile and submit effective parking and transport plan.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements related to telecommunications, sanitation, ration supply, fire safety measures and conveyance for yatries besides SRTC bus service. Departments concerned were directed to maintain close coordination and address all bottlenecks on priority.

The DC emphasized that all departments must work in mission mode to ensure seamless facilities for pilgrims. He instructed officers to expedite pending verifications, finalize manpower deployment plans and submit regular progress reports for effective monitoring.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to a safe, smooth and hassle-free Yatra, the DC directed all departments to adhere strictly to timelines and ensure that every required facility is fully operational before yatra begins.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Superintending Engineer R&B and KPDCL, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat and officers of various line departments, security agencies and stakeholders associated with Yatra management.

DC Shopian reviews NMJKA progress under 100 Day Campaign

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA) and directed all concerned departments and stakeholders to further intensify awareness and outreach activities across the district.



During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress achieved under the campaign and assessed the implementation of various awareness programmes being conducted at the district, block and village levels by the departments. Stressing the need for sustained public engagement, the DC directed officers to ensure the organization of more events and activities involving youth, students, civil society members and local communities.

The DC emphasized that the anti-drug campaign requires a collective and coordinated approach and called upon all departments to enhance their efforts in spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse. He instructed officers to increase the frequency of awareness programmes, sports activities, seminars, rallies, cultural events and community interactions to maximize outreach under the NMJKA initiative.

Highlighting the importance of grassroots participation, the DC directed concerned departments to ensure wider public involvement and effective dissemination of the campaign's message in every corner of the district.

The meeting also reviewed the performance of various departments and discussed strategies for achieving greater public participation and impactful outcomes under the ongoing 100-day NMJKA campaign towards making district Shopian drug-free. The focus was laid on uploading of all events on the portal with daily targets set among departments. The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; GM DIC, Shurjil Naik; Principal GDC Shopian, Prof. Tariq Ahmad and other district administration officers.

DC Kulgam visits Vessu Migrant Colony

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited Vessu Migrant Colony, where he inaugurated a newly established Computer Lab aimed at enhancing digital literacy and providing learning opportunities to the residents.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various facilities available at the colony and interacted with residents to assess their needs and concerns.

The DC also participated and witnessed the Gram Sabha proceedings held at the colony.

During the Gram Sabha, residents actively registered and prioritized their

developmental needs and requirements for inclusion in future development plans.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of community participation in the planning process and urged residents to actively engage in identifying and prioritizing local developmental works.

He assured them that genuine demands and issues raised during the Gram Sabha would be taken into consideration for appropriate action.

The residents appreciated the district administration's efforts in strengthening public services and providing a platform for community-driven development.

DC Shopian chairs meeting on identification of skill training needs of rural youth

Focus on skill training, credit linking of aspiring youth

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 09: In a decisive move to strengthen rural employment and foster grassroots entrepreneurship, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today convened a review meeting to identify the skill training needs of rural youth and strategically align local initiatives with Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs).

The meeting focused on mapping local employment landscapes, identifying high-demand, market-oriented skills, and establishing seamless coordination among various stakeholder departments. The aim is to deliver quality training and unlock sustainable, credit-linked self-

employment avenues for the district's rural youth.

The DC stressed the necessity of transitioning towards a highly structured approach for skill mapping and market-driven training. He emphasized that establishing strong convergence with RSETIs is pivotal to equipping local youth with relevant modern skills and securing sustainable livelihoods across the district.

The chair enquired about the ongoing courses taught through RSETIs and highlighted that proper, long-scale training is vital for creating high-quality local products.

The DC laid emphasis on scaling up the production of hand-craft items, identifying them as



highly important assets that require increased output and support. Recognizing the massive potential of women-led enterprises, he underscored that Self-Help Group (SHG) women play

a critical role in driving this rural economic transformation.

To actively convert skills into viable businesses, the DC directed the concerned departments to facilitate the establish-

ment of micro-production units, pointing out Garlic and pickle units as immediate thrust areas.

Targeted distribution and enhanced availability of high-yielding seeds, root stock management to meet the heavy local demand in identified priority areas, facilitating youth in easy access to credit-linked self-employment schemes, amplifying public awareness and ensuring maximum participation of rural youth in skill development initiatives was emphasized.

GM DIC, Shurjil Naik; ACD, Muzafar Ahmad; SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed; Director, RSETI, CAO, CHO, representatives of rural youth in skill development initiatives were present in the meeting.

DC Budgam reviews Traffic Management, Tourist Facilities at Doodhpathri

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting to review traffic management arrangements and tourist facilities at Doodhpathri Budgam.

The meeting was attended by

the Additional Superintendent of Police Budgam, Chief Executive Officer Doodhpathri Development Authority, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Khansahib, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic Rural) Budgam, Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam, and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, a review of the existing traffic management system and visitor facilitation measures was undertaken.

Various issues related to smooth vehicular movement, tourist convenience, and overall management of the destination were discussed in detail.

ADDC Shopian chairs DWSM meeting to review Jal Jeevan Mission

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 09: A meeting of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) was convened today at the meeting hall of Mini-Secretariat, Shopian to comprehensively review the implementation status of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes across the district.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian. During the meeting, the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Shopian, Abdul Rashid Wani through detailed presentation outlining the current progress and milestones of the ongoing water supply schemes in the district.

It was officially reported that 121 infrastructure works have been successfully completed under the flagship JJM programme in district Shopian till date.

To ensure the timely and efficient execution of the remaining projects, the ADDC issued stringent directives to the concerned to complete the projects for dedication to the public. Executive Engineers were instructed to closely monitor and review sites where progress has slowed, ensuring lagging works are brought up to par immediately while strictly maintaining execution quality. Furthermore, the ADDC directed the Executive Engineers of both the Civil and Mechanical wings to maintain seamless inter-departmental coordination to accelerate the momentum and ensure that all remaining works are completed well before the 2028 timeline. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer, PHE, Mechanical, Awantipora, AEEs, AEs, JEs and other concerned.

DIPR'S CULTURAL UNIT KASHMIR ORGANISES AWARENESS PROGRAMME AT GHS AGLAR KANDI UNDER NMJKBA

HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 09: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan (NMJKA), the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) organised a vibrant cultural awareness programme at Government High School (GHS) Aglar Kandi today.

The programme featured a variety of cultural performances aimed at raising awareness

about the harmful effects of drug abuse. Artists presented a thematic short play depicting the ill effects of substance abuse on individuals, families, and society. Renowned poets also recited thought-provoking poems highlighting the growing menace of drug addiction and the collective responsibility required to curb it. Cultural Officer Kashmir, Abdul Raqib Bhat, emphasized the importance of organizing such outreach programmes and re-

iterated the department's commitment to conducting more awareness initiatives aimed at eradicating the menace of drugs from society.

AEO, Cultural Unit DIPR, Syed Shakeel Shan, spoke about the crucial role of parental care and guidance in preventing substance abuse among youth. He also highlighted the Cultural Unit's ongoing efforts and initiatives in support of the Nasha Mukta J&K mission.

Students of the school actively participated in the programme and presented impactful skits and songs carrying strong anti-drug messages, which were widely appreciated by the audience. Addressing the gathering, noted poet, writer and social activist G.M. Nowsoz observed that art and culture serve as powerful tools for spreading awareness and inspiring positive social change, particularly on critical issues such as drug abuse.

The Headmaster of GHS Aglar, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone expressed gratitude to the Cultural Unit, DIPR, for organizing the programme and for creating awareness about this pressing social issue among students and the local community.

A large number of students, teachers, and local residents attended the programme and appreciated the department's efforts in promoting a drug-free society.

Sakeena Itoo reviews healthcare arrangements for forthcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram

Directs for deployment of adequate medical teams, emergency response units, essential medicines at key locations

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 09: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess and strengthen healthcare arrangements being put in place for the forthcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the meeting, the Minister took a detailed appraisal of the preparedness of the Health Department to ensure seamless medical services for devotees participating in Muharram processions and gatherings.

The meeting was attended by MLA Uri, Dr. Sajjad Shafi; MLA Khansahib, Saifuddin Bhat; MLA Beerwah Dr. Shafi Ahmad; MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Ali Sadiq; MLA Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Pardesi; MD NHM, MD JKMSCL, Director SKIMS, Principals of



all GMCs, Director Health Kashmir, Director ISM, CMOs and other senior officers of health department.

Addressing the participants in the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the need for a coordinated and proactive approach to provide prompt healthcare facilities at all designated congregation points and procession routes.

She directed the administrators of SKIMS, JVC Hospital, SMHS and other city hospitals to establish medical camps for the facilitation of mourners during this holy month.

The Minister instructed officers to establish round-the-clock medical camps at identified venues and ensure availability of specialist doctors, paramedical staff and life-saving drugs.

She also called for strengthening emergency preparedness in hospitals to cater to any unforeseen situation.

The Minister asked them to keep Ambulances on alert so that the patients can be shifted to health facilities without losing time.

She also directed them to make people aware beforehand about the availability of ambu-

lances at designated spots.

Sakeena Itoo directed the concerned officers to ensure deployment of adequate medical teams, emergency response units and essential medicines at key locations. She stressed that all health institutions, particularly those located along major procession routes, should remain fully equipped and prepared to handle any medical exigency during the observance period.

Highlighting the importance of public convenience and safety, Sakeena Itoo directed the officers to maintain close coordination with district administrations and other line departments for effective implementation of healthcare arrangements. She also underscored the need for uninterrupted functioning of ambulance services and emergency healthcare facilities throughout the holy month.

Multi-faceted events held under ongoing '100 Day Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan' at Shopian

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 09: In a massive district-wide push to promote a drug-free society, multiple departments in Shopian organized a series of awareness, sports and wellness activities today under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

Driven by the vision of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K and executed under the direct guidance of the District Development Commissioner (DDC), the initiative saw enthusiastic participation from hundreds of students, faculty, and local residents and officials.



The synchronized events highlighted the district's multi-pronged strategy to combat substance abuse by fostering physical fitness, mental well-being and community awareness.

Recognizing sports as a powerful tool to channel youth energy positively, the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Shopian, organized an exciting District-Level Inter-School Kho Kho Tournament for Boys (U-19). The tournament took place at the Gunj Baksh Arham Hanfiya Public School, Shopian. Students from various Higher Secondary Schools across the district competed passionately.

The event effectively combined competitive sportsmanship with core messaging on the vital importance of maintaining a drug-free lifestyle.

Furthering the sports-centric outreach, an Inter-School Zonal Level Athletics Meet was executed at the Open Play Field, Zainapora. The event was graced by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapora and the District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Shopian.

A large gathering of student athletes participated in diverse track and field events.

The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian conducted a series of awareness campaigns on campus along with organisation of sports events.

Elsewhere, other departments including social welfare, Ayush, animal husbandry, ICDS, RDD, Revenue, etc conducted hundreds of outreach events during the day.

SWD Srinagar organizes Awareness, Outreach Programme at Tribal Research Institute Khimber

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 09: Social Welfare Department (SWD) through SANKALP-hub for empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Tribal Research Institute Srinagar, today organized an Awareness and Outreach Programme at Tribal Research Institute (TRI) Khimber aimed at enhancing awareness about various welfare schemes, educational opportunities, and socio-economic development initiatives for tribal communities.

The Programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, youth, community members, and members of the general public from the tribal belt. The event served as an important platform to disseminate information regarding government welfare Programmes and to encourage greater community engagement in developmental initiatives.

During the Programme, resource persons and officials highlighted various schemes and services available for tribal populations, with special emphasis on education, scholarships, skill development, social security, and empowerment initiatives.

Participants were encouraged to avail themselves of the benefits provided under different government Programmes designed for the welfare and upliftment of tribal communities.

Addressing the gathering, officials emphasized the importance of awareness and community participation in ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries. They reiterated the government's commitment to the inclusive development and empowerment of tribal communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Interactive sessions were also conducted, allowing participants to raise queries and seek clarifications regarding various schemes and services. The Programme received a positive response from attendees, who appreciated the efforts of the Department of Social Welfare and the J&K Tribal Research Institute in reaching out directly to tribal populations.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment to continue such outreach initiatives for strengthening awareness, accessibility, and participation among tribal communities.

Director Sericulture Kashmir visits Allachizab Village in Kupwara, reviews its developmental plan under VVP

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JUNE 9: Director Sericulture Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today visited the Vibrant Village of Allachizab in Kupwara district to assess its developmental profile and review the progress of various initiatives being implemented under the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP).

On his arrival, the Director convened a meeting of concerned officers at Panchayat Ghar Allachizab during which he took a comprehensive appraisal of the developmental agenda and ongoing projects being executed in Allachizab Village under the Vibrant Villages Programme. He stressed the importance of timely implementation of development works and effective coordination among departments to ensure holistic growth of the village.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, and other officers from concerned departments.

Later, the Director chaired a public interaction programme in the village. During the interaction, large



number of local residents and senior citizens highlighted different developmental issues and demands, including upgradation of the local school and health centre, water supply augmentation, macadamization of roads and other day to day problems. The Director heard them patiently and assured them that all genuine issues would be addressed in a time-bound manner through the concerned departments.

The Director emphasized upon

the officers to intensify awareness campaigns regarding various welfare and development schemes so that eligible beneficiaries can fully avail themselves of government services and entitlements. He appealed the people to focus on income generation by availing different government schemes. Earlier, officers from Agriculture, Sericulture, Labour and other departments gave detailed awareness to the people about their departmental schemes.

Javed Rana meets Jammu region delegations, assures priority redress of public grievances

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 9: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today met several deputations from Samba, Bari Brahmana, Nagrota and other areas of Jammu region, assuring them that their genuine issues would be addressed on priority.

The delegations highlighted various developmental concerns pertaining to their respective areas and sought the Minister's intervention for their early redress.



A delegation from Samba highlighted the problem of irregular water supply and sought necessary intervention for ensuring adequate drinking water availability.

Another deputation raised matters related to implementation of the Forest Rights Act and requested expeditious disposal of the pending cases.

A separate delegation urged the Minister to take steps for strengthening and upgrading the healthcare infrastructure to improve delivery of medical services to the people.

Several other deputations also projected local developmental issues and sought redress of public grievances pertaining to their respective areas.

Interacting with the deputations, the Minister reiterated that prompt redress of public grievances remains one of the foremost priorities of the government.

Javed Rana directed the concerned officers to examine the issues projected by the deputations and take appropriate measures for their timely resolution.

JKAACL organises release of Suham Prakash by Prem Nath Pandita

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 09: The J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today organised a book release function for Suham Prakash, written by author Prem Nath Pandita (Prem), at KL Saigal Hall, Jammu.

Dr Ratan Talashi graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Additional Secretary JKAACL Sonali Arun Gupta presided over the function. Chief Editor (Gojri) JKAACL Dr Javid Rahi, ML Pandita and the author Prem Nath Pandita (Prem) were present in the presidium.

In her welcome address, Sonali Arun Gupta emphasised the contemporary relevance of such literary works and their contribution to the understanding of religion and culture. Speakers elaborated on Suham Prakash, underlining the

author's devotion to spiritual and cultural themes.

Dr Rahi noted that Kashmiri Pandits represent an intellectually significant segment of the country and have distinguished themselves through scholarly contributions. Dr Roshan Lal Saraf recited a poem dedicated to his friend Prem Nath Pandita. ML Pandita presented a detailed paper on the book, highlighting its thematic depth and cultural relevance, while Vijay Walli also read a paper on the work.

Dr Talashi appreciated the literary contribution reflected in the work. The author shared details of his poetic journey and creative experiences.

The cultural segment featured a musical presentation by singer Rishabh Dorji, accompanied by Joginder Pal on tabla and Rakesh Jasotra on flute.

Controller LMD conducts awareness camp on Jan Vishwas reforms in Kathua

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, JUNE 09: Controller Legal Metrology Department J&K Shiv Kumar Gupta today conducted a tour of district Kathua, during which he chaired an awareness camp organised by the Legal Metrology Department Kathua. The camp aimed to sensitise consumers, traders and stakeholders about the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act and the reforms introduced under the Jan Vishwas framework 2.0. Among those present were Ajeet Bawa and Vikrant Verma, Presidents of the Industrial Association Kathua; Jang Bahadur, President, Beopar Mandal Kathua; Shyam Sunder, President, Chadwal Beopar Association; and representatives of various trade bodies, industrial associa-

tions, faculty members, consumers and traders. Participants were sensitised about their rights and responsibilities under the Legal Metrology Act and the Consumer Protection framework. Addressing the gathering, the Controller stressed the need to build greater awareness among consumers and traders about the role and functioning of the Legal Metrology Department, particularly in the context of the recently introduced Jan Vishwas reforms. He highlighted the importance of consumer awareness in relation to commodities and services involving LPG, Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and packaged food items, and emphasised the need for transparency and fairness in trade practices. The Controller also interacted with

representatives of industrial units and trade associations, who shared inputs on the implementation of the Jan Vishwas reforms. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, came into force on May 1, 2026, with respect to amendments made to the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. The Jan Vishwas reforms aim to foster trust in trade and commerce by promoting a compliance-driven and facilitative regulatory environment. Under these reforms, several offences punishable under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, have been decriminalised. Jan Vishwas 2.0 has further amended 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts, including 26 provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. A significant feature of these reforms is the introduction of Improvement

Notices for first-time offences under various provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. These measures are intended to promote Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living by shifting towards a trust-based regulatory mechanism. Assistant Controller Legal Metrology Department Kathua Jai Deep Singh Sambal delivered a detailed presentation on the objectives, key provisions and practical implications of the Jan Vishwas reforms, as well as the department's role in ensuring fair trade practices and consumer protection. The camp concluded with an interactive session during which participants raised queries and shared suggestions on the implementation of the reforms and the strengthening of consumer awareness initiatives in the district.

HT EDITORIAL

Tunnel Through the Himalayas, A Bridge to the Future

The historical breakthrough of the Zojila Tunnel is one of those rare moments when an infrastructure project transcends engineering and enters the realm of history. Deep beneath the rugged Himalayas, India has not merely drilled through a mountain; it has broken through a barrier that for generations has shaped the lives, fortunes, and limitations of an entire region.

For decades, the towering walls of Zojila have stood as a reminder of nature's dominance over human mobility. Every winter, snow and avalanches transformed the pass into an impassable frontier, cutting off Ladakh from the Kashmir Valley and disrupting the movement of people, goods, and essential services. Entire communities learned to live around the calendar of the mountains, knowing that for months each year, geography would dictate what was possible and what was not.

The tunnel breakthrough marks the beginning of the end of that reality.

Great nations are often defined by their ability to turn challenges into opportunities. The Zojila Tunnel embodies that principle. It reflects a vision that sees connectivity not as a luxury but as a necessity; not as a regional demand but as a national imperative. By creating an all-weather link between Kashmir and Ladakh, the project promises to deliver what decades of seasonal roads could never guarantee—certainty.

That certainty will transform lives.

A farmer seeking markets for his produce, a student pursuing education, a patient requiring urgent medical care, a business owner dependent on uninterrupted supply chains, or a family separated by harsh winters—all stand to benefit from a corridor that will remain open when nature closes every other route. The true significance of the tunnel lies not in its length or cost, but in its capacity to make everyday life safer, easier, and more predictable for thousands of people.

Its economic impact could be equally profound. Ladakh's breathtaking landscapes have long captivated visitors from around the world, yet seasonal accessibility has constrained the region's tourism potential. Reliable connectivity will encourage investment, extend tourist seasons, strengthen local businesses, and create new opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. The tunnel has the potential to become not only a transportation artery but also a catalyst for sustained regional development.

The strategic dimension is impossible to ignore. Situated in a region of immense geopolitical importance, Ladakh requires dependable connectivity throughout the year. The tunnel will significantly enhance logistical efficiency, ensuring smoother movement of personnel, equipment, and supplies while strengthening India's ability to maintain readiness in a challenging environment. In an era when infrastructure and national security are increasingly intertwined, projects such as Zojila acquire significance far beyond their physical footprint.

Yet perhaps the most inspiring aspect of this achievement is what it says about modern India. Building a tunnel through one of the world's most difficult mountain ranges is not merely a technical accomplishment; it is a statement of confidence. It demonstrates that India is prepared to undertake projects of extraordinary complexity and execute them with determination and purpose. Behind every metre excavated lies the dedication of engineers, workers, technicians, and planners who persevered through extreme conditions to turn an ambitious vision into reality.

The journey, of course, is not yet complete. Safety systems, ventilation networks, lighting infrastructure, and final finishing works remain before the tunnel can fully serve the public. But the breakthrough has already delivered its most important message: the objective is no longer a distant aspiration. It is within reach.

History remembers transformative infrastructure not for the concrete poured or the rock excavated, but for the doors it opens. The Zojila Tunnel will open many. It will connect regions, strengthen economies, improve lives, and reinforce national unity in ways that will be felt for generations.

The breakthrough beneath Zojila is therefore more than an engineering milestone. It is a symbol of a nation refusing to be constrained by geography, choosing instead to shape its own future. In piercing the mountain, India has done something far greater—it has shortened distances, expanded possibilities, and brought an entire region closer to the promise of year-round progress.

Will Bangus Valley Be Thronged Again? Tourists Await Reopening



JAVOID BHAT

Nestled amidst the lofty mountains of Shamasbari in north Kashmir, Bangus Valley remains one of the region's most breathtaking yet least explored destinations. Renowned for its vast green meadows, crystal clear streams, and pristine wilderness, the valley has long captivated the imagination of nature lovers and adventure seekers alike.

With the arrival of summer, anticipation is growing among tourists, travel enthusiasts, and local stakeholders regarding the reopening of this picturesque landscape. Many are eagerly awaiting an official green signal that would once again allow visitors to experience the valley's unmatched serenity and natural beauty.

Over the years, Bangus Valley has emerged as a symbol of Kashmir's untapped tourism potential. Its rich biodiversity, tranquil environment, and panoramic vistas offer an experience distinct from the more crowded tourist destinations of the Valley. Local residents believe that reopening the area to visitors would not only boost tourism but also create livelihood opportunities for communities dependent on the sector.

Travel operators and nature enthusiasts have



expressed hope that necessary arrangements and infrastructure measures will pave the way for a smooth and sustainable tourism season. They stress the importance of balancing visitor access with environmental conservation to preserve the valley's ecological wealth.

Students, too, are eagerly awaiting the reopening of Bangus Valley. For many young learners, the valley offers a unique opportunity to witness a rich biome in its natural setting. Its diverse flora and fauna, lush grasslands, and unspoiled ecosystem

make it an ideal destination for educational and environmental excursions. Teachers and students alike see Bangus as a living classroom where lessons on biodiversity, conservation, and ecology can be experienced firsthand.

For now, the valley stands as beautiful as ever, awaiting the return of those who seek solace in nature's untouched embrace.

The author regularly contributes articles to Headlines Today

Doodhpathri and it's mesmerizing charm



SAHIL MANZOOR

Raiyar-Ich is an emerging village in Tehsil Khansahib in the district of Budgam. The village comprises Bhatti Mohallah, Dinda Mohallah, Tantray Mohallah, Sheikh Mohallah, Khan Mohallah, etc. The people are very cultured, follow the teachings of great scholars, and have been living in a friendly environment for decades. The village has been developing rapidly for the last two decades since the famous tourist destination Doodhpathri came into the eyes of the world. Doodhpathri and other picturesque places of the district, like Mujpathri, Sotchal Pathri, Arizal, and many small attractions, enhance the beauty of the district and attract tourists from all corners of the world.

An Endowed and Peaceful Hamlet in District Budgam

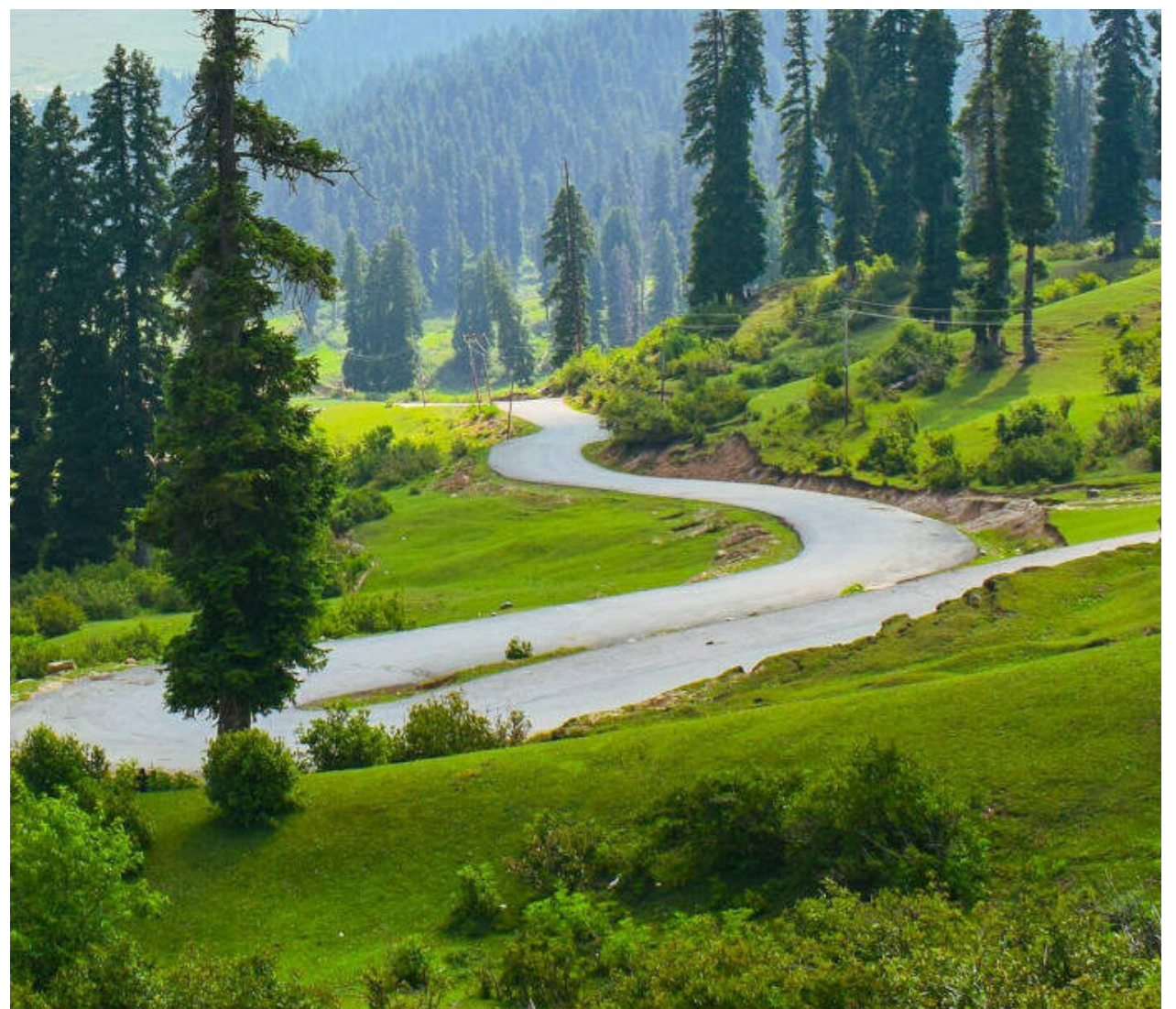
There are ten districts in the Kashmir Valley. Every district has its own unique and special history, and Budgam is one of them. Budgam district is 12 km from the heart of Srinagar's Lal Chowk. In the past, many popular areas that are now part of Srinagar district were once included in Budgam. Therefore, Budgam and Srinagar have shared close ties for decades.

Budgam is one of the most mesmerizing and picturesque districts in the Kashmir Valley. The shrine of Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) in Charar e Shareef is very special to the district. It has beautiful tourist places like Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan, Sotchal Pathri, and Sukhnag, and many more places will be explored in the future.

Today, in this article, I am going to explore the mesmerizing beauty of Raiyar Ich.

About Raiyar Ich Raiyar Ich is an emerging village in terms of rapid development. It is a Panchayat Halqa with nine Panch wards and beautiful topography.

Raiyar Ich is a picturesque hamlet and a resting place for tourists from different parts of the world. According to local legend, the name "Raiyar"



comes from two Kashmiri words: "Rai" meaning lost and "Yaar" meaning friend. The name was given by the mystic Kashmiri Sufi saint Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali (RA). It is said that when he reached this village from the forests of Pir Panjal, he sent his friends to different parts of Kashmir to spread the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and continued his journey alone towards the Dreygam cave.

Why Raiyar is Attractive for Tourists

The village is blessed with rich culture and lush green forests. During late nights, the cool breeze brings peace of mind to everyone. The soothing sound of the Sukh-Nag River feels like soft music from a guitar. The people of the village are innocent and humble and live peacefully with their inherited culture. Raiyar is famous

for rajma (kidney beans), maize bread, and walnuts.

Sources of Income for Locals

It is very fortunate for the locals that Doodhpathri has gained a place on the tourist map. It is one of the emerging tourist destinations in Khansahib tehsil and Budgam district and provides employment to thousands of unemployed local youth.

What Locals Demand

Higher Secondary School: As Raiyar Ich has become a central hub for nearby villages, locals demand the upgradation of the high school into a higher secondary school. Many families cannot afford to send their children to Khansahib and have to spend Rs 50 on travel daily.

Sports Stadium: A well equipped sports stadium for emerging local sports talent.

Children's Park: A park with safe

play equipment for children.

Grazing Area: Locals have grazed cattle for centuries and depend on it for their livelihood and the district's economy.

Computer Skill Centres: Centres under centrally sponsored schemes are important for unemployed youth who want to achieve goals in fields like medicine and teaching.

Stay Home Scheme: All households should be covered so families can improve their livelihood and upgrade their homes.

Road Connectivity: Bhatti Mohallah Tangnar road connectivity should be prioritised. During harsh winters, tourist flow can be diverted via TRC Tangnar so tourists can experience local culture and locals can earn income.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

SAFEGUARDING INDIA'S DAILY PLATE: FSSAI's Renewed Warning Against Newspaper Food Packaging



■ MUZAMIL ARIF

In the bustling streets of Mumbai, a popular vada pav vendor's routine practice recently drew the attention of food safety authorities. What seemed like a harmless, time-tested way of wrapping snacks has sparked a fresh nationwide advisory from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). On June 5, 2026, FSSAI reiterated its long-standing directive: newspapers must not be used for packing, serving, wrapping, or storing food. This timely reminder, issued just ahead of World Food Safety Day on June 7, highlights a critical yet often overlooked public health issue.

THE PERSISTENT PRACTICE AND THE LATEST TRIGGER

Wrapping hot samosas, pakoras, or vada pav in newspaper pages remains a common sight across India's street food stalls, small eateries, and even some households. It is cheap, readily available, and absorbent. However, this habit, rooted in frugality and tradition, carries hidden dangers that FSSAI has highlighted repeatedly since at least 2016, with formal prohibitions in the 2018 Packaging Regulations.

The latest push came after a joint inspection by FSSAI's Western Region and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). Authorities observed a well-known vada pav seller using newspaper, prompting immediate action and broader awareness drives. Similar non-compliance was noted elsewhere, leading FSSAI to urge all food business operators — street vendors, cloud kitchens, caterers, quick-service restaurants (QSRs), mobile vendors, and petty retailers — to switch to safe alternatives immediately.

WHY NEWSPAPERS ARE UNSAFE: THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE WARNING

Newspaper printing ink contains



chemicals, pigments, binders, and heavy metals, including lead. These substances can migrate into food, especially when it is hot, oily, moist, or fried. Heat and oil act as solvents, accelerating the leaching process. Over time, repeated exposure may contribute to long-term health issues, ranging from neurological effects linked to heavy metals to potential carcinogenic risks from bioactive compounds in the ink.

Additionally, newspapers pass through multiple hands during printing, distribution, and sales. They collect dust, dirt, bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens in often unhygienic conditions. Using them to absorb excess oil from fried foods or to cover ingredients only heightens contamination risks.

FSSAI's Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, explic-

itly prohibit this practice: "Newspaper or any such material shall not be used for storing and wrapping of food." The rules also ban using newspapers to cover or serve edibles or soak up oil. Printed surfaces of packaging must not come into direct contact with food, and inks must meet specific safety standards.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS: A SILENT THREAT TO MILLIONS

For millions of Indians who rely on affordable street food, the implications are significant. Children, the elderly, pregnant women, and those with compromised immunity face higher risks. Chronic low-level exposure to lead and other toxins can affect cognitive development, kidney function, and overall well-being. Food-borne illnesses from microbial contamination add another layer of

concern, contributing to India's burden of gastrointestinal diseases.

Public health experts note that while one-time use may seem minor, the cumulative effect across daily consumption is worrisome. This aligns with FSSAI's broader mandate to protect consumers and promote evidence-based practices.

CHALLENGES FOR VENDORS AND THE WAY FORWARD

Street vendors and small businesses often cite cost and convenience as reasons for continuing the practice. Food-grade butter paper, approved wraps, or stainless steel containers can be more expensive initially. However, FSSAI emphasizes that safer options are essential for consumer trust and long-term business sustainability. Many states are conducting

awareness campaigns, and enforcement aims to guide rather than solely penalize.

Consumers also play a vital role. By refusing newspaper-wrapped food and demanding proper packaging, they can drive change. Supporting vendors who use food-safe materials encourages industry-wide improvement.

ALTERNATIVES AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Approved alternatives include food-grade parchment or butter paper, certified biodegradable materials, or multi-layer packaging where the food-contact layer meets safety norms. FSSAI encourages vendors to explore bulk purchasing or cooperatives to manage costs. Broader initiatives on sustainable packaging, including guidelines for recycled materials that meet strict standards, show the regulator's commitment to balancing safety, affordability, and environmental concerns.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF FOOD SAFETY

This advisory is more than a regulation — it is a call to collective responsibility. On World Food Safety Day, it reminds us that food safety begins with mindful choices at every level, from production and packaging to consumption. FSSAI's proactive stance, including inspections and public education, strengthens India's food ecosystem.

As India aspires toward a developed nation status, ensuring safe, nutritious food for all is non-negotiable. By heeding this warning, vendors protect their customers, consumers safeguard their health, and authorities reinforce public trust. The next time you reach for that hot snack, look beyond convenience — choose packaging that protects, not endangers. Small shifts today can prevent significant health burdens tomorrow.

The author is an independent writer and social commentator with a keen focus on contemporary issues. His work spans environmental, social, health, political, regional, and youth-related topics. Through his writings, he strives to raise public awareness, promote social responsibility, and contribute meaningfully to discussions on society and nation-building.

Wounds Of Past Love Still Bleeding



■ MOOL RAJ

I would like to express my deep concern on human emotions, family bonds, moral values, and heartfelt experiences drawn from the rich tape reflect of story of real life.

Not every bond is built on love and warmth. Sometimes, it is only a shadow of what it should have been. This is the story of such a bond. A loveless, painful connection between two people where one heart kept beating with hope while the other had long stopped caring.

From the very beginning, Pinki's indifference was clear. She never gave Mool Raj the love and affection he yearned for. Although she was not openly cruel, her cold and distant attitude made it obvious that she was never truly connected to him. Her silence, her lack of warmth, and her habit of keeping him at a distance silently conveyed a message: there was no place for him in her heart. Still,

Mool Raj stayed. He clung to love and hope, refusing to believe the painful truth that Pinki had made up her mind long ago.

Her emotionless behavior wasn't just a passing phase — it was a carefully maintained wall. Though she tried different ways to provoke Mool Raj, hoping he would one day get frustrated and leave her, he never did. He loved her too deeply and held on, thinking that patience and love could one day melt her frozen heart. Meanwhile, Pinki silently plotted against him, weaving silent schemes and playing cruel games behind his back. But even these mean attempts failed to break his spirit. Mool Raj believed love could overcome anything. He tolerated her coldness, her indifference, and her harsh silence. He thought if he remained kind and loving, one day she would recognize his worth. But as time passed, the burden of her emotional distance became too heavy. What started as neglect slowly turned into a quiet, deadly form of cruelty. Yet Mool Raj kept trying, hoping his endless love would one day soften her.

He poured his heart into the relationship, dedicating every moment, every ounce of energy, to a marriage that was already crumbling. Every kind gesture was met with indifference, every loving

word ignored. Still, he believed that if he just held on a little longer, their bond could be saved. But deep inside, a part of him always knew the truth — their relationship was beyond repair. Pinki had made her choice long ago, emotionally and physically distancing herself, leaving Mool Raj alone in a lifeless marriage.

In reality, Pinki's heart never belonged to Mool Raj. She carried arrogance, coldness, and a deep-seated hatred for him. Sahil realized this quite early in their marriage but chose to suffer silently. He preferred to live in this loveless union rather than break his family and watch his children's lives fall apart. Even so, Muskaan made sure to sting him at every step. She tried to destroy his peace, dignity, and happiness. Her cruelty extended to poisoning their children's minds against their father — a man who had devoted his life to them.

Pinki was always supported by her family, who knew from the start that she had been unwilling to marry Mool Raj. She was forced into the marriage by them. Mool Raj, on the other hand, had fallen for her at first sight. She was the first girl he had ever thought of marrying. He believed she loved him too. But soon, her actions — frequent visits to her parental home, ignoring his calls, and

avoiding him emotionally and physically — told him otherwise. She used their innocent children as weapons in her silent war against him.

Her coldness was not just about lacking affection; it was a continuous, deliberate emotional rejection. The bedroom Mool Raj had lovingly designed for her became a cruel reminder of his loneliness. What he hoped would be a sanctuary of love became a cold, unwelcoming space. No matter how much love he gave, he received nothing in return. Her indifference became a constant wound, draining him from within.

As years passed, Mool Raj was forced to face the bitter truth. The love he carried had turned into a burden. The sacrifices he made only drove them further apart. His love, patience, and tolerance — which had held the marriage together for more than a decade — slowly lost their strength. Their relationship was breaking, piece by piece. Mool Raj's wounds deepened each day, and his heart remained heavy with the weight of his unreturned love.

In the quiet moments of his pain, something within Mool Raj began to change. He realized that holding on to a relationship where his love was neither valued nor acknowledged was not a sign

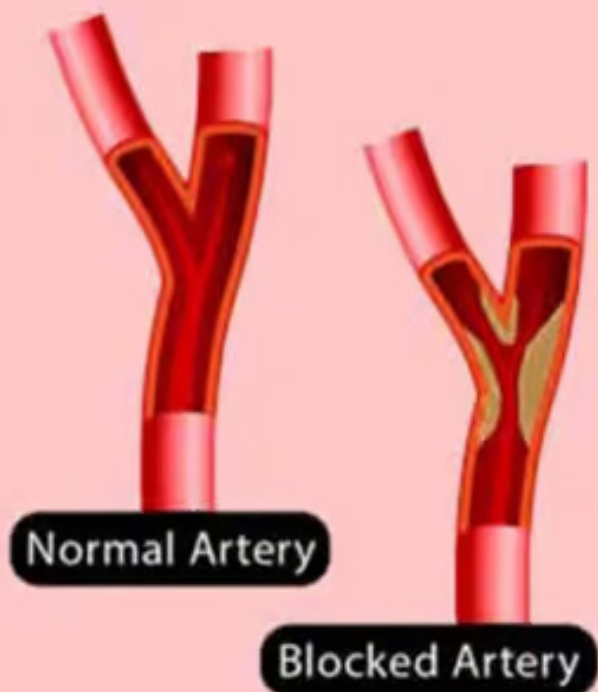
of loyalty but a path to self-destruction. The marriage he kept alive through sheer will had lost its soul.

For the first time, Mool Raj understood that healing would only begin when he let go. This was not an easy realization. Memories of rare happy moments and dreams of growing old together haunted him. Still, deep down, he knew Pinki had already decided her path. Mool Raj couldn't help but think that if she had only spoken openly, expressed her desire for separation honestly, she could have saved them both from years of silent pain.

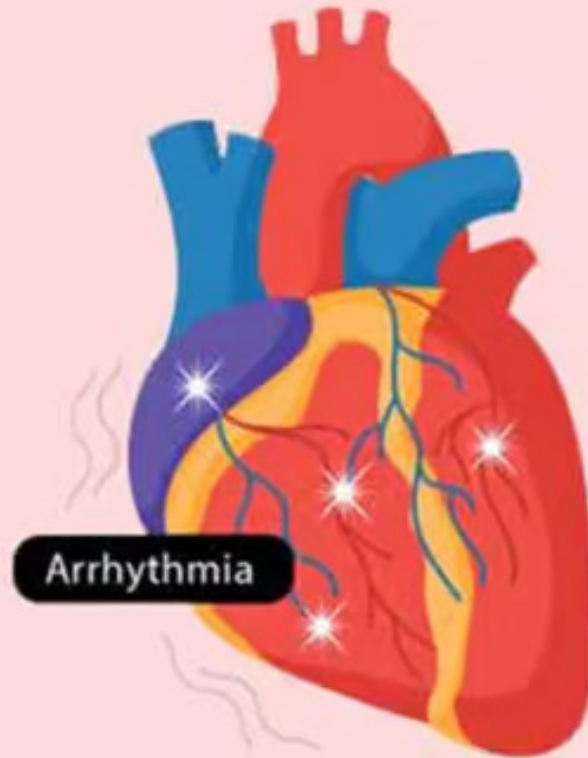
Though the wounds of the past would always remain a part of Mool Raj's story, he chose to rise above them. He would walk the difficult road of healing, unsure if his heart would ever fully recover, or if he would carry those scars for the rest of his life.

Only time would reveal whether his children, one day, would see the truth for themselves and return to the roots of their father's endless love. And as for Pinki and those who supported her cruelty, it remains to be seen what fate they would face in the Apex Court of God's justice.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER



VS



HEART ATTACK

CARDIAC ARREST

Know the Difference, Save a Life



■ **SAM SIR**

Cardiovascular diseases continue to be one of the leading causes of death across the globe, claiming millions of lives every year. Among the most misunderstood medical emergencies are heart attack and cardiac arrest. Many people believe these two conditions are the same, but in reality they are quite different. Understanding the distinction between them, recognizing their warning signs, and knowing how to respond can make a significant difference in saving lives.

A heart attack, medically known as myocardial infarction, occurs when the blood supply to a part of the heart mus-

cle becomes blocked, usually due to a clot in one of the coronary arteries. When the heart muscle does not receive enough oxygen-rich blood, the affected area begins to suffer damage and may eventually die. During a heart attack, the heart generally continues to beat, although its ability to pump blood effectively may be compromised. The most common symptom is chest pain or discomfort, often described as pressure, heaviness, squeezing, or tightness in the chest. The pain may spread to the left arm, shoulders, neck, jaw, or back. Many patients also experience shortness of breath, excessive sweating, weakness, dizziness, or unusual fatigue. It is important to remember that not every heart attack presents with severe chest pain, especially in women and elderly individuals, where symptoms may be mild or atypical.

Cardiac arrest, on the other hand, is a sudden and life-threatening condition that occurs when the heart stops pumping blood effectively due to an electrical malfunction within the heart. As a result,

blood flow to the brain and other vital organs stops immediately. A person experiencing cardiac arrest suddenly collapses, loses consciousness, becomes unresponsive, and stops breathing normally. In some cases, there may be warning signs such as chest pain, palpitations, dizziness, shortness of breath, or fainting episodes, but many cardiac arrests occur without any prior symptoms. Unlike a heart attack, which is primarily a circulation problem, cardiac arrest is an electrical problem of the heart and requires immediate intervention within minutes.

When a heart attack is suspected, prompt medical attention is essential. The patient should be kept calm and seated comfortably while emergency medical services are contacted immediately. Delaying treatment can result in extensive damage to the heart muscle and increase the risk of complications. In the hospital, doctors may perform an electrocardiogram (ECG), blood tests for cardiac enzymes, and various imaging studies to confirm the diagno-

sis. Treatment often includes medications to dissolve clots or prevent further clot formation, angioplasty with stent placement, or coronary artery bypass surgery in selected cases.

In contrast, the management of cardiac arrest demands immediate action from bystanders and healthcare professionals alike. Every second counts because the chances of survival decrease rapidly if treatment is delayed. Emergency services should be activated without delay, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) should be started immediately. Effective chest compressions help maintain blood flow to the brain and vital organs until advanced medical care arrives. The use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), when available, can restore a normal heart rhythm and significantly improve survival rates.

Although heart attacks and cardiac arrests are serious emergencies, many cardiovascular diseases can be prevented through healthy lifestyle choices. Maintaining normal blood pressure,

controlling diabetes, reducing cholesterol levels, consuming a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables, avoiding tobacco and alcohol, engaging in regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy body weight, managing stress, and getting adequate sleep are all important measures that contribute to heart health. Regular health check-ups can also help identify risk factors before they become life-threatening.

In conclusion, heart attack and cardiac arrest are distinct medical conditions that require different responses. A heart attack occurs when blood flow to the heart muscle is blocked, while cardiac arrest occurs when the heart suddenly stops functioning effectively due to an electrical disturbance. Recognizing the warning signs and seeking immediate medical assistance can save lives and reduce long-term complications. Public awareness and timely action remain our strongest weapons in the fight against cardiovascular diseases.

The author is Nursing Tutor

HOW TO PREVENT SUMMER BREAKOUTS



■ **SHAHNAZ HUSAIN**

Wondering why your skin is breaking out in the summer?

If you struggle with acne, you're certainly not alone. In fact, it is the most common skin problem in India.

With the hot and humid summer, your skin becomes prone to many skin troubles. But the most common skin problem that troubles a lot of people is acne. Acne is a common problem with several underlying causes.

The excessive heat, sweat, and humidity that our body produces during summer months intensify oil production, which clogs pores with dirt, grime and debris that leads to more breakouts during this season.

Summer skin is prone to infections as dust, oil, heat and humidity create the perfect environment for pores to clog and acne-causing bacteria to grow. As many oil-producing glands are on the forehead, nose, and chin, this area — the T-zone — is where a person is most prone to pimples. A pimple starts when the pores in the skin become clogged with a type of oil called sebum, which normally lubricates the skin and hair. When sebum accumulates, it causes the formation of comedones (blackheads).

"Some people are genetically prone to breakouts, but heat and sweat can significantly clog skin pores and stimulate an overgrowth of not just bacteria, but yeast that normally lives on skin, making your skin vulnerable to acne-causing

debris and bacteria.

Whether you have acne-prone skin or you deal with those pesky pimples. The good news is that there are ways to prevent and treat common skin problems with gentle herbal creams and gels, essential oils, natural supplements, and some simple lifestyle changes.

Try to Keep Your Hands Off Your Face

It can be very tempting, but touching, picking or scratching your pimples will irritate the skin, may make pimples worse and can spread to other areas. Every time your fingers meet your face, they transfer dirt and oils. It's a hard habit to break, but an important one.

Do not squeeze your pimples. Your hands aren't always clean, and dirt under your fingernails and improper squeezing can cause acne to spread or lead to further infection.

Pimples and blackheads shouldn't be picked at, scratched or pierced.

This usually leads to further inflammation and the spread of germs on neighbouring skin. Also, this will leave a bad pigmented scar. Ideally, stay away from irritating products, remain patient, and develop a regular skin cleansing regimen.

One of the most basic tips for how to get rid of acne is simply to keep your hands to yourself.

Turmeric Powder

One of the best and simplest turmeric facial masks is to simply mix one teaspoon of turmeric powder with two to three teaspoons of plain yoghurt and one tsp of plain honey. Mix it well and make a paste of it. Apply this paste on the face and other affected areas and leave it to dry in a natural environment. You can use it two or three times a week. Just remember one thing: never expose your body to the sun's rays after applying this.

It may give you a reverse result. It gives the best results at night

Curd & Turmeric mixture can not only remove all your acne, pimples or freckles, but it can also give you a fair, smooth skin

Mix one part lemon juice with one-half part turmeric powder. Then stir the two ingredients together to make a smooth paste. Apply the paste on the face using a cotton pad and wash with cool water after 30 minutes

Lemon juice is a natural antiseptic and antibacterial agent. It also helps to even out skin tone, which can reduce the appearance of older acne scars.

Hot turmeric milk (Haldi doodh) is a traditional healing recipe in India. Just add a teaspoon to a cup of hot water and drink it daily night before going to bed. It will treat acne, provide a glow to your skin and aid in digestion. Milk contains lactic acid that has a mild exfoliating effect. This mixture can keep your skin acne-free and make it soft

Eat a healthy Diet

The relationship between diet and acne has been debated for years. Recent research suggests that any foods with a high glycemic index, such as white bread, sugary soft drinks, cakes, doughnuts, pastries, candies, sugary breakfast cereals, greasy foods and other processed foods, etc., that cause a spike in insulin can lead to inflammation and an acne flare.

Regular consumption of high GI foods raises insulin levels, which may stimulate sebum production and inflammation, and raise androgen levels—all of which contribute to acne.

These studies suggest that a low-glycemic, healthy, balanced diet, such as fruits, barley, soybean sprouts and fibre-rich food, vegetables, legumes, nuts and whole or minimally processed grains,

may be helpful for individuals with acne-prone skin.

Neem Leaves:

Take some Neem Bark and soak it for 5 minutes in the water. After that, apply the paste only to the affected area.

Do it regularly every 2 weeks, and you will see your such a spotless, acne free fair skin without any side effects.

Take two tablespoons of neem powder and sandalwood powder each, and add a little water and one tablespoon of rose water to make a paste. Apply it as a face pack and leave it on for 20 minutes. Wash with cool water and wipe clean. Alternatively, you can use fresh leaves if you want. Boil neem leaves in water and filter the water from the leaves. Once it cools down. Mix sandalwood in neem water to form a thin paste. Apply to the face and neck, and leave to dry for 15 minutes, then wash with clean water

Boil about 20 neem leaves in half a litre of water till the leaves are soft and discoloured, and the water turns green. Strain and store in a bottle. Dip a cotton ball into it and wipe your face.

Stay hydrated

Dehydration also gives your skin a dull appearance and promotes inflammation and redness.

If you're hydrated, your body may signal your skin's oil glands to produce more oil, making it easier for acne sores to heal and reducing the overall risk of outbreaks.

Daily intake of eight glasses of clean and normal water / juice, soup, coconut water, and Lassi magically clears your skin. Being hydrated also ensures new skin cells develop correctly as sores heal. Drink more after exercise, if you're pregnant or breastfeeding, or if you spend time in a hot, humid environment.

Lemon

The simplest and most ubiquitous of ingredients, lemon juice is one of the most effective and inexpensive at-home acne remedies.

Lemon juice is the best natural cleanser. Take a lemon and put its juice in a bowl. Take some cotton, and with the help of it, apply it to the face. Leave it until it gets dry. Wash it off.

If you have dry skin, then use it only once a week. Other ingredients like sandalwood, basil (tulsi), mint (pudina), and neem (margosa) can be used to treat eruptive conditions of the skin, like acne. They can be good protective and preventive treatments for oily skin.

Mix a few drops of lemon juice with honey and apply twice daily to the affected areas, let it absorb for over 15 minutes, and wash your skin with fresh water.

Moisturize.

Moisturising is a very important part of treating acne, as moistened skin tends to loosen sebum built up inside pores.

Many acne products contain ingredients that dry the skin. When your skin becomes dry, your body makes more oil. The extra oil can clog your pores, which may lead to more breakouts, which is another reason to keep skin balanced by applying a moisturiser.

The right moisturiser can prevent your skin from becoming dry and irritated. Hydrating the skin surface can rebalance oil glands and help control acne and improve healing.

Always buy a lightweight, oil-free moisturiser that won't clog your pores.

Applying it after you wash helps to maintain hydration in your skin.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

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....MOHAMMAD ASHRAF MALIK
S/O ...ABDUL RASHID MALIK
R/O...WAGILA WAGOORA, DistBARAMULLA**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill)power connection is registered on my father's name MOHAMMAD AKBAR BHAT R/O BANDI PAYEEN Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040016208 wants to be registered on my name SHABIR AHMAD BAHT S/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR BHAT R/O BANDI PAYEEN .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.
Name...SHABIR AHMAD BHAT, S/O ...MOHAMMAD AKBAR BHAT , R/O .. BANDI PAYEEN

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of MEEMA BEGUM D/O ZAHOOOR 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 ZAHOOOR AHMAD BHAT S/O MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT has passed away on 14/05/2026. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below
1... MEEMA BEGUM wife 41 years widow
2... WASIF ZAHOOOR son 17 years student unmarried
3...LUKMAN ZAHOOOR Son 13 years student unmarried
4...SALMAN ZAHOOOR Son 09 years student unmarried
5...MOHD MAQBOOL MIR Father 70 years Farmer married
6...SITARA BEGUM Mother 63 years H/W married
The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self. If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.
Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill)power connection name has been wrongly registered SAMEER AHMAD KHAN S/O ABDUL QAYOOM KHAN R/O CHANDOOSA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040011641 wants to be registered on correct name SAMEER AHMAD BAIGH S/O ABDUL QAYOOM BAIGH R/O CHANDOOSA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.
**Name...SAMEER AHMAD BAIGH
S/O ...ABDUL QAYOOM BAIGH , R/O .. CHANDOOSA**

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

Public Notice

It is hereby informed to the general public that I, Zaffar Ahmad Wani, S/o Ab Khaliq Wani, R/o Kalantra Payeen, wish to state the following: The electricity connection bearing Consumer ID 0212040002140, installed at my residential premises, is currently registered in the name of my deceased father, Ab Khaliq Wani, S/o Habib Wani, R/o Kalantra Payeen.
I am the legal heir and am currently residing in the same premises. I now intend to transfer the electricity connection to my name. If any person has an objection to this name transfer, they may file their objection at the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer, JKPD, Sub Division Watergam, Wagoora, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the said period.
**Zaffar Ahmad Wani, S/o Ab Khaliq Wani
R/o Kalantra Payeen**

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 JAGR KREERI, Dist....BARAMULLA**

Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public that I have changed my name from TAIBA FEROZE to TAIBA FERAZ. Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by my new name, TAIBA FERAZ, for all purposes and records.
If any person has any objection to this name change, he/she may submit the same before the Passport Office, Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.
**TAIBA FERAZ
(Formerly known as TAIBA FEROZE)**

Public Notice

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

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**

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowsharasrinagar

E-mail: suresh05.gupta@jk.gov.in | Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 1ST

Subject: Construction of Gravel Packed Production Tube Wells at Nundresh Colony Gabarpora, Pulwama.
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 14/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/1636-47, dated: 18-05-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_310256_1.
Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 08-06-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM are extended as per the details given below: -
S. No. Item Fresh Date
1. Last date & Time of submission of bids 15-06-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM
2. Date & Time of opening of tenders 16-06-2026 02.00 PM
NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos. No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./2222-33 | Dated: 08-06-2026.
**Sd/-Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE)
Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar**

DIPK: 1982/26 | Dated: 0906-2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) SOPORE
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
FRES NIT No: 16 /R&B /Sopore of 2026-27 | Dated: 08 -06-2026 (3rd call)
For and on behalf of the Lt. Government of J&K UT, e-tenders are being invited on percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) incl. cost of tar & GST	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Positing of AAA	Position of TS
1	Macadamization of Harwan inner links by way of Providing and laying (WBM Grade-2nd in Patches/ Stretches),75 mm thick WMM ,50 MM thick Bituminous Macadam and 25 mm thick semi-dense incld 6 mm thick seal coat	29.418	58840/-	1100/-	20 days	C&T sector Capex Budget 2026-27	AA/ BEE	Accorded by SE R&B Circle Bla vide his order No/19 of 2026-27 dated: 16.5.2026	EE/R&B Sopore 01/TS of 2026-27
2	Macadamization of Link Road Towards Shalimar Colony A Via H/O Towsid Dar by way of 75 mm thick WMM,50 mm thick Bituminous Macdam,25 mm thick semidense, 6 mm thick IRC type seal coat incld Berm filling by way of GSB	19.61	39220/-	800/-	15 days	C&T sector Capex Budget 2026-27	BEE/ CEE	Accorded by SE R&B Circle Bla vide his order No/20 of 2026-27 dated: 16.5.2026	EE/R&B Sopore 02/TS of 2026-27
3	Macadamization of Main Roads of Headquarters along with Main Market with allied links by way of 75 mm thick WMM, 25 mm thick semidense, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam and 6mm thick IRC type seal coat.	38.91	77820/-	1100/-	20 days	C&T sector Capex Budget 2026-27	AA/ BEE	Accorded by SE R&B Circle Bla vide his order No/21 of 2026-27 dated: 16.5.2026	EE/R&B Sopore 03/TS of 2026-27
4	Macadamization of roads at Tarzoo, Mazbugh, Nowpora, Sopore Town roads by way of Providing and laying 75 mm thick WMM,50 MM thick Bituminous Macdam and 25 mm thick semidense, 6 mm thic IRC type seal coat, Road marking strips incld Berm filling by way of GSB	97.487	194975/-	1600/-	30 days	C&T sector Capex Budget 2026-27	AA/	Accorded by SE R&B Circle Bla vide his order No/16 of 2026-27 dated: 18.5.2026	SE R&B Circle Baramulla vide his order No:16 of 2026-27 dated: 18.5.2026

Project Authority: Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) North Kashmir.
Position of funds: Available.
1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08-06-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08-06-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	08-06-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	15 -06-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15 -06-2026 4:20 PM

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and Serial No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photographs before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.
1. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) otherwise the tender will be rejected. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the contract cost, in single CDR/FDR/BG which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
No: 2257-66 Dated: 08-06-2026
Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore
DIPK: 1955/26 | Dated: 09-06-2026

GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE KREERI
Empowering Minds, Building Futures

ADMISSIONS OPEN SESSION 2026-27

ARTS STREAM Major in
ENGLISH LITERATURE
URDU LITERATURE
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EDUCATION
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SOCIOLOGY

MODERN FACILITIES FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW
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Based on 10+2 Merit (Non-CUET Only)
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IMPORTANT DATES

Registration & Preference Filling	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

COMMENCEMENT OF CLASSES
• Winter Zone Colleges: 15 June 2026
• Summer Zone Colleges: 15 July 2026

ELIGIBILITY 10+2 MERIT BASED ADMISSION

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ADMISSION COORDINATOR: Dr. Khursheed Wani (9682169453)

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Space Devoted by Headlines Today in Public Interest

Secretary DLSA Budgam visits Central Jail Srinagar

Conducts Legal Awareness Programme on Plea Bargaining, Prisoners' Rights

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 2026: As per plan of action for the month of June 2026 issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, conducted a visit to the Central Jail Srinagar to review the functioning of legal aid services and interacted with inmates.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of O.P. Baghat, Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Budgam.

The visit was conducted in the presence of the Superintendent, Central Jail Srinagar, who accompanied the Secretary DLSA Budgam during the inspection of the Legal Aid Clinic, Mulaqati Area, and the awareness programme.

Amongst many good practices adopted by the jail administration, the Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar informed the Secretary, DLSA, Budgam, about the recent establishment of a separate cabin for breastfeeding mothers



near the reception area of the jail. The Secretary appreciated this thoughtful and dignified initiative aimed at ensuring privacy, comfort, and convenience for breastfeeding mothers visiting the prison. The Secretary expressed satisfaction over this welfare-oriented measure and lauded the efforts of the jail authorities in creating a more inclusive and humane environment for visitors.

During the visit, the Secretary inspected the Legal Aid Clinic functioning within the jail premises and assessed the legal assistance being provided to the inmates.

The Secretary also visited the recently established Mulaqati Area and reviewed the facilities made available for prisoners and their visitors.

As part of the visit, a legal awareness programme was organized on the topics "Plea Bargaining" and "Rights of Prisoners." The programme aimed at sensitizing inmates about the legal remedies available to them and the rights guaranteed under law during incarceration.

Fozia Shafi, Assistant LADC Budgam and Minhaj, Assistant LADC Srinagar served as the resource persons for the programme who elaborated on the concept of plea bargaining, its legal framework, benefits, and procedure, while also educating the inmates about their fundamental and statutory rights as prisoners.

The Secretary interacted extensively with the inmates and apprised them of the current status of their respective cases. The inmates were encouraged to avail legal aid services whenever required and were assured of continued legal assistance through the Legal Services Institution.

The programme concluded with an interactive session wherein inmates raised various legal queries, which were addressed by the resource persons and officials present.

The initiative reflects the continued commitment of DLSA Budgam towards safeguarding the legal rights of prisoners and promoting legal awareness amongst the inmates.

Public Notice

I, BILAL AHMAD BHAT S/o GHULAM HASSAN, R/o MALOORA HMT, Tehsil Sumbal, District Srinagar, do hereby declare that my father's name has been wrongly recorded as GH HASSAN in my Police Department service record. Whereas, my father's correct name as per my school records and other valid documents is GHULAM HASSAN. All concerned are hereby informed that henceforth I should be known and identified as BILAL AHMAD BHAT S/o GHULAM HASSAN only. I have to get my parentage corrected as per my school records and other valid documents in the DPO Srinagar. If any person has any objection regarding this, the same may be filed in writing in the DPO Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, after which no objection shall be entertained.

BILAL AHMAD BHAT , S/o GHULAM HASSAN
R/o MALOORA HMT, Tehsil Sumbal, District Srinagar
Dated: 06-06-2026

Public Notice

I, SHOWKAT AHMED BHAT S/o GH MOHAMMAD BHAT, R/o Zari Mohalla, Malkoo, Tehsil & District Srinagar, do hereby declare that my name has been wrongly recorded as Showkat Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohd Bhat in my Police Department service record. Whereas, my correct name as per my school records and other valid documents is SHOWKAT AHMED BHAT S/o GH MOHAMMAD BHAT. All concerned are hereby informed that henceforth I should be known and identified by my correct name SHOWKAT AHMED BHAT S/o GH MOHAMMAD BHAT only. I have to get my name corrected in the DPO Srinagar. If any person has any objection regarding this, the same may be filed in writing in the DPO Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, after which no objection shall be entertained.

SHOWKAT AHMED BHAT , S/o GH MOHAMMAD BHAT
R/o Zari Mohalla, Malroo, Tehsil & District Srinagar
Dated: 06-06-2026

Public Notice

I, Ruqaya Rasool, daughter of Late Dr. Nazir Ahmad, resident of Model Town, Sopore, do hereby notify the general public that I have changed my name from Ruqaya Rasool Akhoun to Ruqaya Rasool for all purposes and records. Any person having any objection to the aforesaid change of name may submit the same in writing before the Passport Office, Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period shall be considered.

Ruqaya Rasool, D/o Late Dr. Nazir Ahmad
R/o Model Town, Sopore

Public Notice

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

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that the name mentioned in the Aadhaar Card of my daughter is incorrectly printed as Sheikh Mehnoor. However, her correct and official name, as per school records and other valid documents, is Mahnoor Hilal Sheikh. The details are as follows: Incorrect Name in Aadhaar Card: Sheikh Mehnoor Correct Name: Mahnoor Hilal Sheikh, Father's Name: Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, Date of Birth: 09/11/2011, Address: Hanji Shart, Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir - 193302. Any Objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI and their Seva Kendra Offices within 7 days from the date of Publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection name has been wrongly registered SAMEER AHMAD KHAN S/O ABDUL QUYOOM KHAN R/O WAHDEENA CHANDDOOSA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040011641 wants to be registered on correct name SAMEER AHMAD KHAN BAIG S/O ABDUL QUYOOM KHAN BAIG R/O WAHDEENA CHANDDOOSA . If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name...SAMEER AHMAD KHAN BAIG
S/O ...ABDUL QUYOOM KHAN BAIG, R/O .. CHANDDOOSA

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 Wagoor) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of HABIB BHAT S/O GHULAM AHMAD BHAT R/O BURZAWACHAN & SARA BEGUM W/O HABIB BHAT R/O. BURZAWACHAN Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 25/04/1950 & 01/01/1961 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

YSS Kishtwar conducts inter-school zonal tournaments and Fit India Run

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 09: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Kishtwar organised inter-school zonal level tournaments in Chess, Badminton and Football across Zones Kishtwar and Nagseni.

In Zone Kishtwar, the U-14 Boys Football competition was held at Chowgan Ground Kishtwar, the U-14 Boys Chess event at GHSS Boys Kishtwar and the U-14 Boys Badminton competition at ITI Kishtwar. A total of 127 students participated in these competitions.

Zone Nagseni organised the U-17 Boys and Girls Badminton competitions at BVM HSS Kishtwar, with a total participation of 79 students. The tournaments provided a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and prepare for higher-level competitions.

YSS Kishtwar also organised a Fit India Run under the Fit India Movement as part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. The event saw participation of 3,185 students and staff members from educational institutions across the district.

The Fit India Run was conducted at several institutions, including HSS Filler, HSS Patnazi, HS Affani, HS Bandrena, UPS Upper Kundgware, HSS Boys Kishtwar, HS Galhar, HS Cherhar, MS Gulabgarh, MS Lower Huller, MS Indra Nagar, MS Bhatta Palmar, MS Kundhali, MS City Girls, UPS Razna Palmar, UPS Ward No. 2, UPS Lanyal, MS Poohie Khurd, UPS Ramli, UPS Zargar Mohalla, UPS Sheikh Pura, UPS Umer Mohalla, UPS Seman Kadal and UPS Matta, among others across the district. The activities aimed to promote physical fitness, healthy living and awareness against substance abuse among students and youth.

The events were conducted under the direction of Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta, under the supervision of District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma and under the guidance of DYSSO Kishtwar Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The successful conduct of both the tournaments and the Fit India Run was made possible through the efforts of all Zonal Physical Education Officers, PEMs, PETs, REK teachers, GMs and field staff of YSS Kishtwar.

Dr. Ashish Chandra leads Khet Bachao Abhiyaan event in Anantnag, calls for shift to organic, sustainable farming

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 09: With the aim to promote sustainable agricultural practices and enhance awareness among the farmers about scientific and environment friendly farming techniques, an awareness programme under the Khet Bachao Abhiyaan was organised today by Agriculture Department Anantnag at Khanabal here.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, presided over the program. The program was attended by District Development Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Dr. Rehana Habib, CAO, CHO, CAHO, DD Fisheries, DSHO, Head KVK Dooru, field officials from Agriculture and allied departments besides progressive farmers and representatives of agri related co-operative societies of the district.

Addressing the gathering, the ACS said that Khet Bachao Abhiyaan is a significant initiative aimed at encouraging sustainable agriculture through scientific and judicious use of resources including fertilizers, land and water while pushing for organic and eco-friendly farming practices.

He stressed the need for adopting productive agricultural technologies and scientific farming methods keeping in view the agro climatic conditions and soil health and environmental balance. He called for protecting the top soil layer (humous) and progressive shifting of agriculture towards natural and organic methods stating the same will have huge scope in the long run.

Dr. Ashish Chandra asked the farmers to avail the benefits of Soil Health Card, KCC, PM Fasal Bhima Yojana and credit linkage schemes including HADP and JKICIP so that



they maximize the output of their land and other resources." Soil Health Cards help in assessment of macro and micro nutrients and allow the farmer to use the fertilisers accordingly," he remarked.

Advising the farmers to create FPOs under multiple categories, the ACS said the department is committed towards handholding these organisations at all stages. He termed the sustainable agriculture and farmers' welfare top priority of GoI and UT government, assuring the farmers that necessary support will be provided to them in a smooth and holistic manner.

Dr. Ashish Chandra also felicitated a number of local progressive farmers and representatives of cooperative societies for their exemplary work in respective sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Development Commissioner underscored the importance of close coordination between agriculture and allied departments

and the administration to make the Khet Bachao Abhiyaan a successful campaign at the grassroots level. He assured full support of the district administration in popularizing the initiative and ensuring its effective implementation across the district.

Earlier, Director Agriculture Kashmir addressed the participants and highlighted the aims and objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyaan.

Later, Director Extension, SKUAST-K briefed about various aspects of Khet Bachao Abhiyaan, including its benefits and challenges. She stressed the need for active participation of farmers, scientists and field functionaries to achieve its objectives and strengthen the agriculture sector.

The progressive farmers and other stakeholders pledged to extend full cooperation to the department for successful conduct of the Abhiyaan.

TBS University of Jammu and NZATI launch two-day capacity building programme for J&K Accounts Service probationary officers

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 09: A two-day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for Jammu & Kashmir Accounts Service Probationary Officers commenced today at the Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute (NZATI), Jammu.

The programme is being conducted by The Business School (TBS), University of Jammu, in collaboration with NZATI, with the objective of enhancing the professional competencies of probationary officers through expert-led sessions on financial management, performance evaluation, public-private partnerships, organisational behaviour, emerging technologies and communi-

cation skills.

Director Finance and Principal NZATI Rajesh Talwar formally inaugurated the programme, welcoming Director Accounts & Treasuries Jammu Rajesh Kotwal and the participating officers. The inaugural session highlighted the importance of continuous capacity building and professional development for officers entrusted with managing public finances.

Prof Amisha Gupta, Director & Professor, The Business School, University of Jammu, and Programme Consultant & Lead Coordinator, outlined the academic framework, learning outcomes and significance of the training initiative. Dr Farah Choudhary, Associate

Professor TBS University of Jammu and Programme Consultant & Coordinator, briefed participants on the programme structure and training methodology.

The inaugural day featured four technical sessions delivered by academicians and finance professionals.

The first session, on Financial Management (Part I), was conducted by Prof Sameer Gupta of The Business School, University of Jammu, who highlighted the importance of sound financial planning, budgeting and resource allocation in public administration.

The second session, on Evaluating Financial Performance of Public Sector Undertakings, was delivered by CA Ri-

shu Kawatra, who discussed key financial indicators, performance assessment techniques and best practices for evaluating PSUs. CA Mohit Mahajan conducted the third session, on Public Private Partnership (Part I), focusing on the concept, significance and evolving role of PPP models in infrastructure development and public service delivery.

The fourth session, on Public Private Partnership (Part II), was led by CA Lalit K Gupta, who elaborated on project structuring, risk-sharing mechanisms and relevant PPP case studies.

Participants actively engaged with resource persons through discussions and interactive exchanges throughout the day.

Viyash Scientific to acquire Italy's BioForLife for Rs ₹188 Cr Strengthening Global Pet Care Business

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 9: Hyderabad-based Viyash Scientific Limited, through its wholly owned subsidiary Alivira Animal Health Limited, has signed a binding agreement to acquire a 100 per cent stake in BioForLife (BFL), a leading pet care company headquartered in Milan.

The acquisition, valued at Rs 188 crore in cash, is expected to be completed during the second quarter of FY27, the company announced today.

The transaction marks a significant milestone in Viyash Scientific's strategy to expand its footprint in the rapidly growing global Companion Animal Health Generics market.

The acquisition will strengthen Alivira's companion animal health business globally and enhance its presence in the European pet care sector.

Italy is among Europe's five largest animal health markets, with companion animal care emerging as one of its fastest-growing segments, driven by increasing pet ownership, pet humanisation trends and higher spending on preventive and specialised veterinary care.



BioForLife specializes in the development, commercialization and distribution of pet care products.

The company has built a strong portfolio spanning nutritional supplements, pharmaceuticals and rapid diagnostic tests, while also expanding into high-growth segments such as dermatology and ophthalmology.

With an established sales network reaching more than 80 per cent of veterinary clinics

across Italy, BioForLife provides strong market access and customer relationships that are expected to support future growth initiatives.

The acquisition will provide Viyash Scientific, headquartered in Jubilee Hills, with a platform to introduce products from Alivira's development pipeline into the Italian market.

At the same time, it will create opportunities to expand BioForLife's product range across

Alivira's operations in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America.

Commenting on the development, Dr. Haribabu Bodeputi, Managing Director and Group CEO of Viyash Scientific Limited, said the acquisition is an important step toward building a leading global companion animal health business.

He noted that BioForLife offers an established platform in one of Europe's most attractive

pet care markets and strengthens the company's regional presence. According to him, combining BioForLife's commercial reach with Alivira's product development capabilities will help accelerate growth, broaden the companion animal health portfolio and create greater value for veterinarians, pet owners and business partners.

Dr. Bodeputi also said the company sees significant opportunities to introduce innovative products into India and other international markets through its global network, adding that the investment reflects Viyash Scientific's commitment to sustainable growth, strategic expansion and long-term value creation.

The acquisition will also strengthen Alivira's leadership team, with BioForLife's existing executives expected to continue managing business operations while driving new growth initiatives.

The transaction builds on Alivira's track record of international expansion, having successfully acquired and integrated multiple animal health companies across Europe, Latin America and Asia over the past decade.UNI

Stock markets witness bloodbath, Sensex losses over 700 pts amid escalating tensions in West Asia

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 9: Indian stock markets on Monday extended their losing streak for a second consecutive session amid fresh tensions in West Asia.



At close, the Sensex was down 719.08 points or 0.97 percent at 73,524.26, while Nifty was down 243.70 points or 1.04 percent at 23,123.

Indian rupee witnessed a sharp fall, settling 77 paise lower at 95.71 per US dollar.

Among the sectors, all indices ended in negative territory with the Realty and Metal indices being worst performers. Other sectors like Auto, Consumer Durables, IT, Media, Infrastructure, Power, Energy and Oil & Gas sectors also fell during the session.

On Nifty, Max Healthcare, Power Grid Corporation and Nestle India were the top gainers while Wipro, Jio Financial Services, Eternal, Hindalco Industries and Shriram Finance emerged as the top losers.

More than 140 stocks touched their 52-week high on the BSE while over 100 stocks touched their 52-week low.

Those on the highs included Aster DM Health, Adani Energy, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, ACME Solar, Federal Bank, JK Bank, Sai Life Science, Laurus Labs, Ather Energy, among others.

While on the low were Wipro, Swiggy, Rail Vikas Nigam, TCS, SBI Cards, Reliance Industries, EID Parry, Blue Dart, Dalmia Bharat, eClerx Services, GlaxoSmithKline, Emami, among others.

Among the tech stocks, Tata Consultancy Services and Oracle Financial Services declined while the metal stocks also witnessed selling pressure led by NALCO, Hindustan Copper, Lloyds Metals & Energy, Jindal Stainless, Vedanta, NMDC, SAIL, and Welspun Corp.

Gold financing and jewellery stocks also witnessed selloff with Muthoot Finance, IIFL Finance and Manappuram Finance falling by up to 6 percent amid the declining gold prices.

In the global markets, Japan's Nikkei declined 3.8 percent, South Korea's Kospi was down 4.8 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index slid nearly 2 percent, while mainland China's CSI 300 declined 1.5 percent.UNI

Coromandel Intl, Samunnati join hands to improve Agri-Input Access for FPOs

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 9: Coromandel International Limited, one of India's leading agri-solutions providers, today said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Samunnati Agri Value Chain Solutions Private Limited to strengthen market access and improve the availability of quality agricultural inputs for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and other stakeholders in the rural agri ecosystem.

The agreement was signed by Madhab Adhikari and Suresh Rajagopalan in the presence of Narayanan Vellayan and senior officials from both organizations.

Under the partnership, Coromandel will leverage Samunnati's extensive network of FPOs to expand access to its crop nutrition, crop protection and agri-service solutions.

The collaboration aims to enhance the availability of high-quality agri-inputs while supporting productivity and sustainability across farming communities.

The two companies will also explore customized marketing support initiatives, product demonstrations and technology adoption programmes to encourage the use of modern agricultural practices and sustainable farming solutions.

In addition, Samunnati Finance Private Limited may extend financial assistance to eligible FPOs and participants in the agri ecosystem for the procurement of Coromandel products, subject to separate agreements and regulatory approvals.

Speaking on the occasion, Narayanan Vellayan said the partnership aligns with Coromandel's commitment to delivering innovative and sustainable agri-solutions to farmers across the country.

"By combining Coromandel's strong product portfolio and field expertise with Samunnati's deep engagement with FPOs and agri value chain participants, we aim to improve access to quality inputs and support the growth of a more resilient and efficient agri ecosystem," he added.

Suresh Rajagopalan said the collaboration would strengthen last-mile access to quality agricultural inputs and promote sustainable farming practices.UNI

BMW India to hike vehicle prices by up to 2 pc from July 1

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 9: BMW Group India on Monday announced a price increase of up to 2 per cent across its vehicle portfolio, effective July 1, 2026.

The price revision will apply to the entire range of BMW and MINI vehicles sold in India, the luxury automobile manufacturer said in a statement.

Hardeep Singh Brar, President and CEO of BMW Group India, said the company continues to witness strong demand across its product portfolio and remains committed to delivering premium mobility experiences.

He said the decision to increase prices was driven by macroeconomic challenges, particularly the



depreciation of the Indian rupee and rising logistics costs. According to him, the revision will help the company maintain its high standards of engineering, product quality and customer service.

BMW's locally manufactured portfolio in India includes the following models: BMW 2 Series Gran

Coupe; BMW 3 Series Long Wheelbase; BMW 5 Series Long Wheelbase; BMW 7 Series; BMW X1; BMW X3; BMW X5; BMW X7; BMW M340i and BMW iX1 Long Wheelbase.

The company also markets several imported completely built-up (CBU) models in India, including: BMW i5 M60, BMW i7, BMW i7 M70, BMW iX, BMW M440i Convertible, BMW M2 Coupe, BMW M4 Competition, BMW M5 and BMW XM.

BMW Group India said its BMW Smart Finance programme will continue to offer customers attractive financing solutions, including competitive monthly instalments, special interest rates on select models, assured buy-back options and flexible end-of-term ownership plans. UNI

INDIA'S AGRO-PROCESSING SECTOR ENTERING NEW PHASE WITH STIMULUS OF CONSUMPTION GROWTH AND MONETARY STABILITY

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 9: India's agro-processing, flour milling, grain processing and food processing sector is entering a new phase supported by rising household consumption, urbanisation, and rising preference for branded staple foods.

As per official data, this sector serves a market of more than 1.4 billion consumers, forming a critical link between agriculture and retail consumption.

This industry is witnessing a growing demand for packaged atta, pulses, besan, semolina, and value-added food products. Interestingly, this sector is also leveraging the government initiatives aimed at strengthening food processing infrastructure, reducing post-harvest losses,

and improving supply-chain efficiency.

In June, the RBI Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) move of keeping the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 percent and maintaining a "neutral" stance will provide a supportive operating environment for this sector. Food processors and flour millers are heavily dependent on working capital financing for procurement, inventory stocking, and seasonal purchases of agricultural commodities.

For instance, stable borrowing costs will help companies manage cash flows more efficiently with supporting investments in modernisation, automation and capacity expansion.

The premier central bank also projected India's GDP growth at 6.6 percent for FY27, which in-



dicates continued growth in consumption-led sectors. This sustained economic growth translates into higher spending on packaged and branded food products, particularly in urban and semi-urban markets.

Maresh Kewlani, Director, Kewlani Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd., said, "India's agro-processing sector is evolving beyond growing consumption to rising con-

sumer expectations. Across staples like flour, pulses, and rice, consumers increasingly value consistency, quality, and trust."

"The RBI's June 2026 monetary policy decision is a positive step for the industry. Stable interest rates and adequate liquidity support long-term investments, efficient inventory management, and stronger supply chains."

He highlighted that while challenges such as commodity price volatility, weather disruptions, and rising logistics costs remain; disciplined operations and prudent financial management will be critical.

"We remain optimistic about the sector's future. Backed by strong domestic demand and a resilient agricultural ecosystem, India is well-positioned to

strengthen its role in both domestic and global food markets. Companies that continue investing in quality, efficiency, and consumer trust will be best placed to capture the next phase of growth." Raw material prices remain vulnerable to weather disruptions while rising energy costs, transportation expense and packaging costs continue to pressure margins.

RBI has raised its FY27 inflation forecast to 5.1 percent and flagged concerns over elevated crude oil prices, supply-chain disruptions and monsoon-related uncertainties.

These factors could impact both agricultural output and procurement costs for processors, particularly those dependent on wheat, pulses and other grains. UNI

Incuspaze acquires iKeva in 100pc buyout, plans to add 1 mn sq ft office space in Hyderabad

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 9: Managed workspace provider Incuspaze on Monday said it has acquired workspace operator iKeva through a 100 per cent buyout transaction, strengthening its presence in the fast-growing flexible office space market.

The acquisition is expected to add nearly Rs 100 crore to Incuspaze's revenue and support the company's ambitious target of achieving Rs 1,000 crore revenue by FY 2028-29 through a combination of organic growth, higher enterprise occupancy and strategic acquisitions.

iKeva operates a portfolio of approximately 5 lakh sq. ft. across Hyderabad and Bengaluru through 18 centres.

Following the acquisition, Incuspaze plans to add another 5 lakh sq. ft. of office space by FY27, taking its expansion plans in Hyderabad and other key markets to the next level.

The acquisition also marks a strategic step as Incuspaze prepares for a potential Initial Public Offering (IPO) over the next 24-36 months.

In a statement, Sanjay Choudhary, Founder and CEO of Incuspaze, said the acquisition would strengthen the company's regional footprint

while improving operational efficiencies and standardising customer experience across locations.

He noted that the growing presence of multinational corporations and the rapid expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) are reshaping demand in India's commercial real estate sector.

According to him, iKeva's strong market position in Hyderabad complements Incuspaze's national network and enterprise-focused strategy, enabling the combined entity to offer integrated, multi-city workspace solutions to businesses seeking flexibility and scalability.

CAPITAL MARKETS EMERGING AS CORE AVENUE FOR HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS: SEBI CHAIRMAN

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 9: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, said the capital markets are increasingly emerging as a core avenue for household savings and wealth creation in India.

He said it is reflecting a structural shift in how Indians are investing and participating in the country's growth story.

While speaking at the ICICI Securities India Investor Conference 2026, Pandey said, "Capital markets are increasingly becoming a core

avenue for household savings and wealth creation."

Pandey further said on the Portfolio Management Services (PMS) regulations, extensive deliberations are underway and a consultation paper will be released soon.

"India's economic rise is not only about higher growth numbers but also about the formalisation of the economy, financialisation of savings and growing trust in institutions," he added.

SEBI chief said, "mutual fund assets have surged from about Rs 12 trillion to over Rs 80 trillion over the years, while household partici-

pation in capital markets has continued to rise steadily."

India now has around 145 million investors in the securities market, with the investor base expanding at more than 20 per cent annually. Household financial savings as a share of GDP increased to 21.7 per cent in FY25 from around 20 per cent in FY23, aided by broader participation across financial instruments, he added.

"Together, these developments point to a clear shift. Households are increasingly allocating savings towards market-linked investment avenues," he said. UNI



McCullum 'hopeful' of Archer's availability for second NZ Test

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

ADELAIDE: England are "hopeful" that Jofra Archer will be available for the second Test of their series against New Zealand after a post-IPL break, but head coach Brendon McCullum has warned that he is not a guaranteed pick in any case.

Archer was deemed "unavailable" for the first Test at Lord's due to the short turnaround after his IPL commitments with Rajasthan Royals but has been building up his workload at home in Barbados with a view to playing the second and third Tests. McCullum said after England's win at Lord's that Archer's availability would be confirmed "in the next couple of days".

"We're hopeful he will be available for the second Test; then we'll work out conditions-wise where we're at," McCullum said. "He's following a plan. We completely trust Jof. He's shown us in the past what he does, which is get himself ready based on the plans we get together and come up with. He's always turned up in the condition we wanted from him."

England's decision not to consider Archer for selection stood in contrast with Mohammed

Siraj's inclusion for India against Afghanistan after his own heavy workload in the IPL. New Zealand's team at Lord's included two seamers who were at the IPL in Matt Henry and Kyle Jamieson, but they had played only five matches between them and Henry suffered back spasms on day one.

McCullum hinted that Archer may not be a guaranteed selection even if he is available for the second Test on June 17, depending on conditions at The Oval. Gus Atkinson, Ollie Robinson and Josh Tongue shared 19 wickets in England's low-scoring win at Lord's, while McCullum also praised the two seamers who did not play in Sonny Baker and Matthew Fisher. Archer has taken 18 wickets at 27.88 in five Tests since he made his comeback against India last summer, including a five-wicket haul in his most recent appearance against Australia in Adelaide in December. But he has not played a red-ball match since, and McCullum said that England are trying to build "a battery of fast bowlers" rather than relying on one individual.

"We need a huge array of fast bowlers [to pick from] based on the conditions you feel you're going to be confronted with," Mc-

Cullum said. "You're not always going to get it right, but you're trying to pick horses for courses, based on conditions, to give yourself the best chance of winning."

Ben Stokes only bowled seven overs in the match and Shoaib Bashir went unused on an up-and-down Lord's pitch that could not have suited England's three main seam bowlers much better. McCullum said that they were "brilliant" across both innings and suggested that England are starting to create depth and competition for places among their fast bowlers. "Sonny Baker was close, as well," he said. "We thought if air-speed was going to be important and the pitch was going to be flat, he would be a viable option. Fish [Fisher] has been bowling beautifully, then you've got Jofra and Brydon Carse [who has not played since breaking his hand at the IPL in March].

"Then you've got a multitude of players who are developing through the county system and through the Lions who are on our radar. There is some exciting talent: [Henry] Crocombe, Nav Sharma, Eddie Jack. These guys are all in the system and identified. "Now, we've just got to make sure we're upskilling them so if

the opportunity arises in the years to come, they're ready to step in and perform. It's a good place to be when you have a battery of fast bowlers you can call on."

Robinson was named player of the match after taking career-best figures of 7 for 77 on his Test comeback, and was challenged by both McCullum and Stokes to back his performance up in the rest of the series.

"The pleasing thing for me as captain... is the way that he's spoken about this week," Stokes said. "It would be very easy to rest on your laurels when everything's gone so well for him, but the language he's used around this being just the start, there's a lot more hard work to put in [his great]. The more Ollie Robinson has an England shirt on his back, the better it is for us."

McCullum said that Robinson had a "brilliant Test match" on a pitch that "suited him perfectly" but cautioned that conditions will not always be in his favour: "He will definitely be challenged [more] in different conditions. The good thing was, on this surface, air-speed wasn't overly important; it was the ability to be relentless on the line and length, which is such a natural thing for Robbo."

Molineux urges Australia to play with freedom in bid to reclaim title

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

LONDON: As the 12 team captains gathered on Waterloo Bridge in London for the ICC's official event launch, Molineux said her team would relish the chance to show the progress they've made when they open their campaign against South Africa at Old Trafford on Saturday.

"I think it can free us up if we harness that," Molineux said of entering the tournament with no title to defend for the first time since 2018. "The last couple of World Cups we've learnt a whole lot from that and been able to implement a few things."

"I feel like we've really evolved as a team in the last few months and even before that. So I'm really excited and I think the girls are really hungry to get out there and be able to put that in place. I



don't think there's any better arena to be able to do it at a World Cup in the big moments that are going to come in the next few weeks."

Left-arm spinner Molineux was appointed as the retired Alyssa Healy's successor at the start of this year. She played as a batter only on Australia's tour of the Caribbean in March after she was struck down by back pain during the home series against India and a stress reaction was detected.

But careful management has her "ready and firing to go" after bowling in both Australia's completed warm-up games to date against South Africa at Arundel, where she took 2 for 17 and 1 for 16. And she is keen to make her mark as a calm, caring captain who can get the most out of the enviable talent, knowledge and skill in her team to "go to another level".

"As a person and leader, I'd like to be calm," she said. "I also care a lot about this team and the people in it, first and foremost that the people in the environment feel like they can be themselves. That's been a big thing coming in."

Harmanpreet Kaur confident ahead of Women's T20 World Cup campaign

■ AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur believes her side has all the ingredients required to lift the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 title, stressing the need to remain balanced and focus on playing quality cricket rather than being weighed down by expectations.

Speaking at the Captains' Carnival in London ahead of the tournament, which begins on June 12, Harmanpreet highlighted the transformative impact of India's recent success on the growth of women's cricket across the country. "We have seen that during last year's World Cup when we won. After that, we have seen a massive change," Harmanpreet said. "Many girls are coming to play cricket, and I think when we do well, a lot of things change.



Hopefully, we play our best cricket and try to make an impact on women's cricket." India enter the tournament

as reigning Women's ODI World Cup champions, having clinched the title on home soil last year. "We have the potential to win

the World Cup," she said. "The key is to stay balanced — neither taking too much pressure nor becoming overconfident. We just

need to focus on playing good T20 cricket."

India have been placed in a challenging Group 1 alongside Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

The Harmanpreet-led side will open its campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan at Edgbaston in Birmingham on June 14. They will then face the Netherlands in Leeds before taking on South Africa in Manchester. India will remain in Manchester for their clash against Bangladesh before wrapping up their group-stage fixtures against Australia in London on June 28. Despite heading into the tournament on the back of a 4-1 T20I series defeat to South Africa under Laura Wolvaardt, India will be eager to put that setback behind them and rediscover their momentum on the biggest stage.

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