



No mercy for narco-terrorists under PM Modi's leadership: LG Sinha

56-day single mission to eliminate every smuggler

Teachers, Mahila Samitis, religious leaders torchbearers

It is war of years, not weeks; victory demands unified commitment

Yogesh

Kishtwar, Jun 06: Asserting that there is no mercy for narco-terrorists under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that for 56 days he has pursued a single mission of eliminating every drug smuggler and narco-terrorist from this land.

While addressing a public rally at Kishtwar, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "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.



Pertinently, the campaign has so far covered 19 districts of Jammu Kashmir, reinforcing a collective commitment to eradicate drugs from villages and towns.

He said, "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."

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," the Lieutenant Governor, 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 | More on P6



Lush green seedlings blanket fields of Bandipora in north Kashmir, showcasing region's vibrant agricultural beauty and promise of bountiful season ahead. Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Global tensions may impact LPG supply chain: Minister Sharma

Says geopolitical uncertainty, global trade conflicts affecting markets

Urges society to move beyond communal, caste divisions

Rehan Qayoom Mir

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

Talking to reporters here, Minister Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the government is keeping a close



watch on the situation and assured the public that there is no immediate shortage of LPG. "We currently have sufficient

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

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

"Today, whatever the United States does, whether Trump speaks on Friday saying 'we will attack,' or traders speculate on markets on Tuesday saying the situation is fine, this is essentially a form of trade war," he said. | More on P6

LG pays obeisance at Shri Gauri Shankar Mandir in Kishtwar



KT NEWS DESK

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on 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 Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LOP) in J&K Legislative Assembly, Shagun Parihar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Deputy | More on P6

GMC Srinagar issues pesticide poisoning advisory for orchardists

Says 'SLUDGE' symptoms warning signs

'Wear masks, gloves, avoid windward spraying'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jun 06: With pesticide use remaining a routine practice in Kashmir's orchards during the growing season, the Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has issued a comprehensive public health advisory, urging orchardists and their families to take precautions against pesticide poisoning and protect both human health and the environment.

The awareness message, issued by Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Head, Department of Community Medicine, highlights the serious dangers posed

by improper handling and exposure to pesticides, particularly organophosphate compounds commonly used in agriculture.

The advisory, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stresses that safeguarding lives, families, and the environment largely rests with orchardists themselves through responsible pesticide use and adherence to safety measures.

It cautioned that pesticide poisoning can occur during or shortly after spraying operations and may rapidly become life-threatening if not addressed in time.

According to the advisory, orchardists should remain alert to symptoms collectively referred to as "SLUDGE," a common indicator of organophosphate poisoning. These include excessive salivation, unexplained tearing of the eyes, uncontrolled urination, | More on P6

Census 2027 to shape future dev policies across India, says Dir Sharma

'Data safe, secure, legally protected; verify enumerator IDs, report fraud to police, helpline 1855'

Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Jun 06: 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, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) 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 | More on P6

POCSO case 'mishandling'

SSP Samba orders probe, suspends SHO, 3 others

Yogesh

Jammu, Jun 06: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Samba, Anuj Kumar, has ordered a departmental inquiry and suspended four police personnel, including the Station House Officer (SHO) of Ramgarh Police Station, over allegations of facilitating a compromise in a case registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Official sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Inspector Bhopinder Singh, SHO Ramgarh, along with one Probationary Sub-Inspector (PSI) and two Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), has been placed under suspension. All four have been attached to the District Police Lines (DPL) pending the outcome of the inquiry.



The SSP has directed a detailed probe to ascertain the facts and fix responsibility in the matter, emphasizing strict action in cases involving sensitive offences such as those under the POCSO Act.

Meanwhile, Inspector Ajay Singh Chib has been posted as the new SHO of Ramgarh Police Station.

The action follows complaints regarding the handling of the sensitive case, prompting swift administrative intervention by the district police authorities. (KNO)

130th annual Urs of Hazrat Mian Nizam-ud-Din Kiyani on June 7-8 at Kangan

Night-long Shab Khawani, Quran recitation; thousands of devotees expected

Raja Syed Rather

Kangan, Jun 06: The 130th annual Urs of Hazrat Mian Nizam-ud-Din Kiyani (RA) will be observed on June 7 and 8 at Baba Nagri Wangath in Kangan, with elaborate arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the two-day religious congregation.

Sajada Nasheen Mian Altaf Ahmad, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that all preparations for the annual Urs have been completed and adequate arrangements for accommodation, food and other facilities have been made for devotees.

Mian Altaf, also an MP, said the Urs will commence on June 7 and conclude on June 8 with a special Dua-e-Majlis. The night-long religious programme will feature Shab Khawani, recitation of the Holy Quran, Khidmat, remembrance gatherings and sermons by Islamic scholars.

"The devotees visit this sacred place with deep faith and devotion. It is our responsibility to serve them, and we are fully prepared to welcome all those arriving from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and outside the region," he said.

Thousands of devotees from across Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country are expected to | More on P6

Accused can't be denied access to documents forming part of chargesheet: Supreme Court

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 06: The Supreme Court has said that an accused cannot be denied access to documents forming part of the chargesheet as withholding them could seriously prejudice their right to a fair trial.

The observations came from a bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and A S Chandurkar, which directed that a typed copy of some "highly confidential" documents be provided to retired Major General V K Singh, who is facing prosecution in a case lodged in 2007 under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

The bench noted it was not the CBI's case that documents sought by Singh, who was also

a former RAW official, were not relevant for the purpose of trial, and the only objection taken by the prosecution was that they were "highly confidential for the purpose of national security" and if its copies were supplied, there were chances that those may come out in the public domain.

"It is trite law that an accused cannot be denied access to documents forming part of the chargesheet, including those from the general diary, if such documents were obtained in good faith, are relevant to the prosecution's case, and their disclosure is considered necessary by the public prosecutor for the interests of justice and fair trial," the bench said in its May 18 order.

"It is so because withholding such documents could seriously



prejudice the accused's right to a fair trial," it said.

The apex court passed the order on Singh's plea challenging a September order of the Delhi High Court from last year. The high court had modified a December 2009 order of a

trial court, which had directed the prosecution to supply copies of documents sought by Singh.

Singh had filed an application under Section 207 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) before the trial court

seeking a direction to the prosecution to supply some documents, which formed part of the chargesheet but were not supplied to him.

Section 207 of the CrPC deals with the supply of a copy of the police report and other documents to the accused.

Dealing with the plea, the apex court said, "In our view, being part of the chargesheet and being used against, the said documents ought to be supplied to the appellant (Singh)".

The bench said with a view to balancing the interests of the right to fair trial of the accused, which is also an important facet of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution, with that of national security and sovereignty, it had asked | More on P6

Govt committed to strength infrastructure, preserving heritage assets: Deputy CM

Inspects Jeevan Nagar Bridge project, assesses restoration works at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 6: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing Digiana-Jeevan Nagar Bridge project from Sabzi Mandi Lane, Satwari, Jammu, on Saturday and reviewed the pace and quality of work being executed on the vital infrastructural project.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, 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

restoration 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-the-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 Andheri 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.

Div Com Kashmir reviews Muharram-ul-Haram arrangements

'Ensure adequate availability, timely distribution of essential supplies'

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Ahead of the forthcoming Muharram-ul-Haram, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on 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, as per an official statement, 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, representing Anjumani Sharie Shian Darul Mustafa Budgam, 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.

Several other representatives including Abid Hussain Ansari (JK Shia Association), Syed Muzamil Rizvi (Yaad Gari Hussaini, Srinagar) and Showkat Ali Wani (Anjumani Sharie Shian Yousufabad Budgam) 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.

BOPEE conducts CET for GNM Lateral Entry Course



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) Saturday conducted the Common Entrance Test (CET) for GNM Lateral Entry Course for the academic session 2026-27 Saturday at Jammu and Srinagar Centres.

The test was conducted at S.P. College, M.A. Road, Srinagar, in the Kashmir division, and at Government M.A.M. College, Jammu, in the Jammu division, with a total of 463 candidates appearing from across J&K.

To ensure smooth conduct of the entrance test, adequate arrangements, as per an official statement, had been put in place in collaboration with the respective Institution/College administration and law enforcement agencies, under the guidance of Professor Minu Mahajan, Chairperson, J&K BOPEE.

Under the vigilant supervision of the staff from the respective institutions and colleges, the examination concluded without any untoward incident.

The Chairperson, along with the Members, Secretary, Controller of Examinations and officials of the J&K BOPEE, actively monitored the conduct of the Common Entrance Test at both the centres in Jammu and Srinagar. They thanked the staff members of the respective colleges and the staff deployed under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioners in the respective district headquarters for smooth conduct of the test.

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



KT NEWS DESK

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

The programme, as per an official statement, 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 partisan advocacy to impartial adjudication. Justice Rajnesh Oswal reminded the participants that a judge's foremost allegiance is to the Constitution and the rule of law. He emphasized the virtues of patience, restraint, independence and continuous learning as essential attributes of a judicial officer.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, J&K Judicial Academy,

Naseer Ahmad Dar, highlighted the importance of judicial education in strengthening the justice delivery system. He informed that the induction programme has been designed to equip the newly selected officers with the knowledge, skills and ethical foundations 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.

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

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

SESSIONS JUDGE IN THE COURT OF MR. MANJEET RAI ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE TADA/POTA

Challan Case/64/2023

UT OF J AND K THROUGH PS CI/SIA-K FIR NO 16/2022 Vs UMAR MUSHTAQ KHAN AND OTHERS

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that Gh. Nabi Khan @ Khalid Saifullah S/o Gh. Rasool Khan R/o Liver Srigufwara, Anantnag A/P in Pakistan has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offences punishable under sections 13, 18, 19, 38, 39, 40 UA(P) Act, 121, 120-B IPC and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Gh. Nabi Khan @ Khalid Saifullah S/o Gh. Rasool Khan R/o Liver Srigufwara, Anantnag A/P in Pakistan cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Gh. Nabi Khan @ Khalid Saifullah S/o Gh. Rasool Khan R/o Liver Srigufwara, Anantnag A/P in Pakistan is evading arrest and has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the said Gh. Nabi Khan @ Khalid Saifullah S/o Gh. Rasool Khan R/o Liver Srigufwara, Anantnag A/P in Pakistan is required to appear before this Court on 23-06-2026 at 10:00 AM, failing which further action as contemplated under law shall follow.

Dated, this day of 21-05-2026

Additional Sessions Judge TADA/POTA
Designated
Signature

Visit ecourts.gov.in for updates or download mobile app "eCourts Services" from Android or iOS

The process is system generated and transmitted in secured manner by authorised user as such physical signature not applied.

DIPK-1897/26
DATED: 06-06-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR FAX NO: 0194-2497093 GIST OF E-TENDER

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2026-27/03
Date	05.06.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on percentage (%) basis from Registered/Reputed firms for the below mentioned works: -

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Stage contract for execution of Mechanical & Electrical repairs to various road construction Machinery of Machinery Division Kashmir.	100.00	150000/-	3000	Works programme approved by CE vide order No. M&HED/K/ Acctt/26 of 2026-27 Dt. 30.04.2026.	Sanctioned vide No 02 of 2026-27 Dated: 06.06.2026

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website as per schedule of dates given below: -

Sl No	Event	Date and Time
01	Publish date	06-06-2026 (18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	06-06-2026 (18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	06-06-2026 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	19-06-2026 (18:55 hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	20-06-2026 (14:00 hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/ 840-43
Date:- 05.06.2026

DIPK-1896/26
DATED: 06-06-2026

SD/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Kashmir

CS reviews progress of health sector reforms

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 06: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on 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 speciality and super-speciality services, capacity building, academic collaboration, research initiatives and digital healthcare delivery.

While reviewing the progress achieved under the health sector reforms programme, the Chief Secretary emphasized that every tertiary care institution in Jammu and Kashmir should strive towards establishing and strengthening critical care, trauma care



and emergency medicine services, observing that these areas are among the most significant determinants of quality patient care and healthcare outcomes.

He further directed that the benefits of the reform process should not remain confined to the newly established Government Medical Colleges alone. He called for inclusion of District Hospitals and Sub-District Hospitals, particularly in those areas where no Government Medical College exists, so that healthcare upgrade 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.

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 utilizations, performance 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.

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.

Moreover he apprised the meeting that the Tele-ICU facilities are proposed to be established in seven

new Government Medical Colleges under a hybrid hub-and-spoke model to strengthen critical care services across the UT.

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

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

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.

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.

Admin finalises Muharram arrangements

Appoints nodal officers across Valley



REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Jun 06: The Kashmir administration has geared up for Muharram-ul-Haram 1448 Hijri/2026, with Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, appointing nodal officers for all districts and major departments across the Valley to ensure smooth arrangements during the religious observance.

According to an official order issued, senior officers have been designated for Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian districts to coordinate Muharram-related arrangements and ensure timely redressal of public grievances.

The order states that nodal officers have also been nominated from several departments, including Rural Development, Health Services, Urban Local Bodies, R&B, KPDC, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), PHE, Jal Shakti, RTC Kashmir, LCMA, Forest and Transport Department.

The officers will oversee essential services such as electricity, drinking water supply, sanitation, transport facilities, healthcare services and road connectivity during Muharram processions and gatherings across Kashmir.

Dr Mohammad Maqbool Bhat, Deputy Director in the Office of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, has been appointed as the nodal officer for overall coordination at the divisional level.

The Div Com also chaired a high-level meeting of senior officers and

stakeholders in Srinagar to review preparedness and ensure smooth, peaceful and hassle-free observance of religious rituals and processions across the Valley, officials said.

The meeting focused on civic, infrastructural, logistical, and administrative preparations, with special attention to inter-departmental coordination and community engagement. MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi highlighted issues in Shia areas, including uninterrupted water and electricity supply, road repairs, street lighting, and medical deployment.

Stakeholders demanded enhanced sanitation, fumigation, firewood, ration, LPG, stray dog mitigation, water tankers, streamlined permissions, traffic management, parking solutions, and shuttle services.

The Div Com instructed Deputy Commissioners to appoint nodal officers, share contact details, and prepare district-wise checklists to address short-term issues promptly, with larger concerns included in future plans.

Departments like PHE and KPDC were directed to ensure a continuous water and power supply, while necessary supplies were to be adequately distributed.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation was tasked with intensified sanitation drives, and health officials were instructed to deploy medical teams and ambulances at key sites. Muharram holds profound religious significance, especially for Shia Muslims, marked by mourning processions and prayers—(KNO)

Omar led Govt focusing on publicity, NC MLAs unhappy: MP Khatana



KNO

Bandipora, Jun 06: BJP Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana on Saturday alleged that the Omar Abdullah-led government in Jammu and Kashmir has failed to address public grievances and is more focused on publicity than governance.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a workers' training programme here in North Kashmir, Khatana claimed that even legislators of the ruling National Conference (NC) are dissatisfied with the functioning of the government.

"The NC's own MLAs are

disappointed with the way the government is functioning. The leadership has failed to represent the aspirations of the people and is more focused on publicity than governance," he alleged.

Khatana accused the government of neglecting several constituencies while concentrating developmental funds in select areas, including Ganderbal, represented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and the constituency of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary. He also targeted

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Focus on governance, not protests: Darakhshan Andrabi to NC

KNO

Srinagar, Jun 06: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson and BJP leader Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday criticised the National Conference's plan to hold a protest in Delhi for restoration of statehood, saying demonstrations would not resolve the issues faced by the people.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a Deen Dayal Upadhyaya workers' training programme in Bandipora, Andrabi said the Omar Abdullah-led government should focus on governance and addressing public grievances instead of organising protests.

"Nothing has happened through protests. Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

AIIMS Awantipora review triggers political row

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Jun 06: 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.

The debate gained momentum after Mehbooba Mufti revealed that she had spoken to Union Health Minister JP 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 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

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

J&K Bank CSR empowers 5 PwDs with Rs 7.78 Lakh assistive devices

KT NEWS DESK

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

The camp was organized by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Mohali Unit, under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, in collaboration with the District Administration Baramulla and the Social Welfare Department.

MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Baig and MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone attended the programme along with



Chief Manager J&K Bank, Basharat Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer Baramulla, Sajad Ahmad Bhat, TSWO Rafiabad Bharat Bhushan, TSWO Baramulla, Tanveer Kaur, and officials from ALIMCO.

A total of 65 pre-identified beneficiaries from Baramulla received 102 aids and assistive devices worth approximately 7.78 lakh. The beneficiaries had been identified and registered during a special assessment camp

conducted by ALIMCO in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department Baramulla in June 2025. The devices distributed included 8 motorized tricycles, 10 tricycles, 11 wheelchairs, 3 wheelchairs with commode, 24 hearing aids, 9 walking sticks, 6 crutches, 2 rolators, 6 Sugama canes, 3 smartphones, 10 knee braces, 3 LS belts, and 6 calipers.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted the

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

Officials from the District Administration, J&K Bank, ALIMCO, and the Social Welfare Department were also present on the occasion.

DC Baramulla, officials mourn demise of ADC Sopore's son

KNO

Baramulla, Jun 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, S. F. Hamid, along with senior officers and officials of the district administration, on Saturday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the untimely demise of the son of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, S. A. Raina.

In a condolence message, the DC conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for strength and courage to help them bear the immense loss. He said the demise of a young family member is a profound tragedy and assured the family that the entire District Administration Baramulla stands with them in this difficult hour.

Several senior officers, including the Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant



Commissioner Development, District Information Officer, besides district and sectoral officers and officials, also expressed their condolences and solidarity with the grieving family.

Condolence messages poured in from colleagues, officers and well-wishers, who prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and for patience and fortitude to the bereaved family to cope with the loss.

The officers collectively prayed for the departed soul and expressed support to ADC Sopore and his family during their time of grief—(KNO)

India's Green Transformation Twelve Years Of Vishwaas, Nirman, And Jan Kalyaan

India has achieved a sustained environmental transformation through deliberate policy action and consistent implementation over twelve years. The country has expanded forest and tree cover, restored wetlands, mangroves, and coastal ecosystems, and advanced river rejuvenation through the Namami Gange Programme. Wildlife populations of tigers, lions, elephants, rhinos, and other species have increased. India has also raised solid waste processing rates, advanced circular economy practices, promoted green skills, adopted technology for conservation, and strengthened disaster resilience. It has met key climate targets years ahead of schedule and led global initiatives including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), Mission LiFE, and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

Three Pillars of India's Green Transformation

India has pursued environmental transformation guided by Vishwaas, Nirman, and Jan Kalyaan, recognising that ecological security is critical for economic growth, public welfare, and national resilience. These efforts have strengthened India's ecological capability, expanded national capacity for sustainable development, and enhanced global credibility.

Pillar 1: Increasing Ecological Capability and Biodiversity Forest Cover

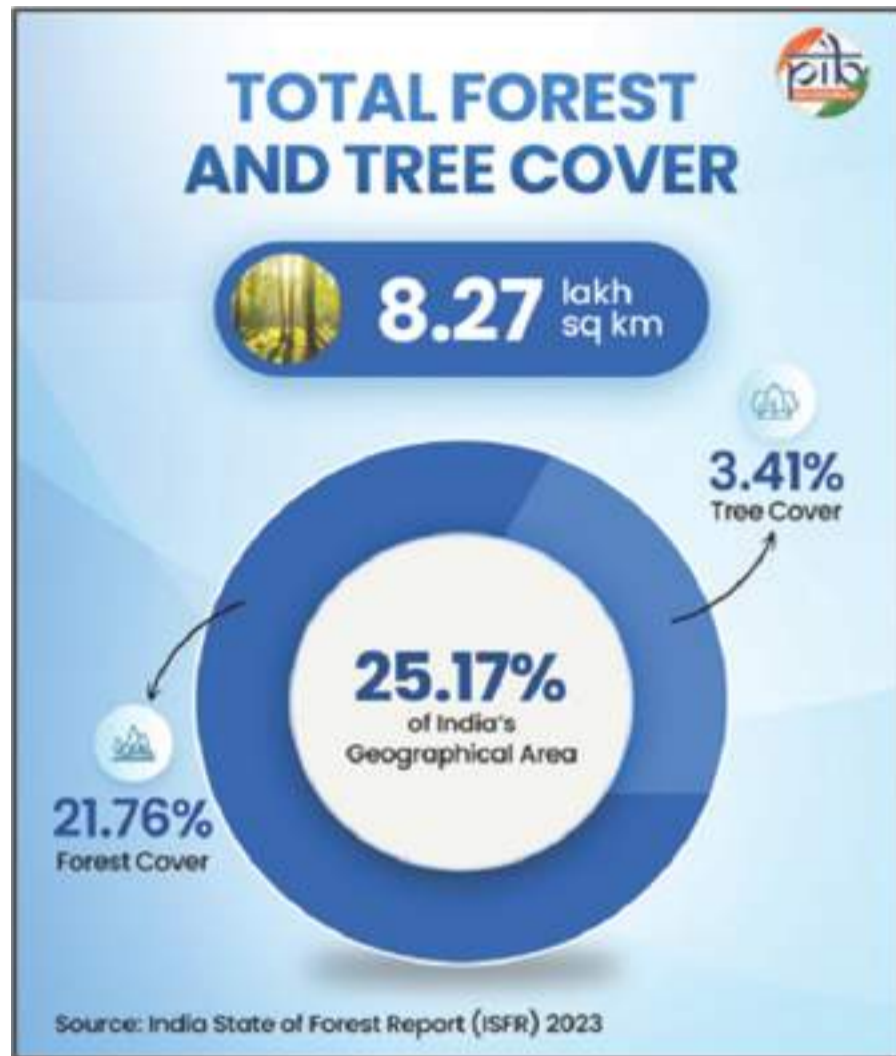
The Green India Mission (GIM), launched in FY 2015-16, has released 1,019.26 crore as of March 2026. According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, India's forest and tree cover stands at 8.27 lakh sq. km, accounting for 25.17 percent of the country's geographical area. India's forests currently store 30.43 billion tonnes of carbon stock.

Under CAMPA, more than 3.20 lakh hectares of compensatory afforestation were undertaken between FY 2020-21 and 2024-25. The Nagar Van Yojana has released 557.62 crore for development of 626 Nagar Vans/Vatikas as of March 31, 2026.

The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, launched in 2024, saw a total of 262.4 crore saplings planted till December 2025.

River Ecosystems: Namami Gange Programme

Launched in June 2014, the Namami Gange Programme was initially funded with 20,000 crore and extended under Phase-II till March 2026 with an additional 22,500 crore. As of February 2026, 524 projects worth 43,030 crore were sanctioned, with



around 355 projects completed. A total of 218 sewerage infrastructure projects costing 35,698 crore have been undertaken, with a combined treatment capacity of 6,610 MLD. Industrial BOD load declined from 26 TPD in 2017 to 10.75 TPD in 2024. Approximately 33,024 hectares have been afforested. Gangetic dolphin population was estimated at 6,327 dolphins.

Wetlands Conservation

India had only 26 Ramsar sites in 2014. By April 2026, the number increased to 99 wetlands. Under the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA), cumulative financial releases reached 1,088.85 crore.

Mangrove Conservation
India's mangrove cover increased from 4,628 sq. km in 2013 to 4,992 sq. km in 2023 - a net gain of 363 sq. km. The MISHTI

scheme was launched with an initial outlay of 100 crore.

Coastal Conservation

India's first eight beaches received Blue Flag certification in 2020. The number increased to 18 in 2025-26, spread across seven coastal States and four Union Territories. The National Coastal Mission was extended for 2025-31 with an allocation of 767 crore.

Wildlife Conservation

Project Tiger: Tiger Reserves increased from 46 to 58 between 2014 and 2025. Tiger population rose from 2,226 in 2014 to 3,682 in 2022. India supports over 70% of the world's wild tigers.

Project Cheetah: Launched on 17 September 2022, 29 cheetahs have been brought from Namibia, South Africa, and Botswana. The cheetah population has now

reached 53.
Project Lion: Lion numbers increased from 523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025 - a rise of over 70%.

Leopard: The "Status of Leopards in India 2022" report estimates 13,874 leopards, up from 12,852 in 2018.

Snow Leopard: The first Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (2019-2023) estimated 718 snow leopards across six regions.

Elephant: India supports nearly 60 percent of the global wild Asian elephant population, with 22,446 wild elephants estimated. Elephant Reserves increased from 26 in 2014 to 33 in 2025-26.

One Horned Rhinoceros: Rhino numbers have grown from 1,500 to over 4,000 as of September 2024 - a nearly 170 percent increase.

Pillar 2: Expanding National Capacity for Sustainable Transformation Solid Waste Management

Solid waste processing capacity surged from 17 percent in 2014 to over 77 percent by 2024. Urban India processes 1,29,206 TPD out of 1,59,109 TPD of municipal solid waste generated daily. Through biomining and bioremediation, 1,138 dumpsites have been fully remediated across 1,048 cities, with 877 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste cleared and 7,646 acres of land reclaimed.

Circular Economy and EPR

As of March 2026, India has 4,574 registered recyclers across waste streams. Total waste processed stands at 417.57 lakh MT. Category-wise recycling includes: Plastic Waste (196.97 lakh MT, 2,986 recyclers), Battery Waste (69.37 lakh MT), Tyre Waste (122.29 lakh MT), E-Waste (28.75 lakh MT), and Used Oil (0.19 lakh MT).

Education and Green Skills

Under the EEAT Scheme, over 1 lakh eco-clubs were facilitated, engaging around 5.5 lakh students. Under the EEARSD Scheme, over 1.34 crore students participated in environmental education initiatives, and 1.14 lakh eco-clubs were registered across 23 States.

Disaster Resilience

The Common Alerting Protocol-based Integrated Alert System has disseminated over 4,500 crore alert messages. The Indian Universities and Institutions Network for Disaster Risk Reduction includes more than 330 institutions.

Green Credit Programme

As of March 2026, 4,391 hectares of degraded forest land across 12 States had been identified for eco-restoration under the programme.

Pillar 3: Strengthening Credibility through

Leadership and Diplomacy Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

India achieved its target of reducing emissions intensity by 33-35 percent from 2005 levels eleven years ahead of schedule, with reductions already exceeding 36 percent. The target of achieving 40 percent non-fossil electricity capacity by 2030 was met nine years early. By February 2026, non-fossil sources accounted for 52.57 percent of installed power capacity. India has created an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Launched jointly by India and France at COP21, ISA has 112 member countries today. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

Launched by India in 2019, CDRI was granted international organization status in 2022 with its headquarters in New Delhi.

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)

Launched in the presence of the UN Secretary-General, Mission LiFE promotes a shift from mindless consumption to mindful utilisation of natural resources.

G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (Green Development Pact)

Adopted on 9 September 2023 during India's G20 Presidency, the Pact established global consensus on accelerating climate action, sustainable development, and inclusive green growth.

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Formally became a treaty-based intergovernmental organization on 23 January 2025. Currently, 26 member countries form part of the Alliance.

The Road to Viksit Bharat Runs Through Sustainability

Over the last twelve years, India has re-defined the relationship between development and environmental stewardship. Sustainability has moved from the margins of policymaking to the centre of national planning. India's green transformation reflects Vishwaas in nature's ability to recover, Nirman through stronger ecological assets and institutions, and Jan Kalyaan by delivering cleaner environments, secure livelihoods, and improved quality of life for millions. As India moves towards Viksit Bharat, these principles will continue to guide its environmental journey.

Disclaimer: This is an abridged version of the original PIB article "India's Green Transformation: Twelve Years of Vishwaas, Nirman, and Jan Kalyaan" (June 4, 2026). Key facts and data have been retained. For the complete article, please refer to the official PIB website.

India's Biodiversity: Commitments And Achievements

India's biodiversity governance is organised through a three-tier structure linking national policy with state action and local implementation. The National Biodiversity Authority operates at the national level, while State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils guide action at the state level. At the local level, Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) prepare People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and support community-led conservation. India has established more than 2,76,653 BMCs and over 2,72,648 PBRs, documenting local species, ecosystems, and traditional knowledge across the country.

Understanding Biodiversity and Its Importance

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth, including plants, animals, microorganisms, and the ecosystems they form. It underpins ecological balance and supports key ecosystem services such as pollination, soil formation, nutrient cycling, water purification, and climate regulation.

India's Biodiversity Framework

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Amended in 2023)

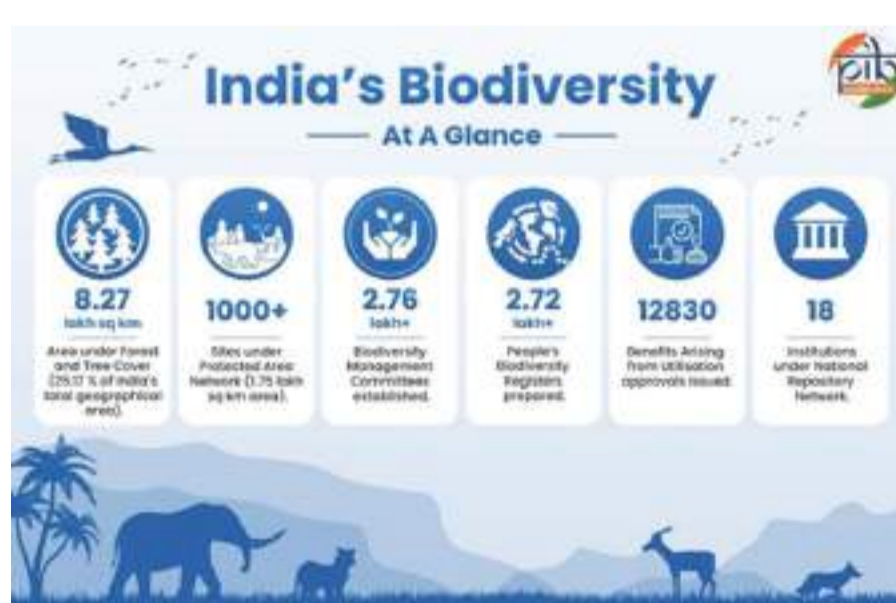
The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is India's principal legal framework for conserving biological diversity, promoting sustainable use, and ensuring fair benefit sharing. The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 further strengthened this framework by making implementation more facilitative and aligned with current needs, supporting research, innovation, and traditional knowledge-based practices.

Three-Tier Governance Structure

The Act provides a three-tier governance structure: the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national level; State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) at the state level; and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local level, which prepare People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and support community action.

Scientific and Technical Support

Specialised scientific institutions strengthen this governance system. The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) document animal and plant diversity. The Forest Survey of India (FSI) maps forest and tree cover. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) supports tiger conservation. Under Section 39 of the Act, 20 institutions have been designated as national repositories for



biological resources, with two additional key institutions recently notified.

Nagoya Protocol

Adopted during COP-10 of the CBD in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, the Nagoya Protocol ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. MoEFCC, in collaboration with the NBA, has submitted India's First National Report on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

The PBR is a local biodiversity database prepared with community participation, recording biological resources, habitats, landraces, folk varieties, breeds, microorganisms, and associated traditional knowledge. Nearly 2,72,648 such registers have been prepared

across the country.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2024-2030)

The NBSAP provides India with long-term policy direction for conserving biodiversity and using it sustainably. The updated plan for 2024 to 2030 is aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), adopted in December 2022 by 196 nations to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

MoEFCC has submitted India's Seventh National Report (NR-7) to the CBD, presenting a comprehensive, indicator-based national assessment of how India is implementing its commitments under the Convention.

National Red List Roadmap (2025-2030)

Led by ZSI and BSI with support from

IUCN-India, the roadmap will establish a nationally coordinated, science-based threatened-species assessment system, aligned with India's commitments under the KMGBF.

Key Achievements

Expanding Forests and Protected Areas

India's total forest and tree cover stands at approximately 8.27 lakh square kilometres, covering 25.17 percent of the country's geographical area. The recorded forest area is around 7.75 lakh square kilometres, of which more than 5.20 lakh square kilometres is actual forest cover. India also has over 1,134 protected areas, covering more than 1,87,592 square kilometres.

Strengthening Species Conservation

The tiger population increased from 2,226 in 2014 to 3,682 in the latest estimates. Species databases and monitoring systems are being strengthened through institutions such as the Wildlife Institute of India, ZSI, and BSI.

Deepening Community and Governance Outcomes

India has established a wide network of more than 2,76,653 BMCs across the country. These committees have prepared more than 2,72,648 PBRs. A national campaign is underway to update, verify, and digitise these registers into ePBRs.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Mechanism

The ABS e-filing Portal streamlines biodiversity governance and transparency, launched on 30th March 2017 and subsequently upgraded. During 2017-2026, India issued 12,830 benefits arising from utilisation approvals. As of May 2026, nearly 145 crore has been released to beneficiaries across the country, benefiting around 11,000 Biodiversity Management Committees.

International Day for Biological Diversity 2026

On 22 May 2026, the Union Minister for

Environment, Forest and Climate Change presided over the national level observance. The event saw the release of several biodiversity publications, digital tools, and outreach materials, including:

- Customised MyStamp (personalised sheet of postage stamps)
- India's Biodiversity Report 2026: Insights from the 7th National Report to CBD
- India's Progress in Implementing ABS: Insights from India's First National Report on the Nagoya Protocol
- ABS End-to-End Portal
- Films on Access and Benefit Sharing, Amarkantak Biodiversity Heritage Site, and Conservation of Devlok Vans (Sacred Groves) of Madhya Pradesh

From Today's Gains to Tomorrow's Goals

India's biodiversity efforts are now rooted in a strong blend of laws, institutions, and community-led action, aligned with global frameworks under the CBD. India is strengthening forest and tree cover, expanding protected areas, improving species conservation, and deepening local stewardship in a coordinated manner.

Looking ahead, updated strategies, dedicated financing, and transparent national reporting place biodiversity at the heart of sustainable and inclusive development. The Government remains committed to further enhancing conservation outcomes by 2030 and beyond, so that healthy ecosystems, secure livelihoods, and national growth reinforce each other in a positive cycle.

Disclaimer: This is an abridged version of the original PIB article "India's Biodiversity: Commitments and Achievements - From Legal Frameworks to Local Action" (June 5, 2026). Key facts and data have been retained. For the complete article, please refer to the official PIB website.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

Bhaderwah's Lavender Goes Global

Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 4th Lavender Festival

KT News Desk

BHADERWAH, JUNE 6: The two-day 4th Lavender Festival 2026 began on Saturday at the Government Degree College (GDC) Bhaderwah with the theme "Lavender Goes Global".

The gala event, as per an official statement, 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 highlighted 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.

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani

Ensure comprehensive facilities for devotees

KT News Desk

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

The meeting, as per an official statement, 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.

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

Reviewing the preparedness of all departments, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential services,

including safe drinking water, reliable electricity, adequate transport facilities and medical aid for devotees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DC reviews progress of agriculture, allied sectors in Pulwama

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, JUNE 06: 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 (JKCIAP), 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 JKCIAP 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.

Census 2027

Amit Sharma reviews preparedness, progress of House Listing Operations in Baramulla

Interacts with officers, enumerators, supervisors

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JUNE 06: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO)/ Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, along with Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Baramulla SF Hamid, 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, as per an official statement, briefed the Chair on the district's preparedness for Census 2027 and the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the ongoing House Listing Operations. The meeting was informed about the training programmes conducted for enumerators and supervisors and the overall readiness of the district administration for the Census exercise.

Principal Census Officer,



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

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

Addressing the officers, Amit Sharma appreciated the dedicated efforts of the field staff and encouraged enumerators and supervisors to discharge their responsibilities with utmost commitment and professionalism. He stressed the importance of effective coordination among census functionaries, timely and accurate data collection, and strict adherence to census guidelines to ensure the success of the enumeration process.

Amit Sharma directed all concerned officers to extend full support to census personnel and take necessary measures for the smooth conduct of House Listing and Housing Census activities throughout

the district.

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

He clarified that the Census process is simple and transparent, and citizens are only required to answer the prescribed Census questions during the enumeration process. He urged residents to cooperate with authorized Census personnel and provide accurate information to ensure the success of this important national exercise.

The meeting also reviewed field-level preparedness and discussed various operational aspects related to the Census exercise. Amit Sharma reiterated that the Census is a crucial national exercise that serves as the foundation for evidence-based planning and development planning across the country.

Focus on public participation, awareness, accurate data collection: CPCO

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JUNE 06: 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, as per an official statement, 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.

Khet Bachao Abhiyan: DC Kulgam presides over awareness programme

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JUNE 06: As part of the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan, a farmers' awareness and outreach programme was organized Saturday at Block Pahlou in District Kulgam.

The programme, as per an official statement, witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers representing various villages of the block.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, presided over the event as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, the DC underscored the importance of protecting

agricultural land and adopting scientific farming practices to ensure sustainable agricultural development and food security.

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

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

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

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

farming sector.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which farmers shared their experiences, concerns, and suggestions regarding agricultural development in the area.

The programme was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam, District Agriculture Officer Kulgam, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Qaimoh, Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) Kilam, field functionaries of the Agriculture Department, and a large number of progressive farmers from different villages of Block Pahlou.

SWD Srinagar conducts awareness programme on skill development for adolescent girls

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Social Welfare Department (SWD)-SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar and out of school adolescent girls from different areas of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials from SANKALP-HEW Srinagar highlighted the importance of equipping out-of-school adolescent girls with market-relevant skills to improve their employability and livelihood prospects. Emphasis was laid on identifying vulnerable and marginalized girls and facilitating their

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

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

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the confidence of the students and urged them to continue striving for excellence in all spheres of life.

National Cancer Survivors Day

Minister Sharma calls for affordable healthcare, holistic cancer research

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jun 06: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Transport, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, on 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.

DC Sgr reviews District Capex Budget progress

492 works proposed, 232 estimates submitted

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday chaired a meeting of all executing agencies and line departments here to review the progress of the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2026-27.

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

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

The Deputy Commissioner further reviewed the status of heritage conservation projects being undertaken in Srinagar district under



the Government's Heritage Conservation Scheme aimed at preserving Srinagar's rich cultural and architectural legacy.

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

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed all executing agencies to ensure timely submission of the remaining estimates so that administrative approvals can be accorded without delay, enabling early tendering, allotment and execution of works. He emphasized that the limited working season must be utilized effectively to maximize developmental outcomes and public benefit.

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

across sectors.

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

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

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

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

JKAACL releases English translation 'U-Turn and Other Stories' by Gauri Shankar Raina

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 06: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on 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, translator and literary critic, was

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

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



Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Ideel Saleem outlined the Academy's vision of creating a vibrant literary and cultural ecosystem through active engagement with writers, artists, scholars, students and youth. He reiterated the Academy's resolve

to strengthen literary activities, encourage translations and provide meaningful platforms for creative expression.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Farooq Fayyaz described the publication as a valuable addition to the corpus of Indian

literature in translation. He noted that the stories offer a nuanced portrayal of Kashmiri society, capturing its landscapes, memories, aspirations and everyday realities through sensitive and compelling narratives. He appreciated the translator's

effort in retaining the cultural flavour, rhythm and emotional cadence of the original texts while rendering them accessible to English-language readers.

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

The programme also featured readings from selected stories by the author, which were warmly received by the audience. The

readings provided listeners with a glimpse into the narrative style, thematic concerns and humanistic vision that distinguish Raina's literary work.

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

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

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

No mercy for

and end narco-terrorism," he said. "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 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. (KNO)

LG pays obeisance at

Commissioner Kishtwar and other senior officials at the site.

Global tensions

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

He further expressed concern over social divisions within the country, saying people

remain occupied with communal and caste-based conflicts instead of understanding broader global challenges.

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

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

Census 2027 to

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 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)

GMC Srinagar issues

diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, pinpoint pupils, breathing difficulties, muscle twitching, and seizures.

Doctors warned that anyone experiencing these symptoms after exposure to pesticides should stop work immediately and seek urgent medical assistance.

The advisory outlines several critical first-aid measures that should be taken before reaching a hospital.

Affected individuals should be removed from the spraying area and shifted to fresh air immediately. Any contaminated clothing should be removed carefully, preferably by cutting it off to avoid further exposure. The exposed skin and hair must be thoroughly washed with soap and water.

Medical experts have specifically advised against inducing vomiting. If a person becomes unconscious, they should be placed in the recovery position by turning them onto their side while arrangements are made to transport them to the nearest healthcare facility.

"Time equals life. Early treatment saves lives," the advisory emphasises, urging people not to delay seeking professional medical care.

The medical team has advised families and community members to inform doctors about the specific pesticide involved whenever possible, as this can help guide treatment.

In cases of suspected organophosphate poisoning, healthcare providers may administer Atropine, a life-saving antidote that can significantly improve outcomes when given promptly.

People are encouraged to contact emergency services through 108 ambulance services or visit the nearest Primary Health Centre (PHC) or hospital without delay.

The advisory places strong emphasis on prevention, noting that many poisoning incidents can be avoided through simple but effective

safety measures.

Orchardists are advised to wear protective equipment, including masks, gloves, boots, and protective eyewear, while spraying pesticides. Farmers should avoid spraying against the direction of the wind and must wash their hands thoroughly before eating, drinking, or smoking.

At home, pesticides should always be stored securely away from children, food items, and drinking water sources. Experts warned against storing chemicals in soft-drink or water bottles, a practice that can lead to accidental poisoning.

The advisory also addresses mental health concerns, reminding people that depression and emotional distress should not be ignored.

"Depression is not a source of shame. Talk to someone. Help is available," the advisory states, urging individuals facing mental health challenges to seek support rather than resorting to self-harm.

Health experts said responsible pesticide use is essential not only for protecting farmers and their families but also for safeguarding Kashmir's air, water, and soil resources.

The Department of Community Medicine, GMC Srinagar, has appealed to orchardists across the Valley to follow safety protocols strictly, recognise early signs of poisoning, and spread awareness within their communities to prevent avoidable tragedies during the spraying season. (KNO)

Accused can't

the law officer appearing for the CBI to come up with an equitable proposal.

It noted that during the hearing, the law officer submitted that they would supply a typed copy of those documents with a condition that Singh may use them only for the purpose of court proceedings and that the documents would not be circulated in any manner whatsoever, particularly in electronic or print media or through social media platforms.

"In view of the aforesaid, the order passed by the high court is set aside, and the order of the trial court stands modified. We direct that the typed copy of the documents as referred

in the application filed by the appellant under Section 207 of CrPC... be provided to the accused for the purpose of his defence within two months," the bench said.

The top court made clear that these documents should not be made public by way of electronic or print media, or any social platform or otherwise in any manner whatsoever.

"An undertaking in this regard be filed by the appellant before the trial court within one month," the bench said while disposing of the plea.

The CBI registered a case against Singh in September 2007, on a complaint that he allegedly revealed secret information by publication of his book titled 'India's External Intelligence - Secrets of Research and Analysis Wing'.

A chargesheet was filed for the alleged offences under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act and the Indian Penal Code in April 2008, with a request before the trial court to keep the classified documents forming part of the chargesheet in a sealed cover.

Later, Singh filed an application under Section 207 of the CrPC before the trial court.

In December 2009, the trial court directed the CBI to supply copies of documents sought by Singh after moving an appropriate application for the de-sealing of those documents.

The trial court passed the direction subject to the condition that the documents so supplied would remain in the personal custody of the counsel representing Singh and that the same be not circulated in any manner.

The prosecution challenged the trial court's order before the high court.

The high court modified the order with a direction that Singh was permitted to inspect the documents lying with the trial court in order to enable him to effectively defend himself in the trial.

130th annual Urs

participate in the annual Urs, which is marked by Quran recitation, religious sermons, collective prayers and remembrance of the teachings and spiritual legacy of Hazrat Mian Nizam-ud-Din Kiyani (RA). (KNO)

Sanctions threat to India would 'boomerang' under PM Modi's leadership: Putin

PTI

St Petersburg, Jun 6: Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that any attempt to undermine India's sovereignty through "threats of sanctions" would "boomerang immediately" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Putin made these remarks at the annual St Petersburg International Economic Forum on Friday in response to a question about his comments during an interaction with heads of leading global news agencies, including PTI, on Thursday night.

"India always acts as a sovereign country, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, any potential threats of sanctions would boomerang immediately," Putin said.

Putin said that he has been in close talks with Prime Minister Modi for a long period, while recalling the time when the Indian leader was banned from entering the United States.

"I know PM Modi will never forget about it," Putin said. "Now that he is (the) prime minister, all the sanctions have been eliminated, and the relationship between the US and India is developing successfully as far as I understand."

Asked about the possibility of India facing US sanctions if it



were to acquire Russian defence systems such as the Su-57 aircraft or the S-500 air defence platform, Putin said. "India is a sovereign country, and it is free to choose those products that they consider to be most up to date and most applicable for them and obviously offering the best price. No matter what people say, India has always been acting in this manner."

"India is always guided by its national interests," he added.

Putin said that Russia's cooperation with India, just like with all other partners, is not subject to the political environment.

"We can't be dictated... Nobody can dictate to us, and nobody would even try to do

that. We are always going to do what we consider to be right, and we will always stand true to the commitments given to partners, especially partners like India," he said.

Highlighting Russia's long-standing relationship with India, especially in the area of defence, Putin said, "Our relations with the Indian friends are specific, thanks to our mutual trust. We concentrate not just on trade. Not just on buying and selling, we're also concentrating on joint research and development."

Putin highlighted how experts from both countries are working on the design of the mid-range missile BrahMos. On the

fifth-generation stealth aircraft Sukhoi Su-57, Putin said Russia had earlier proposed a joint development programme with India, but later pursued the project independently after the plan did not materialise.

"Su-57 is a very good aircraft, probably the most modern one, the most up-to-date in the world as of now," Putin said. "We offered that we should do that together. Well, it didn't work out, but we did it on our own, and we stand ready to sell Su-57."

For decades, Russia has served as India's primary defence supplier. However, persistent supply chain disruptions and delivery delays stemming from the war in Ukraine have forced New Delhi to aggressively diversify its military procurement strategy.

After a years-long search for a fifth-generation fighter jet, India has launched its ambitious Advanced Multirole Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project, widely regarded as the nation's largest indigenous aerospace programme.

As the aircraft under the AMCA project is unlikely to join the Indian Air Force (IAF) before 2035, the government is considering the procurement of at least two squadrons (around 36) of Su-57s, provided they fulfil the technical specifications.

RBI measures may bring \$50 billion inflows, bond inclusion could add more

IASNS

New Delhi, June 6: The Reserve Bank of India's latest policy measures aimed at attracting foreign capital could potentially bring nearly \$50 billion in inflows, while further gains may come if India secures greater participation in global bond indices, a report has said.

According to ICICI Bank Global Markets, measures announced by the central bank, including support for foreign currency deposits, concessional foreign exchange swap facilities for certain external borrowings and broader access for overseas investors, could attract around \$50 billion in inflows.

While keeping the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent, the central bank announced a series of measures designed to encourage foreign currency inflows, improve liquidity conditions and support financial markets amid rising global uncertainties.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) -- led by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra -- decided to maintain rates and retain a neutral stance, citing geopolitical tensions, elevated energy prices and uncertainties surrounding global growth and inflation.

Some forces trying to push country's youths towards 'negative politics': BJP chief

PTI

Ranchi, Jun 6: BJP president Nitin Nabin on Saturday alleged that some forces were trying to push the country's youths towards "negative politics".

In an apparent reference to Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke, he said, "Some people sitting abroad assume they can give directions to the youths of India."

"Today's youths want to work towards nation-building and secure their future. But some forces are trying to make the country's youths anti-establishment," Nabin said during an interaction with intellectuals in Ranchi.

The BJP president is on a two-day visit to Jharkhand, during which he is scheduled to take part in several party events and organisational meetings.

"Those who want to push the youths of this country towards negative politics, I warn them that the youths of India will choose positive politics," Nabin said. People have the right to



oppose, but within democratic norms, he said.

He said the country's youths are known for innovation and creation.

"Because of their dedication, hard work and efforts, around two lakh startups have come up. The country aims to become a global IT hub," Nabin said.

"The anti-establishment campaigns we witnessed in our neighbouring countries can never be for the country's youths, who will work in

a disciplined manner to build the nation," he said.

Some people sitting abroad think they can give direction to the youths of India, but the youths are not going to become a puppet in the hands of a few people, the BJP chief said.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working towards the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

During the past 12 years of the Modi government, drastic changes have taken place, he said.

"Over 25 crore people have come out of poverty and 80 crore people are being provided with 5 kg free ration," Nabin said.

In the last 12 years, around 54 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been opened, three lakh women became 'Lakhpati Didis', 10 crore families have been linked to self-help groups, 12 crore toilets have been built, four crore houses have been provided under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and 10 crore LPG connections have been given under the Ujjwala Yojana, the BJP leader said.

CJP warns of nationwide agitation if Union education minister not removed in seven days

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 6: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), which organised a protest led by its founder Abhijeet Dipke at the Jantar Mantar here on Saturday demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's removal, warned that the agitation would expand across the country if he is not sacked or does not resign voluntarily.

Addressing a press conference, CJP spokespersons Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das said the protest had drawn participants from several states and marked the beginning of a broader youth movement centred on education and governance issues.

Birthing as an online campaign in May, the CJP, which garnered over 22 million followers on Instagram, had exhorted youths to take part in the protest in the national capital over the issue of alleged irregularities in examinations and recruitment tests, in an apparent show of strength.

"We are giving the government seven days. Either Dharmendra Pradhan should resign respectfully, or Prime Minister Narendra Modi should sack him. If his resignation does not come within seven days, this movement will spread throughout the country," Ranka said.

He said the organisers were receiving messages from supporters in different states expressing readiness to hold peaceful demonstrations, and claimed the group would wait for a week before announcing its next course of action.

Describing the turnout on Saturday as a significant moment, Ranka said the protest demonstrated that young people were willing to mobilise around issues affecting them.

"June 6, 2026, will be written in history because today the politics of this country has completely changed," he said, adding that many young people who were often discouraged from taking to the streets had come together for a peaceful

demonstration.

The organisers repeatedly projected the protest as a youth-led campaign and sought to frame it as a response to concerns surrounding the education system.

"The time has come to reset our education system, and we have started that reset today," Ranka said, asserting that the demand for Pradhan's resignation was the immediate focus of the movement.

According to him, removing the education minister was necessary if meaningful reforms were to be undertaken.

"Until this education minister is there, we will not be able to improve the education system of this country," he said.

While maintaining that the resignation demand remained the top priority, Ranka indicated that the campaign would continue beyond that issue.

"This is just the beginning. There are so many problems of the youth of this country," he said, arguing that concerns relating to education had not received adequate attention.

Asked whether the mobilisation should be viewed as a protest, a movement or a political platform, Ranka described it as "a platform for the youth", "a collective for the youth" and "a movement for the youth", while leaving open how it may evolve in the future.

The organisers also rejected suggestions that the mobilisation was linked to any established political formation and described themselves as "pro-youth, pro-education, pro-Constitution and pro-India".

Ranka claimed the turnout had exceeded expectations and emphasised that the gathering remained peaceful despite the crowds. "It was such a huge crowd, and yet it remained a very, very peaceful protest. Maybe one of the most peaceful protests the country has seen in a while," he said.

"The Gen Z and the youth of this country have Gandhi and Ambedkar in their blood," he added, thanking participants who had travelled from different parts of the country to attend the event.

NEET-UG 2026

NTA dismisses claims of re-exam paper 'leak', warns of action

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 6: 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 creating, circulating or forwarding such fraudulent content and attempting to defraud students constituted a serious punishable offence.

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mushtaq Ahmad Kawa D/o: Sonaualla Kawa R/o: Shair Colony.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death)
...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Arfat Mushtaq D/o: Mushtaq Ahmad Kawa as 05-08-2018 at Home.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Syed Farooq Peer S/o: Habibullah Peer R/o: Saidpora Tehsil Dangerpora.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death)
...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Emeen Farooq S/o: Syed Farooq Peer as 10.08.2021 at Mother & Child Hospital Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mohammad Iqbal War S/o: Ghulam Mohammad War R/o: Warpora Tehsil Dangerpora.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death)
...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Hadi Iqbal War S/o: Mohammad Iqbal War as 26-08-2012 at Guru Hospital Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mohammad Ashraf Malla S/o: Habibullah Malla R/o: Wagub Tehsil Khoie.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death)
...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Mohammad Nadeem Malla S/o: Mohammad Ashraf Malla as 02-01-2003 at Mother & Child Hospital Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Manzoor Ahmad Najar S/o: Abdul Qayoom Najar R/o: Seer Jagir Sopore.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death)
...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Haris Manzoor S/o: Manzoor Ahmad Najar as 03-05-2012 at Home Seer Jagir Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

US says it intercepted Iranian ballistic missiles, drones aimed at Gulf allies, Strait of Hormuz

AP

Dubai, Jun 6: The US military said it shot down Iranian ballistic missiles and drones launched toward the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf Arab allies on Friday, while striking some of the Islamic Republic's coastal surveillance radar sites in response, an exchange of fire that further frayed a shaky ceasefire with Tehran.

The exchange of strikes comes as the Trump administration ramps up pressure on Iran to make a deal to end the conflict.

US Central Command said on social media Friday night that Iran fired seven ballistic missiles toward Kuwait and Bahrain, with US forces intercepting six of the missiles and a seventh failing to reach its target. The military said there were no reports of harm to US personnel.

The ballistic missiles were fired after the US earlier in the day shot down four Iranian drones that were launched toward Strait of Hormuz.

"The attack drones posed an immediate threat to regional maritime traffic," US Central Command said on social media.

Kuwait's military said forces were intercepting missiles and drones attacking the country, while Bahrain activated air raid sirens and told residents to move to the nearest safe location and follow official instructions. Iran's



Revolutionary Guard said it targeted the Ali Al Salem airbase, which hosts US forces in Kuwait, and the US Navy's 5th Fleet in the tiny Gulf island nation of Bahrain, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

The US military is enforcing a blockade on Iranian ports in response to Tehran's chokehold on the crucial corridor for global oil and natural gas shipments, which has sent energy prices spiking and posed political problems for President Donald Trump's Republican Party ahead of the midterm congressional elections.

US Central Command said it hit the radar sites, including an island

in the strait, "to defend against further attacks."

Trump promises a quick end to US-Iran conflict

It was the latest in back-and-forth attacks that have strained the tenuous ceasefire in the war and efforts to reach a deal to extend that truce. Earlier this week, Iranian drones heavily damaged a passenger terminal at Kuwait's main airport, killing one person, wounding dozens and briefly closing the airfield.

Despite the attacks raising new concerns that the ceasefire could collapse, Trump told reporters Friday that "the situation with Iran seems to be going quite well."

"We're going to come out of Iran very strong one way or the other, whether it's a piece of paper or the very tough way," Trump said at an event with farmers in Wisconsin. "The very tough way is maybe the easier way, but we're going to come out, and your fertilizer prices are going to go way down, just like they were four months ago."

Trump increasingly appears to be boxed in on a conflict that has settled into a holding pattern. U.S. and Iranian negotiators reached a tentative agreement a week ago to extend the ceasefire by 60 days and start a new round of talks on Iran's nuclear program. But Trump has called for unspecified changes and Iranian officials have shown no public signs of signing off on the deal.

Asked on Friday why it was taking so long, Trump told NBC's "Meet the Press" it was because "it's a very hard thing for them," citing their "great independence" and the fact that "they're strong, they're proud."

"There are things they never thought they'd be doing that they're going to have to do. They've got no choice, and it takes a little while," he said in the interview.

Trump said the Iranians still have 21 per cent to 22 per cent of their missiles.

Israeli strikes on Lebanon continue. His administration also has touted the latest ceasefire

agreed to this week by the Lebanese government and Israel after US-brokered talks in Washington. However, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group has rejected the agreement and new attacks have put it at further risk.

The Israeli military on Friday struck multiple parts of southern Lebanon and issued evacuation warnings for nine villages, including one that has sheltered thousands of people displaced by the fighting. The strikes killed nine people in six locations in southern Lebanon, the state news agency reported.

The Israeli military said two soldiers were wounded, one severely, in an encounter Friday with militants in southern Lebanon.

The fighting in Lebanon, where Israeli forces have seized large swaths of the south, also threatens efforts to end the Iran war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz because Iran has demanded that any lasting truce extend to Lebanon.

Besides the drone interception in the Strait of Hormuz, the US military said earlier Friday that its forces boarded a sanctioned oil tanker linked to Iran in the Indian Ocean as the United States seeks to prevent Iran from profiting off its oil and other goods.

The US also targeted Iran's energy sector with new sanctions on a group of people, firms and tankers.

Praggnanandhaa triumphs at Norway Chess in historic first for India



PTI

Oslo, Jun 6: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa etched his name in the history books as he became the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess title with a final-round victory over Germany's Vincent Keymer here, capping off a brilliant campaign in style.

Praggnanandhaa, who began the final round in second place with 15 points on Friday, delivered when it mattered the most, securing a classical win worth three full points to finish on 18 points and clinch one of the most coveted trophies in elite chess. In doing so, the 20-year-old Chennai player achieved a feat that had eluded even Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand and

reigning world champion D Gukesh among others, since the tournament's inception in 2013.

Competing in Norway Chess for only the second time, Praggnanandhaa endured a slow start in the elite six-player field before gathering momentum in the second half of the event to secure four wins on the trot.

His campaign was highlighted by a remarkable achievement -- defeating seven-time Norway Chess champion and World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen twice in classical chess -- a rare accomplishment that underlined his determination to bounce back from the disappointment of an underwhelming Candidates Tournament in Paphos earlier this year.

Amit Shah congratulates Praggnanandhaa, Women's Hockey U18 team

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 6: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday congratulated Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa on becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess title and the Women's U18 Hockey Team on winning the Bronze Medal at the Asia Cup.

"Kudos to @rpraggnachess on becoming the Norway Chess Champion 2026," Shah said in a post on X.

"You have made the nation proud with the victory earned through wholehearted dedication, brilliant moves and strategic thinking. May you continue to inspire our youngsters by bringing home more honours," he said. Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess title with



a final-round victory over Germany's Vincent Keymer in Oslo.

In a separate message, Shah said, "Congratulations to the Women's U18 Hockey Team on winning the Bronze Medal at the U18 Asia Cup 2026. Your feat will certainly boost the sport and its

enthusiasts. Keep the winning streak going."

The Indian hockey team won the bronze medal at the Women's U18 Asia Cup, registering a convincing 3-0 victory over Korea in the third-place match at Kakamigahara in Japan on Saturday.

India beat Bangladesh 3-1 in final to win SAFF Women's C'ships title for sixth time



PTI

Margao, Jun 6: India clinched the SAFF Women's Championships football title for the sixth time and their first after seven years, with a dominant 3-1 win over Bangladesh in the summit clash here on Saturday.

Pyari Xaxa (42nd), Sanfida Nongrum (46th) and Lynda Kom Serto (82nd) scored the goals for India, while Ritu Porna Chakma

(45+2) pulled one back for Bangladesh.

The hosts had beaten the same opponents 3-0 in the group stage.

India ended the tournament unbeaten, scoring 18 goals while conceding just one, showcasing their dominance in the tournament. They had begun their campaign with an emphatic 11-0 victory over Maldives before convincingly blanking Bangladesh 3-0 to top Group B.

Pope Leo heads to Spain with migrants, polarization in focus

REUTERS

Vatican City, Jun 6: Pope Leo set off on Saturday for a week-long visit to Spain, his first to an EU country outside Italy, where he will inaugurate a new tower in Barcelona's famed Sagrada Familia basilica and meet migrants who braved dangerous Atlantic waters to reach Europe.

The first American head of the Catholic Church is expected to draw large crowds on the June 6-12 trip, which also includes stops in Madrid, Montserrat Monastery and the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago off the west coast of Africa.

Leo, who angered US President Donald Trump by criticizing his anti-immigration policies, will meet on the last stop with migrants and organizations dedicated to helping them.

The situation faced by migrants is profoundly close to the pope's heart, said Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican's press office. "These are people, and their stories must touch us."

POPE LEO EXPECTED TO DECRY WARS AND POLARIZATION

Leo, who has adopted a more forceful tone against the direction of global leadership in recent months, is scheduled to give more than 20 speeches, becoming the first pope to address the Spanish parliament.

PM congratulates Indian men's, women's U18 hockey teams on winning medals

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated Indian men's U18 hockey team on winning the Men's U18 Asia Cup and the Indian women's U18 hockey team on securing the bronze medal at the tournament held in Japan's Kakamigahara.

"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," Modi said in a

post on X.

The prime minister said 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," he said.

In another message, Modi said: "Congratulations to the Indian Women's U18 Hockey Team on securing the Bronze Medal at the U18 Asia Cup 2026".



Movies Watchlist

Saturday, 6th June

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

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Call: 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets