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Modi Government Redefined India's Security Doctrine: Amit Shah

Cites Article 370 Repeal, Decline in Insurgency As Key achievements of the past 12 years

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asserted that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fundamentally transformed India's national security framework over the past 12 years, making the country stronger, more secure and better prepared to confront emerging threats.

In a statement marking the completion of 12 years of the Modi government, Shah said a series of decisive measures, including a zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism, cross-border counter-terror operations, the repeal of Article 370 Repeal, and sustained campaigns against insurgency and Naxal violence, have reshaped India's security landscape.



The Home Minister said India has moved beyond a defensive posture and adopted a policy of firm and swift action against threats to national security. He pointed to surgical strikes, air strikes and Operation Sindoor as examples of the country's willingness to target terrorist infrastructure and respond decisively to acts of terror.

Shah said Operation Sindoor represented a significant shift in India's security response, demonstrating the government's commitment to eliminating terrorist networks and strengthening deterrence against future attacks.

Highlighting developments in Jammu and Kashmir, he described the repeal of Article 370 as a landmark step that strengthened national integration and

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MHA Team Led By Union Home Secretary To Review Amarnath Yatra Security Arrangements

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), led by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, will visit Jammu and Kashmir on June 20 and 21 to review security and logistical arrangements for the annual Amarnath Yatra, which is scheduled to commence on July 3.

Official sources said the delegation will include senior officials from key security and intelligence agencies, including the Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Intelligence Bureau and other wings of the MHA. The team is expected to hold separate review meetings in Jammu and Kashmir divisions to assess the overall preparedness for the 57-day pilgrimage.

The visit comes days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level security review meeting in New Delhi and directed officials to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the safe and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

During the meeting, Shah reiterated that the safety of pilgrims remains the foremost priority of the Central Government and instructed secu-



Ministry of Home Affairs (government of india)

ity agencies to establish a robust multi-layered security framework along the pilgrimage routes. Officials have been asked to ensure close coordination among Central Armed Police Forces, Jammu and Kashmir Police and other agencies involved in the security exercise. The Home Minister also stressed the need to integrate modern technology with conventional security measures to enhance surveillance and response capabilities.

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Modi Is One Of The Toughest Negotiators: Donald Trump

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17: United States President Donald Trump on Wednesday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "one of the toughest negotiators," as the two leaders held wide-ranging discussions on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Trump indicated that negotiations on a proposed bilateral trade agreement were making significant progress and suggested that a deal could be finalized in the near future.

"We are very close," Trump said when asked about the status of the trade pact. Praising Modi's negotiating abilities, he remarked that the Indian prime minister was among the toughest leaders he had dealt with in trade discussions.

The meeting reflected the continued engagement between New Delhi and Washington on key economic and strategic issues. Both leaders reviewed progress in trade negotiations and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in defence, security and regional affairs.

During the interaction, Trump also

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CM Omar Unveils ₹100 Crore Development Package for Bandipora

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today gave Bandipora district a massive developmental boost by inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for 18 major projects worth approximately Rs. 100 crore. These multisectoral projects span higher education, roads, bridges, clean drinking water, urban devel-

opment, and agriculture infrastructure, aiming to directly address the key needs of the local population.

Major initiatives include the construction of the Government Degree College at Ajas (Rs. 14 crore), a footbridge over the River Jhelum at Tundipora-Hakbara (Rs. 10.62 crore), a female student hostel at Government Degree College Bandipora

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Senior Citizens Deserve Respect, Not Charity: Sakeena Itoo

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 17: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today remarked that respect for senior citizens is their rightful entitlement and not a favour as they have contributed immensely for the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these remarks while felicitating senior citizens of Day Care Centre Roop Nagar Jammu during a grand function held at JKTDC Banquet Hall at TRC Jammu, to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of senior citizens towards society.

The programme was attended by



Director, Social Welfare Jammu, Ranjeet Singh; Secretary, Advisory Board for Scheduled Castes; Joint Director, Poshan ICDS; Deputy Director (Administration), Social Welfare Department; Assistant Director, Social Welfare; and several other senior officers, besides a large gathering of senior citizens.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasised that respect for elders is their rightful entitlement and not a favour. She observed that senior citizens devote their lives to nurturing families, educating future generations and contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of society. She stressed that it is the collective

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CM Directs Best Possible Medical Care for Road Accident Victims

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: Two people were killed and eleven others injured, including four tourists, in two separate road accidents in Kashmir on Wednesday, prompting expressions of grief from Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The fatal accident occurred on the Aru-Pahalgam road in south Kashmir's Anantnag district when a

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Chief Secy reviews progress of PM Fasal Bima Yojana in J&K

Stresses on enhanced farmer coverage and timely settlement of claims

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a review meeting of the State Level Coordination Committee on Crop Insurance (SLCCCI) to assess the implementation and progress of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and related crop



insurance schemes across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting besides ACS, APD was attended by the MD, J&K Bank; Director, Agriculture, Kashmir/Jammu; Convenor, UTLBC and other concerned officers from the Department.

While reviewing the

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NC's Statehood Protest An 'Eyewash' To Hide Governance Failures: Sunil Sharma

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: Jammu and Kashmir Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the ruling National Conference, describing its proposed protest in New Delhi seeking restoration of statehood as an "eyewash" intended to divert public attention from what he termed the government's failures in governance.

The National Conference has announced a protest at Jantar



Mantar during the Monsoon Session of Parliament to press for the restoration of statehood

to Jammu and Kashmir. Reacting to the announcement, Sharma said the move was aimed at shifting focus from pressing public concerns, including electricity shortages, inadequate drinking water supply and allegations of corruption.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Sharma accused the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of failing to address the everyday problems faced by citizens. He alleged that governance on

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Three Punjab Operatives Supplied Nearly 80% Of Drugs Trafficked Into Jammu: Police

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JUNE 17: In a major breakthrough against narco-terrorism and organised drug trafficking, Jammu Police has dismantled an interstate narcotics network with the arrest of three alleged key operatives in Punjab and the recovery of a large cache of weapons, narcotics, cash and vehicles.

Police identified the arrested men as Surajdeep Singh alias Suraj, Harpreet Singh alias Raju and Jaspreet, all from the Amritsar region of Punjab. The arrests were made in connection with multiple narcotics-related cases registered at Miran Sahib, Bishnah, Nagrota and Gangyal police stations.

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Modi Government.....

contributed to greater stability in the region. He said incidents of stone-pelting had declined sharply while security arrangements along the borders had been substantially reinforced.

The Home Minister also underlined the government's efforts to secure India's frontiers, noting that extensive fencing and surveillance measures have been implemented along the borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh to curb infiltration and enhance national security.

Addressing the challenge of Left-Wing Extremism, Shah said Naxal-related violence has witnessed a steep decline over the past decade. He attributed the improvement to coordinated security operations, rehabilitation programmes and sustained development initiatives in affected areas. According to him, thousands of extremists have surrendered, while many previously affected districts have recorded significant improvements in the security situation.

He further highlighted progress in the north-eastern region, stating that multiple peace agreements signed in recent years have helped reduce insurgency and create conditions conducive to development and economic growth.

On defence preparedness, Shah said the government's emphasis on self-reliance has significantly boosted domestic defence manufacturing. He noted that defence production has increased from about Rs. 46,000 crore in 2014 to nearly Rs. 1.5 lakh crore, supported by policy reforms, indigenous production and investments in military modernisation.

Shah said the achievements of the past 12 years reflect the government's commitment to safeguarding national interests and ensuring the security of citizens. He maintained that India's approach to national security now stands as an example of decisive governance, strategic preparedness and firm action against threats to the nation's sovereignty.

MHA Team.....

As part of the strategy, authorities have been directed to deploy drones, extensive CCTV surveillance systems and advanced monitoring technologies to strengthen situational awareness and improve threat detection along the route.

Senior officers from central security forces and the Jammu and Kashmir Police will also be stationed at key camps and strategic locations throughout the pilgrimage to maintain continuous oversight of security and management arrangements.

In addition to securing the pilgrimage routes, the Home Minister directed officials to strengthen security at major tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the safety of visitors during the pilgrimage season.

The annual Amarnath Yatra attracts thousands of devotees from across the country each year. With less than three weeks remaining before its commencement, security agencies and civil authorities have intensified preparations to ensure the pilgrimage is conducted in a safe, secure and orderly manner despite the challenges posed by difficult terrain and weather conditions.

CM Omar.....

(Rs. 10 crore), and a school building at Kaloosa (Rs. 3.71 crore). Other works include the Markundal-Hajin road upgrade (Rs. 7.13 crore), a water supply augmentation scheme (Rs. 6.66 crore), a multi-storey car parking facility (Rs. 3.74 crore), and residential apartments for Panchayati Raj Institution members.

During his visit, the Chief Minister chaired a high-level review meeting to evaluate the developmental scenario, public service delivery and the progress of various schemes. The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo (through virtual mode), Javed Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmad Khan, MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat, MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chib, senior officers; Heads of Departments; and district officers.

Noting Bandipora's progress in the last financial year, Chief Minister Abdullah urged all departments to maintain their developmental momentum. He emphasised that the government has cleared administrative and financial approvals well in advance this year. This proactive step ensures that departments in Bandipora can utilise the working season fully and execute projects timely, rather than rushing at the end of the financial year. The Chief Minister added that this step is vital for the district due to challenging geographical and climatological conditions.

Highlighting Bandipora's rich natural wealth, the Chief Minister called for the scientific cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. He directed that the possibility of setting up a specialised industrial estate for medicinal herbs be explored. This initiative is expected to enhance local entrepreneurship, create fresh jobs for the youth and add significant value to the district's natural resources.

Local lawmakers also raised constituency-specific demands regarding developmental aspects which the Chief Minister promised would be swiftly reviewed and resolved.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister distributed vehicles to beneficiaries under the UMEED initiative and inspected stalls set up by local self-help groups. He also met with the public delegations from Gurez, Tulail, and Sonawari, assuring them of timely and equitable redressal of their developmental concerns.

A special highlight of the visit was an open interaction between the Chief Minister and the students of Government Degree College, Bandipora. The session was hosted by a female student, followed by a lively interaction session where students asked candid questions about governance, jobs, and public policy. Praising the confidence of the students, the Chief Minister encouraged the young generation to actively participate in democracy and nation-building.

Modi Is One.....

spoke warmly about his relationship with Modi, recalling previous large-scale public events attended by the two leaders in both countries. He said he looked forward to visiting India in the future, signalling the importance Washington continues to attach to ties with New Delhi.

According to officials, the discussions covered a broad range of issues, including the proposed trade agreement, defence cooperation and developments in West Asia.

The meeting comes at a time when India and the United States are seeking to further deepen their strategic partnership amid evolving global economic and geopolitical challenges. Observers view the ongoing trade negotiations as a key pillar of the relationship, with both sides aiming to expand market access and strengthen economic cooperation.

Trump's remarks highlighting Modi's negotiating skills are expected to draw attention as talks on the trade pact enter a crucial phase, underscoring India's growing influence in international economic and diplomatic engagements.

Senior Citizens.....

responsibility of every individual and institution to ensure that elders receive care, respect and dignity within their homes and communities.

Reviewing the facilities available at the Day Care Centre, the Minister directed the concerned officers to establish a well-equipped library and create dedicated recreational spaces to promote the mental, physical and social well-being of senior citizens.

Highlighting the invaluable wisdom and experience possessed by the elderly, the Minister instructed officers of the Social Welfare Department to maintain regular interaction with senior citizens, listen to their concerns and ensure timely redressal of their grievances. She further directed the department to strengthen facilitation measures for senior citizens across public institutions and service delivery mechanisms.

The Minister underscored that senior citizens have made immense contributions towards the development and progress of Jammu and Kashmir and deserve recognition, care and support at every level. She assured them of the Government's continued commitment to addressing their concerns and enhancing welfare initiatives aimed at improving their quality of life.

Earlier, President of the Day Care Centre, Roop Nagar Jammu, T.R. Sharma, and President of the Old Age Home, Jammu, Dr. Dinesh Gupta, expressed gratitude to the Minister and the Social Welfare Department for their sustained support towards the welfare of senior citizens. They also briefed the gathering about the facilities and services being provided at the Day Care Centre and the Old Age Home.

CM Directs.....

vehicle reportedly skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge. Officials said two occupants died on the spot, while six others sustained injuries.

Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital for treatment. Police have initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Expressing deep sorrow over the tragedy, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and directed authorities to ensure that all injured persons receive the best possible medical care. He also instructed officials to provide every necessary form of assistance to the affected families.

In another incident, five people, including four tourists and a local driver, were injured when their vehicle overturned in Tangmarg in north Kashmir. The area serves as the main access route to the popular tourist destination of Gulmarg.

Officials said the injured were taken to a hospital where they are reported to be in stable condition.

The twin accidents have once again highlighted concerns over road safety in the region's mountainous terrain, particularly during the peak tourist season when traffic volumes increase significantly on major routes.

Chief Secy.....

implementation framework of PMFBY, the

Chief Secretary emphasized the need to ensure coverage of all eligible farmer beneficiaries reflected on the Kisan Rin (KRIN) Portal in accordance with the guidelines of the Government of India. He directed the concerned departments, banks and other stakeholders to work in close coordination for achieving universal coverage of eligible farmers under the scheme.

Dulloo also called for leveraging the ongoing 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' as an effective platform for creating awareness among farmers and motivating them to avail the benefits of crop insurance. He observed that the campaign presents a valuable opportunity to educate farmers about the importance of risk mitigation through insurance and to encourage their enrolment under this farmer-centric welfare schemes. He also directed the banks to outreach their KCC customers for their enrolment under PMFBY here.

To strengthen coordination and address implementation challenges at the grassroots level, the Chief Secretary suggested that the Agriculture Production Department designate district-wise nodal officers for PMFBY. These officers, he said, should work closely with banks, insurance companies and district administrations to identify and resolve bottlenecks, facilitate seamless enrolment of eligible farmers and ensure smooth implementation of the scheme across all districts of the UT.

Reiterating the Government's commitment towards safeguarding farmers against crop losses arising from natural calamities and adverse weather events, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of collective efforts by all stakeholders to expand insurance coverage and enhance financial security of the farming community in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the ACS, Agriculture Production Department, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma gave a detailed overview of the scheme's performance since its inception, status of claims under Kharif 2025, coverage achieved during Rabi 2025-26, saturation of loanee farmers under the scheme and the implementation status of the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS).

He underscored the need for creating greater awareness about the benefits of crop insurance at the grassroots level to enhance farmer participation under PMFBY. He observed that, besides leveraging the media for wider dissemination of information, the Agriculture Production Department will utilize the ongoing 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' and other Government-sponsored outreach programmes and events as effective platforms for educating farmers about the scheme and encouraging them to avail its benefits.

The meeting was further informed by Director Agriculture, Kashmir that since the launch of PMFBY in Jammu and Kashmir, more than 12.89 lakh farmers have been covered under the scheme, with over 6.85 lakh farmers benefiting through claim settlements.

He further elaborated that a cumulative area of over 4.05 lakh hectares has been insured under the scheme till Rabi 2025. Against a cumulative premium collection of Rs 463.37 Cr, claims amounting to Rs 220.35 Cr have been settled in favour of farmers, providing crucial financial support against crop losses.

Reviewing the status of Kharif 2025 claims, it was divulged that claims amounting to Rs 53.58 Cr have been submitted covering 1.27 lakh farmers across the Union Territory. Of these, nearly 2.01 lakh farmers were enrolled under PMFBY during Kharif 2025, covering an insured area of more than 75,000 hectares.

The meeting also reviewed localized calamity and post-harvest loss claims reported during Rabi 2025-26. It was informed that over 2,100 loss intimations have been received from farmers, involving a claim amount exceeding Rs 5.52 Cr. The Agriculture Production Department is closely coordinating with stakeholders to ensure prompt processing and settlement of eligible claims.

On the coverage achieved during Rabi 2025-26, the Chief Secretary was informed that Jammu and Kashmir has registered significant growth in farmer enrolment and area coverage under the crop insurance programme compared to the previous season. The Union Territory recorded one of the highest growth rates in farmer enrolment among participating States and Union Territories, the meeting was apprised.

Regarding the status of coverage of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders under PMFBY it was observed that while substantial progress has been achieved, there remains considerable scope for improving saturation levels among eligible loanee farmers.

The meeting further deliberated on the implementation of the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) in Jammu and Kashmir. Detailed presentations were made regarding premium structures, financial implications and tendering processes.

The advisories issued by the Government of India concerning proposed revisions in the operational guidelines of PMFBY and RWBCIS and the forthcoming national tender cycle beginning from Kharif 2026 also came up for discussion during the meeting.

Emphasizing the need to safeguard farmers' interests while ensuring fiscal prudence,

the Chief Secretary directed the Agriculture Production Department to undertake all preparatory measures required for timely implementation of crop insurance schemes in accordance with Government of India guidelines and emerging policy frameworks.

He reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening crop insurance coverage and enhancing resilience of the farming sector against weather-related and other production risks, thereby ensuring greater income security for farmers across Jammu and Kashmir.

NC's Statehood.....

the ground was lacking and claimed corruption had become widespread, affecting the delivery of public services.

The BJP leader also criticised the Chief Minister's style of functioning, alleging that public outreach and administrative review mechanisms were inadequate. He said the government should focus on engaging with citizens, monitoring development works and addressing grievances rather than organising political demonstrations.

Earlier, while addressing a press conference marking twelve years of the BJP-led government at the Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sharma highlighted what he described as significant improvements in the security and law-and-order situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that incidents of stone-pelting, prolonged shutdowns and disruptions that were once common had largely disappeared, allowing educational institutions, businesses and public life to function normally. According to Sharma, the improved security environment had reduced fear among residents and contributed to greater stability across the region.

Sharma further asserted that the Centre's policies over the past decade had curtailed the influence of separatist elements and strengthened law and order. He maintained that Jammu and Kashmir had witnessed substantial transformation under the Modi government, while acknowledging that some challenges still remained.

His remarks come at a time when the demand for restoration of statehood continues to dominate political discourse in Jammu and Kashmir, with major parties seeking to shape the debate ahead of future political developments in the region.

Three Punjab.....

According to police, the accused were

among the principal suppliers of narcotic substances entering Jammu district and were allegedly responsible for supplying nearly 80 per cent of the drugs trafficked into the area. Their arrest followed sustained surveillance and intelligence-driven investigations conducted over several months.

Investigators said the three men were part of the supply network linked to a notorious narcotics trafficker and his associates operating in Jammu and Kashmir. The breakthrough came after the examination of previous cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the interrogation of several accused persons arrested earlier in the ongoing crackdown.

Police said the suspects played a central role in the distribution chain, supplying narcotics to nearly 20 downstream networks operating across Jammu district and the neighbouring districts of Samba and Kathua.

The operation was carried out jointly by teams from the Emergency Support Unit Jammu, Police Station Miran Sahib, investigating officers from Bishnah and Miran Sahib, and Punjab Police. Extensive searches were conducted at multiple locations linked to the accused.

During the searches, police recovered an AK-47 rifle along with 40 live rounds, a pistol with 29 live cartridges and four live 12-bore cartridges. Officers also seized approximately 1.020 kilograms of suspected heroin, an electronic weighing machine and materials allegedly used for packaging and distributing narcotics.

In addition, authorities recovered around Rs. 11 lakh in cash, three mobile phones and three vehicles, including a Mahindra Thar, Honda Amaze and Maruti Swift, which investigators believe were used in the transportation and logistics of the illicit operation.

Police described the seizure of both narcotics and weapons as a significant blow to criminal networks operating across Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the nexus between drug trafficking and activities that threaten public security.

Legal proceedings against the accused have been initiated, while investigators continue efforts to identify other members of the network and uncover its wider operations.

Jammu Police reiterated its commitment to intensifying action against drug trafficking and organised crime, stating that sustained operations would continue to dismantle such networks and strengthen public safety across the region.

Div Com Kashmir reviews Preparations for International Yoga Day Celebrations

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17:

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess and finalize arrangements for the observance of International Yoga Day across the Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Director AYUSH, Director SKICC, and senior officers from various departments, including Health, School Education, Sports Council, Fire & Emergency Services, Traffic Police and other stakeholder agencies. The flagship event is scheduled to be held at the SKICC on June 21 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM.

Reviewing the preparations, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Director AYUSH to ensure the timely distribution of yoga mats and T-shirts among participants.

He further instructed the Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and Deputy Director Planning (DDP) to formulate a comprehensive transportation plan to facilitate the smooth movement and punctual arrival of participants at the venue.

Deputy Commissioners apprised the chair of dis-



tribut-level arrangements, including the organization of yoga sessions at prominent tourist destinations and iconic locations, as well as provisions for live streaming of the event across all districts.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed logistical arrangements at the main venue, including the installation of a public address system for the National Anthem, installation of LED display screens, instructor platforms, drinking water facilities, sanitation arrangements, besides distribution of refreshments to participants after the culmination of the event.

To ensure effective doc-

umentation and reporting of Yoga Day activities, he issued directions for heads of educational institutions to register on the AYUSH Department portal and upload photographs of events conducted under the International Yoga Day programme.

Also, Garg instructed all concerned officers to ensure the live streaming of the Prime Minister's Yoga Day session.

Further, he stressed the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination and directed all departments to ensure that necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance for the successful conduct of the event.



CS delineates framework for reducing multidimensional poverty in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the current status of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in Jammu and Kashmir and deliberated upon targeted interventions required for further reducing poverty levels across the UT.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs; Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department; Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Secretary, Rural Development Department and senior officers of the Planning Department. Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated through video conferencing.

Reviewing the incidence of multidimensional poverty in Jammu and Kashmir and the indicators defining deprivation across the three broad dimensions of Health, Education and Standard of Living, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for identification of vulnerable households in each district, initially laying focus on Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, to facilitate outcome-oriented interventions.

He directed the Planning Department to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the updated data emerging from the forthcoming NFHS-6 survey and develop district-specific action plans aimed at improving individual indicators and accelerating poverty reduction over time.



The Chief Secretary observed that several Centrally Sponsored Schemes already provide effective instruments for addressing various dimensions of poverty. He highlighted flagship programmes such as the National Food Security Act, Ayushman Bharat, National Education Policy-2020 initiatives, housing schemes, Ujjwala Yojana and financial inclusion programmes as critical tools for improving living standards and reducing deprivation. He emphasized the need for convergence of these schemes and augmentation through capital expenditure wherever required.

He further instructed the Planning Department to devise a standardized survey format for district-level assessment of vulnerable households and work closely with district administrations to identify gaps and priority areas requiring focused interventions.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, advised the districts to incorporate poverty reduction initiatives into their annual development plans and stressed the importance of focusing on AAY households for more targeted and actionable interventions.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department,

R. Alice Vaz, highlighted that the Multidimensional Poverty Index captures poverty beyond income and reflects deprivations experienced by households across multiple dimensions, thereby serving as an important policy tool for poverty eradication.

She informed that the current baseline MPI estimates are based on NFHS-5 data and were released in July 2023, while NFHS-6 data is presently under finalization and is expected to provide updated insights into multidimensional poverty across the country. The meeting was informed that the MPI framework comprises twelve indicators distributed across three dimensions of Health, Education and Standard of Living. Health includes three indicators, Education two indicators and Standard of Living seven indicators, with equal weight assigned to each dimension. The estimates are derived from household-level data collected through the National Family Health Survey (NFHS).

Highlighting the J&K specific insights, the meeting was informed that the Multidimensional Poverty Head Count Ratio declined sharply from 12.56 percent in 2015-16 to 4.80 percent during 2019-21. During the same period, more than 10.45 lakh people moved out of multidimen-

sional poverty, reflecting the positive impact of sustained welfare and development interventions undertaken across the Union Territory.

It was further informed that Jammu and Kashmir is well on course to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 1.2, which envisages reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half before 2030. All twelve indicators used for measuring multidimensional poverty have registered improvements, demonstrating the growing effectiveness of government initiatives at the grassroots level.

Among the districts, it was revealed that Doda, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch and Udhampur recorded the steepest declines in multidimensional poverty over the assessment period. Rural areas witnessed particularly notable improvement, with the proportion of multidimensionally poor population declining from 16.37 percent to 6.10 percent, while urban poverty reduced from 3.51 percent to 1.09 percent.

The intensity of poverty, which measures the average level of deprivation experienced by multidimensionally poor households, also improved significantly, declining from 44.17 percent to 42.11 percent, indicating sustained gains in living standards

and access to essential services.

Presenting district-wise analysis, the meeting was informed that as per NFHS-5 based estimates for 2019-21, nearly 6.39 lakh persons belonging to around 1.28 lakh families in Jammu and Kashmir were identified as living in multidimensional poverty. While the overall poverty headcount ratio stood at 4.80 percent for the UT.

Ramban recorded the highest Multidimensional Poverty Head Count Ratio at 14.86 percent, followed by Reasi (11.40 percent), Kishtwar (10.59 percent), Udhampur (10.23 percent) and Rajouri (8.07 percent), indicating the need for focused interventions and enhanced service delivery in these districts.

Conversely, Jammu district registered the lowest poverty ratio at 0.49 percent, followed by Srinagar (1.34 percent), Shopian (1.54 percent), Pulwama (2.09 percent) and Samba (2.30 percent), reflecting substantial improvements in socio-economic and developmental indicators.

In terms of absolute numbers, Baramulla accounted for the highest estimated multidimensionally poor population, followed by Udhampur, Rajouri, Kupwara and Ramban, underscoring the importance of district-specific strategies that address both the incidence and intensity of poverty.

The meeting also reviewed the contribution of various government schemes towards reducing multidimensional poverty. It was informed that a broad spectrum of welfare and development programmes spanning health, education, housing, livelihoods, social protection and financial inclusion have collectively contributed to improving living standards and reducing deprivation across Jammu and Kashmir.

ZEO Chadoora Inspects Schools, Stresses Academic Excellence

■ REYAZ BADANA

CHADOORA, JUN 17: Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Chadoora, Jalal Uddin Lali, conducted an official visit to educational institutions falling under Cluster Surasyar, including Government Middle School Poswal Pora Branwar, Primary School Neego Branwar, Primary School Thekry Mohalla Neego Branwar, Primary School Sheikh Pora Branwar, and Primary School Peer Mohalla Neego Branwar.

The purpose of the visit was to review students' academic performance, assess the overall functioning of the institutions, and evaluate the quality of educational activities being carried out.



During the visit, the ZEO interacted with Heads of Institutions, teaching staff, and students. Classroom activities were observed, academic records were examined, and students' learning outcomes were reviewed to assess academic progress and institutional performance.

The officer attended the morning assembly at Government Middle School Poswal Pora and appreciated the sincere efforts of the Heads of Institutions and teaching staff of Government Middle School Poswal Pora, Primary School Neego Branwar, and Primary School Sheikh Pora Branwar for maintaining a conducive learning environment and ensuring the smooth conduct of academic activities.

Concluding the visit, the ZEO provided valuable guidance to the staff and encouraged them to continue their dedicated efforts towards improving academic standards and ensuring the holistic development of students. He also emphasized the importance of regular monitoring, effective classroom teaching, and optimal utilization of available resources for the overall betterment of educational institutions.

Lassipora CA Cold Storage Units Reject Allegations of Environmental Violations

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 17: Following recent reports concerning 11 Controlled Atmosphere (CA) cold storage units at the Lassipora Industrial Growth Centre, the concerned authorities and cold storage owners have issued a clarification, stating that the matter has been misrepresented, causing unnecessary concern within the horticulture sector.

According to official sources, the closure notices being referred to are not recent but were issued in 2025. Therefore, portraying them as fresh enforcement action is misleading.

The owners of the affected CA cold storage units also rejected allegations that their facilities lack the mandatory environmental infrastructure. They stated that all required Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs), composite pits, and other pollution control systems have already been installed, and that most units have complied with the directions issued by the concerned departments.

The unit owners further alleged that their version was not sought before the publication of the reports, resulting in one-sided coverage that has adversely affected their businesses, reputation, and the interests of those associated with the horticulture industry.

A representative of the units said they are operating in compliance with environmental regulations and that the reports created a false impression that the facilities were functioning illegally.

The owners warned that they are considering legal action, including defamation proceedings, over the damage caused to their business interests and reputation.

Meanwhile, stakeholders from the horticulture sector have urged the concerned authorities to issue a clear statement regarding the current compliance status of the CA cold storage units to dispel uncertainty among apple growers, traders, and others associated with the industry.

They stressed that while strict enforcement of environmental regulations is essential, such matters should be presented fairly and based on verified facts and the views of all stakeholders to safeguard the interests of Kashmir's vital horticulture sector and the thousands of families dependent on it.

CEO Ganderbal Conducts Surprise Inspection of Schools, Reviews Academic Scenario and Teaching-Learning Process

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 17: The Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Mr. Nazeer Ahmad Khan, conducted a surprise visit to various educational institutions of the district to assess the prevailing academic scenario and monitor the effectiveness of the teaching-learning process in schools.

During the inspection, the offi-

cer was accompanied by *Mr Hakim Nazir* Principal BHSS Manigam visited BHS Pandach, BHSS Wangath, and MS Kathi Wangath, where he interacted extensively with students and teaching staff. The visit focused on evaluating classroom transactions, academic preparedness, maintenance of records, and overall school functioning.

While interacting with students, the CEO explored their

future aspirations, academic goals, and understanding of various subjects. Students responded with remarkable confidence and enthusiasm, reflecting the sincere efforts of teachers and school managements. A particularly impressive interaction was witnessed at BHSS Wangath, where students from different classes demonstrated commendable knowledge, clarity of thought, and

active participation.

The CEO appreciated the dedication of the teaching staff and emphasized the need for maintaining high academic standards across all institutions. He stressed the importance of proper maintenance of lesson plans, student diaries, and academic records, stating that these are essential tools for ensuring effective classroom management and continuous monitoring of student progress.

Mr. Khan further urged teachers to adopt innovative teaching methodologies and remain committed to providing a conducive learning environment that nurtures the intellectual and moral development of students.

The school heads and staff assured the officer of their continued efforts towards achieving excellence in education and implementing all academic guidelines in letter and spirit.

Badroo Assumes Charge as DMO Kupwara, Pledges Transparent and People-Centric Governance

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

KUPWARA, JUNE 17: Naveed Hussain Badroo (JKAS-2012) formally assumed charge as District Mineral Officer (DMO) Kupwara, marking an important administrative development at a time when several infrastructure and developmental projects are underway across the district.

Soon after taking over, Badroo outlined his vision for streamlining mining activities, introducing new initiatives and ensuring the effective implementation of government regulations at the grassroots level, particularly to curb illegal mining and the unauthorized transportation of mineral resources. Emphasising transparency, accountability and efficiency in governance, he stressed the importance of prompt response to public grievances and ensuring that all concerns are addressed in a time-bound manner. In his maiden address to employees and the public, Badroo highlighted the need to protect the district's water bodies and called for a local-level "green revolution" around rivers and streams,



including Nallah Mawar, Talri, Kahimal and Pharou. He urged people to refrain from engaging in illegal mining and transportation activities, asserting that public cooperation is essential for achieving sustainable development and environmental conservation. Employees of the District Mineral Office welcomed the new DMO and assured him of their full cooperation in implementing government rules and regulations related to mining activities across the district. Badroo brings with him extensive administrative experience, having served in several government departments where he earned recognition for improving governance mechanisms, strengthening implementation of government directives and enhancing public service delivery.

Residents from different parts of Kupwara district, particularly Langate and Handwara, have expressed optimism over his appointment and hope that his experience, commitment and administrative acumen will further improve efficiency and ensure better governance in the district.

Kulgam Police Detain Seven Repeat Drug Offenders Under PIT NDPS Act

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, JUNE 17: In a major crackdown on drug trafficking under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Kulgam Police have booked seven habitual drug offenders under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act after securing detention orders from the competent authority.

The detained individuals have been identified as Dilber Ahmad Bhat of Labripora, Ishaq Ahmad Bhat of Okey, Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat of Tantraypora, Nisar Ahmad Dar of Sesman Daamjan, Shahid Mushtaq of Furrar, Aarif Hussain Ganie of Ganie Mohalla Qaimoh, and Hilal Ahmad Lone of Herpora Hardu Hanger Yaripora. The accused have been lodged in different jails across Jammu and Kashmir, including Bhadarwah, Poonch, Jammu and Udhampur.

According to police, all seven are repeat offenders involved in multiple cases registered under the NDPS Act and had continued to engage in drug trafficking activities despite previous legal and preventive actions.

Police said the detention of these individuals represents a significant step in dismantling drug networks operating in the district. The department has identified more offenders, and the process of initiating stringent preventive measures, including detention under the PIT NDPS Act, is underway.

Reaffirming its zero-tolerance policy against narcotics, Kulgam Police stated that all necessary measures will be taken to eradicate the drug menace from the district.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar inaugurates New Court Complex at Bhandarwah

HT NEWS NETWORK

BHANDARWAH, JUNE 17: A significant milestone towards strengthening of judicial infrastructure in Doda district was achieved today with the inauguration of the newly constructed Court Complex at Bhandarwah by Justice Sanjeev Kumar Shukla, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by the presence of Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Rahul Bharti, Administrative Judge for District Doda, along with Judicial Officers, members of the Bar, civil administration officers and prominent citizens of the region.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial inauguration of the Court Complex by the Justice Sanjeev Kumar, followed by an inspection of the newly established judicial infrastructure and facilities created for the litigants, advocates, judicial officers, and court staff.

In his presidential address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar Shukla, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, described the inauguration of the new Court Complex as a landmark development for the people of Bhandarwah and the entire district. He emphasized that access to quality judicial infrastructure is an essential component of effective justice delivery and reaf-



firm the High Court's commitment to strengthening the judicial system through continuous infrastructural and technological advancements. Justice Sanjeev Kumar appreciated the collective efforts of all agencies and stakeholders involved in successful completion of the project and expressed confidence that the new Court Complex would serve as a bea-

con of justice for the region.

Balbir Lal Jaswal, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Doda, in his address, highlighted the importance of modern judicial infrastructure in ensuring efficient and accessible justice delivery. He expressed gratitude to the High Court for its continued support in strengthening the judicial system in the district.

Addressing the gathering, Justice Sindhu Sharma underscored the pivotal role of robust judicial infrastructure in enhancing the quality and accessibility of justice. She emphasized the need for a litigant-friendly environment and appreciated the efforts made in establishing the new Court Complex, which would significantly benefit the legal

fraternity and the public at large.

Rahul Bharti, Administrative Judge for District Doda, in his special address, congratulated all the stakeholders on the completion of the project. He highlighted the importance of modern court facilities in improving judicial efficiency and public confidence in the justice delivery system. He reiterated the commitment of the High Court towards ensuring better infrastructure and administrative support for courts across the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The vote of thanks was presented by Archana Charak, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Doda, who expressed sincere gratitude to the Acting Chief Justice, Judges of the High Court, judicial officers, members of the Bar, civil administration, and all others whose efforts contributed to the successful conduct of the event.

The proceedings of the programme were efficiently conducted by Tabraiz Ahmed, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Doda, who ensured the smooth and successful management of the entire event.

The inauguration of the new Court Complex marks a significant step towards enhancing judicial services and providing a modern, accessible, and efficient environment for the administration of justice in Bhandarwah and adjoining areas.

ADDC Anantnag reviews progress of Agriculture, allied sectors

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 17: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) (District Nodal Officer, HADP/JKCIP), Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, today chaired a review meeting of Agriculture and allied sectors to assess the progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jammu & Kashmir Competitive Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP), and related initiatives in the district.

During the meeting, a detailed review of key performance indicators was undertaken, including Daksh Kisan completion, Krishi Udyami (KU) registration and reporting, farm registrations, e-KYC, JKCIP applications, approvals, credit linkages, fund utilisation and implementation of CSS/flagship schemes.



While reviewing the progress, it was informed that 20,720 farmers have been enrolled under Daksh Kisan, out of which 15,811 farmers have successfully completed the course, achieving 76.31% completion. The district has also recorded registration of 55,341 farmers, with 25,836 farm registrations completed under the prescribed framework.

The meeting was informed that 154 Krishi Udyamis have been onboarded in the district, with 8,900 daily reports submitted, reflecting continued monitoring of field-level activities. Under tracking initiatives, 15,180 units have been tracked through the OTA platform, achieving 95.59% progress.

Reviewing the JKCIP progress, it was informed that against the targeted Farmer Organisations in JKCIP blocks, 5,752 applications have been received, of which 3,679 applications have been approved. The meeting also reviewed the status of credit applications, sanctions and disbursement under various interventions.

Addressing the meeting, the ADDC directed all concerned officers to intensify field-level monitoring, ensure expeditious disposal of pending cases and improve convergence among departments for achieving the targets under HADP and JKCIP. He emphasised timely completion of registrations, KYC approvals, application processing and effective implementation of schemes aimed at enhancing the income and livelihood opportunities of farmers.

The officers were further directed to conduct regular reviews at their respective levels and ensure that bottlenecks affecting implementation are resolved promptly.

The meeting was attended by CAO, CAHO, DD Fisheries, CHO, DSHO, DSO, AMO HPM, SDAOs, BVOs, HDOs, Inspectors, AEOs, Sericulture Assistants and other officials of Agriculture and allied departments.

MLA Mir Saifullah chairs meeting of Committee on Public Undertakings

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: A meeting of the Committee on Public Undertakings was held today at the Legislative Assembly under the chairmanship of MLA Mir Saifullah.

Legislators Ajaz Ahmed Jan, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Shafi Ahmad Wani, Rajiv Jasrotia, Mehar Ali, Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Arjun Singh Raju, Rafiq Ahmad Naik besides Chairman Bureau of Public Enterprises Talat Parvaiz, Secretary JK Legislative Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandit, Accountant General Tsewang Tharchin, DG Accounts & Treasuries Fayaz Ahmad Lone along with senior officers from Finance Department and Legislative Assembly were present in the meeting.

The Secretary, J&K LA briefed the meeting on the objectives and functioning of the committee, which included ensuring legislative oversight of state-owned corporations/undertakings and promoting efficiency, economy and accountability in their operations. He also informed the members that the committee examines and reviews CAG audit reports related to public undertakings, identifies irregularities or inefficiencies, ensures financial discipline, verifies that the government investments are utilized properly and economically, investigates cases of mismanagement and enforces accountability.

The members discussed various aspects relating to the effective functioning of the Committee and its mandate in ensuring accountability, transparency and efficiency in the functioning of public undertakings. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Mir Saifullah emphasized the importance of the Committee and highlighted its crucial role in strengthening legislative oversight of public sector undertakings. He stated that the Committee serves as an important link between the government and the people, helping to identify and address the public grievances while ensuring that the intended benefits of various public undertakings reach the people effectively. The Chairman stressed that the meetings of the Committee should be result-oriented and focused on achieving tangible outcomes in the interest of the public. He urged all the members to actively participate in the proceedings and contribute constructively towards the Committee's work, saying that collective efforts and meaningful discussions are essential for enhancing the Committee's effectiveness. He further emphasized that the Committee plays a vital role in examining the performance of public undertakings, safeguarding the public interests and ensuring the judicious utilization of public resources.

The Chairman called upon the members to work with dedication and commitment to fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to the Committee.

The members actively participated in the discussions and submitted their valuable suggestions on various matters related to the Committee's functioning. Their inputs were aimed at strengthening the Committee's procedures and enhancing its capacity to effectively monitor and evaluate the performance of public undertakings.

ADDC Shopian chairs Block Diwas at Kathahallan Keller Reviews developmental issues, hears public grievances

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 17: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone today chaired a Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Halqa Kathahallan, Block Keller of the district.

The outreach and public contact programme was held with the objective of listening to public issues and grievances for their timely redressal.

During the interaction, the public projected several issues and demands related to road connectivity and macadamization, drinking water supply, dearth of staff in Primary School Kathahallan, repair of roads, electricity, healthcare, education, irrigation and other developmental requirements.

Members of the Gujjar community residing in the area also highlighted concerns regarding basic amenities, access to government welfare schemes and recognition of Community Rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

The ADDC directed the concerned officers to examine the issues and



take necessary measures as per rules for their resolution.

He listened patiently to the issues and grievances and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their prompt redressal. Matters requiring higher level intervention were noted for appropriate follow up action and assured people that genuine public concerns would be addressed in a time bound manner.

He reiterated the administration's commitment towards inclusive and participatory development and emphasized that Block Diwas serves as an important platform for strength-

ening public outreach, ensuring transparency, improving service delivery and accelerating developmental initiatives at the grassroots level.

Officers from various departments also briefed the gathering about the implementation and benefits of various welfare and developmental schemes in the area.

Various district and sectoral officers, block-level officials, public representatives, ex-PRIs, civil society members, stakeholders and a large number of local residents attended the Block Diwas programme.

DC Budgam reviews arrangements for International Yoga Day

Directs Officers to ensure District-Wide Celebrations

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 17: In connection with the upcoming International Yoga Day, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting at Conference hall Budgam to review and finalize the arrangements for the district-level celebration of International Yoga Day to be observed on June 21.

During the meeting, the DC directed all concerned officers to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the event across the district. Stressing the importance of Yoga in promoting physical, mental and emotional well-being, the DC emphasised the need for maximum public participation and awareness. He directed that International Yoga Day be celebrated in all Government and Private



Schools, Colleges, and all Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across Budgam district to ensure the message of healthy living reaches every section of society.

The DC further instructed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to actively coordinate and supervise Yoga Day celebra-

tions at their respective subdivision headquarters in collaboration with line departments, educational institutions and local stakeholders to ensure enthusiastic participation at the grassroots level.

The meeting reviewed arrangements relating to sanitation,

drinking water, seating, medical aid, security, transportation, logistics, publicity and other essential facilities.

Officers from the Youth Services & Sports, Health, School Education, Higher Education, AYUSH, Information, Police and other line departments briefed

the DC on their preparedness and action plans for the event.

The district-level celebration on June 21 will witness participation from government officers, students, athletes, NCC and NSS cadets, healthcare workers, Yoga enthusiasts and members of the general public, collectively promoting the message of fitness, wellness and a healthy lifestyle.

The DC urged all departments to work in close coordination to ensure flawless arrangements and make International Yoga Day celebrations a grand success throughout Budgam district.

Besides, ADDC Budgam Vivek Agarwal; PO ICDS Budgam, ADC Budgam, GM DIC Budgam, ASP Budgam, JD planning Budgam, SE R&B Budgam, all SDMs, ACP, DIO Information, CEO, CMO, DYSSO, CHO, and all other concerned District officers and officials were present in the meeting.

JKAACL releases poetic collection by Sanjay Pandita

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Wednesday released Saffron Winds, a collection of poems in English authored by noted writer, columnist and literary figure Sanjay Pandita, at an impressive function held in the Academy's Seminar Hall in Srinagar.

The event was attended by eminent writers, poets, scholars, academicians and literary enthusiasts from across the Valley. Renowned writer, academican and Convenor of the Sahitya Akademi Advisory Board for Kashmir, Prof. Shad Ramzan presided over the function, while distinguished poet, writer and translator Dr. Satish Vimal was the Chief Guest. Also present on the dais were Mr. Ideel Saleem, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, and Dr. Abid Ahmad, Editor, JKAACL. The book was formally reviewed by noted academic and literary critic Prof. Basharat Bhat.

In his presidential address, Prof. Shad Ramzan described Saffron Winds as a significant contribution to contemporary Kashmiri literary sensibility articulated through the medium of English poetry. He observed that the collection embodies a distinctive poetic voice marked by emotional depth, aesthetic refinement and cultural rootedness. Referring to the poet's engagement with memory, identity and displacement, he remarked that the poems successfully capture the beauty, pain and resilience associated with Kashmir and its people.

Dr. Satish Vimal, while speaking on the occasion, described Saffron Winds as a poignant and evocative collection that transforms memory, longing and belonging into compelling poetry. He further said that through a refined



poetic language, Sanjay Pandita preserves the cultural soul of Kashmir while speaking to universal human experiences, adding that the poems are marked by sincerity of emotion and artistic restraint, allowing readers to journey through landscapes of exile, remembrance and hope.

Presenting a detailed review of the book, Prof. Basharat Bhat noted that the collection presents Kashmir in its totality—its breathing landscapes, collective memories, aspirations, social realities and cultural ethos—through a sensitive and compelling poetic idiom. He observed that the poems strike a fine balance between personal reflection and collective experience, enabling readers to engage with universal human emotions through distinctly Kashmiri imagery and symbolism. He also

commended the poet for retaining the cultural flavour, rhythm and emotional cadence of Kashmiri expression in his English compositions.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Pandita reflected upon his long literary journey and his deep engagement with the social and cultural life of Kashmir. He stated that the poems contained in the volume emerged from lived experiences, observations and memories that continue to shape the collective consciousness of the Kashmiri Pandit community. He emphasized the role of literature in preserving memory, fostering dialogue and bridging emotional distances created by historical circumstances. The author also expressed gratitude to the Academy for facilitating the publication's release and providing a platform for meaningful literary engagement.

In his welcome address, Additional Secretary JKAACL, Ideel

Saleem, outlined the Academy's vision of nurturing a vibrant literary and cultural ecosystem through active engagement with writers, artists, scholars, students and youth. He highlighted the Academy's sustained efforts to promote literature in various languages of Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated its commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for creative expression, literary discourse and cultural exchange. He emphasized that such initiatives are integral to preserving and promoting the rich multilingual and multicultural heritage of the region.

The event witnessed active participation from prominent literary and cultural personalities, including Prof. Mohammad Amin, Bashir Dada, Bashir Arif, Mush-taque Ali Ahmad Khan, Abdal Mehjoor, Shamshad Kralwari, Prof. Farooq Fayyaz, Dr. Rafeeq Masoodi, Waheed Jeelani, Dr. Mushtaq Bhat, Dr. Shahida Shab-

num, Prof. Naseem Shafaie, Rasheed Nizami, Muneer Mir, Dr. Ahsan-ul-Haq Magray, Prof. Ayaz Rasool Nazki, Rasheed Barki, Qaisar Nizami, Dr. Shabnum Ashai, Arvind Shah in addition to other writers, poets, scholars and students.

Dr. Abid Ahmad conducted the proceedings of the programme and also presented a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the distinguished guests, participants and members of the literary fraternity for their presence and support.

The release of Saffron Winds marked yet another significant literary event organized by JKAACL and reflected the Academy's continued commitment to promoting literary excellence, encouraging creative writing and preserving the rich linguistic, literary and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir through meaningful literary and cultural initiatives.

DG Libraries & Research visits border villages of Trikanjan and Chotali

Interacts with locals, reviews VVP Phase-II Progress

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 17: Director, Libraries & Research, J&K, Mohammad Rafi, who is also the designated visiting officer for the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) Phase-II, today visited the border villages of Trikanjan and Chotali in Uri Sub-Division to review the progress of developmental initiatives being implemented under the programme.

During the visit, he interacted with local residents, Public representatives, youth, women and other stakeholders to obtain first-hand feedback on developmental needs and the implementation of various government schemes. He also reviewed the status of ongoing works and assessed the availability of basic amenities and public services in the villages.

Speaking on the occasion, the visiting officer said that the primary objective of the Vibrant Villages Programme is to ensure the comprehensive and sustainable development of border villages by improving infrastructure, strengthening service delivery and creating better livelihood opportunities for the local population.

He emphasized that the programme aims to transform border villages into vibrant and self-reliant communities while enhancing the quality of life of residents.

He further stated that regular field visits and interactions with the public help the administration identify local priorities and address developmental gaps in a timely manner. He assured the villagers that their genuine concerns and suggestions would be conveyed to the concerned authorities for appropriate action.

The residents appreciated the outreach initiative and shared their views regarding infrastructure, connectivity, public services and other developmental requirements.

The visiting officer reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring inclusive growth and balanced development in the border areas under the Vibrant Villages Programme Phase-II.

MDC Stages Acclaimed Kashmiri Play "REME" at KHEI in Sgr

GULFAM BARJI

SRINAGAR, JUN 17: Mehak Dramatic Club "MDC" successfully staged its Kashmiri theatrical production "Reme" at Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute "KHEI" Naseem Bagh Srinagar. The play was presented under the Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme "CFAPGS" of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. Written by noted playwright Reshi Rashid and directed by Farhat Siddiqui the production received an enthusiastic response from the audience. Through its engaging narrative and powerful performances, "Reme" highlighted the richness of Kashmiri theatre and reflected the creative talent of local artists. The programme was attended by Mr. Tariq Baktoo, Chairman of KHEI as the Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion he lauded the efforts of MDC in promoting theatre and cultural activities in the Valley. He congratulated the writer,



director, cast and production team for presenting a meaningful and professionally executed theatrical performance. The audience highly appreciated the performances of the artists, whose dedication and stage presence contributed significantly to the success of the production. Director Farhat Siddiqui, Assistant Director Hilal Khan, and the entire team were applauded for their commitment to preserving and pro-

moting Kashmiri theatre. On the occasion, MDC expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Culture, KHEI, media representatives, distinguished guests and theatre lovers for their continued support and encouragement. The successful staging of "Reme" marks another milestone in the club's efforts to strengthen cultural and theatrical activities in J&K while providing a vibrant platform for emerging artists.

DC Kishtwar reviews health sector, evaluates programme implementation

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 17: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of various health programmes and key performance indicators of the health sector in the district.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kishtwar Dr. Sanjay Bhat apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the current status of health schemes across the district. The schemes reviewed included ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account), Institutional Deliveries, Sex Ratio at Birth,

Low Birth Weight among Newborns, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) and other health programmes.

All Tehsildars concerned were directed to identify State land within the next ten days for the construction of health centres presently functioning from private rented buildings. The CMO was directed to conduct an inquiry and audit into funds utilised under the Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS) programme, to withhold the salaries of medical staff attached outside their original places of posting until they return and to conduct an audit of JSY and JSSK implementation. The Deputy Commissioner further directed that incentives of officers and officials recording zero per cent performance under the e-Sanjeevani Scheme be withheld until further orders.

The Deputy Commissioner called for 100% creation of ABHA IDs and Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards to ensure all eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits of government healthcare schemes.

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय
NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
(An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
(An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
THEATRE IN EDUCATION CENTRE, SRINAGAR
In collaboration with
J&K ACADEMY OF ART, CULTURE & LANGUAGES

ORGANISES
SUMMER CHILDREN THEATRE WORKSHOP
WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING SUMMER VACATION

The National School of Drama, Theatre in Education Centre, Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages is going to organize two separate 15 days Theatre / Drama in education summer workshops with school children during summer vacation.

THE WORKSHOP AIMS TO:

- ★ Develop and strengthen life skills
- ★ Explore latent potential of the students

ELIGIBILITY

School children of age group 8 - 12 & 12 - 16 years as on 20th June 2026.

Interested aspirants may collect the application forms from NSD, TIE Centre, Srinagar, Cultural Academy Campus, Lal Mandi, Srinagar from 10th June 2026 between 11:00am to 4:00pm before the announcement of summer vacation.

"REGISTER YOUR NAME BEFORE SUMMER VACATION STARTS"

FREE ADMISSION IS TOTALLY FREE. AFTER THE COMPLETION OF WORKSHOP CERTIFICATES WILL BE AWARDED TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. Copy of Aadhar Card & identity card issued by school authorities.
2. Consent from parent / guardian

For further information contact Director

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HT EDITORIAL

When Public Trust Is Stolen : The Growing Menace of Financial Fraud and Institutional Corruption

The filing of the first chargesheet by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the alleged 75.34 crore CREST fund misappropriation case is more than just another corruption prosecution. It is a reminder of a disturbing reality that continues to challenge India's governance and financial systems: the systematic abuse of public resources through collusion between individuals entrusted with safeguarding them.

According to the investigation, government funds meant for public welfare and development were allegedly diverted through fraudulent transactions involving bank officials, public servants and private beneficiaries. While the courts will ultimately determine the guilt or innocence of the accused, the allegations themselves raise serious concerns about accountability, institutional oversight and the vulnerability of public funds to organized financial misconduct.

What makes such cases particularly alarming is that the victims are not merely government departments. Every rupee lost to corruption is ultimately money taken away from citizens. It is money that could have been used for schools, hospitals, infrastructure, scientific development, renewable energy initiatives and welfare programmes. When public funds are siphoned off, the damage extends far beyond financial losses; it erodes public trust in institutions and weakens confidence in governance.

Unfortunately, the CREST case is not an isolated incident. India has witnessed numerous financial scandals over the years involving cooperative banks, non-banking financial institutions, chit fund operators, shell companies, fraudulent investment schemes and even senior officials entrusted with managing public resources. From high-profile banking frauds to Ponzi schemes that prey upon ordinary citizens, the pattern often remains the same: a network of individuals exploiting loopholes, weak supervision and public trust for personal gain.

The common citizen frequently bears the greatest burden. Many frauds target people who may not possess sophisticated financial knowledge but invest their savings based on trust. In other cases, taxpayers unknowingly suffer when public money is misappropriated. Whether the victim is a retiree investing life savings or a taxpayer funding government programmes, the consequences are equally painful.

The increasing sophistication of financial crimes presents a new challenge. Fraudsters today use complex corporate structures, shell entities, forged documentation, digital transactions and coordinated networks to conceal illegal activities. Such crimes often remain undetected for years before investigators uncover them. This makes strong regulatory mechanisms and real-time monitoring more important than ever.

At the same time, the role played by investigative agencies in exposing such networks deserves recognition. The government's emphasis on strengthening anti-corruption mechanisms, empowering investigative bodies and promoting transparency has led to greater scrutiny of financial irregularities. Agencies such as the CBI, Enforcement Directorate, Serious Fraud Investigation Office and various vigilance institutions have intensified efforts to identify and prosecute economic offenders. The exposure of large-scale frauds sends a clear message that financial crimes, regardless of the stature or influence of those involved, will eventually face legal scrutiny. However, enforcement alone cannot be the sole answer. Prevention must become the primary objective. Government departments, public institutions and financial entities must strengthen internal audits, adopt advanced digital tracking systems, improve compliance frameworks and ensure regular independent reviews of financial transactions. Technology-driven oversight can significantly reduce opportunities for manipulation and unauthorized fund transfers.

Equally important is the need for a culture of accountability. Institutions must encourage whistleblower protection, ensure transparent decision-making and impose swift disciplinary action against officials found violating rules. Ethical governance should not be treated as an administrative formality but as a core institutional responsibility. For citizens, there are valuable lessons as well. Blind trust should never replace verification. Individuals must remain vigilant while dealing with financial institutions, investment opportunities or schemes promising unrealistic returns. Financial literacy is one of the strongest safeguards against fraud. People should verify credentials, examine documentation carefully and report suspicious activities promptly to the authorities.

The CREST case serves as yet another warning that corruption and financial fraud remain persistent threats to public welfare and economic progress. Yet it also demonstrates that investigative institutions are becoming increasingly capable of uncovering complex financial crimes. The challenge now is to convert such exposures into lasting reforms that strengthen transparency, accountability and public confidence.

The reality of happiness and anger in human life



■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

In every era of human history, people have searched for happiness and struggled with anger. These two emotions, often viewed as opposites, have shaped personal lives, communities, and even civilizations. While happiness is celebrated as a symbol of success and fulfillment, anger is frequently portrayed as a destructive force that must be controlled or eliminated. Yet such a perception oversimplifies the complex reality of human emotions. Happiness and anger are not opposing forces competing for dominance; they are natural elements of the human experience, each carrying its own purpose and significance.

Modern society has elevated happiness to an almost sacred ideal. Success stories, social media platforms, advertising campaigns, and self-help philosophies often present happiness as the ultimate destination of life. The message is subtle but persistent: a successful life is a happy life, and a happy life is one free from struggle, disappointment, and emotional discomfort. As a result, many people spend years pursuing achievements, wealth, recognition, and material comfort with the expectation that these accomplishments will provide lasting contentment.

Reality, however, reveals a different truth. Happiness is not a permanent condition that can be secured once and for all. It is a dynamic and evolving emotional state that rises and falls with circumstances, relationships, and personal perspectives. The joy associated with success, achievement, or acquisition often fades with time as individuals adapt to new realities. What once seemed extraordinary gradually becomes familiar, and new desires emerge to replace old ones. This pattern demonstrates that happiness cannot be sustained solely through external accomplishments.

The deepest forms of happiness often

arise from sources that cannot be measured in financial or material terms. Human connection, a sense of purpose, personal growth, and gratitude frequently contribute more to long-term well-being than status or possessions. The warmth of family, the loyalty of friendship, the satisfaction of meaningful work, and the quiet confidence that comes from living according to one's values provide a more enduring foundation for happiness than temporary pleasures. These experiences remind people that fulfillment is often found not in what is acquired but in what is appreciated.

At the same time, happiness derives much of its meaning from the existence of difficulty. Joy becomes valuable because sorrow exists. Achievement becomes meaningful because failure is possible. Peace is cherished because conflict and uncertainty are part of life. Without challenges, happiness would lose much of its emotional significance. Human beings often discover their greatest appreciation for life not during periods of comfort but after overcoming adversity. In this sense, struggle does not diminish happiness; it deepens it. The role of anger is equally important, although it is far less understood. Anger is commonly associated with aggression, hostility, and destruction. Public discourse frequently focuses on the harmful consequences of uncontrolled anger, highlighting broken relationships, social conflict, and acts of violence. While these consequences are real, they represent the misuse of anger rather than its fundamental nature.

At its core, anger is an emotional response to perceived injustice, disrespect, disappointment, or threat. It serves as an internal signal that something significant has been violated or neglected. Just as physical pain alerts the body to injury, anger alerts the mind to conditions that demand attention. Far from being merely destructive, anger often reflects deeply held values and convictions. People become angry when fairness is compromised, when dignity is denied, or when expectations rooted in trust and respect are betrayed.

History provides countless examples of anger functioning as a catalyst for progress. Many social reforms, political movements, and struggles for justice emerged from collective dissatisfaction

with existing conditions. The desire to challenge inequality, resist oppression, and seek accountability has frequently been fuelled by a form of anger directed toward constructive ends. When guided by reason and moral purpose, anger becomes a force capable of inspiring courage, determination, and change.

The difficulty arises when anger is allowed to dominate judgment. Uncontrolled anger narrows perspective and encourages impulsive actions that often produce lasting consequences. Relationships can be damaged in moments of emotional intensity, and decisions made under the influence of rage frequently generate regret. Prolonged anger may also affect physical and mental well-being, contributing to stress, anxiety, and emotional exhaustion. For these reasons, the challenge is not to eliminate anger but to manage it wisely.

Equally problematic is the tendency to suppress anger entirely. Societal expectations often encourage individuals to conceal negative emotions in order to appear composed and agreeable. Yet emotions that remain unacknowledged rarely disappear. Suppressed anger can accumulate over time, gradually transforming into resentment, bitterness, or emotional detachment. Genuine emotional health requires recognition rather than denial. Understanding the source of anger allows individuals to address underlying concerns in a thoughtful and constructive manner.

The relationship between happiness and anger reveals a deeper truth about human nature. Both emotions emerge from what people value most. Happiness reflects experiences that align with personal hopes, aspirations, and relationships. Anger emerges when those same values appear threatened or violated. The two emotions are therefore connected by a common foundation: the human capacity to care deeply about life, people, and principles.

Life itself is rarely defined by permanent happiness or constant anger. Instead, it unfolds through a continuous interaction of emotional experiences. Moments of joy are often followed by disappointment, while periods of frustration may eventually lead to growth and fulfillment. Emotional balance does not require the absence of nega-

tive feelings. Rather, it requires the ability to navigate the full range of human emotions with awareness, maturity, and resilience.

In an age marked by rapid technological change, social pressures, and growing uncertainty, maintaining such balance has become increasingly challenging. The constant comparison encouraged by digital culture often creates unrealistic expectations about what life should feel like. Many individuals come to believe that happiness must be continuous and that anger represents personal failure. This misconception can generate additional frustration when reality inevitably falls short of idealized images.

A healthier perspective recognizes that emotional complexity is not a weakness but a defining feature of humanity. Happiness enriches life by providing moments of meaning, connection, and hope. Anger protects important values by drawing attention to injustice, neglect, and wrongdoing. Neither emotion should be viewed as an enemy. Both serve essential psychological and social functions when understood and managed appropriately.

The reality of human life lies not in the pursuit of endless happiness nor in the rejection of anger. It lies in developing the wisdom to understand both. Happiness teaches gratitude for what is present, while anger encourages action when something important requires change. Together they contribute to personal growth, strengthen character, and deepen understanding of the world.

Ultimately, a fulfilling life is not measured by the absence of struggle or the uninterrupted presence of joy. It is measured by the capacity to experience emotions fully, learn from them honestly, and respond to them responsibly. Happiness and anger, when viewed through this lens, cease to be opposing forces and become complementary aspects of a shared human journey. Their coexistence reflects the richness of life itself and the enduring complexity of the human heart.

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City Like Feel



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Before ten years, we could clearly differentiate between a city and a village. In the past, electricity was so weak that bulbs only gave dim light on the walls. It was very difficult to get clear visibility on the floor surface. Electric poles were very rare; most households used temporary and risky wiring for electricity and felt immense pleasure even when they got a dim light occasionally.

The roads were just sources of dust, and even a heavy bus would move on these roads with uneven jerks. Drivers kept the third and fourth gears at rest due to the dilapidated condition of the roads. The roads were risky and caused frequent accidents, especially when a driver made a wrong turn.

In the upper reaches, ten or more households would share a single water point. Womenfolk had to do labour work that was not exercise for them. During winters, when taps got frozen, our womenfolk rushed to nearby springs to bring drinking water and used it very carefully. That activity was so hectic that most households ended up in unhygienic conditions and severe health issues.

Alhamdulillah! Today every household in remote areas has sufficient water facilities. I salute those who sponsored schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

and provided clean tap water to every home. This act definitely blessed the higher-ups. It is a great comfort to the underprivileged class, and people appreciate the scheme. But due to some self-interest contractors and negligence of officials, this scheme faces issues in some areas where the public complains that the work was not done properly. Some contractors even engage household members for pipe digging without paying them labour charges.

Schemes like the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) and other projects for better connectivity, protection bunds, and drainage systems have provided great relief to the population living in villages. Today, almost every village is connected to each other, roads are macadamized, and people feel great comfort and appreciate the government for these steps.

Today, around 90 percent of villages are electrified, and only a few areas still lack electricity. But one unfortunate thing is the hike in electricity charges. It is very difficult for the underprivileged class to pay electricity bills promptly; they should be given relaxation by the central government.

What came to my mind encouraged me to write this article for a renowned newspaper of the Kashmir Valley.

When I was in 7th class, I started bodybuilding. It was my passion to stay healthy and fit so that I would not feel exhausted and lethargic in school. My school witnessed how much I contributed to a number of activities like scouting, cricket, bodybuilding, etc.

In Srinagar at that time, we had very few gym centres, and they were not equipped with advanced machines.

Most players were passionate and did their best, always staying away from drugs and keeping their health a priority. Now, after every two kilometres in Srinagar, we have a gym centre. Unfortunately, today we are facing a severe drug menace. Even the government is very concerned and is applying stringent acts against drug peddlers. Drug peddlers deserve capital punishment, and every corner should be checked so that this curse is eliminated. Youth need proper counselling, education, and sports activities.

Today's youth demand a free zone, which means we should counsel them properly. Tell them, "Give your best, you are still in." Never discourage them when they fail to achieve their goals. Always encourage them and provide opportunities so that they get enough time to know themselves and overcome all odds in life.

I am residing in Bhatti Mohalla Raiyari, Khansahib, District Budgam, a beautiful and mesmerizing village in the Kashmir Valley. My village is known for noon chai and makkhi roti. Due to the famous tourist destination Doodhpathri, my village has gained identity as an emerging tourist village in Khansahib.

Just ten years ago, this village was backward in all respects road connectivity, electricity network, tap water facilities, and many more. Today, we have most facilities, but unfortunately, the road connectivity from my home to the main Doodhpathri Road has still not been taken up by the concerned authorities. Some miscreants are blocking the main entrance and keeping us deprived of this basic facility. Still, I am blessed and thankful for many things. I appeal to the government authorities to kind-

ly intervene and take up our road from High School Raiyari-Ich to Bhatti Mohalla. We are losing our dignity without a road. How is it possible that due to some selfish brokers, they can block our road? We have MSc students and civil service aspirants, and the area is purely inhabited by the Gujjar community.

Alhamdulillah, I am passionate about bodybuilding. I have set up a mini gym in a single room at my home.

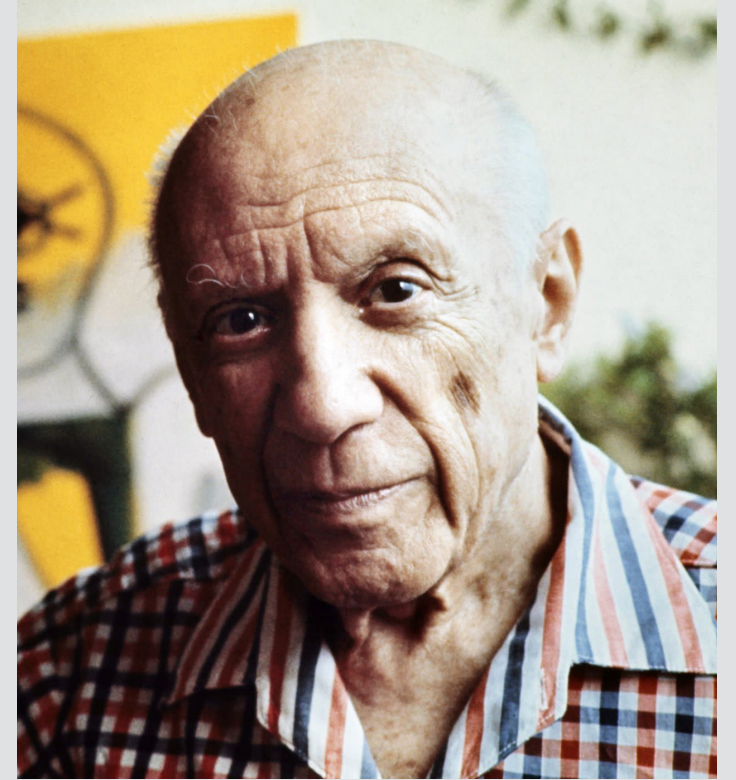
One of my friends, Mohammad Yusuf, suggested that there is a gym at Yarikah, just 2 kilometres from my home. A couple of days ago, I went there, got the key from the owner's family, opened the lock, and was surprised that we have such a great gym with imported machines near the shrine of Syed Yaqoob Balkhi. Alhamdulillah.

I talked to some people and the gym owner about their experience. They told me that people are not aware of such beneficial activities. I requested them to please spread the awareness among the general youth so that they visit the gym, get attracted, and explore the iron game world.

Suggestion: Our village is emerging in terms of development, education, business, and many more fields. So we have to keep in mind the mistakes we made while framing the master plan of cities like Srinagar, where we face flood threats and pollution issues. We must keep ample space for plantation, drainage, roads, and irrigation canals. We must stop illegal encroachment so that development becomes permanent, not temporary.

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Picasso Painted Survival: Going Beyond A World of Blue



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The history of art is not merely a chronicle of colors, forms, and techniques; it is also a profound record of human suffering, resilience, and survival. Few artists embodied this truth as deeply as Pablo Picasso. While he is celebrated for his revolutionary Cubism and extraordinary versatility, one of the most poignant phases of his artistic journey remains his Blue Period, a time when sorrow became a palette and melancholy transformed into enduring beauty. Picasso painted survival in shades of blue, and through his works, humanity discovered that despair itself could be translated into artistic immortality. Pablo Picasso, was one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. A Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, and ceramicist, he is best known for co-founding Cubism alongside Georges Braque. Some of his most famous works include: i) Les Femmes d'Alger (1901-1904) ii) Guernica (1937) iii) The Weeping Woman (1937) iv) Three Musicians (1921) His career is often divided into major periods: a) Blue Period (1901-1904) – somber blue-toned works. b) Rose Period (1904-1906) – warmer colors and circus themes. c) Cubism (from about 1907) – fragmented geometric forms d) Later experimentation with Surrealism, sculpture, ceramics, and many other styles.

His prolific career spanned multiple stylistic movements, and he worked alongside—and often competed with—painters who defined Modern Art.

His most notable contemporaries shaped movements ranging from Post-Impressionism to Surrealism. Henri Matisse: Leader of Fauvism and a lifelong friend and rival to Picasso. Matisse pushed the boundaries of color and expressive form. Georges Braque: A French painter who co-founded Cubism with Picasso. They worked so closely that their Cubist works from 1908 to 1912 are sometimes hard to tell apart. Juan Gris: A Spanish painter and sculptor who became one of the pre-eminent theorists and practitioners of Synthetic Cubism. Marc Chagall: A Russian-French artist associated with the School of Paris, known for his dreamlike, colorful scenes and folklore themes. Paul Cézanne: A Post-Impressionist master whose structural approach to painting directly inspired the development of Cubism. Picasso's time in Europe—especially in Montmartre and Montparnasse in Paris—put him in the center of a vibrant, internatio

Picasso produced an enormous body of work—tens of thousands of artworks over a career spanning more than seven decades. Picasso was one of the most influential and prolific artists of the twentieth century. Born in Málaga, Spain, in 1881, he displayed extraordinary artistic talent from an early age. Throughout his long career, he created thousands of paintings, drawings, sculptures, ceramics, and prints that transformed modern art. His works reflected constant

experimentation and innovation. Picasso's artistic journey passed through several important phases. His Blue Period was marked by melancholy themes and cool blue tones, while the Rose Period featured warmer colors and scenes of circus performers. In 1907, he painted Les Femmes d'Alger, a revolutionary work that laid the foundation for Cubism.

Along with Georges Braque, Picasso developed this new style, which represented objects through geometric forms and multiple perspectives.

The beginning of the twentieth century was marked by social upheaval, poverty, and uncertainty. Europe was changing rapidly, and artists were searching for new ways to express the complexity of modern life. Amid these turbulent circumstances emerged a young Spanish painter whose genius was still in the making. Pablo Picasso, born in Málaga in 1881, experienced profound emotional turmoil during his early years. The tragic suicide of his close friend Carlos Casagemas in 1901 left an indelible mark on the sensitive young artist. Grief enveloped him, and that grief found expression through a monochromatic universe dominated by blue.

Picasso understood this emotional language instinctively. His paintings from this era communicate feelings that transcend words. They invite viewers to confront suffering without turning away from it. In doing so, they reveal the extraordinary resilience hidden within human vulnerability.

One of the most celebrated paintings of this period, "The Old Guitarist," captures the essence of Picasso's artistic philosophy. The blind and emaciated musician clutches his instrument with desperate tenderness. His body appears fragile, almost skeletal, yet the guitar remains the central object of warmth and purpose. Music becomes a metaphor for survival. Material poverty cannot extinguish the human spirit's need for creativity and expression. Through this solitary figure, Picasso proclaimed that art itself is a means of endurance.

Similarly, "La Vie" stands as one of the most enigmatic works of the Blue Period. Painted in 1903, the canvas is filled with symbolic figures and emotional ambiguity.

Scholars have interpreted it as Picasso's meditation on life, death, love, and redemption. The ghostly presence of Casagemas seems to haunt the composition, suggesting that personal grief can become a universal language. Rather than succumbing to despair, Picasso transformed loss into artistic reflection. His sorrow became a source of creative strength.

The inhabitants of Picasso's blue world were often society's forgotten people—the blind, the poor, beggars, mothers with children, prisoners, and outcasts.

In an age obsessed with industrial progress and wealth, Picasso directed his attention toward the marginalized. He recognized dignity in those whom society neglected. His empathy elevated

suffering into a subject worthy of profound artistic treatment.

This compassion reflected a broader humanitarian vision. Picasso understood that survival is not solely a biological necessity. Human beings survive emotionally through hope, companionship, memory, and imagination. The sadness in his paintings is tempered by tenderness. Mothers embrace children. Lovers seek comfort. Solitary figures cling to music or prayer. Even in isolation, there exists an unspoken yearning for connection. The Blue Period also reveals Picasso's remarkable technical mastery. Influenced by Spanish religious art and the works of El Greco, he elongated forms and simplified compositions to intensify emotional expression. Shadows and contours became vehicles of psychological depth. By reducing distractions, Picasso forced viewers to confront the essential humanity of his subjects. Their suffering became impossible to ignore. Ironically, these years of artistic brilliance coincided with Picasso's own struggles.

Living in poverty in Paris, he experienced financial insecurity and emotional loneliness. Yet hardship sharpened rather than diminished his creativity. The paintings of this era testify to an artist who refused to surrender. Every brushstroke became an act of resistance against despair.

As time passed, hope gradually entered Picasso's life. His relationship with Fernande Olivier and improving fortunes introduced warmer tones into his work. The Rose Period emerged, replacing melancholy with gentler shades of pink and orange. Circus performers, acrobats, and harlequins appeared on his canvases. Nevertheless, the emotional authenticity forged during the Blue Period remained an essential foundation of his artistic identity.

One of his most famous masterpieces, Guernica, was created in 1937 as a powerful protest against the horrors of war. The painting remains a symbol of peace and human suffering. Picasso's creativity extended beyond painting to sculpture, ceramics, and printmaking. The Blue Period, extending roughly from 1901 to 1904, represents one of the most emotionally charged chapters in the history of modern art. During these years, Picasso immersed himself in cool tones—deep blues, blue-greens, and muted grays—to portray loneliness, poverty, old age, and despair. Yet these paintings were not merely depictions of misery. They were acts of survival, affirmations that even in darkness, beauty and meaning could endure.

It carries symbolic significance. Across cultures, it is associated with sadness, contemplation, and spiritual depth.

The significance of Picasso's 'blue world' extends far beyond aesthetics. In many ways, it anticipated the anxieties and dislocations of the twentieth century. Two world wars, economic depressions, political upheavals, and social alienation would shape modern consciousness. Picasso's paintings offered

a vocabulary for collective grief long before these catastrophes unfolded. His art became prophetic. The theme of survival continued throughout Picasso's career. Whether confronting the horrors of war in "Guernica" or experimenting with radical new styles, he consistently demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for reinvention. Adaptability became one of his defining qualities. Picasso refused to remain confined within established boundaries. His life itself exemplified survival through transformation. Modern audiences continue to find solace in the Blue Period because its themes remain timeless. Loneliness, bereavement, economic hardship, and existential uncertainty are experiences shared across generations.

In a world often dominated by superficial optimism, Picasso reminds us that sadness is not a sign of weakness. It is an integral aspect of human existence. By acknowledging pain, individuals discover resilience.

Psychologists today recognize the therapeutic value of creative expression. Art enables individuals to process trauma, articulate emotions, and cultivate healing. Picasso intuitively understood this long before contemporary psychology emerged. His paintings serve as visual testimonies to the restorative power of creativity. Through color and form, he transformed private anguish into collective understanding. The Blue Period also challenges conventional notions of beauty. Instead of idealized perfection, Picasso embraced imperfection and vulnerability. Wrinkled faces, weary bodies, and sorrowful eyes became objects of profound significance. Beauty was no longer confined to physical attractiveness; it resided in truth and compassion. This redefinition of aesthetics profoundly influenced subsequent generations of artists.

Writers, poets, and musicians have often drawn inspiration from Picasso's melancholy universe. His blue canvases resonate with literary themes explored by Dostoevsky, Baudelaire, and T. S. Eliot. Like these literary giants, Picasso examined the spiritual crises of modern humanity. His art belongs not only to galleries but also to the broader landscape of cultural consciousness. Perhaps the greatest lesson of Picasso's blue world lies in its affirmation of hope. Hope in these paintings is subtle rather than triumphant. It does not erase suffering; it coexists with it. Survival does not require the absence of pain. Rather, it demands the courage to continue despite pain. Picasso's figures endure. Their quiet persistence becomes a form of heroism. In contemporary society, where mental health challenges and feelings of alienation affect millions, Picasso's message acquires renewed relevance. His paintings encourage empathy and understanding. They remind us that beneath social labels and external appearances lies a shared humanity shaped by joys and sorrows alike.

Art becomes a bridge connecting isolated individuals. The enduring appeal

of Picasso stems not only from his technical innovation but also from his emotional honesty. He painted the wounds of existence without sentimentality. His blue world is neither hopeless nor romanticized. It is profoundly human. Through shades of sadness, he discovered the colors of endurance. Ultimately, Picasso painted survival. His canvases reveal that creativity can emerge from grief and that suffering need not lead to despair. In the depths of blue, he found a language capable of expressing humanity's most intimate struggles. Those paintings continue to speak across time because they affirm an essential truth: life persists, and so does the capacity for beauty.

The Rose Period (1904-1906) is characterized by a lighter tone and style utilising orange and pink colours and featuring many circus people, acrobats and harlequins known in France as saltimbanques. The harlequin, a comedic character usually depicted in checkered patterned clothing, became a personal symbol for Picasso. Picasso met Fernande Olivier, a bohemian artist who became his mistress, in Paris in 1904. Olivier appears in many of his Rose Period paintings, many of which are influenced by his warm relationship with her, in addition to his increased exposure to French painting. The generally upbeat and optimistic mood of paintings in this period is reminiscent of the 1899-1901 period (i.e., just prior to the Blue Period), and 1904 can be considered a transition year between the two periods. By 1905, Picasso became a favourite of American art collectors Leo and Gertrude Stein. Their older brother Michael Stein and his wife Sarah also became collectors of his work. Picasso painted a portrait of Gertrude Stein and one of her nephew Allan Stein. Gertrude Stein became Picasso's principal patron, acquiring his drawings and paintings and exhibiting them in her informal Salon at her home in Paris.

The world of blue that Picasso created was not a prison of melancholy but a sanctuary of reflection. It was a realm where sorrow acquired dignity and loneliness found companionship through art. More than a century later, viewers standing before those canvases still encounter themselves. They recognize their fears, losses, and hopes mirrored in those silent figures.

In this sense, Picasso's Blue Period represents far more than a chapter in art history. It stands as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Through grief, poverty, and uncertainty, Picasso painted not defeat but survival. His world of blue continues to illuminate the shadows of existence with compassion, wisdom, and enduring grace.

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BEST FOODS THAT REDUCE YOUR RISK OF STROKE

One of the largest studies, conducted among 418,000 people in nine European countries, has suggested that different foods can contribute to ischaemic stroke and haemorrhagic stroke separately.

Two types of stroke are most common— ischaemic stroke which occurs when a blood clot blocks an artery supplying blood to the brain, and haemorrhagic stroke which occurs when the blood supply to your brain is cut off when a blood vessel bursts and bleeds (haemorrhages) into your brain. When there is bleeding in the brain it damages nearby cells. Researchers, including those from the University of Oxford in the UK, said higher intakes of fruit, vegetables, fibre, milk, cheese, or yoghurt could be linked to a lower risk of ischaemic stroke, but there was no significant association with a lower risk of haemorrhagic stroke. Eating more eggs could be linked to a higher risk of suffering a haemorrhagic stroke, but not with ischaemic stroke.

"The most important finding is that higher consumption of both dietary fibre and fruit and vegetables was strongly associated with lower risks of ischaemic stroke, which supports current European guidelines," said Tammy Tong, the first author of the study from the University of Oxford.

"The general public should be recommended to increase their fibre and fruit and vegetable consumption, if they are not already meeting these guidelines," Tong said. According to the study, published in the European Heart Journal, the total amount of



fibre that people ate was associated with the greatest potential reduction in the risk of ischaemic stroke. It noted that every 10 gram (g) increased intake

of fibre a day was associated with a 23 per cent lower risk of ischaemic stroke, which, according to the researchers, is equivalent to around two fewer cases per 1000 of the

population over ten years. They said fruits and vegetables alone were associated with a 13 per cent lower risk for every 200 g eaten a day.

The researchers also said that for every extra 20 g of eggs consumed a day there was a 25 per cent higher risk of haemorrhagic stroke.

Tong and her team suspect that the associations they found between different foods and ischaemic and haemorrhagic stroke might be explained partly by the effects on blood pressure and cholesterol. They analysed data from 418,329 men and women in nine European countries including Denmark, Germany, and Greece, who completed questionnaires asking about diet, lifestyle, medical history and socio-demographic factors, and were followed up for an average of 12.7 years. During this time, the study noted that there were 4281 cases of ischaemic stroke and 1430 cases of haemorrhagic stroke. According to the researchers, a major strength of the study was that it included a large number of people studied in several different countries over a long follow-up period. However, the researchers noted that the study is observational, and does not show that the foods studied cause an increase or decrease in risk of ischaemic or haemorrhagic stroke. **Courtesy EMJ**

Novel blood test may aid ovarian cancer diagnosis: Study



Researchers have developed a new blood test that can measure the body's own immune response characteristic of inflammation and some malignancies, an advance that may lead to a new diagnostic tool for ovarian cancer.

According to the researchers, including those from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in Australia, about 3,00,000 new cases of ovarian cancer are diagnosed globally each year, with nearly 60 per cent of the women dying within five years of diagnosis.

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, found that testing for a specific immune biomarker may allow clinicians to identify whether growths on the ovaries are cancerous or not, without the need for other costly, time consuming tests.

"Our new test is as accurate as the combined results of a standard blood test and ultrasound," said study co-author Magdalena Plebanski from RMIT.

"This is especially important for women in remote or disadvantaged communities, where under-resourced hospitals may not have access to complex and expensive equipment like ultrasound machines or MRI scanners," Plebanski said.

In the study, the researchers used a marker for inflammation (IL-6) together with cancer markers to detect epithelial ovarian cancer in blood.

They validated the results across two separate human trial cohorts.

Using the new blood test, the scientists said, patients with benign cysts identified through imaging may be spared unnecessary surgeries.

"This study looked at women with advanced ovarian cancer, but we hope further research could explore the potential for adding this biomarker to routine diagnostic tests at earlier stages of the disease," Plebanski said.

"Developing tests that are simpler and more practical may help get more women to hospital for treatment more effectively, with the hope that survival rates will improve," he added. **Courtesy Healthline**

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, found that testing for a specific immune biomarker may allow clinicians to identify whether growths on the ovaries are cancerous or not, without the need for other costly, time consuming tests

Vegetarian diet linked to lower urinary tract infection risk: Study

A vegetarian diet may be associated with a lower risk of urinary tract infection (UTIs), particularly in women, according to a study which may lead to better dietary recommendations to prevent UTIs.

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, UTIs are generally caused by gut bacteria like E. coli, which enter the urinary tract through the urethra, and affect the kidneys and bladder.

Based on earlier research, scientists, including those from Tzu Chi University in Taiwan, said meat is a major reservoir for E. coli strains known to cause UTIs, but they added that it is unknown whether avoiding meat reduces the risk of UTIs.

In the current research, they assessed the incidence of UTIs in 9,724 Buddhists in Taiwan, who participated in the Tzu Chi Vegetarian Study, which investigated the role of a vegetarian diet on health outcomes in Taiwanese Buddhists.

The scientists found that the overall risk of UTIs was 16 per cent lower in vegetarians



than in non-vegetarians.

Of the 3,040 vegetarians in the study, they said, 217 developed a UTI compared to 444 UTI cases in 6,684 non-vegetarians.

The reduced UTI risk associated with a vegetarian diet was greater in men than women, although overall UTI risk for men was 79 per cent lower than for women, regardless of diet, the study noted.

According to the researchers, vegetarians may avoid ingesting E. coli that may cause UTIs by not eating common sources of E. coli, such as poultry and pork.

They speculated that the higher fibre diet of many vegetarians may prevent the growth of E. coli in the gut, and decrease UTI risk by making the intestine more acidic. **Courtesy Healthline**

5 Most Unhealthy Indian Street Foods You Must Avoid

Be it salty, greasy, spicy or sweet, there is no taste that our wide array of Indian street food can't please. And let's admit it, in the present nippy weather it becomes all the more tough to resist these mouthwatering temptations lined across every nook and cranny of your city, teasing you to indulge. To our good fortune, there are options galore! From Dahi Bhalla, kachoris and pakodas to momos. But before you binge into your favourite Indian street food, it is always good to know the larger impact it may have on your tummy, cholesterol, blood pressure and sugar levels. While some street foods, like bhutta (corn cob) shakarkandi or jhal muri still manages to pass the litmus test, there are certain Indian street foods which could prove to be a tad risky affair for your overall health. Here are 6 Indian street foods you should be weary of this monsoon season:

1. GOL GAPPA/ PANI PURI

Gol Gappa in Delhi, Phuchka in Bengal, Gup Chup in Chattisgarh or Pani Puri in Maharashtra, call it by any name, and it will evoke the same love at any part of the country. Gol Gappa is hollow puri, fried crisp and filled with a mixture of flavoured water (commonly known as imli pani), tamarind chutney, chilli, chaat masala, potato, onion and chickpeas. Dr. Simran Saini, Nutritionist at Fortis Hospital, Delhi, strictly warns against loading up on Gol Gappas this season. "There are several risk factors involved - the water could be contaminated as it is left in the open. You are never sure if the hands used in filling the Gol Gappas are always clean. So many people are falling prey to water-borne diseases in this season."

2. MOMOS

Dr. Simran Saini says, "Momos are under enough

scrutiny already. And I would also advise to steer clear of the dumplings sold especially on the streets. You never know the cabbage or the meat that goes inside as fillings. Whether they are cooked properly, or the quality of maida used to make



the dumplings. The chutney could also be old which can further upset your stomach."

3. CHAAT PAPDI OR BHALLA PAPDI

According Dr. Simran Saini, "It is actually the uncooked street food which can pose to be a risk. In Bhalla Paapdi or Chaat Papdi, the curd could contain millions of bacteria, which find the best time to harbour, particularly in this season. It can lead to throat infections and ENT issues."

4. CHOLE BHATTURE

Love the pillowy bhature with the spicy chole? Watch out as bingeing a bit too much on this yummy Indian street food can be packed with

calories and saturated fats, which can take your bad cholesterol levels to an all-time high. Soaked in oil, left open for hours, these bhaturas could lead to an upset stomach and a queasy feeling. Acidity and heart burn are also common side

effects we must keep in mind before digging into this treat.

5. KACHORI

Just like Chole Bhature, over-indulging on roadside kachoris too can prove to quite a menace for your tummy and cholesterol. Another risk factor is the quality of ingredients used as the filling. To use up their stock, vendors often stuff low grade and stale ingredients inside the kachoris, making the Indian street food a risky indulgence. Macrobiotic nutritionist and Health Practitioner Shilpa Arora says, "Fried Kachoris, often uses reused oil, which contains trans fats that could be toxic to the body." **Courtesy EMJ**

Global Telecom Recognition for Zaffar Owais Andrabi as ROCCO Names Top 10 Leaders

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUN 17: Zaffar Owais Andrabi, CEO of Almuqet Systems, has earned a place among the Top 10 leaders recognized in ROCCO Research's Above and Beyond Awards, earning global recognition for Kashmir on the international telecom stage. In an industry defined by relentless change, infrastructure complexity, and constant pressure to deliver at scale, such recognition reflects not only achievement, but sustained relevance and impact.

ROCCO Research is an international telecom research organisation, which are closely followed by mobile operators, vendors, and decision-makers worldwide.

Its awards are valued because they highlight individuals whose work has contributed meaningfully to the sector's progress.

For Andrabi, the recognition underscores a career shaped by focus, persistence, and technical depth. But beyond his personal achievements, what matters most to Kashmir is what Almuqet Systems has represented over the years: a platform that has built opportunity, skills, and pride for Kashmiri youth.

Through Almuqet Sys-



YOU'RE THE ORIGINAL. AI IS JUST THE REMIX

tems, Andrabi has helped create a pathway for young Kashmiris to enter the global technology and telecom industry.

The company has invested in skills building, training, and real-world project experience, enabling local talent to develop capabilities in areas such as systems development, network infrastructure, security,

and enterprise solutions. In a region where opportunities can be limited, this has been a meaningful contribution to the future of Kashmir's youth.

The company has also opened doors for Kashmiri professionals to work on international projects, collaborate with global partners, and build a reputation beyond the region. In doing

so, Almuqet Systems has quietly become a model for what local entrepreneurship can achieve when it is driven by vision, technical excellence, and a commitment to the community.

"This recognition means a great deal to me," Andrabi said. "It is a reminder that perseverance, vision, and commitment do matter."

The recognition also reinforces Almuqet Systems' impact beyond business. It is a signal that Kashmir can produce leaders who operate at the global level and contribute meaningfully to high-technology industries. In that sense, the award is not just a personal milestone; it is also a marker of Kashmir's growing presence in the global technology and telecom ecosystem.

ROCCO's Top 10 recognition remains an important benchmark in telecom because it celebrates those who have made a tangible difference in the industry's evolution. For Andrabi, being named among that group is both an honor and a statement of the work still ahead.

Kashmir now has another reason to celebrate, as one of its own leaders has been recognized for excellence at the global level, while continuing to build opportunity, skills, and pride for the next generation.

Chief Secretary reviews implementation of POSH Act

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) across J&K, emphasizing the need for ensuring safe, secure and conducive work environments for women in both public and private sectors.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home Department; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner Secretary, Law Department; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary, Transport Department; Managing Director, Mission Shakti; Joint Director, Information Department, besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of implementing the provisions of the POSH Act and the directions of

the Hon'ble Supreme Court in their true letter and spirit.

He directed the Social Welfare Department to devise a comprehensive implementation framework clearly delineating responsibilities at various levels to ensure that all workplaces are compliant with the provisions of the Act and remain safe and supportive spaces for women employees.

Stressing the need for widespread awareness, Dulloo called for intensified outreach among women working in government departments, public institutions and private establishments regarding their rights, safeguards and grievance redressal mechanisms available under the Act.

He also emphasized the need for regular capacity-building programmes for all stakeholders, including District Nodal Officers, members of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) and other functionaries responsible for enforcing the Act.

The Chief Secretary advised the Law Department to facilitate training programmes through the Legal Services Authorities and strengthen

awareness and legal literacy initiatives related to the Act.

He further directed Mission Shakti to ensure that districts regularly organize 'Mahila Jan Sunwai' programmes on a monthly basis under the supervision of District Magistrates, Senior Superintendents of Police and District Legal Services Authorities (DSLAs), providing a dedicated platform for women to raise their grievances and seek timely redressal.

He also instructed the department to undertake extensive dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material related to the POSH Act, Women Helpline-181 and the SHE-Box portal at workplaces and through departmental websites to enhance awareness and accessibility of grievance redressal mechanisms.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez, highlighted the key provisions of the POSH Act and outlined the measures being undertaken for its effective implementation across the Union Territory.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) CIRCLE SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
E-NIT NO: 07/SE/PMGSY/S/DB OF 2026-27 dated: - 17-06-2026

The Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Srinagar on behalf of Government of Jammu & Kashmir invites Percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction and maintenance of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S. No	Name of Work with Package No.	Tendered Cost including GST (Rs in lacs.)			T.D Cost	E/M
		Construction	Maintenance	Total		
1	Construction and Maintenance of road from L024-PARIGAM KATRASOO KM 1ST RD 100 TO DHUWOTH " Package No JK18-4038 Sanctioned Length -1.70Km carriage way width 3.75Mtr, (Complete stage) under PMGSY IV Batch 1st (2026-27) Block Kulgam PMGSY Division Kulgam Waste Plastic	289.51	23.16	312.67	0.10	6.25
2	Construction and Maintenance of road from L030-(Link road) Brariangan To Badwath KM 2nd RD 500 m to Budwath Upper GB" Package No JK014038, Sanctioned Length -1.70Km carriage way width 3.75Mtr, (Complete stage) under PMGSY IV Batch 1st (2026-27) Block Shangus PMGSY Division Anantnag Waste Plastic	404.60	32.36	436.96	0.10	8.74

Time for completion of construction of schemes: 18 Months

Tender Call: 2nd

Time and Date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid): 01-07-2026 at 11:00 AM

Class of contractor: "A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments

- Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 17.06.2026.
- The payment of Bid security and cost of Bid document is to be done online on e-tendering website along with the submission of Bids.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website [www.pmsytenders.gov.in](http://pmsytenders.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: <http://pmsytenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://pmsytendersjk.gov.in> from 18.06.2026 (10:00 AM) to 30-06-2026 upto (4:30 PM).
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://pmsytendersjk.gov.in> from 26.06-2026 (10:00 AM) to 30-06-2026 upto 4:30 PM. The bids uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened online on 01.07-2026 at 11:00 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the date of opening of the bids as specified happens to be a Govt Holiday, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The advertised amount is inclusive of GST. The bidder shall quote % age (above or below) for the construction component only in the BOQ. However, GST @18% shall be added separately at the time of allotment. All duties, taxes, royalties and other levies payable by the Contractor under the Contract, or for any other cause, shall be included in the rates, prices, and total Bid price submitted by the Bidder.
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 25-06-2026 at 12:00.Hrs in the Office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Srinagar at Engineering Complex Bund Road Rajbagh Srinagar to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site of conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.
- The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
- The Hard Copy of original instruments in respect of original copy of affidavits, [(cost of tender document, bid security (online mode)] and credit facility must be delivered by participating bidders in the office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Srinagar at Engineering Complex, Bund Road Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir on a date not later than three working days after the opening of Technical qualification part of the bid either by Registered Post or by hand failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
- The bidders are advised to upload the required documents/information strictly as per the formats given in Section 3-Qualification Information. The bidder who fails to comply with the said instructions shall be declared as non-responsive.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://pmsytendersjk.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly on line on same Web Site at the Office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Srinagar, Engineering Complex Rajbagh, Srinagar Kashmir.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents/bid data sheet. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify and check the website for the latest information related to the tender. Corrigendum (if any) will be posted on the <https://pmsytendersjk.gov.in>. All future correspondence/ corrigendum shall be published on the same website which should be regularly monitored by the intending tenderer.

NOTE: The intending bidders are advised to study the entire bidding document before preparation and submission of their bids. This includes clause 3 (Eligible Bidders), 4 (Qualification of Bidders) of ITB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.

No: SE/PMGSY/S/DB/e-Tendering/ | Dated: -06-2026

Sd/- Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Srinagar

DIPK: 2235/26 | Dated: 17-06-2026

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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

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Transport Commissioner reviews Transport Preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 at Sonamarg

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 17: Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, today visited Sonamarg and Baltal to review the transport preparedness and arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

He was accompanied by RTO Kashmir, Qazi Irfan; ARTO Ganderbal, Anis Ahmed and other officers of the Transport Department.

During the visit, the Transport Commissioner chaired a meeting of all stakeholders, including officers of the Transport Department, Traffic Police and transport operators and other concerned agencies. The meeting reviewed the preparedness of various departments and discussed measures required to ensure safe, efficient and hassle-free transportation facilities for the pilgrims.

The Transport Commissioner stressed that only roadworthy and fit vehicles should be deployed for Yatra duties and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely inspection and fitness certification of all vehicles proposed to be engaged for the pilgrimage. He emphasized that drivers engaged for the Yatra



must possess the requisite driving skills, valid credentials and be well acquainted with the Yatra route, traffic regulations, safety protocols and emergency response measures.

Taking serious note of complaints regarding overcharging by transport operators, the Transport Commissioner directed strict adherence to the notified fare structure and warned that any instance of overcharging would invite stringent action under the relevant provisions of law.

The Transport Commissioner also reviewed the availability of vehicles for the Yatra and directed transport operators to ensure adequate deployment of vehicles to cater to the anticipated demand of pilgrims. He stressed the need for maintaining sufficient reserve capacity to address any surge in passenger traffic during the Yatra period. As part of the visit, the Transport Commissioner inspected the Motor Vehicles Department Enforcement Post at

Sonamarg and reviewed the enforcement and facilitation measures being undertaken by the department. He directed the field officers to maintain effective surveillance and ensure strict compliance with all safety and regulatory requirements.

The issue of parking management was also discussed in detail. Directions were issued for earmarking adequate parking slots in consultation with the Traffic Police and other concerned agencies. The Transport Com-

missioner reviewed the proposed technology-based parking management system and emphasized the effective use of the dedicated mobile application for allocation, monitoring and management of parking slots to ensure orderly movement of vehicles and minimize congestion in the Yatra area.

The Transport Commissioner reiterated that the foremost priority of all agencies associated with the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 is to ensure a safe, comfortable and hassle-free pilgrimage experience for every pilgrim. He emphasized that all stakeholders must work in close coordination to provide reliable transport facilities, effective traffic management, adequate parking arrangements and prompt assistance to pilgrims throughout the Yatra period. He further directed the concerned officers to adopt a proactive approach in addressing issues on the ground so that pilgrims can undertake the sacred journey with convenience, safety and peace of mind.

Senior officers of the Transport Department and representatives of various stakeholder agencies attended the meeting and accompanied the Transport Commissioner during the visit.

Three-day workshop on SQAAP begins in JKBOSE

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), which has been designated as the State School Standards Authority (SSSA) for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, organized a three-day workshop titled "SQAAP in J&K: Implementation and Way Forward" from today.

Twenty eminent educational experts, administrators and other stakeholders are participating in the programme for the effective contextualization and implementation of the School Quality Assessment and Assurance Framework (SQAAP) in Jammu & Kashmir.

The workshop seeks to develop a comprehensive roadmap for implementing SQAAP in Jammu & Kashmir, including institutional mechanisms, capacity-building strategies, monitoring frameworks and school support systems required for successful operationalization of the framework. The participants shall undertake a detailed analysis and review of the SQAAP Portal developed by JKBOSE for the Union Territory, as a digital platform to facilitate self-assessment for Government and private schools.

The portal on operation will be instrumental in data collection, quality monitoring, evidence-based evaluation and continuous school improvement. Technical sessions are being conducted to ensure the portal's functionality, usability and alignment with the objectives of the School Quality Assessment and Assurance Framework.

The workshop also aims to contextualize and adapt the key quality indicators prescribed under SQAAP (published by PARAKH, NCERT) to the uniquely diverse educational and geographical realities of Jammu & Kashmir. Special emphasis is being placed on ensuring that the indicators adequately reflect the geographical, socio-cultural, linguistic and infrastructural diversity of the Union Territory while maintaining alignment with national school quality standards.

Addressing the inaugural session, Gh Hassan Sheikh, Secretary, JKBOSE, highlighted the Board's evolving role as the State School Standards Authority and reiterated its commitment to establishing a robust, transparent and evidence-based system for assessing and enhancing school quality across the Union Territory. He said the framework will serve as an instrument in bolstering the educational landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, adding that the data collection will prove handy in future policy and technological interventions for improvement in the educational system.

Dr Parveen Singh, Director Academics, JKBOSE, expressed confidence that the outcomes of the workshop will contribute significantly to strengthening the quality ecosystem of school education in J&K and support the creation of a sustainable framework for educational excellence, accountability and continuous improvement.

The recommendations emerging from the workshop will serve as a foundation for the phased implementation of SQAAP across schools in the Union Territory, ensuring that every learner has access to quality education in a supportive and enabling environment.

Budgam steps up Anti-Drug Campaign through Awareness and Enforcement Drives

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 17: District Budgam today witnessed a series of awareness and enforcement activities under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), reaffirming the district's commitment to creating a drug-free society through coordinated action, public awareness and community participation.

As part of the campaign, the District Employment & Counselling Centre Budgam, in collaboration with BBHSS Humhama, organized an awareness programme for students. During the programme, students were sensitized about Mission YUVA and educated on the harmful consequences of drug abuse. The session focused on encouraging informed decision-making, healthy lifestyle choices and empowering young minds to stay away from substance abuse.

In another significant initiative, the Excise Team Budgam carried out a special enforcement drive aimed at preventing the growth of illicit intoxicants and eliminating potential sources of drug abuse. The drive formed part of the department's sustained efforts to protect public health and strengthen the district's fight against the drug menace.

The awareness programme and enforcement activities highlighted the importance of a multi-pronged strategy involving education, prevention, community engagement and coordinated departmental action to effectively address the challenge of substance abuse.

The District Administration Budgam reiterated its resolve to continue implementing the objectives of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan through sustained awareness campaigns, preventive interventions and enforcement measures. Citizens, particularly the youth, were urged to actively participate in the movement and contribute towards building a healthy, safe and drug-free Budgam.

Mental Health Awareness Programme organized by SANKALP HEW, Mission Shakti Budgam at GHSS Beerwah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 17: In continuation of its efforts to promote mental well-being and enhance public awareness of mental health issues, SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti Budgam, organized a Mental Health Awareness Programme at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Beerwah today.

The programme witnessed active participation from students, teachers, community members, women,

youth, and representatives from various sectors. It aimed to raise awareness about the importance of mental health, stress management, emotional well-being, and the need to address and eliminate the stigma associated with mental illnesses.

During the programme, resource persons underscored the increasing significance of mental health in today's fast-paced environment. They emphasized the importance of early identification of mental health concerns, timely access to professional support, and the adoption of

healthy lifestyle practices. Interactive sessions were conducted to educate participants on effective coping strategies, self-care techniques, and the support services available for individuals experiencing psychological distress.

Addressing the gathering, officials from Mission Shakti Budgam reaffirmed their commitment to promoting holistic well-being and empowering women and youth through awareness initiatives, counselling services, and community-based interventions.

Amit Sharma reviews Census-2027 Operations in Pulwama

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 17: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Circuit House Pulwama to assess the progress of the ongoing House Listing and Housing Census Operations (HLO).

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, who is also the Principal Census Officer, highlighted the efforts of the district administration towards ensuring the smooth, accurate and timely conduct of Census-2027.

During the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, who is also the District Census Officer, presented a detailed presentation highlighting the district's progress under

Census-2027. The presentation covered the progress under the self-enumeration phase and HLO, awareness and IEC campaigns undertaken across the district, training imparted to census functionaries, creation and demarcation of House Listing Blocks (HLBs), status of field operations, arrangements for the inclusion of migratory populations, measures adopted for snow-bound and remote areas, and monitoring mechanisms put in place to ensure quality data collection and comprehensive household coverage.

Addressing the meeting, the CPCO appreciated the efforts of census functionaries and congratulated the district administration for its outstanding performance during the self-enumeration phase. He directed the census staff to maintain the same momentum during the

ongoing House Listing and Housing Census operations while ensuring the highest standards of accuracy, transparency and confidentiality.

He emphasized that the Census is one of the most important national exercises and serves as the foundation for future planning, policy formulation, infrastructure development, welfare programmes and equitable allocation of resources.

To enhance public confidence and awareness regarding the census exercise, Sharma directed supervisors and enumerators to properly identify themselves during field visits and proactively educate people about the significance of Census-2027.

Reviewing the progress of the ongoing House Listing and Housing Census operations, the Director expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved so

far and called upon all concerned officers to ensure complete coverage of households. He stressed the need for maintaining data quality and directed Charge Officers to undertake regular field inspections while ensuring uniform quality checks by supervisors. He also called for intensified monitoring and strict adherence to census guidelines and operational instructions.

Emphasising inclusive coverage, he directed officials to ensure the proper enumeration of migratory populations and tribal communities so that no household or individual is left out of the census exercise.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama informed the meeting that the district administration is conducting the census exercise with a zero-error approach and has put in place robust monitoring mech-

anisms to ensure the accuracy and completeness of data collection. He directed all field functionaries to work in close coordination, maintain professionalism and adhere strictly to prescribed protocols. He further assured full administrative support to census teams and emphasized the timely resolution of any operational issues arising during field activities.

The meeting concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session during which supervisors, enumerators and field officials raised various operational queries that were addressed by the Director Census Operations and senior officers.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Tral and Awantipora, Joint Chief Principal Census Officer, Charge Officers, district.

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scape of Jammu & Kashmir, adding that the data collection will prove handy in future policy and technological interventions for improvement in the educational system. Dr Parveen Singh, Director Academics, JKBOSE, expressed confidence that the outcomes of the workshop will contribute significantly to strengthening the quality ecosystem of school education in J&K and support the creation of a sustainable framework for educational excellence, accountability and continuous improvement. The recommendations emerging from the workshop will serve as a foundation for the phased implementation of SQAAP across schools in the Union Territory, ensuring that every learner has access to quality education in a supportive and enabling environment.

Awareness Campaign, Boat Rally, Cleanliness Drive held in Srinagar under Khet Bachao Abhiyan 2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: As part of the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan 2026, the Agriculture Department, Kashmir organized a one-day awareness programme in Srinagar to promote the conservation of agricultural land and raise public awareness about the importance of protecting valuable farming resources for future generations.

The programme was inaugurated by MLA Hazratbal, Tanvir Sadiq, who emphasized the critical need to preserve agricultural land and called for collective efforts to safeguard the farming sector, which continues to be the backbone of the region's economy and a primary source of livelihood for thousands of families.

Addressing the gathering, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, highlighted the various initiatives being

undertaken by the Agriculture Department to prevent the conversion and loss of agricultural land, promote sustainable farming practices, and strengthen the agricultural sector.

He urged farmers, stakeholders, and members of the public to actively support and participate in the campaign aimed at protecting cultivable land and ensuring food security for future generations.

The programme featured an awareness camp where participants were sensitized about the significance of agricultural land conservation, responsible land use, and sustainable agricultural practices.

To further amplify the campaign's message, a boat rally was organized on Dal Lake, drawing attention to the importance of environmental protection and agricultural preservation among the wider public.

Four Vedanta Entities Debut on Stock Exchanges

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 17: Vedanta Group has marked a major milestone in its corporate restructuring journey with the listing of four newly demerged companies on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE).

According to a company release here, the listing creates a portfolio of focused businesses across strategic sectors including aluminium, oil and gas, iron and steel, power, metals and critical minerals, aligning with India's long-term industrial growth and self-reliance goals.

The newly listed entities — Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Iron & Steel and Vedanta Power — began trading alongside Vedanta Limited, the Group's flagship listed company backed by Hindustan Zinc and a diversified natural resources portfolio.

Addressing the listing ceremony, Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal said the restructuring reflects the company's long-



term growth strategy and commitment to creating sector-specific leaders.

He said Vedanta was the first Indian company to list on the London Stock Exchange and later became part of the FTSE 100. Over the past five years, the Group delivered shareholder returns of over 300 percent and a cumulative dividend yield exceeding 70 percent.

Agarwal said India currently imports nearly half of its raw material requirements and stressed that the newly listed businesses

would contribute significantly towards reducing import dependence and strengthening the country's industrial capabilities.

Vedanta Aluminium begins operations as India's largest aluminium producer and the world's third-largest outside China. Anchored by its Jharsuguda smelter in Odisha, the business currently has a production capacity of 3 million tonnes annually and plans to double it to 6 million tonnes over the next three years.

Vedanta Oil & Gas enters the market as India's largest private-

sector producer in the segment. The company plans investments of about US\$5 billion over the next three to five years to increase production to 500,000 barrels per day and expand across multiple hydrocarbon assets.

Vedanta Iron & Steel, currently producing about 4 million tonnes annually, aims to scale up capacity to 15 million tonnes. The company said its integrated resource base, including iron ore reserves and metallurgical inputs, positions it strongly to meet rising domestic demand.

Vedanta Power, currently operating 4.2 GW of thermal power capacity, plans to expand to 20 GW as India's electricity demand continues to grow over the coming decade.

Meanwhile, Vedanta Limited will continue as the Group's flagship natural resources company. Through Hindustan Zinc and other operations, the company plans expansion in fertilisers, nickel, copper and ferrochrome production to support India's industrial and energy transition requirements.UNI

AI is replacing degrees with "proof of work" in hiring, says Aneesh Raman

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, JUN 17: LinkedIn Chief Economic Opportunity Officer Aneesh Raman on Tuesday said the global hiring ecosystem is undergoing a fundamental transformation as artificial intelligence reshapes how organisations evaluate talent, moving away from traditional degree-based filtering toward proof of real-world skills and tangible work output.

Speaking on the future of jobs in the age of AI at the book launch of "Open to Work: How to get ahead in the age of AI", Aneesh Raman said that academic credentials, long used as convenient hiring shortcuts by companies, are becoming weaker indicators of job performance.

He noted that degrees from elite institutions have historically acted as proxies for skill, helping recruiters reduce uncertainty, but this system is now evolving as organisations search for more accurate ways to assess capability.

Raman said the most significant shift in hiring will be the rise of "work product" as the primary evaluation standard. Instead of relying mainly on resumes or degrees, employers are increasingly looking for demonstrable outputs such as projects, apps, writing, research, or any visible creation that reflects how a candidate thinks and solves problems in real-world conditions.

He added that artificial intelligence is accelerating this transition by making it easier for individuals to create and showcase work, while also enabling organisations to process large volumes of applications more efficiently. According to him, this dual impact is pushing the hiring ecosystem toward more evidence-based assessment models.

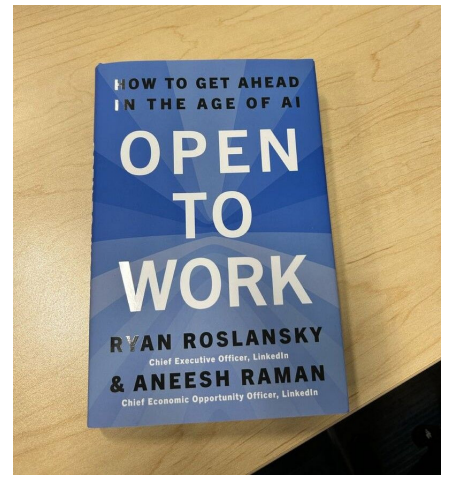
On concerns that AI could widen inequality, Raman said the outcome is not predetermined and depends on how society adopts and governs the technology.

He observed that unlike earlier technological revolutions, AI is simultaneously accessible to workers, students, and CEOs, which could help reduce inequality by democratising access to powerful tools.

However, he cautioned that outcomes will depend on adoption, access, and responsible implementation.

He further highlighted that resilience, adaptability, and the ability to navigate failure are becoming increasingly valuable traits in the AI-driven economy.

He said individuals who have faced setbacks or come from challenging back-



grounds often develop stronger capabilities in handling uncertainty, which is becoming a critical skill in rapidly changing workplaces.

Raman also said organisations are beginning to value "failed founders" and individuals with non-linear career paths because they demonstrate the ability to operate under pressure, learn quickly, and adapt continuously.

On evolving recruitment processes, he noted that AI-led screening may reduce administrative workload in early hiring stages, but human judgment will remain central in interviews.

He said the interview process itself is becoming more important as automation takes over filtering, allowing recruiters to focus more on storytelling, communication, and real-time assessment of adaptability and thinking.

Addressing job displacement concerns, Raman said that entire job categories are not disappearing but evolving. He cited software engineering as an example, stating that while AI can now generate code, engineers are shifting toward system design, architecture, customer problem-solving, cross-functional collaboration, and ethical decision-making.

He compared this transformation to historical shifts such as the introduction of ATMs, which were expected to eliminate bank teller jobs but instead initially expanded them as roles evolved toward relationship management before later declining due to digital banking.

Raman concluded that it is too early to make definitive predictions about AI's long-term impact on employment, but the clear direction of change is toward fluid job definitions, greater emphasis on adaptability, and a hiring ecosystem increasingly driven by demonstrable capability rather than static credentials. UNI

India highly exposed to digital fraud, faces twice global average risk: Report

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17: India remains highly exposed to digital fraud globally, with 7.1 per cent of digital transactions involving consumers in India in 2025 suspected to be fraudulent—attempts—almost double the global average of 3.8 per cent, according to TransUnion's Top Fraud Trends Report.

Logistics, telecommunications, and insurance emerged as the most vulnerable sectors, the report said.

Logistics recorded the highest suspected digital fraud rate at 16.3 per cent, followed by telecommunications at 14.7 per cent and insurance



at 11.5 per cent.

The report said these sectors are particularly exposed because they rely heavily on real-time interactions, distributed networks and high-frequency transactions, creating opportunities for fraudsters to exploit weaknesses in identity verification and authentication.

Further, the report highlighted a broader shift towards identity-driven fraud, with attackers increasingly targeting legitimate customer accounts.

Unlike the global trend, where account creation remains the riskiest stage of the digital customer journey, fraud risk in India was highest at the account login stage, where 3.9% of transactions were suspected to be fraudulent. This was followed by account creation (3.1%) and financial transactions (1.2%).

According to the report, this trend suggests criminals are increasingly using compromised credentials to take over existing accounts, underscoring the need for businesses to strengthen identity verification and fraud prevention systems at the onboarding and login stages. UNI

Stock markets end high for third day led by IT, FMCG

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 17: Indian stock markets on Tuesday ended higher for the third consecutive session. The indices were supported by easing geopolitical tensions following the US-Iran agreement. Buying interest was also seen in IT, FMCG, realty and select heavyweight stocks.

The top gainers on Nifty were HCL Technologies after the IT major announced its decision to acquire a 10.5% stake in domestic generative AI startup Sarvam AI. Further, Tata Consumer Products rose 2.7 per cent, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv and HUL were among other key gainers.

On the losing end were Hindalco, JSW Steel, HDFC Life, Eicher Motors and Maruti Suzuki among others. Investor earn Rs 1.76 lakh crore as the market cap of all BSE-listed firms rose to Rs 472.25 lakh crore from Rs 470.49 lakh crore. Among the sectors, IT sector emerged as the top performer. Realty, Media, FMCG,

Construction, and Oil & Gas indices also closed in positive territory. Metal stocks witnessed significant selling pressure ending 1.55 per cent lower. Auto, Pharma, Healthcare, PSU Banks, Cement, and Midcap Healthcare indices also closed marginally lower.

Nearly 83 stocks hit fresh 52-week highs. These included Bandhan Bank, Aeroflex Industries, Deccan Gold Mines, Federal Bank, IFCI, Rategain, and YES Bank. Stocks that slipped to their 52-week lows included Bayer Cropscience, Parsvnath Developers, and Vedanta Power. Shares of major pharmaceutical companies traded in the red.

Cipla fell 0.65 pc, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals declined 0.56pc, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories slipped 0.36pc and Sun Pharmaceutical Industries down 0.25pc. Rupee traded slightly stronger with gains of around 0.15pc or 11 paise near 94.55, supported by continued optimism surrounding the ongoing US-Iran peace negotiations.UNI

FIEO hails strong export growth in April-May, expects momentum to strengthen in coming Months

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 17: Welcoming India's strong foreign trade performance during April-May 2026-27, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) on Monday expressed confidence that exports would record even stronger growth in the coming months amid improving global trade conditions.

According to the latest trade data, India's overall exports, comprising merchandise and services, stood at USD 162.69 billion during April-May 2026-27, registering a growth of 14.66 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Merchandise exports during the two-month period reached USD 88.91 billion, posting a robust growth of 16.09 per cent, while exports in May 2026 alone stood at USD 45.20 billion, up 18.01 per cent year-on-year.

India's overall imports during April-May 2026-27 rose 14.38 per cent to USD 182.83 billion. Merchandise imports increased by 15.14 per cent to USD 145.35 billion during the period, while

imports in May 2026 alone grew 20.62 per cent to USD 73.42 billion. Commenting on the trade performance, FIEO President S.C. Ralhan said the strong growth recorded during the first two months of the fiscal year reflected the resilience, adaptability and competitiveness of Indian exporters despite global uncertainties.

"Achieving over 16 per cent growth in merchandise exports and nearly 15 per cent growth in overall exports demonstrates the positive impact of policy reforms, enhanced market access initiatives, growing manufacturing capabilities and the sustained efforts of exporters across sectors," he said. Ralhan said the emerging peace framework in West Asia involving the United States, Iran and other regional stakeholders was a positive development for global trade, shipping and supply chains.

He noted that the reported reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and easing geopolitical tensions were expected to improve the movement of goods, stabilise freight and insurance costs and



enhance predictability in international trade flows, particularly benefiting Indian exporters serving Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) markets.

FIEO said engineering goods, petroleum products, electronic goods, drugs and pharmaceuticals, chemicals, gems and jewellery, textiles, rice, cotton products and plastics were among the major contributors to export growth during the period.

Highlighting India's expanding export footprint, Ralhan said the country's leading export destinations during April-May included the United States, the UAE, Singapore, China, the Neth-

erlands, the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

"The continued strong demand from both traditional and emerging markets reflects increasing global confidence in Indian products and services. The growing presence of Indian exporters in diverse geographies is helping strengthen India's position in global trade and reducing dependence on a limited number of markets," he said.

On the import front, China, Russia, the United States, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Singapore, Japan, Germany and Oman emerged as India's key

sourcing partners. Major imported commodities included petroleum products, electronic goods, machinery, gold, transport equipment, non-ferrous metals, coal, chemicals, plastics and vegetable oils.

Ralhan said the rise in imports of capital goods, machinery, electronics and industrial inputs indicated sustained economic activity, investment demand and manufacturing growth in the country. He emphasised that exports would continue to play a critical role in driving economic growth, employment generation and foreign exchange earnings as India moves towards its goal of becoming a developed economy and a global manufacturing hub. FIEO expressed confidence that infrastructure upgrades, PM Gati Shakti initiatives, digital trade facilitation measures, free trade agreements, production-linked incentive schemes and export promotion efforts by Indian missions abroad would further enhance India's export competitiveness and support higher export growth during 2026-27. UNI

Sarvam AI bags unicorn status, raises USD 234 million; HCLTech to acquire 10.46 pc stake

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17: India's full-stack sovereign artificial intelligence (AI) company, Sarvam AI, has become a unicorn after raising \$234 million (Rs 2,210 crore).

The funding came through a Series B round led by HCLTech and Bessemer Venture Partners, with participation from existing investors Khosla Ventures and Peak XV Partners.

According to Tracxn data, the fundraising marks a sharp increase from Sarvam's

previous valuation of about \$196 million in 2025, when it raised \$228,000 from Avvanti Advisors.

HCLTech will acquire a 10.46 per cent stake in the Bengaluru-based startup for Rs 1,427.25 crore, making it the lead strategic investor.

HCLTech said the partnership combines Sarvam's AI research with the IT services firm's enterprise relationships, engineering capabilities and global reach to build a sovereign AI platform for enterprises and governments. UNI

Hyderabad housing registrations jump 35 pc in May ahead of revised guidance values

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 17: Residential property registrations in Hyderabad rose sharply in May 2026, with 8,344 housing units registered during the month, marking a 35 per cent year-on-year (YoY) and 22 per cent month-on-month (MoM) increase, according to Knight Frank India.

In value terms, residential properties worth 5,887 crore were registered in May, recording a 37 per cent YoY and 26 per cent

MoM growth, making it the strongest monthly performance during the January-May 2026 period.

Higher transaction values indicated growing demand for premium homes even as overall housing demand remained broad-based.

Knight Frank noted that the surge in registrations came ahead of the Telangana government's revised guidance values, which came into effect on June 5, 2026.

The revision, ranging from 25 per cent to 100 per cent across locations and 10-20 per cent for

apartments, encouraged many buyers and sellers to advance registrations to benefit from the earlier rates. Registration charges remained unchanged at 7.5 per cent. Commenting on the trend, Shishir Bajjal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India, said Hyderabad's residential market continued to demonstrate strong demand, supported by a robust employment base, expanding infrastructure and relative affordability.

He noted that while the revision in guidance values may have accelerated some transactions, growth was visible across multiple price segments.

The report showed that homes priced above 1 crore accounted for 19 per cent of total registrations but contributed 49 per cent of the overall transaction value, underlining the growing importance of the premium housing segment. Registrations in this category increased 35 per cent YoY to 1,591 units. UNI

Kane Williamson was the model the rest of New Zealand's team shaped themselves after



■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DUBAI: It should be annoying that he's like this. Kane Williamson, quiet but confident since our first-ever glimpsing of him, maybe the safest best New Zealand's selectors ever made, the tone-setting example in team upon team, the kind of guy parents wish their child ends up with, the kind of captain coaches wish they'd end up with, hard-working, talented, intelligent, yet somehow, as if to put a final touch on his own virtue, not infuriating.

He has pretty much always been this way. Other great players have grown, expanded, tripped into trouble, re-emerged triumphant, toughened up, mellowed. If there has been any serious character development for Williamson, it has been away from the public gaze. Even his batting arrived more or less fully formed, that back-foot punch already there, the drives compact and precise. Between 2013 and the end of 2025, Williamson averaged above 40 in every calendar year, and he hit at least one hundred in each of those, except 2025, when he played only six innings and remained not-out twice. For a player of 110 Tests and more than 300 limited-overs internationals, he has ridden an almost absurdly gentle gradient.

Around him, his team has transformed. The New Zealand side Williamson entered in 2010 had lurched repeatedly from defeat to controversy, the ousting of coach Andy Moles through player power rolling into haunting winless runs, rolling into the sacking as captain of Ross Taylor in 2012. The team he leaves in 2026 frequently challenges for a World Test Championship final spot, were runners-up in the last two global tournaments, and are purveyors of some of the chilliest vibes going, a "culture of care" and general respect for oppositions having settled over that dressing room for years now. If these are overachievers, they are overachieving with enviable consistency. If they are being too "nice" for international sport, they seem to have no serious interest in changing.

There has been no sturdier bridge between these two realities than Williamson. That by sheer volume of runs he has raised New Zealand toward excellence is obvious. In Test victories, only Don Bradman beats Williamson's average. He was never quite so feted for his limited overs work, but was New Zealand's highest run-scorer in their run to the 2019 ODI World Cup final, and struck 85 off 48 in the 2022 T20 World Cup final.

Vitality, it is in his image that New Zealand have been shaped in their most successful cricketing era. Brendon McCullum and Mike Hesson were architects of that change, but when the team needed a compass, it tended to point to Williamson.

India A call up Ashok Sharma to replace the injured Yuvraj Singh

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Ashok Sharma, who clocked one of IPL 2026's fastest deliveries at 154.2kph, has been drafted into the India A squad for the ongoing one-day tri-series in Sri Lanka. He replaces the injured Yuvraj Singh, who didn't feature in any of India A's three matches so far. Yuvraj, the Jammu & Kashmir quick, "reported discomfort in his right shoulder while bowling on 13th June and also experienced similar pain earlier during a fielding session on 11th June," a BCCI statement on Tuesday morning said. "The BCCI medical team, after consultation with a specialist, recommended that Yuvraj undergo a graduated rehabilitation programme under the supervision of the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) to achieve a full recovery from the right rotator cuff injury."



News of Ashok's inclusion in the squad came on the same day it was confirmed that he would be representing Gujarat from the upcoming 2026-27 domestic season after he was given a no-objection certificate by the Rajasthan Cricket Association, the team he represented in the age-group circuit as well as one season of senior cricket. Ashok impressed in patches for Gujarat Titans (GT) in IPL 2026, picking up six wickets in as many matches, but was expensive at 10.85. He lost his place in the playing XII as the team tried different bowling combinations.

Prior to the IPL, he had been impressive at the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025-26 where, in his debut season, he finished as the joint-highest wicket-taker with 22 wickets in ten matches at an average of 15.63, a strike rate of 10.13 and an economy rate of 9.25. His raw pace was the most exciting aspect of his game - and led to GT acquiring him at the auction prior to the 2026 season - while the ability to move the ball and hit good lengths have been praised by observers.

Ashok played only one season of senior cricket for Rajasthan, picking up 14 wickets in four first-class matches, while also claiming 13 wickets in seven List A matches. He was first included in the India A team in February, when he played warm-up matches against USA and Namibia ahead of the T20 World Cup.

MANDHANA AND BAVUMA FEATURE IN TIME MAGAZINE'S POWER LIST

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SYDNEY: Mandhana and Temba Bavuma are the only cricketers to feature in TIME magazine's "The 100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026" list, published recently. The list, which includes global sporting icons like LeBron James, Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis, Hilary Knight, Lionel Messi, Jannik Sinner, Nikki Hiltz, Carlos Alcaraz, Rory McIlroy, Victor Wembanyama and Cristiano Ronaldo among others, lists Mandhana and Bavuma in the "Titans" category.

On Mandhana, the India batting superstar, Charlie Campbell, an editor at large at TIME, writes: "The records keep tumbling in for Smriti Mandhana. The Mumbai-born left-handed opening batter was the first Indian woman to score a double century in a domestic one-day game, the first

to score a century in all three international formats, and is a joint holder of the most international women's cricket centuries with 17. Mandhana is also the first woman to score more than 1,000 one-day international runs in a calendar year.

"But Mandhana is proudest of the team honors she is also accumulating. She captained the Royal Challengers Bangalore [Bengaluru] to the 2024 and 2026 Women's Premier League titles and was vice captain for India's triumph at last year's ICC Women's World Cup, scoring the second-most runs in the tournament. "In 2024, Mandhana set the record for most international runs across formats by a woman and then beat her own record last year - a feat that contributed to her being crowned BBC Indian Sportswoman of 2025."

Mandhana is currently at the



T20 World Cup in England, where she scored a match-winning 68 in 44 balls in India's opening win over Pakistan on Sunday.

On Bavuma, who led South Africa to the World Test Championship 2023-25 title, Campbell

writes, "Temba Bavuma has always carried more than the weight of his shirt. As one of just a handful of Black South African cricketers, his successes were lauded as a turning point for the sport. But any setbacks were never merely

his own. "Fortunately, Bavuma has enjoyed many more successes than setbacks. In 2016, he became the first Black South African to hit a century (scoring 100 or more runs in an inning), and five years later he was his nation's first Black captain.

"Last year, Bavuma led South Africa to a historic Test series win in India as well as victory in the World Test Championship (WTC), besting a heavily favored Australia in the final and emerging from the tournament undefeated. It was South Africa's first international title since 1998 and owed much to Bavuma's heroic 66 runs in the final despite his being hobbled by a hamstring strain. "It was that moment there to be recognized as more than just a Black African cricketer," Bavuma told journalists following the WTC. "And I hope that it continues to inspire our country."

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