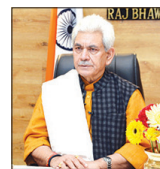


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We are breaking the chain of the drug trade at every single link. Whether it's cross-border smugglers, peddlers or the terror financiers- there is no safe haven. Our agencies are hunting down every narco-terrorist and permanently dismantling their networks: Lieutenant Governor

NEET-UG 2026

NTA Dismisses Claims Of Re-Exam Paper 'Leak', Warns Of Action



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday dismissed as "false" and "fraudulent" claims circulating on social media about alleged leak or sale of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination question paper and warned of strict action against those spreading such content. In a statement on X, the agency said messages claiming a "leak", advance access or "sale" of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination paper were aimed at misleading students and parents. "The National Testing Agency (NTA) has noted certain messages circulating on social media and messaging platforms claiming a 'leak', advance access or 'sale' of the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination question paper," the NTA said in a post on X. "These claims are false, fraudulent and intended to mislead," the NTA said, adding that such content was

being circulated by "organised cheating rackets" seeking to exploit the anxiety of candidates and their families by selling fake question papers. "Such content is the work of organised cheating rackets that prey on the anxiety of students and their families. Their objective is to extort money by selling fake 'papers', and every such claim circulating is a fabrication," the agency added. "The integrity of the examination process is fully intact, and every safeguard is in place to ensure a fair and secure examination for all candidates," the agency said. The NTA said it was actively identifying and reporting the offending channels, accounts and content to the platforms and cyber-crime authorities for immediate takedown and action. The agency further said it was filing a formal complaint with law-enforcement and cyber-crime authorities, warning that

No Safe Heaven For Cross-Border Smugglers, Terror Financiers In J&K: LG

Says we are breaking chain of drug trade at every single link

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday led a massive padyatra in Kishtwar as the ongoing drug-free J&K campaign reached its 19th district, reaffirming the administration's commitment to eliminating drug abuse and narco-terrorism from the Union Territory. "We are breaking the chain of the drug trade at every single link. Whether it's cross-border smugglers, peddlers or the terror financiers- there is no safe haven. Our agencies are hunting down every narco-terrorist and permanently dismantling their networks," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said. He observed that over the last nearly two months, citizens from all walks of life, have walked streets across the Union Territory, shared the pain of affected families, and energized our youth. "Our goal is to foster a grassroots resistance against



drug abuse and end narco-terrorism," he said. The Lieutenant Governor was addressing the public rally at Kishtwar. The campaign has so far covered 19 districts of Jammu Kashmir, reinforcing a collective commitment to eradicate drugs from villages and towns. "For 56 days I have pursued a single mission of eliminating every drug smuggler and narco-terrorist from this land. Narco-terrorists and drug smugglers, whether in Pulwama or Ramban, Kulgam or Kishtwar, must understand this truth that there will be no mercy for those who ruin the future of our young generation," the Lieutenant Governor said. He said under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, there is no mercy for narco-terrorists. "We are ensuring that drug addicts who seek a path to recovery are provided all possible assistance and brought back to the mainstream with compassion and dignity. But compassion cannot be wasted on narco-terrorists who profit from others' ruin, who thrive on destruction, who aim to drain the life from Kishtwar's villages and towns. My objective is very clear that ruthless action will be taken against narco-terrorists."

LG Pays Obeisance At Ancient Shri Gauri Shankar Mandir In Kishtwar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday paid obeisance at the ancient Shri Gauri Shankar Mandir, at Sarkoot, Kishtwar. He prayed for peace and prosperity of J&K UT and well-being of one and all. During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor took up the demand projected by the public representatives and local residents, and instructed the District Administration to set about appropriate measures for the rejuvenation of the pond adjoining the temple. The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Shri Sunil Sharma.

Teacher Eligibility Test J&K Govt Files Review Petition In Supreme Court

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has filed a review petition before the Supreme Court in connection with the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) issue concerning teachers in the Union Territory. Education Minister Sakina Itoo announced the development on Saturday, stating that the government had fulfilled its commitment and formally moved the apex court for review of the matter. "As committed, the review petition has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Government has consistently pursued this matter and remains fully committed to safeguarding the interests of our teachers," Itoo said in a statement. The minister said the government had acted responsibly and proactively throughout the matter and had consistently followed it up through concrete measures. Earlier, the government had accorded sanction for filing a review petition, following which the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs directed its standing counsel to initiate the necessary legal proceedings.

Global Tensions May Impact LPG Supply Chain: Min Sharma

REHAN QAYOOM

JAMMU: Minister for Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma on Saturday said that although the Union Territory presently has adequate LPG stocks, but rising geopolitical tensions and a global uncertainty could impact fuel supply chains and markets in the coming days. Talking to reporters here, Minister Sharma, said the government is keeping a close watch on the situation and assured the public that there is no immediate shortage of LPG. "We currently have sufficient LPG stocks, but we must not ignore the fact that global conditions are not good. Geopolitical tensions will have an impact," the Minister said. Sharma said statements and actions by powerful nations continue to influ-

ence global trade and energy markets. "Today, whatever the United States does, whether Trump speaks on Friday saying 'we will attack,' or traders speculate on markets on Tuesday saying the situation is fine, this is essentially a form of trade war," he said. The minister said such uncertainty directly affects economies and supply systems across the world, including India. He further expressed concern over social divisions within the country, saying people remain occupied with communal and caste-based conflicts instead of understanding broader global challenges. "We are unable to fully understand it; in some ways, we are a hundred years behind. The British left behind divisions



Census 2027 To Shape Future Development Policies Across India: Amit Sharma

WARIS FAYAZ

BARAMULLA: Director Census Operations and Chief Principal Census Officer for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma on Saturday said that Census 2027 will play a crucial role in shaping future development policies and welfare schemes across the country, urging people to actively participate in the ongoing enumeration process and provide accurate information. Addressing media here, Sharma, said the house listing phase of the census is currently underway and will continue till June 30. He said the exercise is being conducted through a fully digital and paperless system, reflecting the country's growing digital governance framework. The director said Baramulla district has 25 census charges, including 18 rural and seven



urban charges, where enumerators and supervisors are visiting households to collect information through mobile-based applications. "The last census was conducted in 2011. Updated population figures are essential for planning developmental projects, welfare initiatives and resource allocation. Accurate data helps people

get their rightful share in government schemes," he said. Appealing for public cooperation, Sharma said the survey consists of 33 basic questions and urged residents to respond truthfully and accurately. He also cautioned citizens against fraudsters attempting to misuse the census exercise for extracting personal

CS Reviews Progress Of Health Sector Reforms In J&K Calls For Expansion Of Trauma, Emergency And Critical Care Services

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the Health Sector Reforms being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir over the past couple of years. The meeting examined reforms aimed at strengthening tertiary and secondary healthcare services, expanding medical education, enhancing digital health infrastructure and improving access to specialized treatment facilities across the healthcare facilities of the Union Territory. The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Health

& Medical Education was attended by Director, SKIMS; MD, NHM; CEO, SHA; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director Health, Kashmir/Jammu representatives from AIIMS Jammu, SMVDIME and other senior officers associated with the healthcare sector. During the review, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the significant strides made in establishing collaborative institutional frameworks among Government Medical Colleges, SKIMS, AIIMS Jammu and other healthcare institutions for strengthening specialty and super-specialty services, capacity building, academic collaboration, research initiatives and digital



Illegal Motorised Shikaras On Dal Lake Threaten Livelihoods, RTI Exposes Regulatory Failure

JAVED SHAH

SRINAGAR: What was once seen as a contest between traditional transport and modern technology has now emerged as a question of law enforcement and regulatory accountability. Ironically, in this case, the "machine" appears to be operating outside the law while authorities remain silent spectators. Fresh revelations obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) Act have brought to light the growing menace of illegally motorised shikaras operating on the world-famous Dal Lake. According to stakeholders, several shikaras have clandestinely fitted small engines in violation of existing regulations, allowing them to ferry tour-



ists at higher speeds while undermining the livelihood of licensed motor boat operators. Members of the motor boat community allege that the practice has flourished unchecked despite repeated complaints to the authorities. They argue that illegal motorised shikaras are not only violating established rules but are also creating

unfair competition for those who have invested heavily in licensed motor boats and comply with all regulatory requirements. Raising serious concerns, Rafiq Ahmad, President of the Motor Boat Association Nishat, said the revelations exposed through the RTI have vindicated long-standing complaints of the association. "It is the duty of the Tour-

ism Police and other concerned agencies to uphold the law and act against violators. Unfortunately, despite clear violations taking place in broad daylight, there appears to be no willingness to crack down on offenders," he said. Ahmad questioned why authorities had failed to initiate action despite being fully aware of the illegal modifications being carried out on shikaras. He alleged that the continued inaction had emboldened violators and pushed many legitimate motor boat owners towards financial distress. "The law cannot have two yardsticks. If licensed operators are expected to follow every rule, then those illegally converting shikaras into motorised

AIIMS Awantipora Review Triggers Political Row

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: A political controversy has erupted in Jammu and Kashmir over the progress of the AIIMS Awantipora project, with leaders from the ruling National Conference (NC) and the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) engaging in a war of words over former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's recent visit to the premier healthcare institution. According to the details available, the debate gained momentum after Mehbooba Mufti revealed that she had spoken to Union Health Minister J P Nadda and urged him to expedite the ongoing work at AIIMS Awantipora. In a post on X, Mehbooba said she requested the Union Minister to ensure that the project does not face any further delays. "Spoke with Union Health Minister JP Nadda ji and requested him to expedite the ongoing work at AIIMS Awantipora so that it doesn't get delayed any further. He was kind

India World's Fastest-Growing Major Economy Even As Many Face Uncertainty: Rajnath

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that at a time when many countries are facing economic uncertainty, India continues to stand out as the "world's fastest-growing major economy." In a post on X, Rajnath Singh said, "India's economy grew by 7.7 per cent in FY 2025-26, with growth accelerating to 7.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, underscoring its resilience and underlying strength built over the last 12 years through the mantra of Reform, Performance and Transform." He said, "At a time when many countries are facing economic uncertainty, India continues to stand out as the world's fastest-growing major economy." Singh also said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has combined economic growth with stability, confidence, sustainability and



credibility. "His unwavering commitment to nation-building, focus on innovation, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship, and ability to steer the country through unprecedented global challenges have transformed India into a confident, resilient, and globally respected economic power," he added. As India moves towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, this growth story continues to create new opportunities and strengthen the aspirations of 140 crore Indians, Singh said further in his post.

Div Com reviews arrangements for Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani

Directs departments to ensure comprehensive facilities for Devotees

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

He further directed all concerned agencies to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness, sanitation and public convenience at Tulumulla and other shrine locations that witness the participation of thousands

of Kashmiri Pandit devotees during the festival.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), Dr. Arvind Karwani, along with members of various temple committees, joined the meeting virtually from Jammu. They reviewed the preparations being made for the annual festival, expressed their readiness to facilitate the pilgrimage, and shared valuable feedback and suggestions aimed at ensuring comprehensive arrangements and a seamless experience for devotees visiting the shrines.

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

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

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

CPCO visits Baramulla; Interacts with Officers, Enumerators, Supervisors

Urges Field Staff to ensure Accuracy, Transparency, Complete Coverage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO)/ Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, along with Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Baramulla SF Hamid, Saturday chaired a review meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to assess the preparedness and progress of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) being conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026, as part of the Census 2027 exercise.

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

Principal Census Officer, informed the meeting that all necessary administrative and logistical arrangements have been made to ensure the smooth conduct of Census-related activities across the district. He emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders and reiterated the district administration's commitment towards ensuring comprehensive coverage and quality data collection during the enumeration process.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on ensuring complete coverage of all households, including remote and difficult areas, and on strengthening field-level census operations across the district.

Addressing the officers, Amit Sharma appreciated the dedicated efforts of the field staff and encouraged enumerators and supervisors to discharge



Briefs Media on Census 2027

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

During the press conference, the CPCO highlighted the significance of the Census as the largest administrative and statistical exercise in the country and emphasized its vital role in planning, governance and socio-economic development. He briefed media representatives about the objectives, methodology and key features of Census 2027.

He informed that the Census will be conducted in a systematic and scientific manner through designated enumerators and supervisors. He explained various aspects of the enumeration process, including household listing, collection of demographic and socio-economic data, use of digital technology and measures being adopted to ensure accuracy, transparency and confidentiality of information collected during the exercise.

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

The CPCO appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to census officials and provide accurate information during the enumeration process. He stated that active public participation is essential for generating reliable data that forms the foundation for informed policymaking and development planning.

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

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

their responsibilities with utmost commitment and professionalism. He stressed the importance of effective coordination among census functionaries, timely and accurate data collection, and strict adherence to census guidelines to ensure the success of the enumeration process.

Amit Sharma directed all concerned officers to

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

The CPCO further informed that for any query or clarification related to Census 2027, citizens can contact the dedicated toll-free helpline number

DC reviews progress of Agriculture, Allied Sectors in Pulwama



GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

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

Reviewing the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs), the DC emphasized the need for diversification of services being offered

through these centres. He laid the stress on the functioning of KKGs and directed the Agriculture Department to transform KKGs into vibrant one-stop service centres by promoting testing facilities, agri-implements, vermicompost units, apiculture, mushroom cultivation and other income-generating activities.

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

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

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

SWD Sgr conducts Awareness Programme on Skill Dev for Adolescent Girls

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

The programme was attended by officials of SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar and out of school adolescent girls from different areas of the district. Speaking on the occasion, the officials from SANKALP-HEW Srinagar highlighted the importance of equipping out-of-school adolescent girls with market-relevant skills to improve their employability and livelihood prospects. Emphasis was laid on identifying vulnerable and marginalized girls and facilitating their enrol-

ment in skill development courses aligned with their interests and local employment opportunities.

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

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

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

JKAACL releases U-Turn, english translation of Kashmiri short stories by Gauri Shankar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

The book has been translated into English by Pankaj Bhan and represents a significant effort to bring contemporary Kashmiri literature to a wider national and international readership.

The event was attended by writers, artists, academics, broadcasters, translators, scholars, students and lovers of literature.

Padma Shri Prof. Shafi Shouq, eminent academic, poet, transla-

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

In his address, Prof. Shafi Shouq underscored the significance of translation as a powerful medium of cultural exchange and literary preservation. He observed that Kashmiri literature embodies a unique sensibility, emotional depth and cultural richness, and that translations such as U-Turn and Other Stories serve as bridges connecting diverse linguistic communities.

He lauded both the author and the translator for ensuring that the essence of Kashmiri storytelling reaches a broader audience without compromising its authenticity.

DC Kulgam presides over Awareness Programme on Khet Bachao Abhiyan



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: As part of the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan, a farmers' awareness and outreach programme was organized Saturday at Block Pahloo in District Kulgam.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers representing various villages of the block.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, presided over the event as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, the DC underscored the importance of protecting agricultural land and adopting scientific farming practices to ensure sustainable agricultural development and food security.

He emphasized the need for collective efforts to preserve cultivable land, prevent its conversion, and enhance agricultural productivity for the welfare and prosperity of the farming community.

During the programme, officers of the Agriculture Department sensitized farmers about the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, including the protection of agricultural land from degradation, promo-

tion of sustainable farming practices, efficient utilization of natural resources, and adoption of modern agricultural technologies. Farmers were also encouraged to avail themselves of various government schemes and programmes aimed at enhancing farm productivity and income.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Agriculture Officer reiterated the department's commitment to providing technical guidance and necessary support to farmers for increasing agricultural production and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the farming sector.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which farmers shared their experiences, concerns, and suggestions regarding agricultural development in the area. The programme was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam, District Agriculture Officer Kulgam, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Qaimoh, Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) Kilam, field functionaries of the Agriculture Department, and a large number of progressive farmers from different villages of Block Pahloo.

DC Bandipora Visits Army Goodwill School, Lauds Students'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday visited Army Goodwill School Bandipora, where she interacted with students and teachers and appreciated their participation in the recently held district-level Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) Padyatra, led by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, Shri Manoj Sinha.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner lauded the students for their enthusiastic participation and their impressive presentation of the National Anthem and National Song during the Padyatra. She said the students added a special spirit to the event through their confident performance, which drew wide appreciation.

As a gesture of recognition, the Deputy Commissioner presented an Appreciation Certificate to the school for its contribution to the successful conduct of the programme, and congratulated the students, teachers, and school administration for their collective efforts and commitment.



sioner appreciated the confidence of the students and urged them to continue striving for excellence in all spheres of life. She also acknowledged the role of teachers and school management in nurturing talent, instilling values, and providing a supportive environment for the holistic development of students.

The Principal of the school, Shabnum Kousar, on behalf of the school administration, expressed gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for visiting the institution and motivating the students through her encouraging words and recognition.

Interacting with the students, Indu Kanwal Chib encouraged them to actively take part in such activities, emphasizing that these experiences play a vital role in personality development and confidence building. Sharing memories from her own school days, she recalled how participation in cultural and extracurricular activities helped shape her personality and taught her valuable life lessons.

The Deputy Commis-

Bhaderwah's Lavender goes global; Dr. Jitendra inaugurates 4th Lavender Festival

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH: The two day 4th Lavender Festival 2026 began Saturday at the Government Degree College (GDC) Bhaderwah with the theme "Lavender Goes Global."

The gala event was inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Vice President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Organized by the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, the festival celebrates the remarkable success of the Lavender Mission and the purple revolution in the Chenab Valley region.

Addressing a large gathering of farmers, students, scientists, entrepreneurs and the public, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the transformative impact of the purple revolution in Jammu and



Kashmir. He noted that Bhaderwah has carved out a distinct identity through lavender cultivation, with a lavender-themed tableau from the region featured during Independence Day celebrations in Delhi.

Emphasizing value addition, agri-startups, entrepreneurship and global market linkages, he said that the success of local youth and farmers stands as testimony to the immense potential of lavender cultivation. He also highlighted the emergence of lavender tourism in

Bhaderwah and stressed the need for international collaborations to further expand the global footprint of lavender-based products.

The Union Minister urged the authorities to declare Government Degree College Bhaderwah a heritage institution. He appreciated the improved road connectivity and overall developmental progress witnessed across the district.

In his welcome address, Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu Dr. Zabeer Ahmed high-

lighted the achievements of lavender cultivation in Bhaderwah and described the region as the heart of India's Lavender Revolution. He appreciated the coordinated efforts of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, farmers, entrepreneurs and stakeholders in transforming a pilot project into a nationwide success story. He informed that nearly 5,000 farmers have joined the lavender movement. He expressed confidence that Bhaderwah lavender, known for its superior quality, would achieve greater

international recognition and market access in the coming years.

The festival featured exhibitions, demonstrations, buyer-seller interactions, startup showcases and displays of a wide range of lavender-based products by private stakeholders and government departments. An MoU has also been signed between CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine and a private sector partner to strengthen the lavender value chain.

Later, the Union Minister felicitated the progressive farmers, entrepreneurs, media persons and stakeholders for their significant contribution to the promotion of lavender cultivation.

The Minister expressed confidence that Bhaderwah would play a significant role in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat through innovation-driven agriculture, scientific advancement and the continued expansion of lavender cultivation across the region.

Dy CM assesses restoration works at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Saturday conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing Digiana-Jeevan Nagar Bridge project from Sabzi Mandi Lane, Satwari Jammu and reviewed the pace and quality of work being executed on the vital infrastructural project.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the progress achieved on the ground. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the bridge while maintaining the highest standards of quality. He emphasized that the project holds significant importance in improving the connectivity and easing public movement in the area.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the historic Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex and took on-the-spot stock of the ongoing restoration and development works being carried out at the heritage site. He reviewed the restora-



tion of the affected lawns and walls of the historic Gadadhar Temple. He stressed the need for preserving the heritage character and cultural significance of the complex while ensuring quality execution of the restoration works.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister also took on spot stock of the availability of essential civic amenities for the local residents residing in and around the heritage complex.

Taking note of the public concerns, he directed the concerned authorities to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply to the residents of Anandhri Gali Mohalla,

Panjtirthi, Mubarak Mandi and adjoining areas.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening the infrastructure, preserving heritage assets and ensuring efficient delivery of public services. He instructed the officers to work in close coordination and address the public issues in a time-bound manner.

Senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department, Public Works (R&B) Department, district administration and other concerned departments accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the inspections.

JKJA begins Pre-Appointment Induction Training for newly selected Civil Judges

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

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

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

In his special address,



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

Justice Sanjeev Kumar advised the participants to remain lifelong learners, maintain the highest ethical standards, embrace technology responsibly, avoid overdependence on artificial intelligence and discharge their duties fearlessly and fairly in accordance with law.

In his introductory remarks, Justice Rajnesh Oswal highlighted the significance of the transition from the Bar to the Bench and described it as a momentous milestone requiring a shift from par-

tisan advocacy to impartial adjudication.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal reminded the participants that a judge's foremost allegiance is to the Constitution and the rule of law. He emphasized the virtues of patience, restraint, independence and continuous learning as essential attributes of a judicial officer.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar, highlighted the importance of judicial education in strengthening the justice delivery system. He informed that the induction programme has been designed to equip the newly selected officers with the knowledge, skills and ethical foundations necessary for judicial service.

Following the inaugural ceremony, the academic proceedings commenced

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

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

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

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

Div Com reviews Muharram-ul-Haram arrangements

Calls for seamless coordination among Departments, Stakeholders

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

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

Representatives of various associations and stakeholders also projected a



range of requirements, including enhanced sanitation and cleanliness measures, fumigation drives, availability of firewood, ration and LPG supplies, mitigation of the stray dog menace, deployment of water tankers, streamlined permissions for religious events, comprehensive traffic management plans, identification of parking spaces, and provision of shuttle services between parking areas and procession routes.

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

and prompt resolution of issues.

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

Garg instructed Deputy Commissioners to prepare detailed district-wise checklists of requirements and ensure that all short-term issues are addressed on priority. He further directed that larger developmental concerns raised by stakeholders be incorporated into future planning frameworks.

To facilitate smooth movement of mourners and processions, the Divisional Commissioner directed the preparation of a comprehensive list of roads requiring repair and macadamization in

Shia-dominated areas and instructed the concerned departments to ensure timely execution of necessary works.

The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) were directed to ensure uninterrupted water and electricity supply throughout the Muharram period. Additional water tankers shall also be deployed in areas witnessing higher demand.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate availability and timely distribution of essential supplies, including firewood, ration and LPG, in areas where demand is expected to increase during the observance.

Underscoring the importance of sanitation and public hygiene, Garg instructed the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and other urban local bodies to undertake special cleanliness drives around Imambaras, congregation sites and procession routes. He emphasized both pre- and post-procession sanitation measures, including intensified late-night waste collection and disposal operations.

Deputy CM flags off specialised essential services trucks for remote areas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening the public service delivery in remote and underserved areas of Jammu province, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Saturday flagged off three specialised essential services trucks for the districts of Doda, Udhampur and Jammu.

The deployment of these vehicles marks a strategic step towards enhancing the administrative and logistical capabilities of the concerned districts, ensuring prompt and efficient delivery of essential public services, particularly in far-flung and difficult terrains.

The project has been executed at a total cost of ₹1.05 crore, with each specialised truck costing approximately ₹35 lakh. Equipped with advanced tools and



machinery, these vehicles are expected to significantly improve the responsiveness and operational efficiency of field agencies in addressing the public infrastructure and service-related requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's unwavering commitment towards equitable regional development and strengthening infrastruc-

ture across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the government remains focused on ensuring that the people living in remote and peripheral areas receive quality public services without discrimination. He emphasized that the strengthening of field-level infrastructure and logistics is essential for improving the governance and accelerating developmental activities on the ground.

...National CANCER Survivors Day

Satish Sharma advocates affordable healthcare, holistic cancer research

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Transport, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Saturday emphasized the need for affordable healthcare, strengthened medical research so that people get medical facilities at par with global standards.

The Minister was speaking during the National Cancer Survivors Day at the American Oncology Institute, Batra Hospital, where he interacted with the cancer survivors, healthcare professionals, researchers and medical experts.

Commending the courage and resilience of cancer survivors, Satish Sharma said their journey serve as an inspiration for the



society. He underlined the importance of strengthening the healthcare systems capable of providing timely and effective treatment.

The Minister stressed the need to make quality healthcare and advanced medical facilities more affordable and accessible to the people from all sections of society. He observed that rising healthcare costs often place significant financial burdens on families and called for sustained efforts to ensure that modern treatment facilities reach every citizen without economic hardship.

Satish Sharma also advocated for a more

holistic approach to medical research, particularly in the field of cancer care, emphasizing the integration of scientific innovation, preventive healthcare, early diagnosis, nutrition, mental well-being and community awareness.

The Minister said that advancements in science and technology must be effectively leveraged to improve patient outcomes and strengthen healthcare delivery systems across the region.

Later, Satish Sharma attended a public meeting at Chowki Choura, where he highlighted the immense developmental potential of

the region. He underscored the government's commitment to ensure balanced growth across rural and border areas. He emphasized that strengthening infrastructure, improving connectivity, expanding educational opportunities and creating employment avenues remain key priorities for accelerating socio-economic progress in the area.

The Minister said that enhanced road and railway connectivity can act as a catalyst for economic transformation by facilitating trade, boosting tourism, improving access to markets and attracting investment. He reiterated the importance of developing railway infrastructure in the Akhnoor-Kaleeth-Dori Dager belt, stating that such projects would open new avenues for growth and significantly improve the quality of life

for local residents.

Satish Sharma further stressed the need to harness the region's human resource potential through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, digital empowerment and sports-related initiatives. He said that sustained investments in infrastructure, technology, education, healthcare and youth development would help create a vibrant and self-reliant economy while ensuring that the benefits of development reach every household.

The Minister also called for continued collaboration between the government, local communities and other stakeholders to realize the vision of a prosperous, connected and progressive Jammu and Kashmir capable of meeting the aspirations of future generations.

■ Frames, Not Facts

Looking Beneath The Surface Of Ordinary Life



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Life appears to us as a smooth and continuous journey. We wake up, walk, speak, think, remember, react, and move through the world as if existence is flowing like a river. But a striking idea, presented in a Feynman-style science video, invites us to pause and think differently: what if life is not experienced as one uninterrupted flow, but as a series of frames that the brain animates into reality?

This idea may sound philosophical, but it has a deep scientific meaning. When we watch a film, we do not see thousands of still pictures separately. We see movement. We see people walking, cars moving, trees shaking, and faces changing expression. Yet, at the technical level, a film is made of frames. Each frame is still, but when these frames pass rapidly before our eyes, the brain converts them into motion.

Human experience may work in a similar way. Our eyes, ears, skin, memory, emotions, and thoughts continuously receive information from the world. The brain does not simply record this information like a camera. It selects, arranges, edits, and interprets it. Then it presents the result to us as the "reality" we experience.

This is where the idea becomes powerful. We usually believe that we are seeing the world exactly as it is. But in truth, we are seeing the world as our brain has processed it. Reality reaches us through the filters of attention, memory, emotion, belief, culture, fear, expectation, and past experience. The world gives us events, but the mind gives those events meaning.

This does not mean that reality is false. It means that our experience of reality is constructed. The brain is not a passive spectator; it is an active editor. It joins separate signals into a meaningful story. Without this editing, life would be unbearable. Every

second, the brain receives countless pieces of information: the sound of traffic, the brightness of light, the pressure of a chair, the movement of people, the memory of yesterday, the worry of tomorrow, and the demands of the present moment. If everything came to us without selection, we would be mentally overwhelmed.

Therefore, the brain protects us by choosing what to notice and what to

This idea may sound philosophical, but it has a deep scientific meaning. When we watch a film, we do not see thousands of still pictures separately. We see movement. We see people walking, cars moving, trees shaking, and faces changing expression. Yet, at the technical level, a film is made of frames.

ignore. But this same ability can also mislead us. Two people may go through the same event and yet live two very different realities. One student may treat failure in an exam as the end of hope. Another may treat the same failure as feedback for improvement. One person may hear criticism and feel insulted. Another may hear the same words and take them as guidance. One



may see delay as punishment; another may see it as preparation.

The event is one thing. The frame is another. This is why the metaphor of "frames" is so relevant to modern life. We are not disturbed only by what happens to us; we are often disturbed by the frame through which we interpret what happens. A rejection may become humiliation if framed wrongly, but it may become redirection if framed wisely. A mistake may become shame if framed negatively, but it may become learning if framed constructively. A difficult period may look like the end of the road, or it may become the training ground for a stronger future.

In today's world, the battle over frames has become more intense. Social media, advertisements, political messaging, artificial intelligence, and public opinion are constantly trying to frame our minds. A product is framed as a necessity. A lifestyle is framed as success. A profession is framed as prestigious. A political opinion is framed as patriotism. A beauty standard is framed as confidence. A rich person is framed as successful, even if the story behind that wealth is unknown.

We often think we are making independent choices, but many of our choices are shaped by frames created by others. A student may choose a career not because he loves it, but because society has framed it as respectable. A young person may feel unsuccessful not because he has

failed, but because success has been narrowly framed as money, fame, and visibility. A teacher may feel outdated not because he has lost wisdom, but because the present age often frames technology as more important than human experience.

The question, therefore, is not only: what are we seeing? The deeper question is: who is framing what we see? This question is especially important in the age of artificial intelligence. AI can create images, voices, essays, videos, and arguments with extraordinary speed. It can produce content that looks real, sounds real, and feels convincing. In such a world, the ability to question frames becomes more important than the ability to merely consume information. The future will not belong to those who accept every image, video, or message at face value. It will belong to those who ask: What is being shown? What is being hidden? Who benefits from this interpretation? Is this the complete picture?

Education must respond to this challenge. A good education should not merely fill students with information. It should train them to examine frames. Students must learn to distinguish appearance from reality, claim from evidence, popularity from truth, and information from wisdom. In classrooms, they should not only ask "What is the answer?" They should also ask "How is the question framed?" A wrong frame can produce a wrong

conclusion even when the data appears correct.

This idea also matters deeply for mental health. Many people suffer because they live inside painful mental frames: "I am not good enough," "My time is over," "Nobody values me," "I cannot change," "My failure defines me." These frames slowly become emotional prisons. They may not be facts, but repeated thoughts often begin to feel like facts.

Changing life sometimes begins with changing the frame. "I failed" can become "I learned." "I am late" can become "I still have time." "I was rejected" can become "I was redirected." "I am ordinary" can become "I am still developing." The external situation may not change immediately, but the internal meaning changes. And when meaning changes, courage returns.

This is the hidden power of human consciousness. We may not control every event of life, but we can learn to examine the frame through which we see the event. We may not be able to stop every difficulty, but we can decide whether to view difficulty as destruction or discipline. We may not choose every scene, but we can become more aware of the editor inside our mind.

The Feynman-style approach to science always encouraged curiosity, questioning, and looking beneath the surface of ordinary things. The official Feynman Lectures remain famous because they invite learners not merely to memorize physics, but to see the world with wonder and intellectual honesty. (Feynman Lectures) That same spirit is useful beyond physics. It teaches us to ask deeper questions about life itself.

Perhaps life is not just a continuous movie playing before us. Perhaps it is a sequence of moments, and the mind is constantly animating them into meaning. If that is true, then we must become careful about the frames we accept, the frames we inherit, and the frames we pass on to others. Because in the end, the quality of life does not depend only on what happens before our eyes. It depends also on what happens behind our eyes. Life gives us moments. The mind creates the movie. Wisdom begins when we learn to control the frame.

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RANJANA CHOPRA

When India recalls its great freedom fighters, one name rises from the forests of Chotanagpur with enduring moral force — Bhagwan Birsa Munda, revered as Dharti Aaba, the Protector of the Land. More than a historical figure, he remains a living symbol of dignity, resistance, and tribal self-respect. His vision — that tribal identity must be protected, equality must be meaningful, and development must reach ordinary people with justice — continues to guide India's journey towards Viksit Bharat. Today, after twelve years of renewed national emphasis on inclusive development, those ideals are shaping policy, governance, and the aspirations of a new India.

Giving the Legacy Its Rightful Place

Bhagwan Birsa Munda's legacy has long lived in the songs, stories, and collective memory of tribal communities across India. In 2021, the Prime Minister accorded this legacy national recognition by declaring 15th November, Birsa Munda's birth anniversary — as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas. The recognition deepened further with the observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh from 15th November 2024 to 15th November 2025 to mark his 150th birth anniversary. During this period, more than 2 lakh events were organized, reaching over three crore citizens in a nationwide celebration of tribal pride, heritage.

Across the country, these celebrations reflected the richness and diversity of tribal life. From the Hornbill Festival in Nagaland and the Tribal Literary Festival in Kerala to the National Tribal Film Festival in Jharkhand and the Canoe Sprint Championship in Telangana, the events brought tribal

Birsa Lives In New Bharat



culture, creativity, sport, and storytelling into the national spotlight. Together, they saw participation from more than 11 lakh tribal citizens representing distinct cultures and communities. They were declarations — that tribal heritage is a living, breathing force in shaping modern India.

Building upon twelve years of sustained and focused national efforts towards tribal empowerment and inclusion, Janjatiya Garima Utsav 2026 carries this momentum forward through four thematic weeks that together reflect the full spectrum of tribal development. The third week, in particular, focuses on a question central to India's future: how do we recognize the individuals and communities that shaped this nation, and how do we empower the next generation to carry that legacy forward?

Restoring the Names That History Forgot

Answering that question begins with recognizing the many tribal heroes whose contributions remained absent from mainstream historical narratives

honour the role of tribal communities in India's freedom movement. Four museums have already been inaugurated, including those dedicated to Bhagwan Birsa Munda in Ranchi and Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh in Nava Raipur. Through these institutions, the stories of tribal heroes are being documented, celebrated and permanently woven into India's collective historical memory.

Empowering Those Who Carry the Torch

From honouring the past, the journey naturally moves towards empowering the present generation. This is most visible in the growing number of tribal students benefiting from the Ministry's scholarship programmes. In the current year alone, 26,01,979 tribal students have been supported under five scholarship schemes, with a total outlay of Rs. 3825.54 crores. Many are the first in their families to access higher education, carrying not only personal aspirations but the hopes of entire communities. Of this, over 56% of the current scholarship beneficiaries are women.

The expansion of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) reflects the same commitment to educational access and opportunity. The number of sanctioned EMRS institutions has increased from 167 in 2013-14 to 723 in 2025-26, a rise of over 330% — while functional schools grew from 123 to 499 during the same period. Student enrolment has also risen significantly, from 0.34 lakh to 1.56 lakh students. By providing quality residential education in tribal regions, EMRS institutions are helping build stronger educational foundations and expanding opportunities for tribal youth across the country.

These numbers reflect more than the expansion of schemes; they represent a larger structural shift. Scholarships and fellowships are investments in confidence, representation, and leadership. Our commitment is unwavering: no tribal student should be denied opportunity because of geog-

raphy, background, or limited access to institutions of learning.

Women at the Centre: The Truest Expression of Empowerment

Alongside this educational transformation is a significant shift in grassroots leadership led by tribal women. For generations, tribal women have been the quiet keepers of culture, natural resources, and community life — sustaining families and traditions. India is home to 5.20 crore tribal women, accounting for almost half of the total tribal population, and their leadership is becoming central to inclusive development.

At present, 4,712 VDVKs have been sanctioned, of which 3,365 are operational, benefiting over 12.9 lakh people, with women constituting more than half of the beneficiaries. These efforts are strengthening grassroots democracy while creating greater economic and social empowerment for tribal women.

The Legacy That Walks Forward

Celebration, remembrance, education, and women's leadership together form part of a larger and continuing story, one in which tribal communities are increasingly shaping India's future with confidence and dignity. Through initiatives such as Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) and Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN), transformative change is reaching the ground through a new paradigm of convergence and collaboration. The rise of tribal scholars, the recognition of unsung heroes, and the growing leadership of tribal women together reflect how the legacy of Bhagwan Birsa Munda continues to live in contemporary India.

Today, India's more than 10.5 crore tribal citizens are one of its most compelling and forward-looking chapters in the national story. They are not at the margins of national progress, but among the strongest contributors to the vision of Viksit Bharat — scholars breaking new ground, women redefining leadership, and unsung heroes finally receiving national recognition. In this journey, the legacy of Dharti Aaba walks forward. (PIB)

(The author is Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs)

NTA Dismisses Claims

creating, circulating or forwarding such fraudulent content and attempting to defraud students constituted a serious punishable offence.

"Strict action will be taken against those responsible," it said.

Candidates and parents have been advised not to engage with, pay for or forward such messages and not to fall prey to these "fraudulent solicitations".

It also said to rely only on official communications issued through NTA's verified channels.

"We urge all aspirants to ignore these rumours and to rely solely on official communication issued by NTA through its verified website and channels," the statement said.

"To every candidate appearing for NEET (UG) 2026 -- focus on your preparation with confidence. Your hard work is what matters, and NTA stands committed to conducting a fair, secure and credible examination," it added.

The NEET-UG for admissions into medical courses took place on May 3 this year but was cancelled by the NTA on May 12 amid allegations of a paper leak. The CBI is currently investigating this matter, and a retest is scheduled for June 21. (PTI)

No Safe Heaven For

terrorists while unwavering protection will be ensured for the innocent," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that although J&K Drug-Free Campaign is scheduled for 100 days, it marks the start of a much larger fight. He said eliminating this threat requires a marathon effort.

"It is a war of years, not a battle of weeks. Victory demands a unified, round-the-clock commitment. By mobilizing a whole-of-society approach, we will ensure that J&K's soil is completely cleared of drug smugglers and drug peddlers. During the Padyatra across Jammu Kashmir, I have witnessed the incredible courage of young men and women breaking the shackles of addiction to reclaim their lives. That is why we cannot fail. This campaign is a matter of the soul of Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said in order to safeguard youth, the administration is embedding the spirit of this mission into the very fabric of our neighborhoods, equipping communities to recognize the warning signs, intervene early, and shield each other.

"Our teachers, Panchayat Mahila Samitis, religious leaders, and civil society groups are the torchbearers of this movement, standing united to ensure the shadow of addiction never finds a foothold in Kishtwar and across Jammu Kashmir. This is a defining moment for the future of our children. The people have spoken with one voice that narco terrorists must be driven from this land," the Lieutenant Governor said.

LG Pays Obeisance At

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

J&K Govt Files

The filing of the review petition comes amid concerns among affected teachers and ongoing discussions regarding the implications of the TET-related issue in Jammu and Kashmir.

Itoo reiterated that the government remains committed to protecting the interests of teachers and pursuing all available legal avenues in the matter.

The move is expected to be closely watched by the teaching community across Jammu and Kashmir as the matter proceeds before the Supreme Court. [KNT]

Global Tensions May

such as Hindu-Muslim conflicts and caste divisions 80 years ago, and yet we are still fighting over them like fools. We need to move beyond these issues," Sharma said.

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

Census 2027 To Shape

information.

"The Census does not seek bank account details, credit card numbers, PAN information or any financial credentials. People should verify the identity cards of enumerators before sharing information and remain vigilant against fraud attempts," he said.

Sharma advised people to immediately report any suspicious activity to the police or the census helpline 1855 for legal action against those trying to deceive citizens in the name of the census.

Reassuring the public on data privacy, he said all information collected during the census is completely safe, secure and protected under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948.

"The data collected is 100 per cent secure, non-shareable and protected by law. Under Section 15 of the Census Act, the information cannot be disclosed or used as evidence by courts, enforcement agencies or any other authority. There is no need for people to worry about the confidentiality of their data," Sharma said—(KNO)

CS Reviews Progress

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

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

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

Highlighting the growing role of technology in healthcare, he directed the department to expand the ambit of Virtual Medical Boards to cover more specialties and institutions. He also called for the introduction of Grand Rounds, virtual academic sessions and online teaching platforms in peripheral healthcare institutions to facilitate continuous professional development, strengthen specialist support and improve clinical outcomes.

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

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

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

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

The Commissioner Secretary further apprised that Tele-MANAS and tele-psychiatry services have been made operational in major institutions, while

de-addiction and mental health facilities have been significantly expanded.

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

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

Earlier on Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) gave a detailed presentation about several reforms executed across the healthcare facilities of the UT. He gave out that multiple Virtual Medical Boards have already been conducted in disciplines such as Neurology, Psychiatry, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Anaesthesiology, Surgery and Community Medicine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Illegal Motorised Shikaras

vessels must also be held accountable," he added.

The issue has sparked resentment among motor boat owners, who claim their business has suffered significantly as tourists increasingly opt for illegally motorised shikaras offering quicker rides at lower operational costs.

Repeated attempts by GMK to seek a response from officials of the Tourism Department regarding the RTI findings and allegations of lax enforcement evoked no response.

With Dal Lake being one of Kashmir's most iconic tourist attractions, stakeholders argue that unchecked violations not only threaten the livelihoods of hundreds of families dependent on the motor boat sector but also raise serious questions about governance, transparency and the rule of law in the Valley's tourism industry.

AIIMS Awantipora

enough to assure me about its completion well on time," she wrote. She acknowledged the efforts of the

construction team but stressed the urgent need for the institution to become operational in view of the healthcare challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir.

"Undoubtedly the team assigned here is toiling day and night, but given how healthcare is crumbling across J&K, it is imperative AIIMS Awantipora is operational soon. It will provide much-needed relief and quality medical services," Mehbooba stated.

However, her visit and subsequent remarks drew sharp criticism from ruling National Conference leaders, who questioned the propriety of an unelected political leader reviewing the status of an ongoing government project.

NC MLA and Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq termed the move "unconstitutional" and said such actions could set an unhealthy precedent.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Sadiq said that project reviews are the responsibility of the elected government and authorized officials.

"If such a precedent is set where any elected or unelected person starts visiting departments and reviewing projects, it would be very wrong. It appears an attempt is being made to convey that unelected individuals are more powerful than those elected by the people," he said.

He argued that constitutional norms do not permit such interventions and warned that it could open doors for others to engage in similar practices.

Sadiq further alleged that political motives were behind the controversy and linked it to previous political developments in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Whenever major political developments take place, there are attempts to create a negative atmosphere. If someone genuinely wants to resolve an issue, it is done through proper channels and not through social media," he said.

Referring to Mehbooba Mufti's public communication regarding AIIMS, he claimed that the issue had already been taken up through official channels and that publicizing it reflected political intent.

"When the letter was shared on social media, it became clear that politics was involved. The Chief Minister had already discussed the matter, and she could have waited for the outcome," he added.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo, had said that some people seem to be suffering from political amnesia. They still behave as if they are in power, even though they lost office in 2018 and have since been repeatedly rejected by the people," she said.

PDP leader and MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Para defended Mehbooba Mufti and accused the government of focusing on politics instead of addressing health-care concerns.

Para alleged that the administration was more concerned about who visited AIIMS than ensuring the institution becomes functional at the earliest.

"J&K is in the midst of a health emergency. Cancer is taking lives every single day, yet those in power seem more concerned about who visits AIIMS than why it is still not fully functional," he said—(KNO)

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Min Rana reviews summer contingency, flood preparedness measures in Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the summer preparedness of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) departments across the Jammu division.

He underscored the need for proactive planning to ensure uninterrupted water supply and robust flood management in the run-up to the monsoon season.

While reviewing the measures being taken to combat water stress during the upcoming peak summer months, Javed Rana directed the concerned officers to ensure all water supply schemes are functional at full capacity and that preventive maintenance is completed well in advance. He stressed that no lapse in drinking water availability would be tolerated and responsibility will be fixed to ensure uninterrupted services.

The Minister directed the officers to ensure a prompt and proactive response to the emerging water stress situations, with focused interventions in vulnerable habitations. He stressed that all efforts should be geared up towards reducing the number of water-stressed areas and ensuring uninterrupted drinking water



supply during heatwave conditions.

The Minister also reviewed the status of the existing water supply schemes and directed the officers to prepare a comprehensive plan for their upgradation and strengthening. He emphasized that older schemes must not be neglected while developing new infrastructure, as their efficient functioning remains crucial for ensuring reliable water supply.

The Minister also stressed the need to expedite work on JJM schemes nearing completion. He directed the officers to ensure their timely commissioning before the onset of the peak summer season so that the benefits reach the people without delay.

Javed Rana further directed the officers to formulate a comprehensive district-wise action plan for rainwater harvesting and sustainable groundwater recharge, with a focus on innovative and locally suitable interventions.

While enquiring about the repairable hand pumps in Jammu division, he called upon the concerned that all repairable units

are restored before peak summer stress.

During the meeting, the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (I&FC) Jammu, presented a PPT apprising of the works carried out, so far, by the department. He also highlighted the future plans of the department besides the contingency plan devised for the eventuality.

The Minister was informed that Heatwave Response Protocols have been activated across all districts, with Control Rooms established at both Provincial and District level to ensure round-the-clock emergency response. Besides, district-wise Water Vulnerability Maps have been prepared, identifying villages and habitations at risk of water stress between May and August 2026, with prioritised interventions planned for high-risk zones.

On infrastructure readiness, the Minister was apprised that comprehensive inspection of critical water supply infrastructure is underway, with accelerated repair and maintenance work focused on leak detection and upkeep of electromechanical components.

Standby pumps and generators have been positioned at strategic locations while adequate stocks of spare parts and treatment chemicals have been ensured for the high-temperature season.

To address supply disruptions, a fleet of water tankers has been deployed for rapid response, with strategic filling stations identified for efficient loading.

The Minister directed that daily monitoring of water source discharge rates and groundwater levels be carried out across all districts. He also stressed the need for weekly review and coordination meetings to maintain operational oversight, ensure timely interventions and address emerging challenges in a proactive manner.

Regarding flood preparedness, the Minister reviewed the status of flood mitigation and preparedness measures being undertaken across vulnerable areas. He stressed the need for proactive planning to minimise the risks during the ensuing monsoon season. He directed the officers to adopt both structural and

non-structural measures to remain fully prepared for any eventuality and ensure effective coordination for timely response and protection of lives and property.

He underscored the importance of proactive planning, technology-driven early warning systems and robust inter-agency coordination. He stressed that preparedness should remain at the core of disaster management efforts, particularly in view of the increased vulnerability to floods and other weather-related calamities during the monsoon season.

Javed Rana also directed the officers to expedite the implementation of projects approved under the SASCI Disaster Programme to ensure timely restoration and strengthening of flood protection and irrigation infrastructure. He stressed that the works must be completed in a mission mode, particularly at vulnerable locations affected by previous flood events, to enhance resilience and safeguard public assets.

The Minister also called for close monitoring of progress and effective coordination among executing agencies so that the intended benefits of the programme are realized on the ground without any delay. He directed the concerned officers to regularly review and update disaster preparedness protocols, strengthen mitigation measures and ensure effective coordination at all levels.

DDC Bandipora reviews CSR Projects

Directs Departments to expedite expenditure, ensure Timely Execution of approved Works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works approved under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26.

Emphasizing the timely implementation of development projects, the DDC directed all concerned departments to expedite expenditure, maintain the pace of execution, and ensure that all approved works are completed within the stipulated timelines. She stressed the need for regular monitoring and inter-departmental coordination so that the benefits of these projects reach the public at the earliest.

During the meeting, it was informed that 15 works amounting to ₹2.72 crore have been approved under the CSR Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26. Of these, eight works pertain to the Health Department, two to the Education Department, one to the Youth Services & Sports Department, two to the R&B Department, one to the PHE Department, and one to the Disaster Management Department.

Taking a department-wise review of the projects, Indu Kanwal Chib underscored the importance of timely utilization of funds



and directed officers to avoid delays in execution.

Reviewing the education sector works, the Chief Education Officer informed the meeting that tenders for the approved projects have already been issued and that work is expected to commence shortly. The DDC directed the concerned executing agency to complete the construction of the toilet block at Government Boys Middle School, Lonpora Mantrigram, by 20 June.

She also instructed the Education Department to complete the auction process of the old school building of Government Middle School, Mantrigram, by 15 June, ensuring that all formalities are finalized within the prescribed timeframe.

The meeting was further informed that the Youth Services & Sports Department has achieved 100 per cent expenditure under the approved CSR works.

The Executive Engineer,

R&B Division Bandipora, informed the Chair that work on the View Point Project on Nallah Madhumati is nearing completion and is expected to be completed by 20 June. He further apprised the meeting that work on the footbridge over Bonar Nallah is progressing smoothly and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, Indu Kanwal Chib said that CSR initiatives serve as an important supplement in strengthening public infrastructure. She called upon all departments to work with dedication and ensure that the approved projects are completed within the prescribed timelines.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Mohd Maqbool Lone, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineer R&B, Deputy Chief Education Officer, and other concerned officers.

DC Sgr reviews DCB 2026-27, Heritage conservation projects, CDF Works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

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

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

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of

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

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

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

DC Budgam visits Markazi Imambara Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Saturday visited Imambara Budgam to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth observance of the ensuing holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the facilities available at the Imambara and interacted with local residents, and members of the management committee to assess their requirements and concerns ahead of Muharram.

On the occasion, local representatives informed the DC that the major Muharram congregations commence from the 4th Muharram, while the main Aashora procession is scheduled to be taken out on the 10th Muharram from Babul Ilm Mirgund to Imambada Budgam.

The representatives highlighted several demands and issues, including repair and res-

toration of damaged road stretches, ensuring uninterrupted power supply with adequate backup arrangements, augmentation of potable water supply, strengthening of medical facilities, sanitation measures, traffic regulation to facilitate devotees and visitors during the religious gatherings.

The DC directed the concerned departments to take all necessary measures to ensure seamless arrangements during Muharram-ul-Haram. He instructed the R&B Department to examine and address the damaged road stretches on priority and emphasized the need for a comprehensive traffic management plan to ensure the convenience of mourners.

The DC further directed the Power Development Department (PDD) to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply, adequate backup arrangements during religious gatherings and installation on street lights wherever required.

Startup India, JKEDI organise TEJAS workshop to strengthen grassroots entrepreneurship

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In a significant initiative aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in remote regions, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and District Administration Kupwara, on Saturday organised a workshop under the TEJAS (Transforming Entrepreneurial Journeys Across State & Districts) programme at Government Degree College (Boys), Kupwara.

The workshop formed part of Startup India's ongoing efforts to promote

inclusive entrepreneurship and strengthen grassroots innovation ecosystems across the country. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 350 aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, startup founders, students, and other stakeholders from the district.

TEJAS is a flagship nationwide initiative designed to identify, nurture, and support aspiring entrepreneurs and startups from non-metro and underserved regions by facilitating access to mentorship, institutional support, resources, and market opportunities. The programme is being implemented across 132 districts of India with a focus on capacity building, ecosystem development, and expanding entrepreneurial

opportunities at the grassroots level.

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

Additional Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Ateesh Kumar Singh, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, delivered the keynote address and shared valuable insights into the Startup India ecosystem

and the support framework available for entrepreneurs across the country.

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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION PULWAMA.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT NO. (04) OF 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K U.T, e-Tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. for the following works.

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost in Lakhs	Cost of Tender Doc. in Rs.	Earnest Money (Rs)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Head of Account
1	Construction of sump and slope stabilization for LIS Drought Pump Larkipora	10.00	1000	20000	20 days	CEE/DEE	PMKKKY
2	Construction of foundation block and slope stabilization for the LIS Aghanjipora	7.00	700	14000	20 days		
3	Restoration Improvement of Dar Khul at Romshi nallah Rahmoo	10.00	1000	20000	20 days		
4	Restoration Improvement of Now Khul at Kamrazipora Thokerpora	10.00	1000	20000	20 days		

Position of Funds: Budgetary Provision.
Position of AAA: Accorded vide District Development Commissioner, Pulwama's order No. 63 DDCP of 2026 dated: 03-06-2026 endorsed vide No. DDCP/PMKKKY/2026-27/03-06-2026Dt. 15-05-2026
Sanctioned vide this office No. TS/PMKKKY/02 of 06/2026 Dt. 05-06-2026, TS/PMKKKY/03 of 06/2026 Dt. 05-06-2026, TS/PMKKKY/04 of 06/2026 Dt. 05-06-2026, TS/PMKKKY/05 of 06/2026 Dt. 05-06-2026.

Position of T/S:

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Sl. No.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	06-06-2026 (01:00 pm)
02	Date of start of downloading	06-06-2026 (01:00 pm)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	06-06-2026 (01:00 pm)
04	Bid submission end date	17-06-2026 (06:00 pm)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)	18-06-2026 (10:00 am)

Terms and Conditions:

- Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt/e-challan under (MH: 0702-PWD Remittance) in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (tender inviting authority), and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR/ FDR from any schedule or nationalized bank pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid.
- Bidders are advised to use the (My Documents) area in their user on www.jktenders.gov.in portal to store, the required documents as given below:
 - GST, Adhaar Card, 16- Digit Bank Account No. GST linked and PAN No.
 - Registration card with latest renewal.
 - Treasury challan (0702)
 - Scanned copy of EMD.
 - Card verification letter.
 - Registered mobile number and E-mail ID in the shape of Bidders address form.
 - BOQ.
 - Acknowledgment/ certificate w.r.t. filing of GST returns of previous quarter.
 - Acknowledgment/ certificate w.r.t. filing of Income Tax returns of Previous financial year.
- The successful bidder is bound to register himself with Assistant Labour Commissioner, Pulwama for CESS Registration after issuance of allotment. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 Days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-Tendering process:
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on web site www.jktenders.gov.in in acquainted bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vendor.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para- 3.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100dpi with black & white option.
- The Department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt/e-challan under (MH: 0702-PWD Remittance) in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR/ FDR as applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pulwama must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid.
- Price Escalation and Taxes: - The item wise cost/ offer be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes till completion of work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

No.: PID/CS/ 938-50
Dated: 06/06/2026

DIPK-1901-26
DT: 06/06/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Pulwama

One-off Test: 'I consciously tried not to restrict my shots', says KL Rahul as he reflects on his century

IAN S

NEW CHANDIGARH: India opener KL Rahul said he deliberately avoided curbing his natural strokeplay while making the transition from T20 cricket to the Test format, a mindset that helped him compile a patient century on the opening day of the one-off Test against Afghanistan.

Rahul's 100, along with captain Shubman Gill's unbeaten 103 and Sai Sudharsan's 81, powered India to a commanding 368/3 at stumps on Day 1 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium.

Reflecting on the challenge of moving from months of T20 cricket straight into the longest format, Rahul admitted that overthinking can often become a trap for batters.

"Sometimes you sit and overanalyse and try to play completely differently to T20 cricket. Something that I consciously tried was not to restrict my shots, but also be aware of what kind of shots I can play on this wicket against what kind of bowlers," Rahul said after the day's play.

The right-hander revealed that maintaining a balance between attacking instincts and Test-match discipline was central to his preparation. "That's something that I



thought about in the last week leading up to this Test match. That's what I tried to do. In the morning, I think I did play a few shots more than what I would have played ideally, but it didn't make me frustrated or angry at myself." Rahul said he was keen to continue backing his strengths rather than become overly cautious simply because he was playing red-ball cricket. "I was okay with playing shots and playing to the merit of the ball. That's what I was trying to do more," he added.

The opener also expressed satisfaction at how quickly he was able to adjust from the fast-paced nature of the IPL to the patience required in Test cricket. "I'm really happy that I could get some time in the middle and make that switch from T20 to Test cricket in a couple of days. That was

the most pleasing thing." Rahul credited India's preparation in New Chandigarh for helping him understand the nature of the surface before the match.

"It wasn't coming on at all. It was a really slow and low sort of wicket, which we did expect. We had a few days of training here, and it was pretty similar to this. I had to get used to spending time in the middle and letting the ball come to you."

"The few days that we spent here really helped, and I just carried that same training into the game and enjoyed being out in the middle and playing some good old Test cricket," he said.

Rahul's century, his 12th in Tests, anchored India's innings after an early wicket and set the platform for a dominant opening day against Afghanistan.

A splendid accomplishment': PM Modi congratulates Indian men's U-18 hockey team on Asia Cup triumph

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated the Indian men's U-18 hockey team for clinching the Men's U-18 Asia Cup 2026 title, describing the achievement as a "splendid accomplishment" and praising the team's exceptional skill and teamwork throughout the tournament.

India were crowned champions after a dominant 4-1 victory over hosts Japan in the final at Kakamigahara. Ashish Tani Purti started with a hat-trick, scoring in the 2nd, 28th, and 34th minutes, while captain Ketan Kushwaha added another goal in the 30th minute to seal a memorable triumph for the young Indian side.

Reacting to the victory, the Prime Minister said in a post on the social media platform X: "A splendid accomplishment by our young hockey players!"

"Congratulations to the Indian Men's U18 Hockey Team on winning the Men's U18 Asia Cup 2026. The team displayed exceptional skill



and teamwork throughout the tournament, culminating in a memorable victory in the final.

"This triumph also reflects hockey's growing popularity among our youth. My best wishes to the team for their future endeavours," Modi posted.

India dominated the summit clash from the outset, taking the lead inside the opening two minutes through Purti from a penalty corner. The forward struck twice more to complete his hat-trick before halftime, while Kushwaha's goal ensured India entered the break

with a commanding 3-0 advantage.

Japan managed to pull one back through Numada Gaku's penalty stroke in the 52nd minute, but the Indian defence remained resolute to secure the title.

Purti's heroics in the final earned him the Player of the Match award, while his tally of 13 goals saw him finish as the tournament's top scorer. Goalkeeper Ayush Rajak was named the Best Goalkeeper of the tournament, underlining India's dominance in the competition.

PM Modi also congratulated the women's hockey

team after they secured the bronze medal at the U18 Asia Cup 2026 with a commanding 3-0 victory over Korea in the third-place playoff on Saturday.

Taking to social media after India's podium finish, Modi praised the team's fighting spirit throughout the competition. "Congratulations to the Indian Women's U18 Hockey Team on securing the Bronze Medal at the U18 Asia Cup 2026. The team displayed remarkable grit throughout the tournament. This feat reflects the growing strength of women's hockey in India and the

immense potential of our players. Wishing the team the very best for their upcoming endeavours," Modi posted.

Determined to bounce back from their narrow shootout defeat against China in the semi-finals, India made a dream start and took the lead within the opening two minutes. Sandeepa Kumari (2) showcased excellent composure in front of goal, producing a brilliant finish to give India the breakthrough and set the tone for the contest.

India continued to dominate possession and create opportunities in the attacking circle. Their persistence paid off in the 16th minute when Captain Sweety Kujur (16) found the back of the net with a field goal to double India's advantage heading into the second quarter.

With a comfortable two-goal cushion, India maintained control after the break and further extended their lead in the 33rd minute. The team then showcased great defence and won the match without conceding a single goal.

'God's will that Vaibhav came to me for training,' says childhood coach Ojha after teenager's maiden T20I call-up

IAN S

NEW DELHI: On a fine Saturday afternoon, Manish Ojha was doing what he has done for a long time - making his students go through their paces at his Gen Next Academy in the Sampatchak area of Patna.

Amidst the focus on the trainees perfecting their craft in the afternoon training session, Ojha got a call from Sanjeev Sooryavanshi. The message was short, but electric: his son Vaibhav Sooryavanshi got his India senior men's T20I call-up to tours of Ireland, England, and the Asian Games event in Japan.

Hearing that, Ojha was left really delighted and congratulated Sanjeev. "It was expected that, the way Vaibhav was performing well in the T20 format, he would get the call-up. He performed well in the U-19 World Cup win and then showed his explosive strokeplay in the IPL.

"So, it was quite obvious and expected for me that he would be given a chance. But when he would be given a chance, I had no idea. Now that it has come, it's a great moment. After I congratulated his father, he, in return, congratulated me," Ojha recalled in an exclusive conversation with IANS on Saturday.

The mutual congratulations felt earned because what Sooryavanshi has done at 15 years of age isn't merely precocious - it is historic. In the words of chief selector Ajit Agarkar, Sooryavanshi had "almost forced his way into the T20I squad. It's not hard to see why. In the 2026 IPL, Sooryavanshi made a staggering 776 runs at a strike rate of 237.30, and single-handedly dragged Rajasthan Royals to Qualifier 2. He hit 72 sixes - breaking Chris Gayle's record for

the most maximums in a single season. He became the first player in IPL history to be named both the Most Valuable Player and the Best Emerging Player. Before any of that, Sooryavanshi wowed the world by walking out and making a whirl- 8 0 - 1 5

four, 15 sixes, the highest ever individual score in an ICC World Cup final - as India posted 411/9. He finished the tournament with 439 runs at a t e Cup- the as well as Player of the Tournament awards in his pocket. Before those senior assignments, he will line up for India A in the 50-over tri-series in Sri Lanka from June 9-21.

He is, by some distance, the youngest player selected in an Indian men's squad since a teenage Sachin Tendulkar announced himself to the world in 1989. Back in Patna, Ojha doesn't need match footage or highlight reels to remember how the Sooryavanshi journey began - the memories in his mind are sharper than anything.

DYSS Engages Thousands Across J&K Through Sports and Anti-Drug Campaigns

AZHAR HAJANI

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Friday organized a series of sports competitions, fitness activities, and anti-drug awareness programmes across the Union Territory, drawing participation from thousands of students and young athletes.

The initiatives, held under the guidance of Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, and Director General Anuradha Gupta, were aimed at promoting physical fitness, nurturing sporting talent, and encouraging youth to stay away from substance abuse.

Competitive sporting events witnessed enthusiastic participation across several districts. In Doda, the Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament entered its third day with Zone Bhandarwah defeating Zone Assar in the Under-17 Kabaddi final. Cycling competitions involving participants from ten zones also showcased the endurance and determination of young athletes.

In Jammu district, the Inter-Zonal Under-14 Cricket Tournament concluded with Jammu Zone emerg-



ing victorious after defeating Bhalwal Zone by 25 runs in an exciting final. Budding cricketers displayed remarkable skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Meanwhile, the Inter-Zonal District Level Athletics Meet began at the Sports Stadium Budgam, where hundreds of athletes from all twelve zones competed in various track and field events. The meet provides a platform for talented youngsters to earn selection for higher-level competitions.

Alongside sporting activities, DYSS intensified its anti-drug awareness campaign under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. In Poonch, around 230 players participated in fitness exercises, while more than 2,200 students and sports enthusiasts attended awareness programmes and environmental pledge ceremonies, reaffirming their commit-

ment to a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

In Ramban, students took part in stretching and physical conditioning sessions designed to improve posture, flexibility, and overall well-being. Similar fitness and yoga programmes were organized in Shopian at several educational institutions and sports centres, encouraging participants to adopt healthy habits and reject substance abuse.

Officials said the department remains committed to providing quality sporting opportunities to young people while using sports as a powerful tool to promote discipline, confidence, and social awareness.

Through these initiatives, DYSS continues to strengthen the culture of sports across Jammu and Kashmir while advancing the larger goal of building a fit, healthy, and drug-free society.

HS Tujan girls win Under-17 Kho Kho title at Rajpora

MUKHTAR DAR

PULWAMA: The girls of HS Tujan claimed the Under-17 Girls Kho Kho title at the Indoor Stadium Rajpora, defeating rivals in a competition marked by aggressive play and strategic teamwork.

The victory followed weeks of rigorous training overseen by headmaster Abdul Qayoom Dar and physical education teacher Yaqoob Ahmad Dar. Dar said the win reflects the students' dedication and



the school's collective spirit. School administrators praised the team's performance and the support of teachers, staff and the broader school community. They hope the achievement encourages more students to take

up sports, building habits of discipline and perseverance. The winning team has set a benchmark for future competitions, and the school wished the girls continued success in upcoming challenges.

Show Timings

Sunday, 7th June

	PEDDI (HINDI) (U/A16+) 01:20 PM, 06:30 PM	
	HAI JAWANI TOH ISHQ HONA HAI (HINDI ATMOS) (UA16+) 11:00 AM, 01:50 PM, 04:40 PM, 07:30 PM	
	OBSESSION (ENGLISH) (A) 10:20 AM, 05:00 PM, 07:45 PM	
	BANDAR (HINDI) (A) 12:50 PM	
	HE-MAN THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (UA16+) 03:40 PM	
	HINDI 10:30 AM	

INOX
SRINAGAR

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