

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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As a nation, India can maintain its security robustly only when it becomes self-reliant in the defense sector. On an extremely important subject like national security, it is not possible to remain permanently dependent on any other country.

Srinagar • Saturday 16, May 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 118 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

West Asia Conflict

Petrol, Diesel Prices Hiked By Rs 3 Per Litre Each



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Oil companies have raised the petrol and diesel prices by 3 rupees per litre each amid spike in global energy prices. The petrol price has risen from 94.77 rupees to 97.77 rupees per litre, while diesel prices have increased from 87.67 rupees to 90.67 rupees per litre in New Delhi.

Similarly, the petrol price in Mumbai will now cost 106.68 rupees per litre, while the diesel price has been hiked to 93.14 rupees per litre.

In Kolkata, the petrol price has been increased to 108.74

rupees per litre, while the diesel price will now be 95.13 rupees per litre. Meanwhile, in Chennai, the petrol price has been raised to 103.77 rupees per litre and diesel price has been increased to 95.35 rupees per litre.

Meanwhile, Indraprastha Gas Limited has increased the prices of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) by 2 rupees today. After the price hike, the new rate for 1 kilogram of CNG in Delhi is 79.09 rupees, and 87.70 rupees in Ghaziabad and Noida. In Gurugram, the new rate for 1 Kilogram CNG is 84.12 rupees.

On increased • P-06

India Can Play 'Greater Role' For Peace In West Asia, Says Iranian FM

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India can play a "greater role" for peace in West Asia, Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi said.

Addressing a press conference here, he said there is no military solution to anything related to Iran.

He also said Iran is ready to help pass all vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, adding the situ-



ation in Strait of Hormuz is very complicated now. Araghchi, who is in New Delhi to attend a

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BJP Protests Liquor Sales In Srinagar, Police Foil March To CM's Residence

Several Leaders Detained; Party Demands Complete Ban On Alcohol In Kashmir

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday staged a protest in Srinagar against the sale of liquor in Kashmir, demanding a complete ban on alcohol and closure of all wine shops across the Valley.

The protest march began from Ram Munshi Bagh in Sonwar and proceeded towards Gupkar Road, where the residence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is located.

However, police stopped the march well before it could reach the high-security



zone and detained several BJP leaders.

According to details available, security forces were deployed in

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'Op Sindoor' Demonstrated Effectiveness Of Integrated Air Defence: IAF Chief

Says Modern Battlefields Shifting Toward Autonomous Warfare

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Highlighting the lessons learnt from 'Operation Sindoor,' Indian Air Force Chief A P Singh on Friday said drones and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) are no longer merely "eyes in the sky" but have become "claws in the sky", significantly altering the nature of modern warfare.

Addressing a seminar on unmanned aerial systems and counter-UAS at Subroto Park here, the Air Chief Marshal, said, "Recent conflicts, including Operation Sindoor, demonstrated the growing offensive role of drones and the need for integrated air defence systems and real-time coordination among the armed forces."

"We have realised during Operation Sindoor that these systems are no more eyes in the sky. They are like claws in the sky now," he said.

Referring to the nearly four-day conflict during Operation Sindoor, Singh said India's success in neutralising incoming drones and weapons systems was possible because of coor-



dination and a centralised command structure.

According to the IAF chief, none of the adversary's drones or weapons systems hit their intended targets during the operation as Indian forces operated in an integrated manner.

Singh said modern battlefields were shifting from concentrated air power to decen-

tralised and autonomous systems, making drones and counter-drone technologies increasingly relevant.

"There is no denying that the battlefield has shifted," he said, adding that the future of warfare lies in manned and unmanned teaming.

"You cannot take man out of the loop completely. Maybe not

in the loop, but at least on the loop," he said.

The Air Chief Marshal also underlined the importance of complete domain awareness in aerial warfare and warned against the dangers of friendly fire incidents in the absence of coordination. "We cannot afford situations where we do not know where our people are and where others are," he said, referring to the recent downing of US F-15E Strike Eagles over Kuwait in an apparent friendly fire incident.

On the challenge posed by low-cost drones, Singh said counter-UAS systems also needed to become affordable and scalable. "We have been hearing about low-cost attacks and high-cost defence. If attacking systems can be scaled up because of their low cost, obviously we need something we can afford," he said.

At the same time, he said the value of the target being protected must also be considered while evaluating defence costs.

The IAF chief stressed the need for faster innovation in military technology

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Unemployed 'Youngsters Like Cockroaches' Become Media, Activists; Attack System: CJI

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Likening some unemployed youngsters to cockroaches, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Friday said they go on to "become" media, social media and RTI activists and start attacking the system.

The comments came while a bench of CJI Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was pulling up a lawyer for "pursuing" a senior advocate designation. It said there were already "parasites" in society who attack the system and asked the petitioner whether he wanted to join hands with them.

"The entire world may be eligible to become senior (advocate), but at least you are not entitled," the bench told the petitioner lawyer.

A visibly anguished CJI observed that if the Delhi High Court would confer senior advocate designation



upon the petitioner, the apex court would set that aside seeing his professional conduct.

The CJI also referred to the kind of language used by the petitioner on Facebook.

"There are already parasites of society who attack the system and you want to join hands with them?" he said.

"There are youngsters like

cockroaches, who don't get any employment or have any place in profession. Some of them become media, some of them become social media, RTI activists and other activists and they start attacking everyone," he said.

The bench also asked the petitioner whether he did not have any other litigation.

"Is this the conduct of a person who seeks to be designated as a senior advocate?" the bench asked.

It said senior advocate designation is something that is conferred on a person and is not to be pursued.

"You are pursuing it. Does it look proper?" the top court said, asking whether a senior advocate designation was a status symbol to be kept ornamentally.

It also observed that it wanted to ask the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to verify the degrees of many of

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CS Steers Stakeholder Consultations For Growth Of Key Economic Sectors

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired detailed consultations with key stakeholders to devise a comprehensive strategy and institutional platform aimed at accelerating the economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir by strengthening core sectors including Tourism, Agriculture, Handicrafts and Industry.

The high-level consultative meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Regional Head of RBI Jammu; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Director, IIM Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Skill Development, Revenue and Employment Departments; besides representatives from

BISAG-N, RXIL and other official and non-official stakeholders.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored that the primary objective of the meeting was to evolve a unified mechanism capable of bringing all stakeholders onto a common platform for giving a major boost to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that several initiatives are already underway across different sectors and stressed the need for convergence among them to maximize their impact.

Highlighting the ongoing interventions of the government, the Chief Secretary referred to the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) for Agriculture, MSME Health Clinic and Raising and Accelerating

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Textiles Export Push Gets Major Fillip In Kashmir

J&K Charts Roadmap For Global Textile Leadership At Mega SKICC Consultation



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major initiative aimed at aligning Jammu & Kashmir's traditional strengths with India's ambitious textile export vision, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, under the Industries & Commerce Department, in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, organized a mega two-day Consultative Workshop on "Textiles for Global Markets: Strategy for Achieving USD 100 Billion

Exports by 2030" at SKICC, Srinagar.

The workshop brought together policymakers, exporters, industry leaders, artisans, entrepreneurs, Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), DGFT representatives and sectoral stakeholders to deliberate on strategies for enhancing exports, strengthening value chains and positioning local products in global markets under the broader "Local to Global" framework.

On Day-2, Commissioner Secretary, Industries

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BRICS Condemns Pahalgam Attack, Backs Zero Tolerance Against Terrorism

Seek Accountability For All Individuals Supporting Terrorist Activities Worldwide

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Reiterating their unwavering commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, BRICS foreign ministers on Friday strongly condemned the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 civilians, and called for concerted global action to eliminate the menace of terror.

A statement released at the conclusion of the 2-day BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting hosted in New Delhi, said, "The Ministers strongly condemned terrorism, describing such acts as criminal and unjustifiable irrespective of motivation, timing, location



or perpetrators."

It said, "Ministers specifically referred to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 people were killed and several others injured."

The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to fighting terrorism in all its forms

and manifestations, including cross-border movement of terrorists, terror financing and safe havens.

"They reiterated that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group and that all those involved in terrorist activities and their

support must be held accountable and brought to justice," the statement said.

The BRICS ministers also called for "zero tolerance" against terrorism and rejected double standards in countering terror activities.

They stressed that global counter-terror efforts must comply with international law, the UN Charter, international humanitarian law and human rights obligations.

The ministers welcomed the activities of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group and its sub-groups functioning under the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Action Plan.

They also called for the expeditious

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NC Resorting To Lies To Justify Speaker's Actions: LoP Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma on Friday said that the National Conference was peddling lies to justify the Speaker's unjust and unfair actions. He reminded the ruling party that chairs of committees are decided in accordance with well-established parliamentary conventions.

Reacting to National Conference claims that 62.5 percent of committee chairs have been allotted to the ruling party in Parliament and 37.5 percent to the opposition, Sharma said.

He said the NC was referring to the appointment of committee heads in 2024 but was twisting facts to shield the Speaker.

"The NC is conveniently hiding the fact that chairmanship of 62.5 percent of department-related standing committees was allotted to the National Democratic Alliance (15 out of 24) and not only to BJP. 37.5 percent chairmanships were allotted to opposition

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Census-2027

DC Sgr, SMC Comm review preparations for House Listing Operations of Census Phase-I

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In connection with Census-2027, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar (Principal Census Officer (Rural), Akshay Labroo and Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) (Principal Census Officer (Urban), Faz Lul Haseeb Friday chaired a joint meeting of all line Departments at Banquet Hall Conference Complex, Srinagar.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner and SMC Commissioner assessed the modalities for Self-enumeration and review progress of House listing Operations (HLO) and its updation on Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) under Phase-I of Census-2027 operations in the District.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the ongoing preparatory activities related to Phase-I of Census-2027 was undertaken, with particular focus on ensuring smooth implementation of self-enumeration procedures, completion of House Listing Operations

within stipulated timelines and real-time updation of data on the CMMS portal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining accuracy, transparency and coordination during the Census exercise, terming it a vital national exercise that forms the basis for planning and policy formulation. He directed all concerned Officers to ensure that the House Listing Operations are conducted meticulously and that no household is left uncovered during the enumeration process.

The DC instructed all line departments to strengthen inter-departmental coordination and provide full logistical and technical support to field functionaries for seamless execution of the exercise. He further directed Officers to closely monitor field-level progress on daily basis and ensure timely updation of collected data on the Census Management and Monitoring System to avoid discrepancies and delays.

Highlighting the significance of public participation in the self-enumeration process, the

DC called upon Officers to intensify awareness generation activities at the grassroots level so that citizens are properly informed about the process and benefits of accurate Census data. He also stressed the need for capacity building and hand-holding support for field staff to ensure efficient handling of digital platforms and census-related procedures.

The duo, while reviewing the urban component of the Census operations, directed all Charge Officers and field teams within Municipal limits to ensure proper verification and timely completion of House Listing Operations in all Municipal wards of the City.

The SMC Commissioner further underscored the importance of the Census exercise and emphasized maintaining data integrity and adhering strictly to the prescribed Census guidelines and timelines.

The Duo directed Officers to adopt a proactive and coordinated approach for successful conduct of Census Phase-I and reiterated that all departments must work in close synergy to achieve the targets efficiently



and within the notified schedule. On the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner/Charge Officer (Rural), Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, briefed the meeting about the action plan and activities undertaken so far in rural areas of the District for smooth con-

duct of the Census exercise. He informed that necessary arrangements have been put in place to ensure effective coordination among field staff and timely completion of House Listing Operations in rural areas.

Similarly, Joint Commissioner SMC/Charge Officer (Urban), Nuzhat Qureshi apprised the meeting about the progress achieved in urban areas and the measures being adopted to ensure comprehensive coverage within municipal limits.

The meeting was informed that the necessary Census training has been imparted to the field-level teams, who are actively engaged in enumeration-related activities across the district. It was further informed that regular monitoring and supervision are being carried out to ensure accuracy, transparency and timely updation of data on the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) portal.

During the meeting, the District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Shah Ismail Bangroo gave a detailed overview of the ongoing Census exercise in the

district through a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting that the self-enumeration phase will be conducted from May 17 to May 31, 2026, during which citizens will be able to furnish their household details online through the designated Census portal se.census.gov.in. He further informed that Census teams will conduct household visits from June 1 to June 30, 2026, for scrutiny, verification and house listing.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioners, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Superintendent of Police, Nodal Principal Colleges, Kashmir, Joint Commissioners of SMC, District Programme Officer, ICDS, Chief Executive Officer, Cantonment Board, General Manager DIC, Superintending Engineers of R&B, Hydraulics & KPDC, SDM, West, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Deputy Director Information (PR), Secretary SDA and all District & Sectoral Officers.

Comm Secy Planning visits Bobiya, reviews Vibrant Village Programme in border villages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Commissioner Secretary, Information, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, R. Alice Vaz, who has been assigned the twin border villages of Bobiya and Gajnal under Vibrant Village Programme-II (VVP-II), Friday visited Bobiya village and convened a public outreach programme to interact with the stakeholders and get a first-hand appraisal of the developmental needs and aspirations of these border villages.



important aspect of the programme and appealed to the local residents to extend full cooperation to the district administration for smooth execution of the planned works.

The Commissioner Secretary also laid special focus on saturation of individual beneficiary schemes and called for ensuring effective convergence of Centrally Sponsored and State Sponsored Schemes with special emphasis on HADP and Mission YUVA for maximizing benefits to the people.

Earlier, former PRI members of village Bobiya appreciated the district administration for conducting an inclusive and participatory planning exercise while formulating the development plan for the villages.

On the occasion, Nodal

Officer for Vibrant Village Bobiya and BDO Marheen, Javed Iqbal and Nodal Officer for Vibrant Village Gajnal and Tehsildar Marheen, Lekh Raj, read out the proposed development plans in public for Bobiya and Gajnal villages.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary convened a meeting with the concerned district and sectoral officers to review the proposed works. She also enquired about the status of existing schemes being implemented by JPDC, JAKEDA, RDD, Social Welfare, Agriculture, JJM and PMGSY to identify gaps and ensure saturation in these villages.

Commissioner Secretary also highlighted the need to organize awareness camps for welfare schemes and skill development opportunities so that maximum benefits reach

the eligible beneficiaries in these remote border areas.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, briefed the Commissioner Secretary that Kathua district has a total of 216 border villages, of which, six villages near the zero line including Bobiya, Gajnal, Rathua, Karol Krishna, Kadyala and Gujar Chak are being taken up under the Vibrant Village Programme-II.

He informed that an extensive exercise was carried out to interact with the inhabitants and gather their developmental aspirations for preparation of the draft plan besides assessing the scope for augmentation of the existing infrastructure. He said a series of meetings had been held by all the stakeholder departments with the local inhabitants to incorporate their suggestions and make the planning exercise inclusive and participatory.

Earlier, Sub Divisional Magistrate Hiranagar, Phulail Singh, presented the border profile of Hiranagar Sub Division and highlighted the strategic significance of the villages situated near the International Border.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC Friday informed that the Shutdown of 132/33 kV GSS Amargarh will be observed due to which power supply to Panzipora, Tarzoo, Hygam, Shair Colony, Arampora, Mahrajpora, Bugoo, Police Station, ADC Watlab, Hathlangoo, Warpora, Dooru, Shiva, Tujjar, Sharief Shrine, Nowpora, Mazbugh, Reban, Achabal, Doabgah, Ferozpora, Panzulla, Shuuloo, Chakloo, Ladoora, Nadihal, Gurseer, Pethseer, PHE, Fruit Mandi Sopore, LIS Ladoora, Dangiwaacha, Lachipora, Hadipora, watrigam, Safalpora, Ganapora, Nowpora, Seelu, Bomai, seer, Chakloo, Ruhama and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 04 PM on 17 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Arampora Handwara Town line, 33 KV Arampora Handwara Old line and 33 KV Arampora Kupwara Old line will be observed due to which power supply to Marathgam, Chogal, Handwara Town, Kulangam, Zachaldara, Changimulla, Rajpora, Wadipora, Hangah, Haril, Bata-gund, Whole Lolab, Machil Valley and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 18 May 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Nehalpora Pattan-Amargarh line will be observed due to which power supply to Pattan, Palhalan, Nehalpora,

Hanjiwera, Trama, Hamray, Tapper, Wanigan, Lolipora, Cold Store, Hyderabad, Flour Mill, North End Hospital, Railway, Hamray and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 17 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Nehalpora HMT line will be observed due to which power supply to Kalsari, Singhpora, Duslipora, SKUA, SSM, Mirgund, Ramilgarh, Shadipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 18, 20 & 25 May 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 KV Delina Wagoor line will be observed due to which power supply to Wagoor, Kawcheck, Mangam, Watergam, Kreeri, Saloosa, Hospital, Sangrama, Nowpora, Boosu, Cold Store and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 19 & 21 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Delina Kreeri Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Kreeri, Saloosa, Hospital and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 21 & 25 May 2026.

Likewise, 33 KV Alasteng Power House Line will be observed due to which power supply to Beehama, Arampora, Arch, Nunner, Manigam, Duderhama, Malshaibagh, Wail, Gultibagh and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 17 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33

kV Kangan Surfaw Line and 33 KV Kangan-Kangan Line will be observed due to which power supply to Gund, Kullian, Gagangeer, Sonamarg, Fraw, Ganiwan, Mammer, Wangath, Kangan, Akhal, Babanagri, Canal and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 16 May 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Kangan-Wussan Line will be observed due to which power supply to Wussan, Preng, Manigam, Haripora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 19 May 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Khummoh SIDCO-III line will be observed due to which power supply to Cement plants viz. SAIFCO, KHYBER, TCI MAX will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 24 May and 07 June 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 KV Pampore-Badamibagh line and Panthachowk Pampore line will be observed due to which power supply to Sonwar, Shivpora, Indranagar, Badamibagh, WSS Tangnar, Panthachowk, Lasjan, Summerburgh, Govt. Press, Flour Mills and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 03 June 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Khummoh SIDCO-II line will be observed due to which power supply to Industrial Area Khummoh will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 31 May 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33

kV Khummoh SIDCO-I line will be observed due to which power supply to Khummoh, Wuyan, Balhama, TCI Old, Zaffran colony, Chak Sangri, JKAP Befina, TCI Wuyan and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 14 & 28 June 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Wanganpora-Souraskims Line will be observed due to which power supply to Soura, Zoonimar, Nowshera, Buchpora, Anchar and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 15 June 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Habak Owantabhan-SKIMS line will be observed due to which power supply to Ontabhan, Lal Bazar and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 17 June 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Wanganpora-Khanwar-Rainawari Line will be observed due to which power supply to Miskeen Bagh, Makhdoom Sahib, Rozabal, Hazaribagh, Konabal, Hasnanabad, Jogilankar and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 20 June 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Awantipora line will be observed due to which power supply to Awantipora, Jawbhara, Barsoo, Malangpora, Padgampora, Beighpora, Midoora, Bohu and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 02 PM on 21 May 2026.

DC G'bal visits Baltal Base Camp to review preparations for SANJY-2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Friday visited Baltal Base Camp to review the status of preparations and arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

During the visit, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the site plan of Baltal Base Camp from Y-Junction to the Domail access gate and assessed the progress of various ongoing works and facilities being provided for the pilgrims.

The DC reviewed the progress on ground including maintenance of parking areas, improvement of pony tracks at Baltal and Domail, proper barricading at pony areas for smooth pony movement as well as various allied facilities at Baltal Base Camp.

The DC directed KPDC to ensure adequate lighting arrangements at key loca-

tions, including at the Pony Stand which witnesses heavy footfall.

During the inspection, the DC directed the I&FC Department to expedite drainage and crate protection works.

Telecom agencies were instructed to ensure seamless network connectivity across the yatra route and base camp areas.

The Labour Department was asked to organize registration camps at various locations including Sonamarg for facilitation of workers and service providers associated with the yatra.

The Traffic Department was instructed to formulate an efficient traffic management plan, while SRTC was asked to ensure proper transportation facilities and establishment of sufficient number of ticket booking counters for pilgrims.

The DC further directed BRO to ensure timely snow clearance and maintenance of Yatra track

and also advised them to maintain close coordination with other departments to ensure works are executed in a coordinated manner.

The DC issued on-the-spot instructions to the concerned departments and executing agencies to accelerate the pace of works and ensure completion within the stipulated timelines.

Later, the DC also visited the Pony Stand and directed the concerned officers to ensure adequate amenities and proper facilities for smooth management and convenience of pilgrims.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police, Sudhanshu Dhama, Additional Deputy Commissioner, CEO Sonmarg Development Authority, Sub Divisional Magistrate, officers of various line departments as well as representatives of BRO, SASB and telecom agencies etc.

B'la fully prepared for India's first Digital Census 2027

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner), Baramulla, S.F Hamid Friday addressed a press conference regarding the preparations for Census 2027 and informed that the district is fully prepared for the successful conduct of India's first fully digital Census.

Addressing media persons, the Principal Census Officer stated that Census is the foundation of evidence-based planning, governance, and welfare delivery, playing a vital role in shaping future development policies and public services.

He informed that Census 2027 will be conducted through the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) using mobile-based digital enumeration supported by GIS mapping and advanced monitoring systems.

As part of the House-listing and Housing Census



phase, Digital Self-Enumeration for residents of Baramulla will remain open from 17 May 2026 to 31 May 2026 through the official portal se.census.gov.in. Citizens can voluntarily submit their household information online using mobile phones, tablets, or computers.

Thereafter, House-to-House Survey operations will be conducted from 1 June to 30 June 2026 by trained Census Enumerators. The Population Enumeration phase will follow subsequently in a staggered manner across Jammu & Kashmir, including snow-bound areas.

The Principal Census Officer further informed

that Baramulla district has finalized 25 Census Charges, including 18 Rural and 7 Urban Charges, besides 122 Special Charges for institutions and special establishments. A dedicated workforce of 2,367 personnel, including Enumerators, Supervisors, and Trainers, has been trained for the exercise.

Emphasizing transparency and public trust, he stated that all Census officials will carry QR-coded identity cards and clarified that Census personnel will never ask for OTPs, bank details, passwords, or financial information.

Appealing for public participation, the Principal Census Officer urged citizens, media organizations, educational institutions, civil society members, and community leaders to actively participate in Census 2027 and ensure that every household and every individual in Baramulla is counted accurately and inclusively.

Massive anti-drug awareness campaigns continue across Shopian under NMJKA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: District Administration Shopian, under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), continues to organize a series of intensive awareness and outreach programmes across the district on a daily basis to educate people, especially youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

As part of the sustained campaign, awareness programmes, sports activities, seminars, yoga sessions, cultural events and interactive meetings are being conducted in schools, colleges, villages and public places with active participation of students, youth clubs, teachers, civil society members and local volunteers.

During the programmes, participants were sensitized about the growing menace of substance abuse and were encouraged to play an active role in making society drug-free.

Speakers stressed the importance of community participation, parental guidance and coordinated efforts to protect the younger generation from falling prey to drugs.

Special focus is being laid on involving youth in constructive and positive activities including sports, skill development and awareness drives so that they remain engaged in productive pursuits. Various departments are jointly conducting these activities to strengthen the anti-drug movement at the grassroots level.

Citizens were urged to remain vigilant and report any drug-related activities to the concerned authorities for timely action.

The daily awareness initiatives are receiving encouraging response from the public and are significantly contributing towards building a healthier, safer and drug-free Shopian.

Govt. committed to expand access to quality education in remote areas: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday inaugurated newly constructed building of Government Degree College (GDC) Majalta in Udhampur district amid great applause and enthusiasm from the students and locals of the area.

MLA Udhampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania; Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa; Director School Education Jammu, Director Colleges, Director Health Services Jammu, Principal of the college, faculty members, large number of students and locals were also present on the occasion.

In her address, Sakeena Itoo congratulated the college fraternity and local community on the successful completion of the permanent campus building. She highlighted the Government's commitment towards expanding access to quality education and ensuring better educational opportunities



for students living in far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister laid special emphasis on the urgent need for building a drug-free society and called upon educational institutions to play a proactive role in spreading awareness against substance abuse. She stressed that the youth are the backbone of the nation and must be guided towards constructive, creative and socially responsible pursuits.

She urged students to stay away from drugs and harmful addictions, stating that substance abuse not only destroys individual lives but also adversely affects families and society at large. She further emphasized the importance of counseling, awareness campaigns,

sports activities and community participation in combating the menace of drug addiction.

The Minister further said that educational institutions as centres of moral guidance and discipline, have significant role for making young minds to remain focused on education, character-building and nation-building.

She highlighted that the inauguration of this permanent college building marks a significant chapter in the growth and development of Government Degree College Majalta and stands as a testament to the collective commitment of Government towards strengthening higher education in remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Udhampur East,

Ranbir Singh Pathania lauded the efforts of the college administration and reiterated his commitment towards educational upliftment in the constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary Higher Education emphasized on the importance of quality higher education, youth empowerment and infrastructural development in rural institutions.

In her welcome address, Principal Dr. Shalini Sharma presented a detailed and momentous report highlighting the achievements, academic progress and developmental journey of Government Degree College Majalta. She expressed gratitude to the Government and the Higher Education department for their unwavering support in strengthening educational infrastructure in the region.

She stated that the newly inaugurated building would provide a modern academic environment and greatly benefit students from remote and rural areas.

The Minister, on the occasion, also released the college newsletter.

Speaker Rather inaugurates advanced healthcare facilities at CHC Kremshore

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: In a significant step towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and enhancing patient care services, Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Friday inaugurated the newly established healthcare facilities at Community Health Centre (CHC) Kremshore.

The facilities included a dedicated Hotline Service, an Ultrasonography (USG) Machine and a modern Dental Chair, all aimed at improving the accessibility, diagnostic capabilities and quality healthcare delivery for the local population.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker emphasized the government's commitment towards strengthening the healthcare services at the grassroots level. He stated that upgrading the medical infrastructure in rural areas remains a priority to ensure timely diagnosis, better treatment facilities and reduced dependence on tertiary healthcare institutions. He highlighted that the addition of advanced diagnostic and dental facilities at CHC



Kremshore would significantly benefit the patients from Kremshore and adjoining areas.

The Hotline Service inaugurated on the occasion will facilitate better healthcare facilities and patients care. The installation of the Ultrasonography Machine is expected to greatly enhance the diagnostic services, particularly benefiting the pregnant women, elderly patients and individuals requiring immediate imaging support. Similarly, the newly

installed Dental Chair will strengthen oral healthcare services, enabling specialized dental treatment locally and reducing the need for patients to travel long distances.

During the programme, the health officials briefed the dignitaries about the functioning of the health institution and ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the healthcare outreach, preventive care and patient satisfaction.

The Speaker appreciated the efforts of the Health

Department and medical staff for their dedication in delivering quality healthcare services despite various challenges.

Rather also interacted with the doctors, paramedical staff and the public, encouraging the healthcare professionals to continue serving with compassion and professionalism while ensuring patient-friendly services.

The inauguration marks another milestone in the ongoing efforts to improve the healthcare infrastructure and ensure accessible, affordable and quality medical services for all sections of the society.

The local representatives and community members expressed gratitude to the government for upgrading the healthcare facilities in the area, stating that the new services would greatly ease the burden on patients and strengthen confidence in public healthcare institutions.

The event was attended by CMO Budgam, SE PDD, Executive Engineer PDD Budgam, BMO Khanshab, officers of the Health Department, district administration officials, medical staff, and prominent citizens of the area.

Comm Secy School Edu visits Vidya Samiksha Kendra Jammu; reviews functioning

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma, Friday visited the Vidya Samiksha Kendra Jammu to review functioning of the integrated educational monitoring and governance system established under the School Education Department.

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary took a comprehensive review of the real-time monitoring mechanisms being implemented through the VSK platform for improving governance, transparency and efficiency in the education sector across the Union Territory.

The officers and technical teams briefed the Commissioner Secretary regarding various digital dashboards, data analytics tools and monitoring modules being utilized for tracking key educational indicators. These included student attendance, teacher attendance, infrastructure status, learning outcomes and implementation of various schemes under Samagra Shiksha.

The Commissioner Secretary reviewed the school attendance scenario across the UT

and assessed the district-wise performance. He directed officers to follow up with low-attendance schools and ensure that attendance is marked daily, on time, and by all teachers without fail.

The Project Director Samagra Shiksha, J&K and technical team Vidya Samiksha Kendra briefed the Commissioner Secretary about the progress achieved highlighting the enhancements in Digital Learning achieved through the VSK. This included the launch of new Bots such as Shikshak Sahayak, DigiLearn as well as Smart Attendance, Study Buddy Chatbot, including the recently launched J&K Sarvekshan ChatBot.

The Director, Samagra Shiksha also showcased the Data Monitoring Framework including the Dashboards Platform and the CRM system driven Tele-Calling set up in the VSK.

Ram Niwas Sharma emphasized the importance of technology-driven governance in strengthening the education system. He directed the concerned officers to ensure effective utilization of the platform for evidence-based decision



making and timely grievance redressal. Stressing upon data accuracy and regular updation, he said that the Vidya Samiksha Kendra would play a pivotal role in enhancing the accountability and improving the quality of education in schools across J&K.

The Commissioner Secretary also interacted with the officials and staff working at the centre and appreciated their efforts

in establishing a robust digital monitoring ecosystem for the School Education Department. He asked for further strengthening the coordination with the field functionaries and ensuring optimum use of technology for monitoring the educational initiatives and flagship programmes in the UT.

While reviewing the progress of the low performing districts, the Commissioner issued

strict instructions to the Technical team for regular follow up. He suggested the JK VSK team to utilize the entire manpower of the organization to improve the outreach and engagement at the ground level.

Reviewing the district-wise performance of VSK initiatives, Ram Niwas Sharma directed the VSK team to submit detailed district-wise performance data of all the VSK bots to facilitate

closer monitoring and assessment of implementation across the districts.

The Commissioner Secretary further directed the officials to convene a review meeting with all the Chief Education Officers (CEOs) regarding the performance of VSK Bots. He cautioned that the Chief Education Officers of the low performing districts shall be put to task.

While reviewing the JK Sarvekshan initiative, the Commissioner Secretary instructed the Samagra Shiksha team to create a dedicated WhatsApp group and ensure that all concerned officials are informed to commence survey filling in a timely manner. During the review, feedback was also provided for improved clarity and inclusiveness while implementing this initiative.

Reviewing the performance of the Parent Pulse Bot, the Commissioner Secretary stressed the need to improve the platform's outreach, responsiveness and parent engagement to ensure better utilization and user satisfaction.

While reviewing the Shikshak Sahayak Chatbot, an AI Bot for helping Teachers during

their classroom engagements, the Commissioner Secretary instructed the VSK Team to enhance the Digital Tools available on the platform. He appreciated the outreach achieved over the last 2 weeks, where over 50 percent of all School Teachers have registered their presence on this Bot.

Ram Niwas Sharma also emphasized on taking the VSK initiative to each district of the UT in the upcoming phase of implementation this year.

The Commissioner Secretary also visited the 2 Digital Studios established at the VSK J&K to review the set up, which fuels the J&K e-Pathshala TV Channel under Samagra Shiksha, J&K, launched earlier this year. Instructions were issued to involve Teachers from across the UT in creating Interactive Videos in Local Language such as Kashmiri, Urdu, Dogarais well as English and Hindi.

Project Director Samagra Shiksha Bhawani Rakwal and other senior officers of the School Education Department, Samagra Shiksha and technical teams were present during the visit.

Javid Dar pays obeisance at Mewaan Shah Qalander shrine

Reviews Horticulture infrastructure in Rafiabad

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Friday paid obeisance at the revered shrine of Syed Mewaan Shah Qalander (RA) at Dalora, Rafiabad and offered prayers for lasting peace, prosperity and progress of Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

During his visit to the shrine, the Minister prayed for communal harmony, wellbeing of the people and sustained development across the region. He also interacted with the shrine caretaker and devotees, underscoring the vital role of such spiritual institutions in preserving the Valley's rich ethos of brotherhood, tolerance and social cohesion.

Later, the Minister visited the Horticulture Department facility, where he undertook a detailed



review of the infrastructure and support services being extended to the orchardists and farmers of the area. He inspected the available facilities and sought first-hand feedback regarding the schemes and technical assistance being provided to the farming community.

Emphasising the immense significance of horticulture as a key driver of Jammu and Kashmir's rural economy, the Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure efficient delivery of services, timely technical guidance and enhanced outreach to farmers so that they are able to fully benefit from the government welfare and developmental initiatives.

He reiterated the government's firm commitment towards strengthening the horticulture sector through modernisation, capacity building and improved institutional support. He said that sustained efforts are being made to empower the farmers, enhance productivity and create better livelihood opportunities across the Union Territory.

The Minister stressed the need for proactive field-level monitoring and close coordination among the departmental functionaries to effectively address the concerns of farmers and accelerate the implementation of developmental programmes at the grassroots level.

Satish Sharma pitches for promotion of indigenous products at Maple, Ivy Flea Market

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, Friday visited "The Flea Market" by Maple and Ivy at Amar Singh Club. He underscored the need for promoting indigenous products, local entrepreneurship and homegrown brands to strengthen the region's economy and cultural identity.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, was also present on the occasion.

During his visit, the Minister inspected various stalls showcasing fashion, handicrafts, food products, décor items and lifestyle brands from across the country, with special appreciation for participation of local Kashmiri entrepreneurs and artisans.

Interacting with the exhibitors and visi-



tors, Satish Sharma said that platforms like the flea market provide immense opportunities to local youth, artisans, startups and small businesses to showcase their talent and products before a wider audience. He stressed that indigenous products represent the rich cultural heritage, craftsmanship and

entrepreneurial spirit of Jammu and Kashmir and deserve stronger market visibility and institutional support.

The Minister observed that promoting locally-made products not only generates employment opportunities for youth but also contributes towards sustainable economic growth and self-

reliance. He said the government remains committed towards encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship and market linkages for local businesses and artisans.

Satish Sharma also appreciated the organisers of Maple and Ivy for bringing together local and national brands under one platform and creat-

ing a vibrant cultural and commercial space for the people of Srinagar. He noted that such events help foster creativity, community engagement, and economic activity while offering consumers a unique retail and lifestyle experience.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani also lauded the initiative and highlighted the importance of creating more such platforms for local entrepreneurs, artisans, and startups. He said Jammu and Kashmir possesses immense creative and entrepreneurial potential which must be promoted through collaborative efforts between government and private stakeholders.

The two-day flea market is featuring over 60 brands from across the country and offers curated shopping experiences, gourmet food stalls, handcrafted products, art and décor exhibits, and interactive community spaces.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL
NEET Paper Leak Fiasco

The National Testing Agency's decision to conduct a re-examination for NEET-UG 2026 on June 21, barely a month after cancelling the May 3 test over paper leak allegations, has once again exposed the deep cracks in system of high-stakes entrance examinations. While the NTA's move to hold a fresh test is a necessary corrective, it offers comfort to more than 22 lakh medical aspirants whose academic calendars, mental health, and future plans have been thrown into disarray.

The original examination, held on May 3, was cancelled on May 12 following mounting allegations that the question paper had been leaked. Within nine days, the testing agency went from conducting the country's largest medical entrance exam to admitting, implicitly, at least, that its safeguards had failed. Now, with the re-examination scheduled for June 21, students face a gruelling wait of nearly seven weeks from the original date. For many, this means revising an already-saturated syllabus, postponing counselling, and grappling with the anxiety that their first attempt may have been compromised.

The NTA and the Government of India have done the right thing by ordering a fresh test. But the real question is not about remedy, it is about accountability. How did a national agency, entrusted with conducting one of the most critical entrance exams in the country, allow such a breach to happen? Where were the robust encryption systems, the secure printing presses, the tamper-proof logistics? And why do aspirants keep paying the price for institutional failure?

This is not an isolated incident. From UGC-NET to NEET-PG, allegations of paper leaks have become a recurring nightmare. Each time, the response is predictable: cancel, re-examine, promise stricter measures, and then repeat. The pattern suggests a systemic rot, not just isolated mischief. Until the NTA invests in foolproof digital delivery, biometric verification, real-time monitoring, and severe legal deterrence, students will remain hostages to uncertainty. The June 21 re-examination is a chance for the NTA to redeem itself. But redemption will not come from conducting another test alone. It will come from a credible, independent inquiry into the leak, punitive action against the guilty, and a complete overhaul of examination security protocols. Until then, every fresh exam date will feel less like a solution and more like a reminder of a system that keeps failing its youth.

Development To Dignity

Solving The Unemployment Puzzle In Jammu And Kashmir



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Jammu and Kashmir today presents a complex economic picture, one where visible development and persistent unemployment exist side by side. Over the past few years, the region has witnessed improvements in infrastructure, better connectivity, and renewed policy focus on investment and growth. Roads, tourism infrastructure, and administrative reforms have contributed to a sense of forward movement. Yet, beneath this surface of progress lies a deeper concern that continues to trouble households across the Union Territory: the lack of adequate employment opportunities, particularly for the educated youth.

Unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir has gradually evolved from a cyclical issue into a structural challenge. The problem is no longer confined to the absence of jobs alone; it reflects a deeper imbalance between the growing number of educated individuals entering the labour market and the limited capacity of the economy to absorb them. This mismatch has created a situation where aspirations are rising, but opportunities are not expanding at the same pace.

The unemployment rate in the region remains higher than the national average, and while the difference may appear moderate in statistical terms, its impact is far more pronounced on the ground. The burden of joblessness is felt most strongly among young people, many of whom spend years preparing for competitive examinations with the hope of securing government employment. For decades, public sector jobs have been considered the most stable and desirable form of employment in Jammu and Kashmir, offering not only financial security but also social prestige. However, the number of such positions has remained limited, and recruitment processes are often slow, leaving thousands of aspirants in prolonged uncertainty.

This overwhelming dependence on government jobs has shaped the region's employment culture in a significant way. Many young graduates, even those with professional or technical qualifications, hesitate to explore private sector opportunities, often perceiving them as less secure or less rewarding. At the same time, the private sector itself has not grown sufficiently to offer a viable alternative. The result is a



cycle of expectation and disappointment, where job seekers remain tied to a narrow set of opportunities while the broader economy struggles to diversify.

The private sector in Jammu and Kashmir continues to operate below its potential. Despite policy initiatives aimed at attracting investment and promoting entrepreneurship, large-scale industrial development has yet to take firm root. Most businesses in the region are small or medium enterprises, concentrated in areas such as retail, hospitality, handicrafts, and local services. While these sectors are important for the local economy, they do not generate enough high-quality jobs to meet the aspirations of an increasingly educated workforce.

Several underlying factors contribute to the slow expansion of the private sector. Investment, though gradually improving, remains cautious, influenced by past uncertainties and the region's unique economic environment. Infrastructure has improved significantly in recent years, yet gaps still exist in areas such as logistics, industrial ecosystems, and large-scale manufacturing facilities. The limited size of the local market also poses challenges for businesses looking to expand operations. At the same time, there is a noticeable mismatch between the skills possessed by job seekers and the requirements of emerging industries, which further restricts employment generation.

In this context, the banking sector presents an interesting contrast. Financial institutions in Jammu and Kashmir have demonstrated resilience and stability, adapting to technological changes and expanding their services across the region. Digital banking, mobile applications, and online financial services have become increasingly common, improving accessibility and efficiency. How-

ever, this transformation has come with its own implications for employment.

Modern banking relies heavily on technology, automation, and streamlined operations. As a result, the sector no longer requires large workforces to deliver its services. Recruitment has become more selective, with fewer vacancies and a stronger emphasis on specialized skills. For many young aspirants who once viewed banking as a dependable career path, the opportunities have narrowed considerably. Even as the sector continues to grow in terms of financial activity, its capacity to generate employment has diminished.

The combination of a limited private sector and a changing banking industry has intensified the pressure on the labour market. With fewer avenues available, the competition for government jobs has become even more intense, reinforcing the cycle of dependence on public employment. This situation has broader social and economic implications, as prolonged unemployment or underemployment can lead to frustration, reduced economic participation, and migration in search of better opportunities.

At the same time, it would be inaccurate to suggest that there has been no progress. The government has introduced a range of initiatives aimed at addressing unemployment through entrepreneurship, skill development, and self-employment. Programs designed to support startups and small businesses are gradually gaining traction, encouraging young people to explore alternatives beyond traditional employment. There is also a growing emphasis on sectors such as tourism, information technology, handicrafts, and food processing, which hold potential for future job creation.

Tourism, in particular, has shown signs

of revival, attracting visitors and generating seasonal employment. However, its dependence on external conditions and seasonal fluctuations limits its ability to provide stable, year-round jobs. Similarly, agriculture continues to support a large portion of the population, but it offers limited scope for absorbing educated youth seeking modern, skill-based employment.

What emerges from this landscape is a clear indication that the unemployment challenge in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be addressed through isolated measures. It requires a broader transformation of the region's economic structure, one that prioritizes diversification, innovation, and sustained private sector growth. Encouraging investment, improving ease of doing business, and creating an environment conducive to industry will be essential steps in this direction. Equally important is the need to align education and skill development with the demands of the market, ensuring that the workforce is equipped to participate in a changing economy.

Changing perceptions around employment is another critical aspect. Reducing the overreliance on government jobs and fostering confidence in private sector opportunities will take time, but it is necessary for long-term stability. The role of financial institutions, including banks, can also be expanded beyond traditional operations to support entrepreneurship and small enterprises through accessible credit and advisory services.

As Jammu and Kashmir moves forward in 2026, it finds itself at a crossroads. The foundations for economic growth are being laid, and there is a visible effort to create new opportunities. However, the pace of job creation has yet to match the scale of demand. Bridging this gap will require sustained commitment, coordinated policy efforts, and a willingness to adapt to new economic realities.

For the youth of the region, the stakes are particularly high. Employment is not just a source of income; it is a pathway to stability, dignity, and participation in the broader process of development. Ensuring that this pathway is accessible and inclusive will be crucial in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

The challenge, therefore, is not merely to create jobs, but to create the right kind of jobs—opportunities that are stable, meaningful, and aligned with the aspirations of a changing society. Whether the region can achieve this balance will determine not only its economic trajectory but also its social and developmental progress in the years to come.

The author is a senior analyst and environmentalist. Feedback can be sent to m.hanief@gmail.com. Twitter/X: @haniefnha

Plastic, Pretence, And Piles Of Rot



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

These days, cities are overflowing with garbage. Rotting heaps on the roadsides, foul smells permeating the streets, filth trapped in drains, and animals searching for food among them—this scene not only reflects the failure of the sanitation system but also our collective social consciousness. Often, when sanitation workers go on strike in the city, the entire discussion is limited to the conflict between the administration and the workers. But behind this filth lies another major issue, one that society conveniently maintains silence on—polyethylene and its associated waste management.

Ironically, polythene is banned by law. The Municipal Corporation periodically issues fines, raids shops, and runs awareness campaigns. Yet, the most common items in every garbage dump in the city are polythene bags, packaging, and plastic waste. It's natural to ask: how is this widespread when it's banned? And if it's so prevalent, why is the ban limited to paper?

In fact, instead of understanding the root of the problem, our system has accepted symbolic action as the solution. Municipal officials occasionally issue challans to shopkeepers, assuming their responsibility is fulfilled. Campaigns last for a few days; photographs are taken, news is published, and then the situation

returns to normal. Almost every item in the market, from milk to pulses, snacks to vegetables, online delivery to household items, is available in some form of plastic or polythene packaging. This means that the same system that banned polythene has failed to provide alternatives to the market.

The truth is that polythene isn't just a shopkeeper's problem. It's a result of our consumerist habits. The culture of convenience has accustomed us to such an extent that we consider carrying a cloth or jute bag a "goddamn habit". Carrying a new bag for every small item has become the norm. The market thrives on this mentality. If consumers demand it, there will be supply. Therefore, society cannot absolve itself of its responsibility by simply blaming the shopkeeper or the corporation.

The most worrying aspect is that this very polyethylene has now become a death trap for animals. The city may have been declared "animal-free", but the reality is that cows, bulls, dogs, and other animals are seen wandering every street and garbage heap in search of food. They ingest polythene along with rotten food. According to veterinarians, kilograms of polythene have been removed from the stomachs of many cows during operations. This is not just cruelty to animals but the height of our insensitivity.

The irony is that while society pays emotional respect to the cow by calling it "mother", it abandons it to die on garbage heaps. Such a stark contrast between religious belief and actual behaviour is rarely seen in any other subject. Animals are treated with sentimentality during festivals and events, yet their lives are sustained by garbage and plastic in the city streets. This is not only a failure



of the administration but also a moral failure of society.

The polythene crisis isn't limited to animals. It has become a serious threat to the environment, health, and urban life. Plastic stuck in drains causes waterlogging during the rainy season. Rotting waste releases toxic gases. Burning plastic increases air pollution. Gradually, this microplastic is mixing with soil and water and reaching the food chain. Scientists are constantly warning that microplastic has now entered the human body as well. This means that the polythene, which we consider a convenience, could become a health crisis in the future.

The other side of the problem is the failure of waste management. In our cities, even today, waste from most households ends up directly on the streets or in dumping sites without proper segregation. Separating wet and dry waste has been advocated for years, but in practice, this practice is virtually nonexistent. Unless waste is segregated at the household level, recycling cannot be effective. Municipal corporations consider mere garbage col-

lection to be cleanliness, whereas true cleanliness implies scientific waste disposal.

It's also worth noting that while cities frequently announce bans on single-use plastic, industries and large brands remain largely unaccounted for. Most products sold in the market come in plastic packaging. If we truly want to eliminate polythene, cracking down on small shopkeepers alone won't be enough. Large companies must also be forced to adopt alternative packaging. Unless changes occur at the production level, both consumers and shopkeepers will be left without a choice.

Additionally, the administration must realign its priorities. Cleanliness can't simply be a photo campaign. The city's sanitation system must be sustainable and technically robust. Solid systems for door-to-door collection, waste segregation, recycling units, composting organic waste, and safe disposal of plastic waste are essential. Imposing fines alone won't solve the problem. Unless the system provides practical alternatives, restrictions will fail.

The role of education and

public awareness is also crucial. Schools, colleges, and social organisations must focus on behaviour change rather than simply running formal campaigns. If children are taught from an early age to use cloth bags, reuse materials, and protect the environment, the next generation can mitigate this crisis. Society must foster an understanding that cleanliness is not just the responsibility of sanitation workers but of every citizen.

The need today isn't just to rid the city of garbage but to change mindsets. No city can be truly clean if citizens continue to throw garbage on the streets, markets continue to sell plastic, the administration continues to take superficial action, and society continues to allow animals to forage in the garbage.

We must acknowledge that garbage isn't just filth; it's the result of our habits. Polythene isn't just a bag; it's an environmental crisis created in the name of convenience. And animals rummaging through garbage aren't just stray animals but the silent questions of an insensitive society that, amid claims of development, has forgotten its basic responsibilities.

If we don't wake up now, cities will become not just concrete jungles but heaps of plastic and garbage, where both humans and animals will be deprived of their right to a clean life. The dream of a clean city won't be achieved simply by government slogans. It requires a confluence of administrative will, social responsibility, and personal discipline. Only then will cities be truly clean, animals safe, and the environment protected for the future.

(Dr. Satyavan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

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Office Address:
B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir
Chowk, Srinagar-190001
Printed at:
Khidmat Offset Printing
Press, The Bund, Srinagar
Published From:
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,
Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023
Layout Designer
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Thyroid Cancer: Why This Small Gland Deserves Attention



DR. ROHIT NAYYAR

It's easy to overlook your thyroid, after all it's a small, butterfly-shaped gland sitting quietly at the base of your neck. But despite its size, the thyroid plays a powerful role in controlling your metabolism, heart rate, body temperature, and energy levels. And when something goes wrong, such as thyroid cancer, it deserves attention.

Understanding Thyroid Cancer

Thyroid cancer occurs when cells in the thyroid gland begin to grow abnormally. In many cases, it develops slowly and may not cause obvious symptoms at first. In fact, some people discover it during a routine health screening or imaging test for another condition.

Thyroid cancer occurs in different forms. Among them, papillary thyroid cancer is the most frequently diagnosed type and generally responds very well to treatment. Other types include follicular, medullary, and the rarer anaplastic thyroid cancer.

While anyone can develop thyroid cancer, it is more common in women than men and is most commonly found in individuals between 30 and 60 years of age. A family history of thyroid disease, exposure to radiation (especially during childhood), and certain genetic conditions can increase risk.

Signs You Shouldn't Dismiss

One of the most common warning signs is a painless lump or swelling in the neck. Other possible symptoms include:

- Persistent hoarseness or voice



- changes
- Difficulty swallowing
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Neck pain
- A chronic cough not related to a cold

However, many thyroid nodules (lumps) are benign, meaning they are not cancerous. That's why proper medical evaluation is essential rather than self-diagnosis or panic.

The Importance of Early Detection

Early detection makes a significant difference. When caught in its early stages, thyroid cancer has one of the highest survival rates among cancers. In many cases, treatment can be straightforward and highly effective.

Doctors usually use ultrasound imaging and, if needed, a fine needle biopsy to determine whether a thyroid nodule is cancerous. These procedures

are generally quick and minimally invasive.

Routine health check-ups, especially if you notice changes in your neck or voice, can lead to earlier diagnosis and better outcomes.

Treatment Options and What to Expect

Treatment depends on the type and stage of thyroid cancer, but it often involves surgical removal of part or all of the thyroid gland. In some cases, radioactive iodine therapy may be used to eliminate remaining cancer cells.

After surgery, many patients take daily thyroid hormone medication to replace the hormones their body can no longer produce naturally. For most people, this becomes a manageable part of their routine, much like taking medication for blood pressure or cholesterol.

Follow-up care is important. Regular monitoring ensures that any recurrence is detected early and that hormone levels remain balanced.

Living Well After Diagnosis

A diagnosis of cancer can be challenging. But thyroid cancer is often described as one of the "most treatable" cancers, particularly when identified early. Many patients continue to live full, active lives after treatment.

Open communication with your healthcare provider, understanding your treatment plan, and attending follow-up appointments are key steps in maintaining long-term health.

Don't Ignore the Signals

Because thyroid cancer can be subtle in its early stages, awareness matters. Pay attention to changes in your neck, your voice, or your overall health. If something feels unusual,

Thyroid cancer occurs in different forms. Among them, papillary thyroid cancer is the most frequently diagnosed type and generally responds very well to treatment. Other types include follicular, medullary, and the rarer anaplastic thyroid cancer.

seek medical advice.

Your thyroid may be small, but taking care of it can make a big difference to your overall well-being. When it comes to thyroid health, staying informed and proactive is one of the best decisions you can make.

Author is Vice Chairman Surgical Oncology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, Delhi

Beyond The Cancellation

The Silent Breakdown of Lakhs of Medical Dreams

MOHAMMAD NADEEM PARRAY

The announcement regarding the cancellation and re-conduct of NEET (UG) 2026 has not only created confusion across the country, but has deeply affected the emotional condition of lakhs of students. Ever since the news came out, one painful question has been repeatedly heard in homes, hostels, coaching centres, and among exhausted students: "Kya re-exam ek baar phir fair ho sakta hai? Iski kya guarantee hai?"

This is not just a question. It is fear. It is frustration. It is the voice of stu-

Thousands of students spent two or three years preparing only for this examination. Some students left social media completely. Some stopped attending family functions. Some stayed away from relatives because every conversation turned into one question:



“NEET ki tayari kaisi chal rahi hai?” And every time they heard that question, the pressure on their hearts became heavier. Students studied while fighting anxiety.

question: "NEET ki tayari kaisi chal rahi hai?" And every time they heard that question, the pressure on their hearts became heavier. Students studied while fighting anxiety. Some prepared while facing financial problems. Some continued despite illness, loneliness, and emotional exhaustion. Yet they never stopped because they believed one thing: "Agar mehnat sachchi ho, toh system insaaf karega." "If the hard work is genuine, the system will be fair."

On 3 May 2026, lakhs of students entered examination halls carrying dreams bigger than themselves. Parents prayed outside centres. Teachers waited anxiously. Families hoped that maybe this exam would finally change their future.

And after the paper, many students finally felt relief. Some came home smiling after months. Some students cried tears of happiness because they believed they had done well. Parents proudly called relatives. Coaching teachers congratulated students. For a small moment, life felt hopeful again.

The announcement of cancellation and re-conduct hit students emotionally like a storm. Suddenly, the happi-

ness disappeared. Confidence turned into confusion. Relief turned into stress once again.

Now students are not only preparing for another exam — they are fighting emotional exhaustion. The biggest pain today is not just the re-exam itself. The real pain is uncertainty. Students are asking: What if unfair practices happen again?

What if another controversy appears? What if the system again fails sincere students? What guarantee exists that this re-exam will truly be fair? And honestly, these fears are understandable.

A student who studied honestly already feels emotionally hurt seeing uncertainty around an exam that decides careers and futures. Many hardworking students now feel trapped between hope and fear. They want to trust the system, but their hearts are scared.

Some students are unable to concentrate anymore. Some open books but cannot focus. Some feel mentally drained because they already gave everything once. People often say, "Just prepare again." But only a NEET aspirant understands what "again" truly means. Again means

sleepless nights. Again means pressure. Again means sacrificing peace of mind. Again means pretending to stay strong while silently breaking inside.

Many students will never openly talk about their emotional struggles because society has taught them to hide pain behind hard work. But the truth is that repeated uncertainty damages confidence deeply. A student can fight a difficult paper. A student can fight competition. But continuously fighting uncertainty becomes emotionally exhausting. At this moment, students need more than instructions. They need reassurance. They need transparency. They need to feel that their hard work matters and that fairness is not just a promise written in notifications.

Authorities must understand that behind every application number is a human being with emotions, responsibilities, and dreams. A medical aspirant is not a machine designed only to study. These students carry expectations from parents, teachers, and society every single day.

Some families spend their life savings on coaching. Some parents work overtime to support preparation. Some students study in silence

because they want to lift their families out of hardship.

When uncertainty enters such an important examination, it does not only affect results — it affects mental peace across entire families. Yet despite all this pain, one beautiful thing still survives inside students: Even after disappointment, students continue opening books again. Even after emotional breakdowns, they continue solving questions. Even after losing trust, they continue chasing dreams.

To every sincere NEET aspirant, remember this: Your hard work has not become meaningless. No cancellation can erase the knowledge you gained. No controversy can destroy your capability. No uncertainty can take away your dedication. Yes, the situation feels unfair. Yes, emotions are heavy. Yes, the future feels uncertain. But your effort still carries value.

Life sometimes tests patience before rewarding success. Many successful doctors once faced failures, delays, and hardships nobody knows about today. What made them different was not luck alone — it was the courage to continue when situations became emotionally difficult. This phase may temporarily shake your confidence, but it should not destroy your belief in yourself.

And regarding the question: "Kya guarantee hai ki re-exam fair hoga?" Perhaps no human can give a perfect guarantee about life. But students deserve every possible effort toward transparency, security, and fairness. They deserve an examination system that protects honest aspirants and restores trust.

At the same time, students must protect something even more important, Their mental strength. Take breaks when needed. Talk to people who genuinely support you. Do not carry emotional pressure alone. And never think that one uncertain phase can define your entire future.

One day, this difficult chapter will pass. One day, students who are crying today may proudly wear white coats and heal others with the same hands that once trembled while holding NEET books. And perhaps, when they look back, they will remember not only the exam — but the strength they discovered within themselves during the hardest time of their lives. Until then, hold on.....Because sincere dreams deserve justice. And hard-working hearts deserve peace.

(The author is a Chemistry educator and an Educational Columnist)

Self-Enumeration Begins From May 17

Baramulla Fully Prepared for India's First Digital Census 2027

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner), Baramulla S.F Hamid Friday addressed a press conference regarding the preparations for Census 2027 and informed that the district is fully prepared for the successful conduct of India's first fully digital Census.

Addressing media persons, the Principal Census Officer stated that Census is the foundation of evidence-based planning, governance, and welfare delivery, playing a vital role in shaping future development policies and public services.

He informed that Census 2027 will be conducted through the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) using mobile-based digital enumeration supported by GIS mapping and advanced monitoring systems.

As part of the Houselisting and Housing Census phase, Digital Self-Enumeration for residents of Baramulla will remain open from 17 May 2026 to 31 May 2026 through the official portal se.census.gov.in. Citizens can voluntarily submit their household information online using mobile phones, tablets, or computers. Thereafter, House-to-House

Survey operations will be conducted from 1 June to 30 June 2026 by trained Census Enumerators. The Population Enumeration phase will follow subsequently in a staggered manner across Jammu & Kashmir, including snow-bound areas.

The Principal Census Officer further informed that Baramulla district has finalized 25 Census Charges, including 18 Rural and 7 Urban Charges, besides 122 Special Charges for institutions and special establishments. A dedicated workforce of 2,367 personnel, including Enumerators, Supervisors, and Trainers, has

been trained for the exercise.

Emphasizing transparency and public trust, he stated that all Census officials will carry QR-coded identity cards and clarified that Census personnel will never ask for OTPs, bank details, passwords, or financial information.

Appealing for public participation, the Principal Census Officer urged citizens, media organizations, educational institutions, civil society members, and community leaders to actively participate in Census 2027 and ensure that every household and every individual in Baramulla is counted accurately and inclusively.

NEET-UG 2026 re-exam to be held on June 21: NTA

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday announced that the re-examination for NEET-UG 2026 will be conducted on June 21, days after the medical entrance test held on May 3 was cancelled over alleged paper leak allegations.

In a post on X, the National Testing Agency said the decision to hold the examination again was taken with the approval of the Government of India.

"National Testing Agency has decided to conduct the re-exam-



ination of NEET (UG) 2026 on Sunday, 21 June 2026," the agency said.

The cancellation of the May 3 examination was announced on May 12 following allegations of a paper leak, triggering uncertainty among more than 22 lakh medical aspirants across the country.

The agency advised candidates and parents to rely only on official communication channels for authentic updates related to the examination, admit cards and admission-related procedures.

Candidates can also contact the NTA through its official email and helpline numbers for examination-related queries, the agency said.

NEET-UG is the country's largest medical entrance examination for admission to undergraduate medical courses in government and private institutions across India.(KNS).

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Petrol, Diesel

fuel prices, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that as the world battled rising fuel costs after the West Asia conflict, India stood apart.

In a social media post, the Minister said that while several countries witnessed petrol and diesel hikes ranging from 20 percent to nearly 100 percent, India limited the increase to just plus 3.2 percent for petrol and plus 3.4 percent for diesel.

He said, even as brent crude crossed 100 dollars per barrel and global markets turned volatile, country's public sector oil companies absorbed huge losses for weeks to protect citizens from inflation and economic pressure.

Rijiju added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi India continues to balance economic stability with public welfare.

India Can Play 'Greater

BRICS conclave, said there can't be any solution other than a negotiated settlement on the West Asia crisis.

"We will welcome any constructive role by India," he said.

On negotiations with the US, he said these are "suffering from trust".

"Iran has every reason not to trust US while Americans have every reason to trust us," he said.

According to Araghchi, mediation by Pakistan has not failed yet.

He also asserted Iran has never wanted nuclear weapons. (PTI)

'Op Sindoor' Demonstrated

and cautioned against delays in defence research and development.

"It is better to have 85 to 90 per cent capability in time than wait for 100 per cent capability after it loses relevance," he said.

The seminar was co-hosted by the Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies and Indian Military Review—(KNO)

J&K Sets Ball Rolling

must be a woman. The JJBs deal with cases involving children in conflict with law.

Each Child Welfare Committee consists of a chairperson and four members, with at least one woman and another expert in child-related matters.

CWCs are meant for children in need of care and protection (CNCP), ensuring their safety, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society—(KNO)

BJP Protests Liquor

strength, and the protesters were dispersed peacefully after being halted near Gupkar Road.

Slogans such as "Sharab noshi band karo" (Stop liquor sale) and "Omar Sarkar hi hi" (Down with Omar government) were raised during the march, with demonstrators accusing the administration of promoting alcohol consumption in the region.

BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur told reporters at Gupkar that the party in Kashmir is against all kinds of intoxicants. "The National Conference government wants to drown the local youth in liquor," Thakur alleged. He warned that if the government does not act, the BJP will continue its protests. "The BJP will lock down liquor stores. This is a warning," he said.

BJP leader Manzoor Bhat also threatened that the party may launch a hunger strike if its demand is ignored, blaming rising addiction among youth on the availability of alcohol.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), in a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), defended its position while questioning previous policy decisions. "We fully respect the sentiments of these 20 BJP workers. But one must ask: which government was in power

in J&K when the 2017 Excise Policy made Municipal Wards and Tehsils the basis for identifying unreserved areas? And which government was in office in 2022 when liquor sales were permitted in grocery shops?" the NC statement read—(KNO)

Unemployed 'Youngsters

those who were wearing black robes as there were serious doubts over the genuineness of their degrees.

It said the Bar Council of India would never do anything on this issue as they "need their votes".

The petitioner apologised to the bench and sought permission to withdraw the petition. The bench allowed the withdrawal of the petition.(PTI)

CS Steers Stakeholder

MSME Performance (RAMP) for Industry, Mission YUVA for entrepreneurship promotion and the Homestay initiative for Tourism, besides several Government of India schemes aimed at supporting these sectors.

He emphasized that the present need is to create a single integrated ecosystem that takes into account the strengths and challenges of all sectors and works in a convergence mode to support economic verticals such as Tourism, Agriculture, Industry and Handicrafts in a coordinated manner.

The Chief Secretary further proposed that the existing Mission YUVA framework, including the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) functioning at the district level, along with the MSME Health Clinic established under the RAMP programme, could be reoriented and leveraged to provide easier access to credit, expert advisory services, capacity building and sustained handholding support to aspiring entrepreneurs and enterprises across sectors.

He observed that all these sectors fundamentally operate as economic enterprises with the common objective of achieving growth and profitability, and therefore require a unified institutional mechanism capable of continuously assessing their health and extending timely support for their expansion and sustainability.

Stressing the importance of financial inclusion and institutional support, the Chief Secretary called for optimum utilization of various Government of India schemes and frameworks including the New Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, local Industrial Policy initiatives, RBI-sponsored Unified Lending Interface (ULI) and the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS). He said these initiatives could significantly strengthen support systems for farmers, traders, artisans, industrial unit holders, hoteliers, homestay operators, self-help groups and other farm and non-farm enterprises across Jammu and Kashmir.

To carry the initiative forward in a structured manner, the Chief Secretary directed constitution of a core team of relevant stakeholders to be headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, with representation from the Employment Department, RBI, J&K Bank, IIM Jammu and BISAG-N for steering the proposed framework towards achieving the desired objectives.

He stressed the need for initiating the process without delay and resolving bottlenecks progressively through collective efforts and institutional coordination. He also noted that a separate committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance is currently working on framing the new Industrial Policy for Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the proposed integrated framework would complement these efforts and help economic sectors flourish in accordance with the aspirations of local entrepreneurs and business communities.

Other stakeholders participating in the meeting also shared their suggestions and expressed confidence that the proposed strategy, with coordinated efforts from all concerned departments and institutions, has the potential to emerge as a transformative initiative for the economy of Jammu and Kashmir on its successful implementation on ground—(KNO)

BRICS Condemns

finalisation and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the United Nations framework and sought concerted action against all UN-designated terrorists and terror entities.

The statement said, "The member countries failed to arrive at a consensus on the Middle East situation, preventing the issuance of a joint declaration."

"There were differing views among some members as regard to the situation in the West Asia/Middle East region. BRICS members expressed their respective national positions and shared a range of perspectives," it said.

On the situation in West Asia, the ministers expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis and condemned violations of international humanitarian law, including attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure and obstruction of humanitarian aid.

The statement said members highlighted the need for dialogue and diplomacy, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, protection of civilian lives and ensuring safe maritime commerce through international waterways.

The ministers also called for an immediate, permanent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and urged unhindered humanitarian assistance to civilians.

The BRICS grouping currently comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, United Arab Emirates and Indonesia—(KNO)

NC Resorting To Lies

parties (9 out of 24). If the principle of proportionate representation is applied to the J&K Assembly, three committee chairs should go to the BJP, five to the ruling parties, and one to independents if they are treated as a bloc, or to another opposition party," he said.

He said the Speaker has allotted chairmanships of 89% of committees of the J&K Assembly to the ruling party and its allies in complete disregard of the representation of parties in the House.

He said the Speaker should go through the process of appointment of heads of such committees in Parliament.

"The chair of the Public Accounts Committee is always held by the opposition party and it has also been done in J&K, but the opposition has been ignored while appointing heads of six non-financial committees," he said. He said the Committee on Government Assurances is also currently helmed by the opposition in Parliament—(KNO)

Textiles Export Push

and Commerce attended the consultative session and interacted extensively with participating stakeholders. He held detailed deliberations on issues concerning export promotion, market access, value chain strengthening and opportunities for enhancing Jammu & Kashmir's presence in global textile markets. During the interaction, he highlighted the immense potential of the region's handicrafts and handloom sector and emphasized focused interventions in branding, quality enhancement and export competitiveness.

The two-day programme was structured around focused policy consultations under export planning frame-

works. Day-1 featured discussions under the District Export Action Plan (DEAP) framework with emphasis on identifying district-specific export strengths and sectoral opportunities. Day-2 focused on the State/UT Export Action Plan (SEAP) through wider consultations on policy interventions and export-oriented growth strategies for the textile sector.

During the deliberations, it was highlighted that the Ministry of Textiles has designated Budgam and Baramulla as Aspirational Districts, while Srinagar has been identified as a Champion District, recognizing the significant textile and handicraft potential of these districts and paving the way for focused interventions, infrastructure support and export promotion initiatives.

Participants held detailed discussions on major themes including export competitiveness, Foreign Trade Policy 2023, District Export Hub initiatives, Free Trade Agreements, sustainability and ESG frameworks, cluster development models and strengthening linkages between artisans, producers and international markets.

Officials informed that recommendations emerging from the consultations would feed into the National Consultative Summit scheduled in June 2026, where inputs from States and Union Territories shall contribute towards formulation of a comprehensive national strategy and roadmap for achieving the target of USD 100 Billion textile exports by 2030.

The workshop is expected to provide a significant impetus to Jammu & Kashmir's export ecosystem and further strengthen efforts towards integrating the region's globally renowned handicrafts and textile products into international value chains.

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Secy RDD calls for strict enforcement of SC directions on SWM Rules, 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess implementation of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 and directed all districts and field officers to ensure strict and time-bound compliance with Supreme Court directions on solid waste management.

The meeting was attended by Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra, Director Finance Umar Khan, Superintending Engineers REW, Deputy Directors Rural Sanitation, Assistant Commissioners Panchayat and other concerned officers.

The Secretary emphasized that the Supreme Court, through its various orders especially dated February 19, April 29 and May 5, 2026, has issued comprehensive directions to States, UTs, District Collectors and Pollution Control Boards for effective



implementation of the SWM Rules, 2026.

He directed all districts to submit comprehensive plans for door-to-door waste collection across rural areas and submit the same within given timelines for strengthening waste collection systems.

Aijaz Asad stressed constitution of Village and Block Sanitation Committees under overall supervision of District Sanitation Committees (headed by DCs), wherever pending to improve coordination, monitoring and implementation of sanitation initiatives.

He also directed wide dissemination of the SWM Rules, 2026, including translation into regional languages, and called for awareness workshops at UT, district

and block/panchayat levels to educate communities on scientific waste management practices.

The Secretary informed that UT-level action plans had already been submitted in compliance with earlier Supreme Court directions and stressed that the focus must now shift to effective ground implementation and submission of compliance reports as per indicated timelines.

He reiterated mandatory four-stream waste segregation — wet, dry, sanitary and special care waste — across all rural local bodies without exception.

Aijaz Asad further directed districts to identify and register all Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), operational Special

Cells under Deputy Commissioners for close monitoring of SWM implementation, and ensure scientific management of legacy dumpsites through biomineralization and bioremediation.

He stressed effective use of the mWater portal for monitoring sanitation assets and directed that all assets be made fully functional within stipulated timelines. He also warned against open burning of waste, stating that zero-tolerance enforcement would be adopted.

During the meeting, Director General Rural Sanitation presented a detailed overview of the SWM Rules, 2026, including roles and responsibilities of departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions and implementing agencies.

Director Finance SKUAST-K visits KVK Bandipora-1

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Director Finance/Comptroller, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Haroon Ahmad Bhat visited KVK Bandipora-1 to review the functioning and developmental activities of the institution.

During the visit, Dr. Tariq Sultan briefed the Director Finance regarding the ongoing activities, institutional achievements, infrastructural facilities, and future development plans of the KVK.

The Director Finance inspected various sections of the Kendra and reviewed the overall functioning of the institution. He appreciated the efforts of the KVK administration and scientific staff in ensuring the effective implementation of university programmes and institutional activities at the district level.



Dr. Tahir Saleem and other officers present during the visit also apprised the Director Finance about various technical and administrative initiatives being undertaken by the KVK.

Discussions were held on strengthening institutional infrastructure, improving administrative coordination, and enhancing the operational efficiency of the centre.

During the interaction, the Director Finance

emphasized the importance of institutional accountability, effective resource management, and coordinated efforts for the continued growth and development of KVK Bandipora-1. He reiterated the commitment of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir towards strengthening its extension and outreach institutions across the region.

also stressed the need for maintaining high standards of institutional performance, timely execution of developmental activities, and optimum utilization of available resources for achieving the objectives of the university. He appreciated the dedicated services rendered by the officers and staff of the KVK in ensuring smooth functioning of the institution.

The visiting officers held detailed deliberations on future strategies for institutional strengthening, infrastructural improvement, and enhancing coordination among different units of the university for efficient implementation of academic and extension-related programmes.

The visit concluded with a review meeting wherein various administrative and developmental matters concerning the functioning of KVK Bandipora-1 were discussed in detail.

Council of Ministers approves ₹93 crore power infrastructure projects for Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: The Council of Ministers, chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Friday approved the augmentation of the Grid Sub Station at Zainakote from 450 MVA to 780 MVA at an estimated cost of ₹67.66 crore.

The Council also approved the upgradation of the 132 KV Pampore-Rawalpora and Rawalpora-Bemina transmission lines at a cost of ₹25.47 crore.

The approvals were accorded during the 6th meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The projects are aimed at significantly strengthening the power infrastructure in Srinagar and adjoining areas by enhancing transmission capacity, reducing power interruptions and ensuring a more reliable and efficient electricity supply to consumers.

The augmentation of the Zainakote Grid Sub Station, along with the transmission line upgrades, is expected to improve overall grid stability and help meet the growing electricity demand in the region, particularly during peak load periods.

DC B'pora reviews preparedness for implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired a meeting to review Solid Waste Management and preparedness for implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 in the district.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held regarding the effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules in compliance with the direc-

(MRFs). Emphasis was laid on ensuring proper transportation, management, and scientific disposal of solid waste.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to intensify awareness activities among the general public regarding source segregation, responsible waste disposal, and reduction in use of non-biodegradable materials. She further stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among



tions issued by the Supreme Court. The meeting discussed various measures aimed at strengthening waste management mechanisms across urban and rural areas of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed strict adherence to the Supreme Court directions regarding segregation of waste at source and directed all Block Development Officers and Executive Officers to ensure effective implementation of the same in their respective jurisdictions.

The meeting also discussed issues related to bulk waste generators, awareness campaigns, timely waste collection, and establishment and functioning of Material Recovery Facilities

all stakeholders for achieving sustainable waste management practices in the district.

The meeting also reviewed directions issued by the Supreme Court regarding constitution of Special Cells for monitoring implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, conduct of inspections, preparation of periodic progress reports, and strengthening enforcement mechanisms.

Among others, Additional District Development Commissioner Bandipora, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, CEO MC Bandipora, EO MC Hajin, Block Development Officer Bandipora, and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Government Orders posting of 14 DYSSOs, 2 ADs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir Friday ordered transfers and postings of officers in the Department of Youth Services and Sports with immediate effect.

According to the order issued by the department, Sunil Kumar has been posted as District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO), Kathua, while Sunil Singh Sambyal has been posted as DYSSO Samba. Dharamveer Singh has been posted as DYSSO Reasi and Jagdish Raj Sharma as Assistant Director, Jammu.

Tarsem Singh has been posted as DYSSO Udhampur, while Shafiq Ahmad has been posted as DYSSO Kupwara. Zahoor Ahmad Wani has been posted as DYSSO Anantnag and Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori as DYSSO Baramulla.

Gh. Hassan Lone has been assigned the charge of DYSSO Ganderbal in addition to his own duties. Virender Kumar has been posted as Assistant Director, Kashmir. Ashok Kumar has been posted as

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my R.C bearing No: JK164483 FAYAZ AHMAD S/O FAROOQ AHMAD TO FAYAZ AHMAD GANIE S/O FAROOQ AHMAD GANIE (as per aadhar card).

If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file the same before the concerned authority within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME: FAYAZ AHMAD GANIE S/O FAROOQ AHMAD GANIE R/O TANG PORA GANDERBAL

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG
 Email: xen-pwdnbanantnag@jk.gov.in Phone and Fax: 01932-222221

CORRIGENDUM
 Subject: Sound Proofing of Meeting Hall at Dak Banglow Khanabal
 Ref: 1. NIT NO 14 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/ 1516, DATED 13-05-2026
 2. Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Anantnag's Letter No. SEA 1618-19, DATED 14.05.2026
 Kindly read Updates/Amendments made in above referred NIT/SBD as under:

Please Read Name of Work (To be read as)	Instead of
Upgradation/ Renovation of Dak Bungalow Anantnag under NFB (UT Capex)	Sound Proofing of Meeting Hall at Dak Banglow Khanabal

Further the condition at Para 18.1 (Part-c) of the above referred NIT regarding Past Performance (Experience of Similar nature of Work) is hereby omitted. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No. 1589-94 Dated: 15.05.2026
 DIPK-1330-26 DT: 15/05/2026
 Executive Engineer, R&B Division Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/ Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr. GYANENDRA AGRAWAL S/o KHAN CHAND Resident of: H NO-FCA-251 BLOCK-C S.G.M NAGAR FARIDABAD HR 121001 in Respect of LMV MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. HR51BP2298 Chassis No MAJAXMRKAHM32124 Engine No. HM32124 In favour of: SUHAIL TARIQ S/O TARIQ AHMAD SHEIKH Resident of: ARAMPORA GANDERBAL JK - 191201 (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice to the address of undersigned. No, representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ARTOG/ Authorized Signatory Assistant Regional Transport officer Ganderbal

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, ICDS PROJECT LAR.
 ADDRESS: MAIN MARKET LAR GANDERBAL
 E. mail: cdpolargbl@gmail.com

SELECTION NOTICE
 In pursuance of Advertisement Notice No. 21 CDPO Lar of 2025, Dated. 31-10-2025, and Notice No. 02 CDPO Lar of 2026 Dated 29-01-2026 in respect of Poshan (ICDS) Project Lar the Final selection list of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahiyakas(AWHs) is hereby published for the information of all concerned/general public.

S.NO.	Form Receipt No.	Name of the Panchayat Halqa	Name of the AWC	Name of Candidate	Parentage	DOB	Marital Status	Qualification	Marks obtained in 10th	Final Merit	Remarks
1	0003	Benhama	Mal Pora Benhama	Shamshada Bano	W/o Mohd Saleem Shah	01-04-1991	Married	10 th	231/500	46.2%	
2	0001	Chountwaliwar A	Chanthan B	Rubeena Bano	W/o Ashraf Ali Mughal	01-10-1990	Married	10 th	247/500	49.4%	

DIPK-1331-26 DT: 15/05/2026
 Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Lar.

IPL 2026: Akash's three-fer, Marsh's scintillating 90 helps LSG thrash CSK by seven wickets

IAN S

LUCKNOW: Riding on Akash Singh's fantastic three-fer, Mitchell Marsh's brutal 90 off 38 balls and Nicholas Pooran's late fireworks, Lucknow Super Giants managed to thrash Chennai Super Kings by seven wickets at the BRSABV Ekana Cricket Stadium on Friday.

CSK had posted 187/5, thanks to Kartik Sharma's career-best score of 71 in T20s and an unbeaten 32 from Shivam Dube, after Akash's spell took out the top order on a fiery red soil pitch. But Marsh and Josh Inglis set the tone right from the start via a massive 135-run opening stand.

Marsh was scintillating in hitting nine fours and seven sixes at an astonishing strike rate of 236.84, before an unfortunate run out stopped him ten runs short of reaching a fantastic century.

After he, Inglis and Abdul Samad fell in quick succession, Pooran produced some emphatic hits to smash 32 off just 17 balls. He slammed one four and four maximums to help LSG reach with 20 balls to spare and dent CSK's play-off hopes in a thumping fashion.

Marsh ran after CSK's bowlers from the get go - hitting three boundaries as Mukesh Choudhary's opening over went for 15 runs. Inglis too joined in by getting a boundary off Anshul Kamboj and Spencer Johnson. The real carnage began when Marsh smashed Kamboj for four consecutive sixes and a four, as 28 runs came off the fifth over. By the end of the powerplay, LSG were cruising at 86/0.

Marsh reached his fifty in just 21 balls by pulling Johnson for four and continued to dominate by hammering him and Noor Ahmad for towering sixes. Inglis played second fiddle by adding 36 off 32 balls before falling to Mukesh. On the very next ball, Marsh's dismissal came in



unfortunate fashion - run out for 90 after a straight drive from Pooran deflected onto the stumps post a brush off Mukesh's hand at the non-striker's end.

By then, Marsh's brutal knock had already broken CSK's spirit, though Johnson castled Samad later. Pooran, who had been quiet initially, exploded at the death. After Mukul Choudhary chipped in with handy boundaries, Pooran tore into Kamboj in the 17th over - smashing finish the game in style, as LSG sealed back-to-back home wins.

Kamboj endured a nightmare, conceding 63 runs in 2.4 overs, as CSK's bowlers looked bereft of ideas once Marsh teed off, and by the time Pooran applied the finishing touches, CSK and their loyal supporters were left shell-shocked. What had seemed a defensible, competitive total at the halfway stage was dismantled with ruthless efficiency by Marsh-powered LSG.

Previously, Kartik overcame a sluggish start to hit 71 off 42 balls laced with six fours and five sixes at a strike-rate of 169/05. It was a dazzling knock where Kartik took on every LSG

pacer after the top-order fell to Akash. Dube then brought out the big shots to hit an unbeaten 32 off 16 balls, laced with three fours and two sixes, while Prashant Veer also made 13 not out off 10 deliveries and ensured CSK posted a competitive total by getting 60 runs off the last five overs.

Opting to bat first, CSK were off to a brisk start as Samson cracked three boundaries in the opening over off Mohammed Shami. Ruturaj Gaikwad too found the ropes against Akash, but the left-arm seamer struck back quickly. He hurried Gaikwad on the pull and had him caught at mid-on, while Samson couldn't keep a flick out and holed out in the deep.

Urvil Patel's stay was brief, as Akash had him pulling to deep mid-wicket to leave CSK in trouble. At 52/3, Dewald Brevis joined Kartik and the pair stitched together a vital 70-run stand off 44 balls. Brevis announced himself with a six off Akash and added 25 off 16 balls before Shami's short ball had him caught at fine leg.

Kartik, meanwhile, grew in confidence with

every boundary coming off his bat and his risks paying off. He reached his second fifty of the season off 35 balls with a towering six off Shami and continued to punish Shahbaz Ahmed and Prince Yadav with a flurry of boundaries. Shahbaz eventually ended his stay, but not before Kartik had given CSK the platform they needed.

Shivam and Prashant initially struggled against Mayank Yadav's pace, but found their rhythm in the last two overs. Veer chipped in with an inventive scoop off Shami giving him four, while Dube unleashed his by smashing Prince Yadav for two sixes and two fours on the last four balls of the innings and script a brilliant finish of CSK's roller coaster innings, which was upstaged by Marsh's breath-taking knock.

Brief Scores: Chennai Super Kings 187/5 in 20 overs (Kartik Sharma 71, Shivam Dube 32 not out; Akash Singh 3-26, Mohammed Shami 1-41) lost to Lucknow Super Giants 188/3 in 16.4 overs (Mitchell Marsh 90, Josh Inglis 36; Mukesh Choudhary 1-24, Spencer Johnson 1-39) by seven wickets

Lovlina Borgohain, Sakshi Chaudhary book spots for Asian Games and CWG 2026

IAN S

PATIALA:Olympic medalist Lovlina Borgohain and rising star Sakshi Chaudhary secured their spots on India's boxing teams for the upcoming Asian Games 2026 and Commonwealth Games 2026 after impressive wins at the national trials in Patiala on Friday.

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist and former world champion Lovlina delivered a strong performance in the women's 75kg final, defeating Sanamacha Chanu 5-0 to confirm her place in both major multi-sport events.

The 28-year-old narrowly missed direct qualification through the Asian Boxing Championships in Ulaanbaatar last month after failing to reach the final. According to the Boxing Federation of India's selection policy, only finalists at the continental championships earned automatic qualification for categories



included in both the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

Lovlina, who took silver at the 2023 Asian Games after narrowly missing a podium finish at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, ensured there would be no repeat disappointment as she easily claimed qualification through the trials.

The women's 51kg category sparked significant discussion during the trials as Sakshi Chaudhary continued her impressive streak by defeating reigning 48kg world champion Minakshi Hooda 5-0 in the

final. Earlier, Sakshi had stunned two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen 4-1 in the semifinals, highlighting her rise as one of India's top boxing prospects.

Minakshi reached the final after defeating former world champion and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Nitu Ghanghas in the semifinals. Although she won gold in the 48kg category at the Asian Boxing Championships, that division is not part of the Asian Games or Commonwealth Games program, forcing her to move

up to 51kg. Several other Indian boxers had already qualified based on their performances at the Asian Championships. This included Sachin Siwach (men's 60kg), Preeti Pawar (women's 54kg), and Priya Ghanghas (women's 60kg), all of whom reached the finals in Ulaanbaatar.

Jaismine Lamboria (57kg), Arundhati Choudhary (70kg), and Aditya Pratap Singh (65kg) qualified only for the Commonwealth Games as their categories are not part of the Asian Games program.

World championship bronze medallist Parveen Hooda and Asian Games medallist Narender Berwal also secured their places by winning their respective trials.

The Commonwealth Games 2026 will take place in Glasgow from July 23 to August 2, and the Asian Games 2026 are set for Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4.

IPL 2026: Kartik top-scores with 71, Dube's late fireworks lift CSK to 187/5 against LSG

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LUCKNOW: Kartik Sharma registered his career-best score of 71 in T20 cricket, while Shivam Dube produced late fireworks to take 23 runs off the final over, as the duo lifted Chennai Super Kings to 187/5 in their 20 overs against Lucknow Super Giants at the BRSABV Ekana Cricket Stadium on Friday.

On a red soil pitch, Kartik overcame a sluggish start to hit 71 off 42 balls laced with six fours and five sixes at a strike-rate of 169/05. It was a dazzling knock where Kartik took on every LSG pacer after Akash Singh took out the CSK top-order quickly.

Dube then brought out the big shots to hit an unbeaten 32 off 16 balls, laced with three fours and two sixes, while Prashant Veer also made 13 not



out off 10 deliveries and ensured CSK posted a competitive total by getting 60 runs off the last five overs.

Opting to bat first, CSK were off to a brisk start as Samson cracked three boundaries in the opening over off Mohammed Shami. Ruturaj Gaikwad too found the ropes against Akash Singh, but the left-arm seamer struck back quickly. He hurried Gaikwad on the pull and

had him caught at mid-on, while Samson couldn't keep a flick out and holed out in the deep.

Urvil Patel's stay was brief, as Akash had him pulling to deep mid-wicket to leave CSK in trouble. At 52/3, Dewald Brevis joined Kartik and the pair stitched together a vital 70-run stand off 44 balls. Brevis announced himself with a six off Akash and added 25 off 16 balls before

Shami's short ball had him caught at fine leg.

Kartik, meanwhile, grew in confidence with every boundary coming off his bat and his risks paying off. He reached his second fifty of the season off 35 balls with a towering six off Shami and continued to punish Shahbaz Ahmed and Prince Yadav with a flurry of boundaries. Shahbaz eventually ended his stay, but not before Kartik had given CSK the platform they needed.

Shivam and Prashant initially struggled against Mayank Yadav's pace, but found their rhythm in the last two overs. Veer chipped in with an inventive scoop off Shami giving him four, while Dube unleashed his by smashing Prince Yadav for two sixes and two fours on the last four balls of the innings and script a brilliant finish of CSK's roller coaster innings.

اِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَاِنَّا اِلَيْهِ رَاٰجِعُوْنَ



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Movies Schedule

Saturday, 16th May

	BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+) Hindi - 04:05 PM			
	Michael (U/A 13+) English with English Subtitles 01:15 PM			
	Dhurandhar: The Revenge (A) Hindi - 02:50 PM			
	AAKHRI SAWAL (UA 16+) Hindi - 10:45 AM, 07:15 PM			
	WAR OF SHERA (U/A 16+) PUNJABI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES 07:30 PM			
	PATI PATNI AUR WOHO DO (UA16+) Hindi Atmos - 11:15 AM, 01:45 PM, 04:15 PM, 06:45 PM Hindi - 12:20 PM			



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