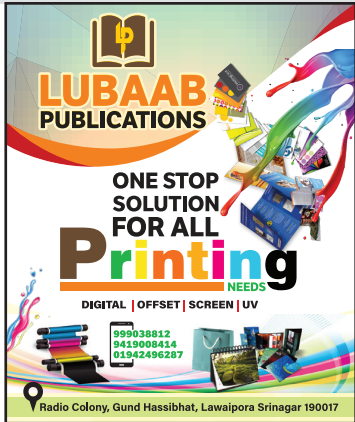


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15TH  
YEAR OF  
PUBLICATION

HEADLINES  
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



# AIIMS Jammu Among India's Top Healthcare Facilities: CM Omar



**HT News Desk**  
JAMMU, JUL 17: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed satisfaction over the progress made by AIIMS Jammu in a short period and said that perhaps the institute will be counted among the best

of the 23 AIIMS in the country.  
"If we look at the 22 other AIIMS in the country, perhaps the best AIIMS will be counted as that of Jammu. Not only do patients from Jammu come here for treatment but also patients from neighbouring states have begun  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## Delegations Meet CM Omar at Jammu Outreach Office

**HT News Desk**

JAMMU, JULY 17: Several deputations and individuals today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Public Outreach Office, Raabita, Jammu, and apprised him of various issues, grievances and sector-specific demands.  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## CM Omar Inspects Mubarak Mandi, Stresses Heritage Appeal

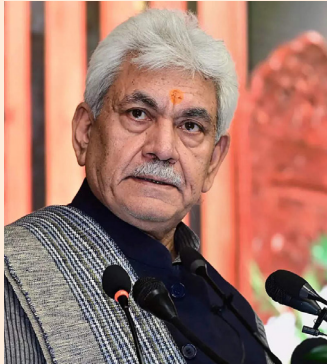
**HT News Desk**

JAMMU, JULY 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reviewed the ongoing restoration and development of the historic Mubarak Mandi Complex in Jammu.  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## LG's Sainik Sahayta Kendra (LGSSK) to Come up in J&K

**HT News Desk / DIPR**

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir has accorded sanction for the establishment of the Lieutenant Governor's Sainik Sahayta Kendra (LGSSK), a dedicated institutional mechanism to assist and address civilian grievances of serving soldiers from the Indian Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces. The Kendra, constituted under Government Order No. 933-JK(GAD) of 2025 dated 17.07.2025, aims to provide systematic grievance redressal support to soldiers who are either posted in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir or originally belong to the UT and are presently serving in other parts of the country.  
Functioning as a Soldiers' Assistance and Liaison Cell, the Kendra shall serve as a single-window platform for receiving,  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**



## DGP Prabhat Reviews LoC Security, Stresses Tech Surveillance

**United News of India**

JAMMU, JUL 17: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and emphasised the importance of inter-agency synergy, real-time intelligence sharing, and technology-enabled surveillance along the borderline.

The DGP visited the Buchohemandi area in the Akhnour sector, a strategically important area along the LoC, a police spokesperson said.

The DGP, who was accompanied by IGP Jammu Zone Bhim Sen Tuti and senior officers of the police and Army deployed in the sector, was briefed by Army authorities

on the border security grid, with specific focus on vulnerabilities, surveillance infrastructure, police-Army coordination, and preparedness of ground units to respond to any cross-border threat.

"The visit also aimed at assessing the terrain, visibility advantage, and layout of  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## Akash Prime Successfully Tested in Ladakh

**United News of India**

NEW DELHI, JULY 17: India achieved a significant milestone, as Akash Prime, the upgraded variant of Akash Weapon System, successfully engaged and destroyed two aerial high-speed unmanned targets during trials at high altitude in the Ladakh sector yesterday.

The weapon system is customised to operate at altitudes above 4500 meters and has latest upgrades, including an indigenous developed radio frequency seeker, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Based on the operational feedback from users, various upgrades are made to improve the operational effectiveness, demonstrating the advantage of the ecosystem created for the indigenous weapon system.  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## Kavinder Gupta to take oath as LG Ladakh today

**United News of India**

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: Kavinder Gupta, former deputy chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir and veteran BJP leader, is set to be sworn in as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh on Friday morning at Leh.

Official sources said that Gupta would be administered the oath of office by chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, tomorrow morning at Leh.

His warrant of appointment is likely to be read out by chief secretary Pawan Kotwal. The oath ceremony, scheduled to take place at Raj Niwas at 9:30 am, would be attended by Chief Executive Councilors and Executive Councilors of Leh and Kargil Hill Councils, representatives of Leh Apex  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## Rainfall in J&K: Water bodies see significant rise

**HT News Network / KNO**

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: The recent spells of rainfall in Kashmir have significantly raised the water levels in the river Jhelum and its tributaries, providing much-needed relief to the agriculture and horticulture sectors, the official data here revealed.

According to the latest readings by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, on July 17, the Jhelum was flowing as Sangam: 9.50 ft (flood mark: 21 ft); Pampore: 1.55 m (flood mark: 4.5 m); Munshi Bagh: 9.57 ft (flood mark: 18 ft); Asham: 5.33 ft (flood mark: 14 ft); and Wullar  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## Nation Secured, Thanks to PM Modi : Amit Shah

Says in Cong rule people faced terror attacks every day

**HT News Desk / KNO**

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: Stating that during Congress rule, the country had to face terror attacks almost every day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his tenure has done the biggest job of securing the country.

Addressing a function in Jaipur Shah, while referring to the actions taken against terrorism by PM Modi led regime, said, "When the Uri attack occurred, PM Modi took a decisive action and a surgical strike was carried out. Following the Pulwama attack, an airstrike was done, and when an attack took place  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## Mess With Indians, Face Consequences: Shah

**United News of India**

JAIPUR, JULY 17: Union Home  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## Amarnath Yatra

### Over 2.51 Lakh Yatris Performed In 15 Days

**HT News Desk**

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: As Yatris were allowed to move from the two base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam towards the Amarnath cave shrine as weather improved on Thursday, more than 2.51 lakh had 'Darshan' during the first 15 days since the Yatra started on July 3.

Due to bad weather the Yatra had been momentarily suspended on Thursday, but as the weather improved, Yatris were allowed to move towards the cave shrine from the two base camps of Baltal and Nunwan (Pahalgam).

Officials said the Yatra continues to draw thousands of devotees from across the country and abroad.

Officials added that a total of 5,110 pilgrims had darshan till 2 p.m. on Thursday, bringing the total number of Yatris who performed the Yatra  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## Amarnath Yatra Halted for a Day

**HT News Desk**

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Shri Amarnathji Yatra has been suspended for 17.07.2025 from both Pahalgam and Baltal base camps. Heavy continuous rains over last two days have necessitated restoration work to be carried out on tracks along both the routes. Border Roads Organization has made heavy deployment of its men and machinery on the tracks to  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## Land Fraud Case CBK raids 7 locations in twin districts Registers FIR against Tehsildar, 6 others

**HT News Desk / KNO**

SRINAGAR, JUL 17: The Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir on Thursday said to have conducted searches at multiple locations in Srinagar and Budgam districts and registered an FIR against seven individuals in a land fraud case.

They said that among the accused persons, one is a former Tehsildar, who is 'allegedly involved in a land fraud case' related to cheating, corruption and tampering with revenue records.

In a press conference held today at Crime Branch headquarters in Srinagar, Senior Super-

intendent of Police (SSP) Crime Branch Abdul Wahid Shah said that the agency has booked the accused in connection with fraudulent land deals in Balhama area.

He said the complaint was filed by a woman, who alleged she was deceived by the accused, who manipulated khasra numbers in the sale deeds and carried out false mutations in connivance with revenue officials.

The SSP said the complainant stated she had purchased 5 kanals and 4 marlas of land from one Mohammad Shafi Lone alias Shafi Cheeni for Rs 88.4 lakh and also exchanged 2 kanals  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## Patient-care hit as Doctors' strike enters day 2 at GMC Jammu

**HT News Desk / KNO**

JAMMU, JUL 17: The ongoing strike by the resident doctors at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu entered its second day on Thursday to protest against an assault of a female resident doctor.

The strike, initiated by the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) of GMC Jammu, has led to the shutdown of all emergency and outpatient department (OPD) services, significantly impacting the patient care.

While faculty members have been deployed to maintain emergency services, the absence of resident doctors has led to delays and disruptions.  
**TURN ON PAGE 2**

## AN APPEAL TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

VMS SPECIALTY  
HOSPITAL (VMSSH)



FROM THIS:



TO THIS:



YOU SUPPORTED US ALL THROUGH  
NOW A LITTLE MORE EFFORT & WE WILL OPEN  
THE DOORS OF THIS HOSPITAL TO OUR  
CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM HEART DISEASE:

Our vision is clear:  
**Healthy Children Shape a Healthier Society**

The hospital is taking form—paint, tiles, and firefighting systems are in place—

But vital work remains: air conditioning, medical gas pipelines, electrical systems, and partitioning.



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One Last Push To Keep Young  
Hearts Beating: Every Penny  
Supports A Heart Beat

Advt - Comp...





## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### AIIMS Jammu.....

coming here,” Abdullah told reporters. He said that this is even though it is not easy to travel on this highway. “Once the expressway gets completed, the rush of patients will increase,” he said.

Abdullah visited AIIMS in Samba on Thursday to review its functioning and expressed satisfaction over the remarkable progress made by the institution in a short period.

Accompanied by Adviser to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Abdullah addressed a gathering of AIIMS management, students and medical staff, and lauded the efforts that have shaped AIIMS Jammu into a state-of-the-art healthcare and academic institution.

“The successful establishment and functioning of AIIMS is a testament to the power of will and vision. The dream of the prime minister has truly taken shape here,” the chief minister said, adding, “World-class efforts and endeavour seem to have come together to create this exceptional facility.” Highlighting the growing importance of the institution, the chief minister noted, “It is heartening to see AIIMS already serving patients from across the country. The completion of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway will further facilitate access for patients.” He expressed the hope that other healthcare institutions across Jammu and Kashmir would emulate this model of excellence.

The chief minister assured full government support to the institution and its vision of growth and expansion. He praised the ambitions of the AIIMS management and hoped that AIIMS Kashmir would be completed soon and become operational.

While releasing the Manual of Disaster Management prepared by AIIMS Jammu, the chief minister underscored the need for readiness.

“We sincerely hope never to face a situation that requires the use of this manual. Yet, in the interest of preparedness, it is better to have and not need than to need and not have. Such forward-thinking initiatives by institutions like AIIMS are commendable,” he said.

Wani also addressed the gathering and congratulated AIIMS Jammu for its impressive infrastructure, lush green campus and emergence as a hub of medical excellence.

He appreciated the hospital’s patient-friendly registration process and the quality of its treatment facilities.

Prof. Shakti Kumar Gupta presented a comprehensive overview of the institution’s progress, sharing the vision of AIIMS Jammu to become a global centre of healthcare, research and education.

He said that patient feedback indicates that 82 per cent of discharged patients are highly satisfied, with another 17 per cent satisfied with the services provided. He also outlined several key statistics demonstrating the hospital’s growing capabilities.

Earlier, the chief minister toured various sections of the campus, including diagnostic labs, testing facilities, in-patient wards and high-tech academic classrooms, taking stock of infrastructure and operational readiness.

### Delegations.....

The visiting delegations and individuals expressed gratitude for the government’s open-door policy and brought forth important concerns from diverse sectors including infrastructure, automobile, education, industry, sports, adventure tourism, and welfare of specially-abled children.

Ms. Kavita Shirvaikar, Managing Director of Patel Engineering Ltd., along Deputy General Manager and Project In-charge of the Parnai Hydro Electric Project, discussed key issues pertaining to the implementation and progress of the hydroelectric project in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA), Jammu, led a delegation conveyed sector-specific recommendations aimed at strengthening the automobile industry in the region.

In recognition of outstanding sports achievements, Satwik Luthra, who secured silver medals in both the Khelo India Games held in Patna (May 2025) and the National Games in Himachal Pradesh (December 2024), was warmly acknowledged for bringing laurels to Jammu and Kashmir in the field of weightlifting.

Dr. Harpreet Singh, Principal of Jammu Sanskriti School, met the Chief Minister to felicitate the Children with Special Needs (CWSN) achievers who excelled in Volleyball and Badminton at the Special Olympics Bharat’s National Unified Sports Meet held at IIT Gandhinagar.

Rakesh Sharma, President, Confederation of Industries & Commerce J&K, and Member of the National Council of CPI, called on the Chief Minister along with other representatives to raise pressing issues being faced by entrepreneurs and the industrial sector in the region.

Dr. Surinder Kumar Atri, Principal of Government Medical College, Kathua, apprised the Chief Minister about various academic and infrastructural challenges at the college and sought government intervention for redressal.

Kamal Gupta, Chairman of the J&K Private School Association, along with senior representatives, discussed challenges confronting unaided private schools and emphasized the need for policy support to sustain quality education.

A delegation of Pashmina Goat Project, met the Chief Minister to discuss further developmental opportunities under the initiative.

A delegation of Xtreme Adventures briefed the Chief Minister on the potential and revival strategies for adventure tourism in Jammu region, stressing its role in employment generation and youth engagement.

A group of NSS Volunteers who represented Jammu and Kashmir at the prestigious NSS Republic Day Parade Camp in New Delhi on the occasion

of the 76th Republic Day also called on the Chief Minister to share their experiences and achievements. Former Minister Ajay Sadhotra also met the Chief Minister and held a brief interaction.

The Chief Minister appreciated contributions of the visiting delegations in their respective fields and assured appropriate follow-up on each matter raised during the interactions.

### CM Omar.....

Accompanied by Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Yudhvir Sethi, the Chief Minister visited the site and received a detailed briefing on the multi-phase project aimed at reviving the architectural grandeur of the former Dogra royal palace.

Principal Secretary Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, provided an overview of the project’s implementation, while Executive Director of the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society, Deepika Sharma, gave a presentation outlining its various components.

The briefing gave details of how each zone will depict a distinct cultural theme. Under the Jammu Smart City Mission, some innovative initiatives such as a library-cum-café in the complex would be available for the public within a historic setting.

It was informed that master plan divides the complex into six zones, including public spaces, knowledge centres, experiential areas and a crafts bazaar.

Key infrastructure proposals, including a span bridge and lift installations, were also discussed to improve accessibility and to augment visitors’ experience. Officers informed the Chief Minister that most structures are recoverable and are being systematically restored to their original splendour.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasised key priorities for the project’s vision. He said the central courtyard area should be developed as a priority for public attraction and must look welcoming for visitors, highlighting the need for an entrance reflecting its true heritage character. He urged the timely completion of ongoing works, stating that pending projects must be completed as early as possible to give meaningful purpose to the project. In a call for cultural revival, he added that Dogra crafts must be promoted through events and planned activities in the complex.

Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani echoed the Chief Minister’s sentiments, stating that it is important that Mubarak Mandi is attractive to visitors and becomes a vibrant heritage site that balances historical authenticity with modern expectations.

The Mubarak Mandi Complex is one of Jammu’s most significant architectural heritage sites and is envisioned as a comprehensive cultural centre, housing museums, conference venues and heritage hospitality services.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister also reviewed operational challenges and future requirements to ensure the project addresses both immediate restoration goals and long-term sustainability.

Senior officers, including the Joint Commissioner JMC (also Additional CEO Jammu Smart City), Subah Mehta, Superintending Engineer Public Works Department Ashwani Kangotra and others concerned, were also present during the meeting.

### LG Sets Up....

assessing, and facilitating resolution of grievances submitted by soldiers. It will also arrange appointments with concerned civil or police officials at the district level, follow up on pending matters, maintain a performance dashboard for monitoring, and submit quarterly performance reports to the Hon’ble Lieutenant Governor. The Kendra will begin operations immediately from its offices at the Civil Secretariat in both Jammu and Srinagar.

To support the functioning of the LGSSK, the Information Technology Department will provide two officials each at Jammu and Srinagar, proficient in data entry, case tracking, file maintenance, and communications, along with the necessary computer systems and allied hardware. The Estates Department has been directed to provide appropriate accommodation for the Kendra at both Secretariat locations.

Further, for the operationalization of the Kendra, the following officers have been nominated in addition to their own duties: Shri Prasanna Ramaswamy G, IAS, Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department; Shri Aflaq Ahmad, JKAS, Under Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department; and Shri Abhimanyu Singh, JKAS, Manager-cum-Protocol Officer at the Resident Commission, J&K Government, New Delhi.

The establishment of the Lieutenant Governor’s Sainik Sahayta Kendra reaffirms the UT Administration’s commitment to upholding the welfare and dignity of serving soldiers by ensuring timely and structured redressal of their civilian concerns through an institutional platform.

### DGP Prabhat.....

defensive positions in the forward area,” the spokesperson said.

During the field inspection, the DGP emphasised the importance of inter-agency synergy, real-time intelligence sharing, and technology-enabled surveillance to secure sensitive zones like Akhnoor, which have historically been prone to cross-border attempts by terrorist groups and smuggling networks.

The presence of senior leadership from the J&K Police, CRPF, and Indian Army underlines the strategic focus on joint operational readiness in the border zones.

### Akash Prime.....

Army Air Defence and DRDO, in conjunction with Defence PSUs such as Bharat Dynamics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited and other industry partners, have successfully validated the indigenously designed and developed Akash Prime Weapon System.

The trials were done as part of the first production

model firing trial and will further enable timely induction and enhance the air defence potential in high-altitude frontiers of the country.

This achievement carries added significance as it follows the exceptional performance of India’s indigenously developed air defence systems during Operation Sindoor. It marks a major step forward for the nation’s missile development programs, which are now gaining increasing attention in the global defence market.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented the Indian Army, DRDO, and the industry on this remarkable achievement. He described the success as a significant boost to India’s air defence capabilities, particularly for meeting high-altitude operational requirements.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of DRDO Samir V Kamat congratulated the teams associated with the successful test and stated that the missile has met the country’s critical air defence requirements for high altitude.

UNI RBE ARN

### PM Modi.....

in Pahalgam, Operation Sindoor was launched, targeting terrorists within Pakistan and eliminating them.”

The Union Home Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, “A strong message has gone out to the world that no one should mess with India’s citizens, its borders or its defence forces, and those who do so will have to face consequences.”

Referring to ‘Operation Sindoor’ launched after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Shah said, “PM Modi has conveyed a powerful message to the world that India’s citizens, armed forces, and borders should not be messed with. Anyone who dares to do so has to face consequences.”

Shah said that PM Modi has turned the vision of a prosperous, secure and developed India into reality.

“Under PM Modi’s leadership, the country has become the fourth largest economy in the world and 22 crore people were lifted above the poverty line,” he said.

“We are working to ensure that the benefits of cooperatives reach our people. Under PM Modi’s leadership, we have a plan that every beneficiary, whether it is the Centre or the State, should get its benefits,” he said.

### Mess With.....

Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said a strong message has gone out to the world that no one should mess with India’s citizens, its borders or its defence forces, and those who do so will have to face consequences.

Referring to Operation Sindoor carried out to destroy terrorist camps in Pakistan after the Pahalgam terrorist attack, Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done the biggest job of securing the country. During Congress rule, the country had to face terror attacks almost every day.

“When the Uri attack occurred, Modi took decisive action and a surgical strike was carried out. Following the Pulwama attack, an airstrike was done. And when an attack took place in Pahalgam, Operation Sindoor was launched, targeting terrorists within Pakistan and eliminating them,” he said.

Shah, who is also minister for cooperation, was here to attend an event on the occasion of International Cooperatives Year-2025.

“Modi’s actions sent a strong message globally. Through them, Modi conveyed a powerful message to the world that India’s citizens, armed forces, and borders should not be messed with. Anyone who dares to do so has to face consequences,” he said.

Modi, he added, has turned the vision of a prosperous, secure and developed India into reality.

Under Modi’s leadership, the country has become fourth largest economy in the world and 22 crore people were lifted above the poverty line, the Union minister told the gathering.

Praising Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, he said the BJP government in Rajasthan had done remarkable work in a short period of time.

“Rajasthan was suffering due to paper leaks. By forming an SIT, the Bhajanlal government has sent a strong message to the paper leak mafia,” he said.

Under Sharma’s leadership, Rajasthan signed MoUs worth Rs 35 lakh crore during an investment summit and work has already commenced on MoUs worth Rs 3 lakh crore, Shah said.

The BJP government in the state decreased VAT on petrol and diesel and several other initiatives were taken, he went on to say. He also praised the state government for effectively implementing schemes and programmes of the central government.

Shah lauded the contributions made by the cooperative sector in the country’s development over the last century and said that the next 100 years are the years of cooperatives.

“With the vision of reaching every corner of the nation, Modi established a Ministry of Cooperation at the central level. Today, cooperatives play an active role in 98 per cent of rural areas,” he said.

Highlighting the sector’s contribution to the economy, he said the ministry launched 61 initiatives in the last four years to strengthen the sector.

“The creation of two lakh new PACS (primary agricultural credit societies) has already started with 40,000 PACS already set up. We have completed the computerization of PACS and all states have accepted the new model bylaws for PACS,” he said.

He also spoke of Rajasthan’s agricultural contributions.

The minister said the government has initiated research on camel breed preservation and medicinal qualities of camel milk.

“This will ensure the long-term survival of camels in the coming years,” he said.

Chief Minister Sharma also highlighted the works and achievements of his government.

“We are working to ensure that the benefits of cooperatives reach our people. Under Modi’s leadership, we have a plan that every beneficiary, whether it is the Centre or the State, should get its benefits,” he said.

During his visit, Shah inaugurated 24 food grain storage warehouses and 64 millet outlets virtually and also visited an exhibition of cooperative products.

Among those present at the event were Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Deputy Chief Ministers Prem Chand Bairwa and Diya Kumari, and former chief minister Vasundhara Raje. (AGENCIES)

### Kavinder Gupta.....

Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, as well as senior officers from civil administration and police.

The LG-designate arrived in Ladakh today and received a warm welcome at Leh’s Kushok Bakula Rinpoche airport. Justice Pillai also reached Leh today to administer the oath to Gupta.

Gupta, was deputy CM in Mehooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP government, which collapsed in June 2018 following withdrawal of support to it by BJP, citing deteriorating security situation in the erstwhile state.

Gupta has become the first politician to hold the position of LG Ladakh. Until now, Ladakh UT has been administered by non-political appointees—Radha Krishna Mathur (a retired IAS officer) and Brigadier (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (an Army veteran). (KNO)

### Rainfall in J&K.....

Lake: 1575.08 m (full level: 1578.00 m).

The data also revealed that tributary levels were also higher but still below danger marks as Vishow Nallah at Khudwani: 5.36 m (flood mark: 7.75 m); Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi: 0.40 m (flood mark: 5.4 m); Liddar Nallah at Batkoot: 0.67 m (flood mark: 1.5 m); and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama: 1.84 m (flood mark: 3.65 m).

Notably, it has been already reported on July 16, that water levels were expected to increase as rainfall accumulation from upper catchments would reflect with a delay.

In the earlier report, it was noted that the water level at Sangam was 3.85 ft, Munshi Bagh at 5.94 ft, and Asham at 3.84 ft. The tributaries also showed low levels, including Vishow Nallah at 2.73 m and Wullar Lake at 1574.94 m.

Moreover, officials had earlier said there was no flood threat and water levels were being regularly monitored. It was also highlighted that the impact of rainfall in upper catchments would likely show a day later.

Meanwhile, Faizan Arif Keng, an Independent Weather Forecaster said the rain has helped ease the region’s water shortages. “The recent rains have raised the water level of the Jhelum, which will go a long way in addressing water scarcity. Streams and tributaries have also swelled, ensuring enough water for irrigation,” said Faizan.

Earlier, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast more rainfall in the coming days, especially between July 16–17 and again from July 21–23. (KNO)

### Over 2.51 Lakh.....

during the first 15 days to more than 2.51 lakh.

“This year’s Yatra, which marks a profound spiritual journey for countless devotees, has seen an overwhelming response, with people from all walks of life taking part in the pilgrimage to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva.”

“The 15-day mark reflects a steady and well-managed flow of Yatris, with authorities ensuring their comfort, safety, and spiritual fulfillment.”

“Pilgrims have expressed deep satisfaction over the arrangements made by the administration, including sanitation, healthcare, food, transportation, and security measures.”

“Many pilgrims have praised the dedicated services of the Shrine Board, security forces, volunteers, and various government departments involved in managing the Yatra.”

“Despite tough terrain and unpredictable weather conditions in the Himalayas, the Yatra is progressing smoothly. The authorities continue to monitor the situation closely and are prepared to handle any emergent challenges,” officials said.

With several more weeks to go before the conclusion of the pilgrimage, officials expect the number of pilgrims to rise significantly, reaffirming Shri Amarnathji Yatra’s status as one of India’s most respected journey of faith.

### Amarnath Yatra.....

complete the work before Yatra can be released from the two base camps on 18.07.2025.

“Due to the continuous rains over last couple of days, urgent repair and maintenance works are required to be carried out on the tracks. Therefore, it has been decided that no movement shall be allowed towards the Holy Cave from the two base camps today. However, yatris who stayed at Panjarni camp during the preceding night are being allowed to proceed down to Baltal under adequate deployment of BRO and Mountain Rescue Teams. The Yatra shall resume in all likelihood tomorrow, depending upon the weather conditions during the course of the day,” the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said.

So far, over 2.47 lakh pilgrims have paid

obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine during the Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025.

### CBK raids 7.....

of land in Gooripora Rawalpura.

“After the accused took back the original sale deeds for ‘record updation,’ they returned them with forged khasra numbers,” he said, adding that later, part of the land was forcibly occupied by another individual claiming it had been sold to him.

The SSP added that during the preliminary investigation, Crime Branch Kashmir found that the sale deeds had been tampered with to reflect incorrect survey numbers.

He added the then Tehsildar and Patwari of Balhama had allegedly facilitated these changes to confer illegal ownership to one of the accused, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat. “The accused named in FIR No. 14/2025 registered at Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir include: Nusrat Aziz, the then Tehsildar Balhama; Ashiq Ali, the then Patwari Balhama; Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, resident of Nowgam Srinagar; Mohammad Shafi Lone alias Shafi Cheeni, resident of Peer-bagh; Shamima Akhter, wife of Shafi Lone; Shahnawaz Ahmad Rather, resident of Pad-shahi Bagh; and Shabir Ahmad Wani, resident of Bagander Lasjan,” said the SSP.

He added the case has been registered under sections 167, 120-B RPC read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. SSP Shah also said that searches were underway at seven locations in both Srinagar and Budgam following search warrants issued by the competent court.

He further added that Tehsildar Nusrat Aziz is already facing trial in another case (FIR No. 08/2021) for similar charges including forgery, cheating and corruption.

“This indicates that the individuals involved may be part of an organized network deceiving innocent land buyers in Srinagar and adjoining areas,” the SSP said. Meanwhile, authorities said more arrests and legal action could follow as investigations progress. (KNO)

### Patient-care.....

The protest stems from demands for justice and enhanced security measures for healthcare professionals after the assault, which occurred following the death of a patient on July 16.

The strike was triggered by an altercation at GMC Jammu on July 16, after the death of 60-year-old patient Rajinder Kumar, who succumbed to respiratory arrest due to a severe brain haemorrhage.

The patient’s family accused the hospital staff of negligence, leading to a violent confrontation where a female resident doctor was allegedly kicked and assaulted by a relative of the deceased.

In response, junior doctors launched a flash strike, demanding immediate arrest of perpetrators and improved security protocols to protect medical professionals.

As of July 17, the RDA announced the complete closure of emergency and OPD services, citing the lack of action in connection with the assault.

The move has garnered support from doctors across India, with posts on X reflecting nationwide solidarity with the GMC Jammu doctors’ call for justice.

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean of GMC Jammu, addressed the media, condemning the violence and outlining measures to manage the crisis.

“In a gruesome incident on July 16, attendants of a terminally ill patient resorted to physical and verbal violence against our doctors on emergency duty. The patient had been referred back from PGI Chandigarh with a poor prognosis, clearly mentioned in the discharge summary. Despite being advised to seek basic care at a local hospital, the family brought the patient to GMC, where he received the best possible treatment. CCTV footage shows the family members kicking and beating the lady doctor. Such attacks are unacceptable.”

Dr. Gupta emphasized that emergency services would continue to be supported by faculty members and consultants to mitigate disruptions. He directed all Clinical and Para clinical Heads to ensure adequate staffing in the emergency department until normalcy is restored.

The Jammu and Kashmir Medical Students’ Association also issued a statement on X: “We strongly condemn this incident at GMC Jammu where a doctor was assaulted. Doctors are humans too, any grievance must be addressed through proper channels, not violence. We urge the Government to ensure strict action and provide immediate protection to healthcare workers across J&K.”

Meanwhile, the family of the deceased patient, Rajinder Kumar accused the hospital staff of negligence, which they claim led to the patient’s death.

The family’s allegations of negligence sparked the altercation, escalating into physical violence against the female doctor. No arrests have been reported as of the latest updates, fuelling the doctors’ decision to intensify the strike. Moreover, the RDA at GMC Jammu has demanded the immediate arrest of the individuals involved in the assault, enhanced security measures in hospitals, and stronger legal protections for medical professionals.

The doctors have vowed to continue the strike until their demands are met, with the possibility of further escalation if no action is taken. (KNO)





# Workshop on ‘Transforming the Skilling Landscape in J&K’ concludes successfully

CS calls it a forum to generate long term ‘Skill Vision Plan’ for J&K

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, JULY 17:** The Department of Skill Development, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, successfully concluded a two-day National Conference on “Transforming the Skilling Ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir” held on July 16–17, 2025 in Srinagar.

The conference brought together over 100 key stakeholders from across India—including senior government officials, industry leaders, academic experts, civil society representatives, and skilling professionals—to chart a unified and outcome-driven roadmap for skilling in J&K.

Delivering the keynote address, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, reaffirmed the government’s commitment to creating sustainable skilling pathways aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat.

He calls it a moment to align skilling with the aspirations of our youth and the demands of



a dynamic economy. He termed this workshop a deliberating form where all national level stakeholders put their heads together to give their inputs about framing a robust ‘Skill Vision Plan’ for J&K to implement over the next several years.

Key messages from the Chief Secretary’s address included the active involvement of industries in co-developing curricula. He also called for the introduction of vocational education

at the school and college level. Emphasizing adaptability through the quote: “The illiterate of the future will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

Secretary, Department of Skill Development, Shri Rajeev Ranjan, echoed these sentiments, stating that “The real challenge today is not unemployment, but unemployability.”

He underscored the need for

aligning workforce skills with evolving market requirements and stressed that curriculum design must be integrated with delivery mechanisms for tangible outcomes.

Shahzad Alam, Director, Skill Development Department, played a key leadership role in steering the conference, ensuring cross-sectoral participation and driving forward the vision of a holistic skilling ecosystem.

The Conference Highlights



constituted the strategic panels on Systemic Gaps and Market Alignment, Market Needs vs. Skill Gaps, Systemic Skilling Reform through Coordination, Apprenticeship to Placement, Innovation, Infrastructure, Curriculum for Future-Readiness, Human Resource Management in Skilling, Strengthening the role of Education Institutions, Tech Tools & Data Systems in Skilling, Skilling for Entrepreneurship

Key Themes Across the

Conference includes current state of skilling infrastructure in J&K, Sector-wise skill-gap analysis, Alignment of curriculum with industry needs, Best practices in public-private partnership (PPP) model besides others.

One of the central outcomes of the conference was a structured consultation on a visionary skilling roadmap for Jammu & Kashmir. This roadmap envisions “Skills for All”—including students, women, and youth in

rural areas. Building a supportive and collaborative ecosystem for the same in the times to come.

The roadmap aspires to position J&K as a national model for outcome-oriented, inclusive, and innovation-driven skilling. Key components include the proposed Skills University, digital integration of platforms, focus on green and emerging jobs, and synergy with MSMEs and entrepreneurship networks across the country.

## PWD promotes 20 AEEs as Incharge Executive Engineers

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR JULY 17:** In a significant administrative development, the Public Works (R&B) Department today ordered placement of 20 Assistant Executive Engineers and Incharge Assistant Executive Engineers (Mechanical) as Incharge Executive Engineers. This long-pending placement has been made after considerable delay and was expedited due to the personal intervention of Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, who has been consistently advocating for timely career progression and addressing stagnation in the department.

Congratulating the promotees, the Deputy Chief Minister said that this move is expected to streamline the departmental functioning and bring greater efficiency and accountability in the mechanical engineering wing of the PWD (R&B).

He expressed confidence that the elevated officers will contribute effectively in their new roles and uphold the spirit of service delivery and infrastructure development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Engineering fraternity extends heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and special thanks to Deputy Chief Minister, who is also PWD (R&B) Minister for their continued efforts in strengthening the engineering cadre.

## DC Budgam reviews progress of estimation under District Capex Budget 2025–26

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**BUDGAM, JULY 17:** To review the progress of estimation preparation under the District Capex Budget 2025–26, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive meeting at the DC office, here.

The meeting was aimed at ensuring timely execution of the works and streamlining administrative processes related to the Rural Development Department (RDD).

During the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Budgam and Executive Engineer, REW Budgam, briefed the chair on the status of estimations block-wise and sector-wise.

They presented an overview of the physical and financial targets and updated the DC on the ongoing compilation of estimates for works proposed under PRI, BDC, DDC,

APDP, and ABDS grants.

ACD apprised the chair that a total of 2,704 new RDD works have been approved across 17 blocks under the District Capex Budget 2025–26, which includes 2,048 works under PRI grants, 517 works under DDC grants, 76 under BDC grants, 34 under APDP and 29 under ABDS.

DC emphasised the importance of expediting estimation preparation so that execution of works can commence at the earliest.

He directed all field functionaries to ensure accuracy, completeness, and timely uploading of estimates on the designated portals.

Dr Bilal further stressed the need for transparency, quality control, and adherence to timelines in the execution phase once estimates are approved.

He further called for coordination between planning and engineering wings to avoid

duplication, cost overruns, or delays in implementation.

DC reiterated that the Capex Budget is a key instrument for grassroots development and participatory planning, and every effort must be made to meet public expectations by achieving 100% estimation and execution targets in a time-bound manner in the District. He underlined that delays in estimation directly impact project execution timelines and public service delivery.

DC directed all engineering and planning wings to adopt a mission-mode approach and ensure that all estimations are technically sound, financially viable, and uploaded without delay.

Besides, ACD Budgam, Exen REW Budgam, all Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), Assistant Engineers (AEs), and Junior Engineers (JEs) of the RDD department attended the meeting.

## ADDC Kupwara Reviews Status of Kisan Khidmat Ghars and Progress of HADP

■ HT News Desk

**KUPWARA, JULY 17:** In order to assess the current status of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) and the implementation of schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), a meeting of concerned officers were held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Mufti Fareed-ud-Din at Meeting Hall of D.C Office Kupwara today.



The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer Kupwara, District Agriculture Officer, SDAOs, AEOs, Krishi Udhayamis and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, the ADDC emphasized the critical role of KKGs as one-stop centers for farmers to access agriculture-related services and information. He directed officers to ensure that all KKGs across the district are fully functional, adequately staffed, and equipped with necessary infrastructure to serve the farming community effectively.

The ADDC reviewed progress on various components of the HADP, including farmer registration under the DAKSH Kisan portal, dissemination of scheme benefits, and outreach activities being conducted by Krishi Udhayamis and field extension staff. Officers were instructed to accelerate awareness and mobilization efforts at the grassroots level to ensure 100% farmer coverage under the HADP initiatives.

## Youth-Led Bhang Destruction Drive Launched in Chainabal Mirgund with Police Support

■ Ubaid Mehdi

**BUDGAM, JULY 17:** In a significant step towards combating drug abuse, local youth from Chainabal Mirgund joined hands with the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday to launch a bhang (wild cannabis) destruction drive in the area.

Officials told news that the anti-narcotics drive witnessed active participation of local volunteers, who assisted police



teams in uprooting and destroying large patches of wild cannabis plants growing in and around Chainabal.

“This is part of our broader anti-drug campaign aimed at eliminating narcotics at the grassroots level,” a police official involved in the operation said, adding that community cooperation is key in the success of such initiatives.

The campaign also served as a platform for spreading aware-

ness about the harmful effects of drug use, particularly among the youth population. Local residents praised the drive, calling it a positive and much-needed move in the fight against addiction.

Authorities have appealed to residents of neighbouring villages to report illegal cannabis cultivation and cooperate with police in similar operations to be carried out across other parts of Budgam and Baramulla in the coming days.

## MI&FCEF Mourns The Demise of Mother of Dedicated I&FC Employee Shabir Ahmad Kuloo

EJAC Vice President Farooq Khan Prays For Eternal Peace of Departed Soul, Stands With Bereaved Family

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, JULY 17:** The Chairman of the Mechanical Irrigation & Flood Control Employees Federation (MI&FCEF), Farooq Ahmad Khan, has expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences

on the sad demise of Zoona Rehman, mother of Shabir Ahmad Kuloo, a sincere and devoted employee of the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, who passed away on 14th July 2025 at her residence in Wanabal, Rawalpura, Srinagar.

On the directions of EJAC

Vice President Farooq Khan, a delegation of the Federation, led by Chief Spokesperson Farooq Ahmad Malik, visited the bereaved family at Wanabal, Rawalpura to express solidarity and offer condolences. The delegation included Moham-mad Lateef Wani, Muzaffar

Hamad Bhat, Shabir Ahmad Khanday, Ghulam Ahmad Baba, Mohammad Shafi Rah, Tariq Ahmad Bhat, Manzoor Ahmad Sofi and Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh, among others, who were present on the occasion.

Zildar Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, along with Assistant

Executive Engineer (AEE), City Sub-Division I&FC Sonwar, also visited the family and offered heartfelt sympathies and special prayers (dua) for the departed soul.

Among others from the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Srinagar, who partici-

pated in the condolence visit were Aijaz Ahmad, Nisaar Ahmad Sheikh, Ghulam Hassan, Mohammad Yousuf, Insha, Saba, Fayaz Ahmad Hadpoora, Abdul Majeed Bhat and many other staff members.

The Mechanical Irrigation & Flood Control Employees Fed-

eration (MI&FCEF) stands united with Shabir Ahmad Kuloo and his family in this hour of grief. May Almighty Allah (SWT) grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give the family the strength and patience to bear this irreparable loss.



HT EDITORIAL

## Waterlogging Woes of Srinagar City

Srinagar being the picturesque City and despite being one of the most beautiful cities of India, Srinagar's recurring problem of waterlogging exposes the glaring shortcomings in its urban planning and drainage infrastructure. With every spell of moderate to heavy rainfall, large parts of the our Beautiful city turn into temporary lakes, inner Links of the unorganized Colonies disappear under stagnant water, traffic comes to a standstill at most of the places, and life becomes miserable for residents, particularly the habitations evolved out of haphazard constructions by unregistered builders.

Waterlogging issue is not new to Srinagar City, nor is it unforeseen. For years, citizens have been raising concerns over poor drainage, clogged storm water channels, and lack of de-silting. Areas like Lal Chowk, Bemina, Batamaloo, Rajbagh, and parts of Downtown often bear the brunt.

The recent rainfall once again brought these flaws to the surface, quite literally, with ankle-deep water flooding market-places, residential colonies, and hospital entrances. Urban growth in Srinagar has been rapid, often unregulated. Construction on wetlands, encroachments over natural water channels (nallahs), and a poorly maintained drainage network have worsened the situation. Waterlogging is not just an inconvenience it is a public health risk, damages infrastructure, affects businesses, hampers transport, and leaves school-going children and patients stranded. In a city like Srinagar that aspires to be a smart urban center, this is simply unacceptable.

It is high time the administration treats this issue with the urgency it deserves. A comprehensive drainage master plan, regular cleaning of storm drains, removal of encroachments, revival of wetlands, and community involvement are all crucial steps toward sustainable urban resilience.

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# Kashmir's Drug Crisis: Impact and Urgent Solutions



By Shunuirfan

**Introduction**  
Kashmir, famously known as 'Peer Wadi' is a place of great beauty and pride. However, it is now grappling with a rapidly growing concern - drug addiction. The youth of Kashmir aged between 13-35 are struggling with this serious issue, and both boys and girls are falling prey to this problem. **The Harsh Truth About Drug Addiction in Kashmir**  
According to recent reports, approximately over 10 lakh people in Kashmir use drugs, which is a huge number. This trend needs attention and proper action to address this serious issue.

**Why It Happens, Understanding The Causes**

There are many reasons why people in Kashmir are taking drugs. One reason is the lack of jobs and opportunities, leading to feelings of frustration and hopelessness among young people. Peer pressure, trauma, curiosity, and the desire to escape from problems also contribute to drug addiction. Many individuals, often starting with online gaming, get sucked into a cycle of financial loss and depression. The weight of regret and the fear of facing reality push them towards escapism. In an attempt to cope with their emotional pain, they turn to substance abuse, starting with smoking and gradually moving on to more harmful drugs.

**How Addictions Take Hold and Won't Let Go**

As people become increasingly dependent on substances, they lose control over their lives, and addiction takes over. This vicious cycle is difficult to break, and without proper support and intervention, individuals can become trapped forever. There are a large number of examples we hear or see in day-to-day life when people face heartbreak, relationship problems, or family and social issues; they might turn to drugs as a way to cope with their emotions. Similarly, sometimes when people face difficulties or problems in life, they might use drugs as a way to escape from their reality. It can provide a temporary sense of relief, but it can also lead to addiction.



**The Science Behind Addiction And What Happens In The Brain**  
Drugs affect the brain's neurotransmitters, particularly dopamine. When people take drugs, it can alter the dopamine levels in their brain, making them feel good and experience pleasure for a short time. And for some time, it feels like they've gotten relief from all problems because drugs mess with dopamine. However, this can lead to addiction as people try to repeat the feeling.

**The Role of Spirituality**

Those battling addiction might have avoided drugs if they had a deep connection with Allah and practiced the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW); they might not have fallen prey to drugs. By strengthening our spiritual connection, we gain the ability to face life's difficulties without using drugs.

**Easy Availability and Consequences**

Unfortunately, drugs are easily available in Kashmir, making it harder for people to stay away from them. The consequences of drug addiction can be severe, leading to loss of control, financial troubles, strained relationships, health problems, and even crime. Drug addiction is a serious issue that can destroy lives. Many people have lost their lives or ruined their futures due to drug addiction.

**The Need for Strict Action**

We appeal to the Government of India to take strict action against drug dealers and users. Bail should not be granted easily to such offenders. Another problem is that when people who use or sell drugs get arrested,

they often get released after a short time. This doesn't solve the problem. In fact, it can even make things worse. Some people might even bribe the police to get out of jail.

**The Harmful Impact**

Drug addiction can push people to desperate measures. We've seen the devastating impact of drug addiction on people's lives. It not only ruins their future but also affects their families and harms the community as a whole. When people are addicted, it can make them desperate and helpless, leading them to commit crimes like theft to fund their habits. We've often heard of cases where people, driven by their addiction, steal from mosques or their own homes because when they can't get the money to feed their habit, they're forced to resort to theft. It's heartbreaking to see how addiction can take over someone's life and lead them down a path of destruction.

**Effective Solutions And Strategies**

Awareness campaigns can educate people about the dangers of drug use. The Government of India can play a crucial role by creating employment opportunities for young people in Kashmir to keep them engaged and motivated. Islamic scholars can also contribute by using Islamic majalis, Jumma Khutba (Friday sermons) to educate people about the dangers of drug use and its impact on individuals and society. We can all play a role in helping to solve the problem of drug addiction in Kashmir.

**Conclusion**

Working together can make a positive impact on society. It's essential to address drug addiction in Kashmir and provide support to those struggling. By doing so, we can help individuals, families, and communities affected by this issue.

The author is a writer, a Medical Student and also the Co-Founder of Dawah Youth Organization. Reachout :shunuirfan18@gmail.com

## A New Harvest for India: PMDKY's Promise for Agricultural Renewal



By Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

The Indian agricultural sector, the bedrock of our economy and the lifeline for millions, stands on the cusp of a significant transformation. The Union Cabinet's approval on July 16, 2025, of the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDKY) marks not just the launch of another scheme, but a meticulously conceived six-year blueprint for holistic agricultural development. Commencing from the financial year 2025-26, this pivotal initiative, inspired by the success of NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme, promises tangible benefits to approximately 1.7 crore farmers nationwide. The Yojana's comprehensive vision, targeted implementation, and robust monitoring mechanism offer a powerful antidote to long-standing challenges in the sector, paving the way for a more resilient and prosperous future for our farmers.

The PMDKY's strength lies in its multi-pronged approach. It rightly prioritizes enhanced agricultural productivity through the adoption of improved farming practices and advanced technologies. Crucially, it champions crop diversification – a vital strategy to boost profitability and mitigate risks associated with monoculture. This includes a resolute emphasis on sustainable agricultural practices that are essential for long-term soil health, water conservation, and a reduction in chemical inputs.

A critical, and often overlooked, aspect addressed by the scheme is post-harvest management. The establishment of better storage facilities at the local Panchayat and Block levels is a welcome intervention designed to significantly minimize post-harvest losses, ensuring farmers receive greater value for their produce. Furthermore, the expansion and enhancement of irrigation facilities will be instrumental in increasing overall farming efficiency.

**A distinctive and commendable feature of PMDKY is its highly targeted implementation strategy. By rolling out the program across 100 districts specifically identified based on low productivity, low cropping intensity, and below-average credit disbursement, the scheme moves beyond superficial metrics to pinpoint**

mental in increasing overall farming efficiency. The Yojana also underscores financial empowerment, facilitating access to both long-term and short-term credit, which will enable farmers to invest in superior seeds, technology, and essential infrastructure. Ultimately, by empowering rural populations with necessary skills, investment opportunities, and technology, PMDKY seeks to promote self-sufficient rural economies and reduce distress migration to urban areas.

A distinctive and commendable feature of PMDKY is its highly targeted implementation strategy. By rolling out the program across 100 districts specifically identified based on low productivity, low cropping intensity, and below-average credit disbursement, the scheme moves beyond superficial metrics to pinpoint and address underlying systemic inefficiencies. This precise selection methodology reflects a sophisticated understanding of agricultural distress.

The operational framework, built on the "3Cs" approach – convergence, collaboration, and robust monitoring – is equally promising. The seamless integration of 36 existing schemes spanning 11 departments, complemented by State-level initiatives and local private sector partnerships, demonstrates a commitment to synergy and efficiency. The proposed committees at District, State, and National levels, with the crucial inclusion of pro-

gressive farmers in District Dhan Dhaanya Samitis, ensure a bottom-up approach to planning and execution. The monthly monitoring of 117 key performance indicators through dashboards, mirroring the Aspirational Districts Programme, introduces a dynamic element of accountability and incentivizes local administrations, building a much-needed sense of ownership and urgency.

The significant financial allocations for specific missions, such as ₹1,000 crores for pulses, ₹500 crores for vegetables and fruits, and dedicated funds for high-yielding hybrid seeds and cotton technology, highlight the scheme's focus on diversification and targeted growth. The envisioned international collaboration for technical and financial support further underscores the ambition to integrate global best practices.

The probable impact of PMDKY is indeed transformative. By directly addressing yield gaps in targeted districts and promoting advanced technologies and practices, the scheme is poised to significantly boost productivity. The emphasis on crop diversification and eco-friendly farming will create more resilient and sustainable agricultural systems. Reduced post-harvest losses, improved access to credit, and the empowerment of rural populations are all set to translate into higher and more stable farm incomes. By mitigating rural-to-urban migration and creating vibrant, self-sufficient villages, PMDKY is not just an agricultural scheme; it is a vital step towards enhancing national food and nutritional security and building a truly prosperous India. This Yojana is poised to accelerate agricultural development where it is most needed, building on a decade of farmer-centric reforms to build a resilient and prosperous agricultural ecosystem in India.

The author is the Vice Chancellor of BRA Bihar University, is a seasoned academic and dedicated researcher whose work directly translates into tangible benefits for farmers. With nearly three decades of experience in Dairy and Animal Husbandry, his research focuses on practical solutions that empower rural communities



# By Prof. S. S. Waheedulla Hussaini al-Qadri al-Multani

The Memoir of Hazrat Shah Syed Ahmed Arif Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani (RA)  
(1298-1330/1881-1912)

■ Kamil Jamia Nizamia

It is a testament to the divine wisdom of Allah that He would not bring punishment upon His servants without first offering them guidance and clarity. The sacred text beautifully illustrates this principle, reminding us of Allah's compassionate nature and His desire for all to find their way before facing judgment.

And We do not punish (a people) until We have sent a messenger (to them).[1]

Most scholars agree that Allah Almighty does not punish a people in this world until He sends a messenger to that people. This is a testament to the fairness of Allah's judgment. Some scholars say that if the prophets and messengers had not been sent, there would have been no concept of punishment on the Day of Judgment, since reason also requires that until a person receives the invitation (i.e. the commands of the Lord of Glory), he should remain free from being punished. [2]

Imam Azam Abu Hanifah (RA) (80-150/699-767) emphasises that the existence and oneness of Allah are so self-evident that they can be regarded as fundamental truths, leaving no room for doubt or uncertainty. Allah Almighty affirms: "Their messengers said: 'Is there any doubt about (the existence of) Allah, the Originator of the heavens and the earth?'"[3] Consequently, there is no valid reason to deny Allah or to engage in polytheism, even for those who have not received the message of the Prophet. Even individuals with limited understanding can recognise that a building cannot exist without an architect, just as writing cannot occur without a scribe. Therefore, how can we rationalise the entire system, from the earth to the heavens, functioning without a Creator?

According to Imam Shafa'i (RA) (150-205/767-820), this verse suggests that individuals who die before receiving a prophetic mission or have not been called to prophethood are excused by Allah and will not face punishment, even if they pass away in a state of polytheism. This is because comprehending divine laws is impossible without shari'ah, as human reason alone is inadequate for grasping these principles. Without the prophetic mission, the evidence of divine guidance remains incomplete; therefore, those who have not received this call are regarded as excused. [4]

In the Hadith of the Noble Prophet (PBUH), it is reported that on the Day of Judgment, four categories of individuals will address Allah (swt): (1) the deaf, (2) the ignorant, (3) the elderly, and (4) those who lived during a time without a messenger. Each group will present their respective justifications: The deaf will claim, "The teachings of Islam may have reached me, but I was unable to hear them." The ignorant will argue, "I must have received your message, but I was overwhelmed by distractions from children."

In response, the Creator of the universe will summon four individuals and issue the command: "Go and enter Hell." The Noble Prophet (PBUH) affirms, "By the One in Whose Power my soul resides, those who enter Hell in obedience to this divine command will find the flames transformed into a source of coolness and peace for them. Conversely, the one who disobeys this command will be consumed by the fire of Hell, as it signifies that anyone who defies divine command also disobeys the prophets and messengers." [6]

An Andalusian Sunni Muslim polymath and Maliki juriconsult, Allamah Qurtubi (RA) (611-671/1214-1273), utilises this esteemed verse as evidence, asserting that it serves as a clear refutation of the Mu'tazilah's claim of falsehood. This noble verse demonstrates that the principles of Islam are solely established by the pure shari'ah, irre-

**“**  
**In the Hadith of the Noble Prophet (PBUH), it is reported that on the Day of Judgment, four categories of individuals will address Allah (swt): (1) the deaf, (2) the ignorant, (3) the elderly, and (4) those who lived during a time without a messenger. Each group will present their respective justifications: The deaf will claim, “The teachings of Islam may have reached me, but I was unable to hear them.” The ignorant will argue, “I must have received your message, but I was overwhelmed by distractions from children.**

spective of whether one's intellect perceives them as good or bad. To deviate from these principles is regarded as a reason for deserving punishment. Consequently, sense and understanding do not play a role in determining the feasibility of a matter, contrary to the beliefs of the Mu'tazilah. [7]

For the growth and guidance of humanity, the Almighty Allah sent forth a spiritual and enlightened caravan of prophets and messengers, culminating in His beloved Muhammad Mustafa (PBUH). Following him, esteemed individuals assumed significant leadership responsibilities, particularly as religious leaders. This is why the shrines of these revered personalities have served as points of reference for creation throughout the ages. One of the distinguishing qualities that sets the city of Hyderabad apart is its historical role as a haven for scholars, leaders, peacemakers, saints, and Sufis. Through their external and internal wisdom, these figures have championed truth beyond the bounds of religion and nationality. Both ordinary people and rulers of the time sought to obtain their blessings, viewing them as a pathway to elevation and prosperity.

This can be illustrated by the fact that rulers and sultans not only ensured the prosperity and progress of their subjects but also maintained peace, tranquillity, and the stability of the empire, even amidst times of war and conflict. They humbly seek the cooperation and assistance of these chosen and often hidden beings. In doing so, they would achieve and thrive in their endeavours. These esteemed individuals were regarded as favoured by the kings of the era, as well as by the empire's leaders, nobles, and relevant feudal lords. These leaders, driven by their means and understanding, were particularly seekers of God, viewing their comfort, care, moderation, and service as a source of worldly solace and mercy in the hereafter.

It would not be an exaggeration to give the title of Pole of Guidance or, the cradle of the great men of religion (Qutb al-Irshad) to this city of Hyderabad (Note: Shaykh Ahmed Sirhindi (RA) (971-1033/1564-1624) had bestowed this title on the city of Lahore during his time). Innumerable saints lived a life of anonymity and adopted such means of livelihood that the public could not reach their actual status, instead of raising the voice of My father was a king. . These enlightened, broad-minded Sufis always preferred to utilise their abilities. In every era, the people of Allah, by the will of Allah, sometimes remain visible and sometimes hidden, due to which the public generally comes to know about their status after the passing of these blessed individuals. The seekers of truth should always be in search of truth and, as much as possible, should be busy trying to benefit from the beneficial company of these great men of religion.

Among the numerous great saints and scholars, the perfect embodiment of shari'ah and the path of truth and knowledge is Abul Irfan Hazrat Shah Syed Ahmad Arif Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani, affectionately known as Mian Qibla (RA). He is regarded as the heir to the sciences of the Noble Prophet and the repository of growth and guidance, known for being a source of obedience and worship, the centre of wisdom, and the epitome of asceticism. He is the very axis of intelligence and the custodian of spirituality and guardianship. This article seeks to illuminate his remarkable persona's mysterious and faith-inspiring aspects. He was blessed and driven to promote the injunctions of shari'ah, cultivate Islamic society, propagate elements of character, and uphold the religion.

He was born in the last decade of the thirteenth century of Hijrah, specifically in the year 1298/1881, during the reign of the late Nawab of the Deccan, Mir Mahboob Ali Khan Bahadur, in Multaniyyah Manzil Imampura Sharif. Endowed with a strong sense of family integrity, he received an exceptional upbringing. His education encompassed intellectual and metaphysical sciences, and he was guided in the principles of spirituality and the tenets of the mystical path, all under the loving care of his father, Hazrat Shah Syed Abdul Rahim Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani Khadim (RA). This nurturing environment revealed his unique and gifted nature, reflecting his father's aspirations for him. Understanding the profound significance of merging knowledge with Sufism, his esteemed father carefully shepherded him along the learning path. Under this devoted mentorship, he explored the intricate paths of Sufism. Through this guidance, this exceptional individual's remarkable teachings and insights, rich in both external knowledge and internal wisdom, became a source of illumination for scholars. He shone a light on the paths of conduct and expertise for the servants of God.

Hazrat Shah Syed Abdul Rahim Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani Khadim (RA) appointed his son to the caliphate and succession during his youth. His days and nights were devoted to remembering Allah and His Beloved (PBUH). His deep love and unwavering devotion to the Noble Prophet (PBUH) formed the foundation of his life and his profound connection to Him. This remarkable individual firmly embraced the principle of or Tell me about me even if it were a verse." [8] He bestowed his intellectual and spiritual blessings upon his three brothers: the esteemed Shaikh Hazrat Shah Syed Peer Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani, also known as Sahiban Pasha (RA) (born on 8th Zil Hijjah 1310 AH, which corresponds to 23rd June 1893 CE), the respected Shaykh Hazrat Shah Syed Ismail Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani, known as Ismail Pasha (RA), and the venerable Shaykh Hazrat Shah Syed Abdul Qadir Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani (RA).

In addition to his mastery of Persian,

he possessed a profound command of Arabic vocabulary, making the composition of Arabic Hamdiya and Naatiya poems his primary hobby from a young age. He excelled in calligraphy and deeply appreciated physical exercise, contributing to his vibrant energy, good health, and cheerful demeanour. His manners were straightforward, and his commitment to shari'ah was a defining trait; he considered accepting offerings from devotees inappropriate. He conducted the annual Urs ceremony of his grandfather, i.e., Hazrat Shah Syed Peer Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani Muhaqqiq (RA), with remarkable devotion and respect. Despite facing financial constraints, he actively engaged in agriculture and gardening in Imampura Sharif. Whenever he learned of someone in distress, his response exemplified genuine compassion, in line with the teachings of the Quran. [9] Those afflicted with evil can receive complete and swift healing through his supplications.

When it becomes challenging to vocalise the voice of truth, when the foundations of Islam begin to be questioned, and when the teachings of the Noble Prophet (PBUH) are distorted, the Almighty Allah grants His devoted servants an inner strength manifested in the form of miracles that transcends human understanding. This manifestation of strength is helpful and effective in guiding misguided humanity towards progress and enlightenment.

Nearly a century ago, an incident transpired involving a group of miscreants who attempted to disrupt his worship and ascetic practices. They orchestrated an unusual display of superstitions and danced on the public highway that linked his residence to the Dargah Sharif. Despite the efforts of his followers and disciples to intervene, these individuals remained determined in their antics and showed no inclination to leave. When this situation was brought to his attention, he calmly stated, "These people will not be able to cross this place." Immediately upon his declaration, the feet of the miscreants became immobilised. Realising the cause of their predicament, they swiftly felt fear and remorse, seeking his forgiveness and permission to proceed. He kindly permitted them, allowing them to continue to their destination.

He was married three times. From his first marriage to Hazrat Rahmat al-Nisa Begum Sahiba (RA), daughter of Hazrat Syed Parvash Ali (RA), he had two sons: (i) one who sadly passed away in infancy, and (ii) Hazrat Abul Qasim Shah Syed Abdul Wahab Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani (RA), who became the third custodian of the shrine of Imampura. He also had two daughters: (i) Mohtarma Syeda Azmat-ul-Nisa Begum (RA), and (ii) Mohtarma Syeda Habibul-Nisa Begum (RA).

In his second marriage to Hazrat Syeda Amina Begum Sahiba (RA), he had one son who unfortunately died in infancy. From his third marriage to Hazrat Murtaza Bi Sahiba (RA), he had two sons: (i) Hazrat Abul Kabir Shah Syed Abdul Latif Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani (RA), and (ii) Late Mr. Syed Shah Abdul Rahman al-Qadiri al-Multani. He also had two daughters: (i) the Hazrat Syeda Ghafoor al-Nisa (RA), married to Hazrat Ghulam Haider Khan (RA), and (ii) Hazrat Syeda Rahmat-Nisa, married to Hazrat Muhammad Khan (RA).

Hazrat Abu Irfan Shah Syed Ahmad Arif Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani, known as Mian Qibla (RA), bestowed the robe of succession on his brother Hazrat Shah Syed Peer Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani (second), known as Sahiban Pasha (RA). This great personality, who always kept in mind Allah's will is above all else. In the third year following his father's demise, during the plague, he responded to his Lord at 32 on Wednesday, 26th Muharram 1330, corresponding to January 15th, 1912. Each year on this date, by family traditions, his annual urs ceremony is commemorated with great respect and simplicity. This event takes place under

the esteemed guardianship of Abu Muhamid Hazrat Shah Syed Abdul Razzaq Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani, the first caliph and successor of Hazrat Abul Arif Shah Syed Shafiullah Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani, son of Hazrat Abul Qasim Shah Syed Abdul Wahab Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani, the former Sajadah Nashin of the shrine of Pir Qutb al-Mas-haikh, Hazrat Shah Syed Pir Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani Muhaqqiq (RA), Imampura Sharif, Hyderabad, Telangana, India. In the end, we pray to Allah Almighty to bless all Muslims with His Mercy and forgiveness and free them from Hell in this blessed month. Amen.

The author is the son and spiritual successor of Hazrat Abul Arif Shah Syed Shafiulla Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani (may Allah sanctify his secret), the former sajjadah nashin of the shrine of Hazrat Shah Syed Peer Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani (may Allah sanctify his secret), also known as Dargah Imampura Sharif. This shrine is located in Jiyaguda, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

(1) The Quran, Chapter no. 17, Verse no. 15.

(2) Imam 'Abdullah Muhammad Qurtubi, Tafsir-i Qurtubi, vol. x, p. 232.

(3) The Quran, 14:10.

(4) Maulana Hafiz Muhammad Idris Kandhlavi, Ma'arif al-Quran, vol. iv, p. 464.

(5) Abu Ya'la Mawsiili, Musnad Abi Ya'la, hadith no. 4,224. See also Ibn Hibban, Sahih Ibn Hibban, hadith no. 7,357; Imam Jalal al-Din Suyuti, Sahih Jami al-Saghir, hadith no. 881.

(6) Imam Jalal al-Din Suyuti, Tafsir Dural-manthur, vol. iv, p. 306. See also Imam Abul Fida 'Imad al-Din Hafiz Ibn Kathir, Tafsir Ibn Kathir, vol. iii, p. 28.

(7) Tafsir-i Qurtubi, vol. v, p. 650.

(8) Imam Muhammad bin Ismail Bukhari, Sahih Bukhari, hadith no. 3461. See also Imam Tirmizi, Jami Tirmizi, hadith no. 2,669; Imam 'Abdullah ibn 'Abdur Rahman al-Darimi, Sunan Darimi, hadith no. 543; Wali al-Din Abu 'Abdullah Muhammad, Mishkat al-masabih, hadith no. 198; Imam Yahya bin Sharaf al-Nawawi, Riyaz al-salihin, hadith no. 1,380.

(9) The Quran, 93:10.

The Author is a M.A., M.Com., Ph.D (Osm)

**“**  
**He was married three times. From his first marriage to Hazrat Rahmat al-Nisa Begum Sahiba (RA), daughter of Hazrat Syed Parvash Ali (RA), he had two sons: (i) one who sadly passed away in infancy, and (ii) Hazrat Abul Qasim Shah Syed Abdul Wahab Hussaini al-Qadiri al-Multani (RA), who became the third custodian of the shrine of Imampura. He also had two daughters: (i) Mohtarma Syeda Azmat-ul-Nisa Begum (RA), and (ii) Mohtarma Syeda Habib-ul-Nisa Begum (RA).**



# Sakeena Itoo reviews performance, functioning of J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited

Asks for zero stock-outs of life-saving drugs, injections in health facilities across UT

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, JULY 17:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today directed the J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) to ensure zero stock-outs of life-saving drugs and injections, particularly in emergency and trauma care units of all district hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister passed on these directions while conducting a comprehensive review of functioning and performance of the J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here today.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; CEO State Health Agency, Ananth Dwivedi; MD JKMSCL, Kapi Mishra; Director Health Services Kashmir/Jammu, Director Family Welfare and Immunization, Director Finance, Health and Medical Education department, Principals of various GMCs and other senior officers, either in person or through video conferencing.

Addressing the officers, the Minister underlined the pivotal role of JKMSCL in ensuring seamless procurement and distribution of essential medicines, surgical equipments and other necessary medical supplies

to the government health institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

While having detailed appraisal of the corporation's procurement processes, inventory management systems, logistics networks and district-wise supply status, the Minister stressed on the urgent need to plug any gaps in real-time supply of critical and life saving medicines.

She directed the JKMSCL to ensure zero stock-outs of life-saving drugs and injections, particularly for cancer patients as well as cardiac patients in all district hospitals of J&K. "Health and well-being of the people is non-negotiable. We must ensure that no hospital, regardless of its location, faces a shortage of essential or emergency medicines", asserted the Minister.

Highlighting that a robust, transparent and responsive supply chain is the backbone of any public healthcare system, she instructed the JKMSCL management to adopt tech-enabled inventory tracking systems, ensure real-time coordination with GMC Principals, Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) and conduct monthly audits to monitor availability of essential healthcare supplies and utilization of stock.

She directed both the Directors of health department to give advance requisition for healthcare equipment and accessories to the JKMSCL in order



to avoid any delay in healthcare service delivery to people. "The effectiveness of our health system is closely tied to the efficiency of medical supply chains, any delay or lapse directly affects patient care", the Minister stated.

Calling for maintaining quality standards, especially in procurement of antibiotics, cardiovascular and other critical drugs, Sakeena Itoo emphasized upon the management of JKMSCL to maintain stringent quality control benchmarks for procurement process for enhanced transparency and competitiveness. She also

asked them to avoid any kind of delay in procurement process as these equipments and medical supplies are very critical for improving the healthcare facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

She also directed the officers to monitor the shelf-life, storage conditions and distribution equity of medicines at all health institutions at their own level. She further stressed on the need to build greater synergy between the Corporation and various healthcare institutions, especially in remote and underserved areas.

While reviewing the procurement

of high-end equipments like Tesla MRI machine, Cardia Cath Lab, 128 Slice CT Scan machine, 3D 4K visualization tower for Kidney transplant, microsurgery and open surgery, CT Simulator, Microarray system and other related equipment, the Minister directed both the management of JKMSCL and health department to check sites in advance at required health facilities where they are being set up so as to avoid any last minute delay.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was given by the MD JKMSCL, highlighting key achieve-

ments, procurement timelines, vendor performance metrics and other issues of the corporation.

Meanwhile, the Minister also reviewed the saturation of Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY/SEHAT scheme across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the critical role of universal health coverage, underlining the need to ensure equitable and timely access to healthcare services for every household in the region, especially in remote and underserved areas. "The objective of Ayushman Bharat and SEHAT is inclusivity and access. We must ensure that no family is denied their right to quality healthcare because of procedural bottlenecks or geographic barriers", she said.

The Minister reiterated Government's commitment to accessible, equitable and efficient healthcare for all. She directed the concerned authorities to intensify door-to-door awareness campaigns, simplify enrolment procedures and ensure that vulnerable sections like nomadic populations, elderly citizens and persons with disabilities is not left out of the health safety net.

During the meeting, the CEO State Health Agency gave a detailed presentation on number of golden cards issued, beneficiaries enrolled and the quantum of claims settled under the scheme.

## Vector-Borne Diseases During Monsoon: Preventive Measures You Must Follow

■ Manya Singh

Vector-borne diseases are illnesses transmitted by vectors living organisms like mosquitoes, ticks, and flies that carry and spread pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, or parasites. During the monsoon season, stagnant water and increased humidity create ideal breeding conditions for disease-carrying insects, especially mosquitoes. This leads to a spike in diseases like dengue, malaria, chikungunya, and Japanese encephalitis. Fortunately, most vector-borne diseases are preventable through proactive measures, such as eliminating mosquito breeding grounds, using protective barriers, and maintaining hygiene. Keep reading as we share a list of preventive measures you can follow this monsoon to stay healthy.

**Preventive measures for vector-borne diseases during monsoon**

**1. Avoid stagnant water near your home**

Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water found in flower pots, buckets, clogged drains, and water coolers. Regularly check and empty these sources to stop mosquito breeding at its root.

**2. Use mosquito nets and screens**

Sleeping under mosquito nets and installing mesh screens on doors and windows create a physical barrier, protecting you from mosquito bites, especially during the night when many disease-carrying mosquitoes are most active.

**3. Apply mosquito repellents**

Use topical creams, sprays, or patches containing DEET, picaridin, or eucalyptus oil on exposed skin. These repellents keep mosquitoes at bay and reduce the chances of being bitten, especially when outdoors.

**4. Wear full-sleeved clothing**

Wearing long-sleeved shirts, full pants, and socks, especially during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, minimises exposed skin and provides an extra layer of protection.



**5. Keep surroundings clean and dry**

Eliminate garbage buildup, clean drains regularly, and ensure there is no water accumulation in your locality. A clean environment reduces breeding grounds for not just mosquitoes but other disease-carrying vectors too.

**6. Use insecticides and fumigation**

Spray insecticides in dark corners, under furniture, and around stagnant water areas. Community-level fumigation can also help in reducing the mosquito population, especially during peak monsoon.

**7. Ensure proper water storage**

If you store water for daily use, make sure containers are tightly covered and cleaned regularly. Uncovered containers are prime mosquito breeding sites, especially in urban and rural homes.

**8. Avoid walking in floodwaters**

Flooded streets during monsoon can expose you to leptospirosis and other infections. If unavoidable, wear waterproof footwear and clean your feet thoroughly afterward.

**9. Boost immunity through nutrition**

Eating a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and vitamin C can strengthen your immune system, making it easier for your body to fight off infections if exposed.

**10. Seek early medical attention for symptoms**

If you experience high fever, chills, joint pain, rashes, or fatigue, common symptoms of vector-borne diseases consult a doctor immediately. Early diagnosis and treatment prevent complications and stop the disease from spreading further.

Being alert and consistent with prevention can drastically reduce the risk of infection during the rainy season.

Courtesy NDTV

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# SC seeks Bar Council of India Chairman's assistance on compliance with enrolment fee cap ruling

■ **United News of India**

**New Delhi, July 17:** The Supreme Court today sought the assistance of Bar Council of India (BCI) Chairman and Senior Advocate Manan Kumar Mishra to ascertain whether State Bar Councils are complying with its 2024 ruling prohibiting enrolment fees beyond the statutory cap under the Advocates Act, 1961.

A Bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan was hearing a contempt petition filed by

KLJA Kiran Babu, who alleged that several State Bar Councils continue to demand exorbitant enrolment fees from young lawyers in violation of the top court's judgment in Gaurav Kumar v Union of India.

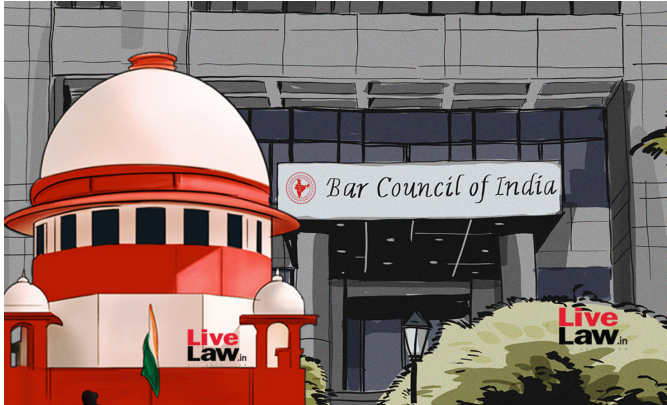
While the Court refrained from issuing notice on the contempt plea at this stage, it directed BCI Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra to appear and assist the Court.

"We are not inclined to issue notice, however, we would like to know from the Bar Council of India whether

the directions issued in the main judgment are being complied with in letter and spirit or not," the Bench recorded.

In its July 30, 2024, ruling, the Supreme Court had held that State Bar Councils are bound by Section 24(1)(f) of the Advocates Act, which caps enrolment fees at Rs 750 for general category candidates and Rs 125 for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates.

The Court had also declared that additional charges collected by Bar Councils, often



running into thousands of rupees, violated the constitu-

tional rights of law graduates. The ruling, however, was

made applicable prospectively, with no refund required for past excess collections.

The petitioner alleged that despite the clear directions, many State Bar Councils continue to flout the fee cap, burdening fresh law graduates.

When questioned by the Bench on his locus to file the contempt plea, Babu responded that any person could move the Court for breach of its orders.

Choosing not to examine that issue at this stage, the Court deferred it, instead seeking a

compliance update from the BCI.

Notably, the BCI has also moved an application before the Supreme Court in the Gaurav Kumar case seeking enhancement of the enrolment fee to Rs 25,000, which is still pending consideration.

The present contempt proceedings will be taken up next on August 4, with the BCI Chairman expected to clarify the compliance status of State Bar Councils with the Supreme Court's 2024 judgment.

UNI SNG RN

## Amit Chavda appointed Gujarat Cong chief, succeeds Shaktisinh Gohil

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, JULY 17:** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge today appointed Amit Chavda as the new president of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee, succeeding Shaktisinh Gohil in the role.

According to a statement issued by Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, Kharge also appoint-



ed Tushar Chaudhary as the Leader of the Congress Legislative Party in Gujarat.

All the appointments were with immediate effect. "Hon'ble Congress President has appointed Shri Amit Chavda as the President of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee, with immediate effect. Hon'ble Congress President has also approved the proposal for the appointment of Dr. Tushar Chaudhary as the Leader of the Congress Legislative Party in Gujarat, with immediate effect. The party appreciates the contributions of outgoing PCC President, Shri Shaktisinh Gohil," the statement by Venugopal said.

UNI RBE ARN

## EAM Jaishankar meets with South Korean President's team of Special Envoys to India

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, JULY 17:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today met with South Korean President Lee Jae-Myung's delegation of special envoys to India, led by former prime minister Kim Boo-kyum, during which the two sides discussed economic, technology, defence and maritime cooperation.

In a post on X, the EAM wrote: "Delighted to meet ROK President Lee Jae Myung's delegation

of Special Envoys to India led by former PM Kim Boo-kyum this morning in Delhi.

"Discussed economic, technology, defence and maritime cooperation. As well as expanding people-to-people exchanges.

"India will engage the new administration actively and work towards further enhancing our Special Strategic Partnership."

The meeting builds upon last month's meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Lee



Jae Myung, on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Canada, during which the two leaders committed to enhancing collaboration in areas like trade, investment, green energy, and ship building.

Following the impeachment and removal from office of President Yoon Suk-yeol, Lee Jae-myung of the Democratic Party was elected president in a snap election on June 3, 2025. He was sworn in the next day, June 4.

UNI RN

## Satyajit Ray's Ancestral Home Demolition Halted

■ **United News of India**

**DHAKA, JULY 17:** Bangladeshi authorities have halted the demolition of legendary Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray's ancestral home in Mymensingh, after massive public uproar.

The century-old property, which has long fallen into disrepair was scheduled for demolition, but was stopped by Deputy Commissioner Mofidul Alam, who strangely enough said that the property in question is not the ancestral home of Ray, reports Daily Star.

The DC said, "We have taken opinions from senior residents, archaeologists and researchers in the city. Based on their input, we have come to this conclusion that the house is not the ancestral home of Satyajit Ray."

He added that Rai Bahadur Rana-

da Prasad Shaha, the eminent philanthropist, occasionally resided in that house, and that Ray's ancestral home was a short distance away.

The house, located on Harikishore Roy Road, was being demolished to make way for a new semi-concrete structure for the Shishu Academy.

The house in question was identified as the ancestral property of the Ray family, following an investigation by Sabina Yeasmin, field officer of the Department of Archaeology (Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions).

In her letter to the District Children's Affairs Officer, Yeasmin urged for the building to not be demolished, writing "This is a historic house belonging to the Ray family. Though not listed as a protected site, it is over a hundred years old and linked to Satyajit Ray's ancestors. It should be

considered for heritage protection."

After the local media cited the Archaeology Department's report, there has been much debate regarding whether it really is Ray's home or not.

Some argue that the structure is indeed the ancestral home of eminent litterateur Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury, father of celebrated poet Sukumar Ray and grandfather of Satyajit Ray, while some others say it was instead constructed by Maharaja Shashikanto Acharya Chowdhury of Muktagachha.

On July 15, the Indian government had offered to cooperate with the Bangladesh government to repair and reconstruct the ancestral property of noted filmmaker Satyajit Ray in Mymensingh.

UNI ANV RN

## Indore named cleanest city for 8th year in Swachh Survekshan 2024-25

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, JULY 17:** President Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 awards with Indore retaining the title of India's cleanest city for the eighth time in a row. Surat stood second and Navi Mumbai third in the Central government's annual cleanliness survey.

Ahmedabad, Bhopal, and Lucknow were crowned as the leading Swachh Shehars (clean cities) in the country. At an event held here today, a total of 43 national awards were presented, including a special recognition for Mahakumbh, acknowledging exceptional urban waste management during the world's largest congregation, which drew an estimated 66 crore people.



Union Minister Manohar Lal awarded Prayagraj as Best Ganga Town, and Secunderabad Cantonment was recognized as Best Cantonment Board for its exemplary sanitation work. GVMC Visakhapatnam, Jabalpur, and Gorakhpur received honors as Best 'Saifai Mitra Surakshit Shehars' for ensuring the safety and dignity of sanitation workers.

In line with the 'One City, One Award' principle, 34 cities from across states and UTs were named Promising Swachh Shehars, recognizing both large and small cities that demonstrated sanitation excellence.

Commending the Ministry's focus on the 3R approach (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), President Murmu praised the "waste to wealth" memento presented to her and highlighted the importance of circular economy in empowering youth, generating green jobs, and encouraging self-help groups. She noted that cities under 1 lakh population have also set high standards of Swachhata, with impactful efforts like source segregation, school interventions, zero-waste colonies, and sanitation-focused start-ups.

The ceremony also marked the launch of the Swachh City Partnership initiative, where each of the 78 top-performing cities will mentor a low-performing city from their respective states, following the "Each One Clean One" mantra.

The Union Minister announced the Accelerated Dumpsite Remediation Program, a one-year initiative beginning August 15, 2025, aimed at fast-tracking legacy waste removal and enhancing scientific waste processing across urban India.

UNI AJ PRS

## UK secret plan to repatriate 33k Afghan nationals receives massive criticism from socio-political groups

■ **United News of India**

**LONDON/KABUL, JULY 17:** An information leak has brought to light a secret new plan by the UK to repatriate over 33,000 Afghan nationals currently residing in the country.

While much of the proposal's mechanisms is undisclosed, it has been subject to a massive controversy in the country triggered by both social groups and the political opposition, reports Tolo News.

According to British media, the plans include relocating those Afghans who cooperated with the Royal Army in Afghanistan, putting them under grave risk of near-certain retaliation by the Taliban administration.

The plan was initiated following the accidental leak of personal details of approximately 19,000 Afghan applicants in February 2022. The leak, which included names and contact information of those who had applied for the 'Afghan Relocation and Assistance Programme' (ARAP), pressured the UK government into action.

So far, about 4,500 people have been relocated to the UK, and the 'Afghanistan's Response Route' programme for further relocations continues. The programme has so far cost around £400 million (\$536

million) and is expected to increase to £850 million (\$1.1 billion).

The action, which resulted from an organisational error by the UK Ministry of Defence in sending sensitive information via unauthorised email, has sparked widespread criticism.

Opposition groups in the UK have condemned the plan, criticising its lack of transparency and the high financial costs which will have to be borne by the taxpayer-



ers, particularly when the country is witnessing a steep economic decline, high inflation, and a cost of living crisis.

There is further criticism levelled at the administration for the leak of sensitive information, with people questioning the government's accountability, and its handling of data deemed sensitive. UNI ANV SSP

## 180 delegates from China-ASEAN meet to explore AI potential to boost women empowerment

■ **United News of India**

**NANNING, JULY 17:** Over 180 delegates from across China and ASEAN countries convened in Nanning, the capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region yesterday, to explore AI's transformative potential to boost women's development.

The programme titled 'Empowerment, Sharing, Innovation: Artificial Intelligence and Women's Development', the 2025 Exchange and Cooperation Forum on Women's Development with ASEAN marked its 9th edition since its debut as the China-ASEAN Women's Forum in 2006.

"This convening reflects the growing urgency to place women at the centre of technological transformation within ASEAN, China, and the broader global community," said Sok Chan Chhory, Secretary of State, Ministry of Women's Affairs of Cambodia, during the event's opening ceremony.

Wang Weiping, Guangxi's Deputy Party chief, highlighted at the forum the region's strategic role as a gateway to Southeast Asia, leveraging cultural and geographic ties to foster collaboration. Guangxi is building a cross-border AI ecosystem, integrating world-leading R&D from top-tier cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, with applications in the

ASEAN region to create more opportunities for women in the digital era, said Wang.

The opening ceremony also featured the signing of key agreements aimed at strengthening women's empowerment.

The two-day forum features roundtable discussions that focus on AI's role in advancing women, alongside an exhibition showcasing women's AI-driven entrepreneurial achievements.

Many event participants lauded China's



leadership in AI, citing its innovations as a model for ASEAN nations, and called for stronger China-ASEAN collaboration to create an inclusive digital environment for women to thrive.

"We seek stronger ties with women's federations in China's border regions, as well as with counterparts in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia," said Do Thi Thu Thao, first Vice President of the Vietnam Women's Union, "to advance e-commerce, cross-border trade, healthcare, and cultural exchange, fostering mutual growth in the digital era."

UNI/XINHUA ANV



# Shrine Board, CGPWA collaborative green effort at Vaishnavi Vatika Jammu

■ HT News Desk

**KATRA, JULY 17:** In a significant step towards environmental conservation, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and the Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association (CGPWA), Jammu had joined hands in 2024 to foster eco-protection and sustainable practices in the local community.

With the onset of the monsoon season this year, SMVDSB and CGPWA have once again come together to offer various plant species to public through the 'Vaishnavi Vatika' Plant Sale Counter at Vaishnavi Dham, Rail Head Complex, Jammu, inaugurated last year by the Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB. This initiative exemplifies a successful institutional partnership and community engagement in environmental conservation.

ronmental conservation.

The Plant Sale Counter offers a diverse selection of around 28 indigenous plant species, meticulously nurtured and cultivated in the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's high-tech nursery situated in village Kunia, Panthal near Katra. These native plant species, well-suited to the local climate, ecosystem and are available for purchase, enabling individuals to contribute to environmental conservation and sustainability efforts.

The Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Anshul Garg highlighted the Shrine Board's pioneering eco-friendly initiatives under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor JK-UT including encompassing greening efforts, waste and water management and solar power generation. He exhorted that the Board has leveraged



drone technology for seed dispersal to preserve the Shrine's natural grandeur and planted over 1.7 million saplings under the Annual Green Plan. Further-

more, the collaboration with CGPWA has amplified awareness on eco-protection and promotes sustainable practices in the local community, leveraging their

extensive network and outreach capabilities, he added.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, SMVDSB and CGPWA, underscored the significance of environmental conservation, affirming the organization's commitment to supporting SMVDSB's eco-friendly initiatives.

At the event, Additional CEO, SMVDSB, Alok Kumar Maurya, joined by prominent CGPWA members, including BR Sharma, Kuldeep Khoda, KB Jandyal, Dr CM Seth, Ashwani Gupta, Opinder Pachnanda, Subash Chander Sharma along with ACF and other Shrine Board officials, ceremoniously planted diverse saplings at Vaishnavi Dham. The event also featured the distribution of various plant species to participants, encouraging community participation in sustainability initiatives.

## Quiz Competition- To Know About Standards

■ Mool Raj

**DODA, JULY 17:** Government Higher Secondary School Khellani Doda, organized a Quiz Competition under theme 'To Know About The Standards' in collaboration and as per instructions of Bureau of Indian Standards Office, Jammu and Kashmir today on Dated 17-07-2025 under the able supervision of Smt Nazia Munshi Principal Govt PM Shree Higher Secondary School Khellani Doda, Mentor of Standard Club Govt Higher Secondary School Khellani Mr Devander Kumar Senior Lecturer Chemistry of Govt HSS Khellani in the ICT Laboratory of Govt PM Shri Higher Secondary School Khellani Doda.

The programme was presided over by Mr. Davinder Kumar, the mentor of the BIS Club, under the supervision of the worthy Vice Principal, Mr Eshaan Ahmed Rather. A total of 55 registered students participated in the event. The programme com-



menced with recitation of clapping of participating students and introductory session presented by Mr. Davinder Kumar, who also welcome the guests followed by a beautiful theme song performance by the participants. BIS Club Incharge Of Government Higher Secondary School Khellani Doda Mr Davinder Kumar shared valuable information about the Bureau of Indian Standards and its role. The highlight of the programme was the standard Quiz Competition under the them 'To Know About The Standards' competition, in which all the registered students participated. The Evaluators members of the program Mr Rajesh Kumar Lecturer Physics, Mr Ajay Singh Rana Lecturer Math Govt Higher Secondary School Khellani, Mr Mool Raj Lecturer Environmental Science Govt Higher Secondary School Khellani and Mr Anil Kumar Lecturer Botany Govt Higher Secondary School Khellani. The Evaluators evaluated the entries and selected the position holders.

Ms Riya Devi of class 12th secured the 1st position in the competition, followed by Second Prize Winner Mohit Kumar of 12th, Mr Natik Phonkan of Class 11th won Third Prize and Fourth Prize called Consolation won by Ridhav Henan of class 12th. The winners were awarded cash prizes of Rs 1000 for the 1st position, Rs 750 for the 2nd position, Rs 500 for the 3rd position, and Rs 250 as Consolation prize. The certificates of appreciation were also distributed to the participants. The esteemed Staff members of Govt Higher Secondary School Khellani Doda who grace the program who were present in the event include Worthy Principal Nazia Munshi, Sheema Farah Sr Lecturer and Zaffurullah Naik Sr Lecturer Economic, Sumera Jahan Lecturer Information Practice and Abrar Dev Teacher of Govt PM Shree Higher Secondary School Khellani Doda.

Vice Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Khellani Doda concluded the programme by presenting a vote of thanks to the honorable guests for their presence and support. The awareness and standard writing competition proved to be a successful event in promoting knowledge and understanding of the Bureau of Indian Standards among the students. At the end of the program a good quality of refreshment, colours pens were also provided to the participating students. I hope that such types of innovative programs should be organised on regular basis in future also. Last but not least with a deep sense of appreciation, I thanks Principal Nazia Munshi and BIS Mentor Mr Davinder Kumar Sr Lecturer Chemistry for their untiring efforts.

## Natrang showcases 'Diverse Colors of JK' at IIT Jammu

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, JULY 17:** 'Diverse Colors of Jammu & Kashmir' a unique dance based presentation of Natrang Jammu was showcased here this evening at IIT Jammu in connection with 10th National Conference on Computer Vision Patron Image processing and Graphics (NCVPRIPG-25) organised by IIT Jammu. Conceived, designed and directed by Padamshree Balwant Thakur this mind blowing presentation mesmerised everyone with highly electrifying performance. This unique dance show aimed at projecting the cultural strengths of Jammu and Kashmir and its amazing cultural coexistence brilliantly conveyed a larger message from Jammu and Kashmir to pan India audience. Through such performances and cultural presentations, Natrang Jammu is serving a larger cause of culture and its projecting the excellence and brilliance of Jammu and Kashmir to National/International audience. Performed by the majority of proud G20 artists of Natrang, this international class show kept the entire audiences spellbound at every stimulating moment of stage action of brilliant artists of Natrang. Prominent among those who graced the occasion included Dr. Badri Narayan Subudhi, Dr. Anop Namdhadiri, Dr. Ranjeet Kumar Rout and Dr. Brajender Singh Sengar.

'Diverse Colors of Jammu Kashmir' is a unique



cultural album of Jammu and Kashmir showcasing the variegated variety of different colours, rhythms, costumes, design patterns and artistic expressions, expressed through the diverse dances of J&K. This amazing bouquet of rarest dance traditions unfolded the mesmerizing artistic traditions of the crown of incredible India. Each dance presentation despite being different from the other in rhythm and pace was artistically and aesthetically blended with each other so as to present their harmony and wonderful correlation.

Jammu Kashmir has a diverse blend of many cultures. It has a composite culture created by people from different religions. The cultural significance and the amazing diversity of this place is great. The people of J&K have made huge contributions towards the world culture in the form of their arts, performing arts, crafts, literature, oral histories, science, and philosophy. Most of the world visits here to experience the tradition and culture of J&K. The presentation 'Colors of Jammu & Kashmir' expresses the true essence of the cultural ethos of this region. Artists who brilliantly depicted the requisite energy and festivity included Sunny Mujoo (Choreographer), Kananpreet Kaur, Suhani Bhasin, Suneha Angural, Sana Chauhan, Aryan Sharma, Amit Rana, Arun Dev Verma, Arun Sharma, Vansh Pandotra, Shahid Salaria, Rohit Rajput, Radhika Khajuria, Janvi Bloria, Mahi Thakur, Khushi, Antriksha Rathore, Vanshika and Suhani. The programme was ably conducted by Sumeet Sharma.

## DC Ramban Holds Public Outreach Programme at Rajgarh to Address Issues of Public Interest

■ HT News Desk

**RAMBAN, JULY 17:** In a proactive step to bring administration to the doorsteps of the people and resolve their concerns on the ground, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today held a public outreach programme in tehsil Rajgarh. The event was aimed at directly engaging with the public, listening to their grievances, and issuing on-spot directions to ensure time-bound redressal.

The programme witnessed the active participation of Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, along with officers from key departments including the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers of PWD, PMGSY, JPDC, Jal Shakti, besides the Tehsildar, BDO, and other sectoral officers.

DDC Member Mohd Shafi also participated in the public outreach programme.

Locals raised several key issues, including irregular power supply, delayed installation of transformers, and shortage of doctors and paramedical staff at PHC Rajgarh and demanded the stationing of an ambulance and installation of a dental chair at PHC Rajgarh to improve healthcare services.

The Beopar Mandal of Rajgarh demanded a vehicle for lifting soiled



waste to enhance sanitation in the locality. People also expressed concerns about the slow progress on construction of Road Projects and alignment issues of road projects, especially the Rajgarh-Shushetra road. Taking action, the DC directed Executive Engineer PMGSY to expedite the construction work to complete it without further delay.

A major demand was made to shift the administrative control of four Panchayats – Bibroto, Chakka Bartund, Chakka-A, and Chakka-B – from Block Assar (Doda) to Tehsil Rajgarh (Ramban) for public convenience. The DC assured that the

matter would be taken up with higher authorities.

Responding to all grievances and issues, the Deputy Commissioner directed officials of all departments to resolve the genuine issues at the earliest most, ensuring that public concerns are addressed on priority basis. He assured the people of responsive and accountable governance.

Later, the DC inspected the functioning of PHC Rajgarh and directed the CMO to ensure punctuality and attendance of medical staff. He also instructed the Tehsildar to conduct regular inspections to ensure the proper functioning of the health facility.

## Jammu Named Cleanest City in J&K

■ HT News Desk / KNS

**SRINAGAR, JULY 17:** In a major achievement under the Swachh Survekshan 2024, Jammu has been declared the cleanest city in Jammu & Kashmir. The announcement was made today by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, based on a detailed survey conducted in April and May 2025.

Jammu Municipal Corporation not only topped the UT rankings but also earned the prestigious 3-Star Garbage-Free City (GFC) certification. It was

further honoured with the 'Promising Swachh Shehar' award for its consistent efforts in cleanliness, citizen participation, and waste management. The state award was received by Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS), MD SBM and Commissioner JMC, at a function in New Delhi.

The survey, India's largest annual urban cleanliness assessment, evaluated waste management, sanitation facilities, public feedback, and cleanliness compliance across all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the UT.

Adding to the UT's suc-

cess, Beerwah Municipal Committee earned a 1-Star GFC rating, and 70 ULBs achieved Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF+) status, with two attaining ODF++ certification. These results show clear progress in urban sanitation and public awareness.

The Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 is being implemented in J&K by the Housing & Urban Development Department, led by Commissioner Secretary Mandeep Kaur (IAS). Under her leadership, urban bodies across the UT have shown remarkable improvement in sanitation,

hygiene, and solid waste management.

Officials credit the achievement to strong teamwork between the government, local bodies, and the public. "This success reflects our shared commitment to creating cleaner, healthier, and more livable cities," said a department spokesperson.

Jammu & Kashmir's performance in Swachh Survekshan 2024 is seen as a turning point in its journey towards sustainable urban development, cleaner environments, and active community participation.

## Hindustan Shiv Sena leaders Met Shri 108 Shri Mahant Vinayak Giri Ji Maharaj Government Should Provide Suitable Place For Langar : Vikrant Kapoor

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, JULY 17:** Jai Maa Shri Annapurna Amarnath Manav Seva Dal is continuously organizing huge langar for Shri Amarnath pilgrims at Siddara bypass with the help of devotees and saints. Meanwhile, Hindustan Shiv Sena State President Vikrant Kapoor visited the langar place today and met Shri 108 Shri Mahant Vinayak Giri Ji Maharaj. During this, senior Hindustan Shiv Sena leader Sunil Dabotra was also with him.

Hindustan Shiv Sena State

president Vikrant Kapoor served in the langar there and also distributed langar to the pilgrims. Expressing satisfaction over the arrangements of the langar, he appreciated the services being provided to Shri Amarnath pilgrims by Jai Maa Shri Annapurna Amarnath Manav Seva Dal. Apart from this, langars are being organised by the Dal at many places for the last many years.

During the meeting with Mahant Vinayak Giri Ji Maharaj, Hindustan Shiv Sena's state president Vikrant Kapoor discussed many



issues. During this, the need for a suitable place for the arrange-

ment of langar was felt. Vikrant Kapoor has requested the govern-

ment to allot a suitable place for this so that the langar system can be run in a better way. He said that the administration should take such matters seriously as well as on priority basis and along with allocating a suitable place from the administration, it should also provide all possible help so that the langar system can be run smoothly. Apart from this, he assured them of all possible help from Hindustan Shiv Sena and also requested the common people to give their full support in this langar.







## DC Srinagar Reviews Khankah, Aali Masjid Restoration

Ensure Timely, Quality Restoration with Heritage Aesthetics

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing restoration/ renovation works on the Khanqah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA) at Khawaja Bazar and historic Aali Masjid at Eidgah being executed under the Preservation of Heritage Scheme of the Government to preserve the rich cultural and architectural heritage in the district.

At Khanqah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA) at Khawaja Bazar Nowhatta in Shahr-e-Khaas area of the district, DC took on spot review of the Rs 3.37 crore project for renovation, restoration and development



of Khanqah on heritage pattern.

On the occasion, DC said that the project is of significant heritage importance, aiming to preserve and restore historical architectural aesthetics of centuries old Khankah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA), a spiritual and architectural landmark in the Shahr-e-Khaas area of Srinagar district.

The DC was given a detailed appraisal of the works taken up as per approved DPR for restoration, revival, preservation and maintenance of heritage architecture of the 600 years old historic Khankahi Naqashband Sahib (RA). He was informed that the project includes structural conservation, retaining the original exterior appearance of wooden architecture & ornamentation, restoration of wooden elements on the exterior façade, installation of khatamband ceiling with papier mache work in the central hall.

Similarly, DC visited the historical Aali Masjid in the Eidgah area and took on the site review of the Rs 3.28 crore project being executed for its preservation and conservation on heritage pattern.

While taking stock of the ongoing works under the heritage conservation project, DC stressed that conservation efforts must retain original aesthetic & heritage.

It was informed that the project include works of water proofing solution to prevent the water seepage in the floor, waterproofing painting on the rooftop, khatamband on the outer open area of the Masjid with paper machie, aslar stone work on the outer side of the plinth and other works.

He directed the concerned executing agency to accelerate the pace of work on the prestigious project with quality and strictly adhere to the set time-lines.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineers of R&B, SMC, PHE, PDD, Tehsildar, Khanyar, Tehsildar Eidgah, Officers of Archives & Archeology and other concerned departments.

# Satish Sharma reaffirms government's commitment to public welfare

Former JKRTC employees, NYC volunteers, public deputations call on Minister, project issues

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: In a series of public outreach interactions, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport Youth Services & Sports, IT, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, today met with multiple delegations from across Jammu and Kashmir.

These included retired employees of JKRTC, National Youth Corps (NYC) volunteers and several public deputations from various districts.

The meetings highlighted the government's responsive approach towards the concerns of various segments of society.

A delegation from the Retired Works Union of JKRTC called upon

the Minister and submitted a memorandum requesting release of long-pending Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and 6th Pay Commission arrears. The representatives highlighted that although Order No. GMC/PS/81 dated 16.06.2021 had been issued by the department to facilitate identification and fund allotment, no action or fund release has been taken, so far.

The delegation expressed distress over the prolonged delay, citing that most affected retirees were non-pensionable employees of the erstwhile Government Transport Undertaking (GTU) and are facing serious financial hardships.

Satish Sharma, while assuring full support, stated "the govern-



ment stands committed to the welfare and dignity of our retired workforce. We acknowledge their years of dedicated service and will take up their case with the concerned on priority."

The National Youth Corps (NYC) volunteers also met the Minister and urged for regulari-

sation of their services. They pointed out their crucial role in supporting the government initiatives at the grassroots level, especially in rural outreach, COVID management and youth engagement programs.

The Minister assured the NYC volunteers that efforts are being

made to formulate a long-term solution in line with policy commitments.

In addition, several deputations from different areas of Jammu and Kashmir met the Minister and raised demands related to infrastructure development, ration supply improvements, sports infrastructure, youth employment and transport connectivity. The Minister directed officers to examine the demands raised by the deputations for appropriate redress.

"The present government is committed to inclusive governance and equitable development. Public grievances are being addressed through sustained outreach and responsive administration," stated the Minister.

## Rana emphasises collaborative initiatives to promote eco-tourism, tribal welfare

New trekking routes to be identified

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today called for introduction of new trekking trails to promote eco-friendly tourism in Jammu & Kashmir.

The motive behind the initiative is to offer the tourists a closer experience of wilderness and virgin trekking routes of the Union Territory.

During a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here, the Minister emphasised upon collaborative efforts between Forest department and Tribal Affairs Department for promotion of eco-tourism, aimed at diversification of trekking routes.

The meeting was attended by the officials, including the Secretary Tribal Affairs, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Director Tribal Affairs and MD JK&FDC.

Rana called for taking proactive measures for skill development training programmes for the tribal youth aimed at empowering them as eco-tourism and trekking guides. He said that the initiative will promote self-reliance among the young individuals by creating income-generating opportunities and opening up new career paths.

"The initiative has multiple benefits, including enhancing the employability of tribal youth, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, promoting cultural heritage and fostering inclusive growth and social justice," he said.



To achieve these objectives, the initiative will be driven by capacity building programs, research initiatives and inter-departmental coordination between the Forest, Tribal Affairs and other concerned departments.

The Minister directed the Forest Department to identify trekking routes and impart training to tribal youth selected by the Tribal Affairs Department. This collaborative effort aims to promote the eco-tourism through skilling of tribal youth.

The youth selected will be imparted training that encompass knowledge and skills necessary for safety of our tourists. This will equip them with skills to protect and manage our forests, which are vital for maintaining the ecological balance.

"Eco-friendly tourism is a key driver for sustainable development and environment conservation and we need to take collaborative steps

towards that direction to ensure better results. We aim to promote tourism in the forest hinterland without disturbing the ecological balance in the protected areas," he said.

Emphasising the govt's commitment to promotion of tourism while preserving the environmental integrity, Rana said that the objective of the initiative is to boost economy, creating new employment opportunities for locals and encouraging sustainable practices.

The Minister said that the Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is committed towards prioritizing inclusive development, education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities to uplift tribal communities.

By promoting sustainable development, cultural preservation and social justice, this initiative aims to create a brighter future for Jammu and Kashmir's tribal communities, he added.

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## Div Com, IGP review arrangements for celebration of Independence Day-2025 in Jammu Division

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, JULY 17: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti today chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparations for the Independence Day celebrations across the Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Police, CRPF, BSF, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, Managing Director JPDCL, Heads of different Departments and representatives from executing agencies.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the significance of celebrating the national festival with active public participation and administration at Division, Districts, Sub-divisions and Tehsils levels, while ensuring comprehensive security and logistical arrangements.

The meeting focused on the Divisional level event to be held at MA Stadium, Jammu. Detailed discussions were held on key aspects including barricading, seating arrangements, parking, traffic regulation, illumination of



offices and key locations, uninterrupted power and water supply, security deployment, sanitation, healthcare facilities, participation of contingents and cultural performances.

The Sports Council and Public Works Department was directed to start the repair and renovation works inside the M A Stadium, while the Hospitality department was asked to install waterproof tents and an adequate number of chairs for seating.

The MD JPDCL was asked to take measures for the illumina-

tion of identified buildings and rotaries around the City, besides ensuring uninterrupted power supply at the main venue.

The Director Health Services was directed to ensure availability of ALS ambulances and medical staff.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) was directed to maintain cleanliness in and around the stadium. The SRTC will provide buses for ferrying participants and the public to the venue.

To ensure smooth execution of arrangements, the Divisional

Commissioner directed all departments to nominate nodal officers for coordination. He further asked for establishing a dedicated control room at the venue with representatives from concerned departments.

The Deputy Commissioner Jammu was asked to oversee timely publication of invitation cards and constitute a selection committee to finalize the cultural activities to be presented on the Day.

It was informed that this year's Parade will include contingents

from BSF, CRPF, SSB, JKP, JKAP, IRP, SDRF, JKFPF, JKFS, NCC and school students along with pipe and brass bands of BSF, JKP and Schools.

The Information Department will install the Public Address System, while the Floriculture Department will provide floral decorations. The Jal Shakti Department will ensure adequate drinking water supply.

Discussions were also held on preparing a meticulous Traffic regulation plan, designating routes and buses at identified spots for the public to reach the venue without any hassle.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the District Administrations to make fool-proof arrangements in their respective districts for celebrations of Independence Day 2025. The HoDs of all Government departments were asked to hoist the Tricolour at their respective buildings.

The IGP Jammu directed for the deployment of adequate security personnel at all venues and to ensure smooth traffic flow during the celebrations.

### ازدفتر نایب تحصیلدار پہلگام

استہار ہمراد اگاہی خاص عام

درخواست منجانب

یاور حسین لون پسر سکینہ بانو ساکن ننون پہلگام

سابل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول لیگہیر سرٹفکٹ دفتر ہزا مین پیس کی ہے جس کے مطابق سابل کی والدہ سکینہ بانو زوجہ غلام مہی دین لون

28/11/2008

کوفوت ہوئی ہے

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نایب تحصیلدار پہلگام



# STRENGTHENING PARTY CRUCIAL FOR NATION AND ITS PEOPLE: SAT SHARMA

Sat credits united efforts of party cadre for its growth

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, JULY 17:** Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP emphasized the importance of robust coordination among all wings of the party, stating that the BJP in Jammu & Kashmir has grown up very fast and the credit for its popularity in the entire length and breadth of the UT goes to the united efforts of its cadre.

Sat Sharma was interacting with the party activists from different districts of the J&K at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

BJP headquarter Incharge & former Minister Priya Sethi, former MLA Ashwani Sharma,

Rashpaul Verma, Prabhat Singh Jamwal, Tilak Raj Gupta, Rakesh Mahajan, Balbir Ram Rattan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Sanjita Dogra, Kulbhushan Mohtra, Ankit Gupta, Updesh Andotra, Parduman Singh, HR Loria, Vikrant Gupta, Sanjay Sharma, Jaideep Sambyal, Ishant Mahajan, Gulshan Bhagat, and others were present on the occasion.

During this interaction, the discussions upon the current organizational activities, future strategies, and strengthening of the party structure at the grass-roots level were made.

Sat Sharma emphasized the importance of robust coordination among all wings of the



party to ensure the smooth functioning of organizational activities. He stated that the BJP stands committed to reaching out to every section of society and called upon the cadre to work with greater dedication in view of the upcoming organizational and electoral challenges.

"Strengthening our party structure is crucial for the nation and its people also because it serves as a bridge between the people and the government, enabling better understanding of the welfare and development schemes. It also enhances democratic representation and accountability", said Sat Sharma. During the interaction, Shar-

ma reviewed the progress of ongoing party campaigns and outreach programmes across different districts of Jammu & Kashmir. He laid particular stress on booth-level management and the need to activate all party units to strengthen the BJP's presence at every polling booth.

Highlighting the achievements of the Modi government, Sat Sharma urged the leaders to communicate the central government's welfare schemes and developmental milestones to the common people. He said the party's strength lies in its disciplined cadre and its connection with the masses, and both must be continuously reinforced.

## Rs. 7 lakh penalty imposed on erring Food Business Operators in Anantnag

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**ANANTNAG, JULY 17:** In a significant move to uphold food safety standards and safeguard the health of consumers, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali, who is also the Adjudicating Officer, Food Safety Anantnag, has imposed cumulative penalties amounting to Rs.7 lakhs on various Food Business Operators (FBOs) found guilty of violating multiple provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

These cases were filed by Food Safety Officers of the district against several FBOs for a range of violations, including the manufacturing and sale of sub-standard or misbranded food products, operating businesses without the mandatory license or registration, non-compliance with Schedule IV of the FSS Act, 2006 which pertains to Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and failure to comply with the directions issued by



Food Safety Officers.

The penalties were imposed under Section 68 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

During the adjudication proceedings, ADC underscored the importance of strict compliance with the provisions of the FSS Act. He emphasized that any lapse in maintaining food safety standards will not be tolerated and warned FBOs to refrain from such violations in the future.

He further cautioned that failure to pay the imposed penalties within the stipulated time frame would lead to the cancellation of food licenses. This move reinforces the zero-tolerance policy of the district administration towards food safety violations and reflects the unwavering commitment of the Food Safety department Anantnag to protect public health.

The department urges all stakeholders in the food business to adhere strictly to food safety norms and cooperate with regulatory authorities in ensuring safe and hygienic food for all.

## One day sensitization programme held at J&K Judicial Academy Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, JULY 17:** A one day special training programme on 'Civil Services Regulations (CSR); Execution of Warrants, Carrying Out Attachment, Sale & Other Official Duties for Executing Orders of the Execution Court' was organized today at J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar, for Accounts Officers and Nazirs of various courts of Kashmir Province and the Union Territory of Ladakh and of the High Court.

The training was organised under the patronage of Justice Arun Kumar Pali, Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of the Chairperson and members of the Governing

Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy.

The programme was designed to enhance the understanding of procedural and regulatory responsibilities among court and administrative staff involved in executing court orders and handling service-related matters under CSR.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta introduced the objectives of the training. The technical session was conducted by Rajiv Gupta, Registrar Vigilance, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Khem Raj Sharma, Registrar Rules, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

They explained the processes involved in the execution of warrants, attachment and sale procedures, and other duties associated with the execution of court



orders. They also outlined practical scenarios and responded to participant queries to ensure operational clarity.

The session encompassed a detailed overview of the relevant legal provisions under the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) that govern execution proceedings. Sharma highlighted the importance

of adhering strictly to procedural requirements to avoid legal challenges and ensure the enforceability of execution actions.

The second session was conducted by G. M. Wani, Accounts Officer, who focused on key CSR provisions including Leave Rules, Pension Rules, and regulations around Joining Time. He also delved

into TA Rules, Pay Fixation procedures, and the correct maintenance of Service Books.

Participants were briefed on common lapses and best practices in handling service records and entitlements.

The day concluded with an interactive session, during which attendees shared feedback, raised queries, and engaged in a discussion on challenges they face in implementation of the covered topics. The resource persons responded to all questions and guided staff on compliance and updates in rules.

The programme was marked by active participation and a practical, hands-on learning atmosphere, reinforcing the role of administrative training in efficient judicial functioning.

## Model Academy Organizes Week-Long Capacity Building Programme for Teachers

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, JULY 17:** Model Academy School successfully concluded a week-long Capacity Building Programme for its faculty from July 3 to July 14, 2025. The initiative, aimed at enhancing teaching effectiveness and professional growth, featured a series of interactive sessions conducted by seasoned educators and experts.

The programme began with a session on Effective Communicative Skills by Mrs. Maneka Khanna, Academic Manager (Primary Wing), who emphasized clarity, active listening, and empathetic engagement through activities like Chinese Whisper, Emotion Charades, and Barrier Games.

Principal Mr. Pramod Kumar Srivastava led an insightful workshop on Active Learning, highlighting techniques such as think-pair-share, jigsaw tasks, simulations, and the use of multimedia tools to boost classroom participation and learner engagement.

A session on Effective Pedagogies and Outcome-Based Education by vice-principal, Mr. J.K. Dhiman focused on aligning teaching strategies with



student learning needs and modern educational outcomes.

A comprehensive two-day workshop on the School Quality Assessment and Assurance Framework (SQAFF) was conducted by Academic Managers, Dr. Pooja Mishra, Mr. Prince Sharma, and Mrs. Manju Vali offering domain-wise insights for quality improvement and implementation.

Mrs. Rupa Gupta, Joint Director, MIER, conducted a powerful session on Empowered Leadership for Impactful Learning, equipping educators with dynamic leadership strategies to foster

enriched learning environments.

An advanced workshop on Use of AI and IT Tools for Question Paper Framing was led by Dr. Moolraj Sharma, Professor and Head, Centre for Educational Technology, MIER College. The session introduced educators to generative AI tools for enhanced assessment practices.

Additionally, a two-day training on Tata Edge Smart Class was facilitated by Mr. Mahesh Sharma, Area Academic Trainer, focusing on digital integration and tech-enabled teaching approaches.

## ₹1.07 Cr revenue generated, deposited in Govt Treasuries from sale of trainee products by Handicrafts & Handloom Dept

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, JULY 17:** Demonstrating its sustained efforts in skill development and artisan empowerment, Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has recorded a cumulative revenue generation of more than ₹1.07 crore over the last three financial years through sale of products crafted by trainees at departmental training centres across the valley.

In a press statement issued here today, spokesman from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, stated that this revenue, fully deposited in the Government Treasuries, has been realized from the sale of a wide range of handicraft and handloom products produced by trainees enrolled in over 400 departmental training centres which include Pashmina products, Sozni, Crewel, Chain Stitch, Kani Shawl,



carpets and a variety of handloom fabrics, reflecting the region's rich craft heritage. "This also reflects a perfect example of how funds released by the Government are recycled back into the system and utilized for development activities related to promotion of craft sector," he added.

Department views this achievement as a testament to its ongoing efforts in nurturing traditional skills and enhancing the earning potential of local artisans. By integrating practical, market-oriented production into training modules, Department ensures that trainees gain not just technical proficiency but also a real-time understanding of commercial aspects of the craft sector.

Efforts are underway to further modernize training infrastructure, introduce contemporary design elements and forge stronger market linkages through departmental sale outlets and participation in national-level exhibitions. These steps aim to ensure that products crafted by trainees find broader markets while helping preserve the unique handicraft and handloom traditions of Kashmir.

The Department remains committed to expanding these initiatives, thereby creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth and artisan community of the Union Territory.

## MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma Conducts Developmental Tour of Janipur and Barnai Areas

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, JULY 17:** To take first-hand account of developmental works and civic conditions, MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma conducted a detailed tour of Ward No. 37 (Janipur Colony) and Ward No. 65 (Barnai) today. The visit covered key locations including Janipur Colony, Shivalik Puram, Government Girls Middle School Janipur, Ram Leela Ground, Barnai Talab, and areas adjoining Shiv Mandir.

During the inspection, the MLA was briefed by the concerned departments about the ongoing sewerage work in Janipur, with

approximately 40% completion reported. Updates were also provided regarding the status of drainage cleaning, road repairs, public sanitation, and water supply systems. In Barnai, issues like leaking PHE valves, water shortages, and pollution of the pond due to open drains were raised, while in Janipur and Shivalik Puram, problems such as blocked drains, wild vegetation, damaged roads, and uncovered Nallahs were highlighted.

Taking serious note of these issues, Sham Lal Sharma issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments. He instructed for immediate cleaning of drains,

removal of wild growth, concrete covering of open Nallahs, and repair of the steep, pothole-ridden lane near Shiv Mandir. Directions were also given for the repair of water leakage in Barnai and ensuring regular water supply to affected areas. The departments were asked to either divert or treat the wastewater entering the Barnai pond to preserve its hygiene and religious significance. Additionally, the MLA asked the concerned agencies to realign tilted electric poles, address wire entanglement, and carry out structural repairs around the Shiv Mandir premises, including raising land levels and blacktopping.

At Government Girls Middle School Janipur, the MLA stressed on maintaining proper hygiene and assured the staff of a follow-up visit. He also took note of overgrown vegetation and general mismanagement around the Water Supply Station in Janipur, instructing the concerned departments to ensure cleanliness and strict compliance with duty rosters.

During his tour, Sham Lal Sharma interacted with residents and local stakeholders, listened to their concerns, and assured them of swift redressal. He reiterated his commitment to transparent and result-oriented governance and emphasized that field inspection

are essential to ensure the timely delivery of services. He also urged departments to maintain close coordination for better and lasting civic improvements.

Sector officers from the concerned departments, including PHE, UEED, PDD, JMC, and R&B, were present during the visit and assured compliance with the instructions issued by the MLA. Also accompanying him were BJP District General Secretary Ravish Mengi, Former Councillor Ward 37 Sunita Gupta, Janipur Mandal President Sahil Gupta, Muthi-Paloura Mandal President Pankaj Pada, and Former Mandal President Suresh Khajuria.



# Meet the future stars from India's state T20 leagues

Some of the best performers from the TNPL, Mumbai T20 League, Baroda Premier League and more

■ United News of India

It may be the off-season as far as BCCI tournaments go, but several state associations have made the most of the window by hosting their own T20 leagues. These competitions have become crucial platforms for fringe players, domestic regulars, and emerging talent to catch the eye of IPL scouts and state selectors. Here's a look at some of the standout performers from six different leagues across the country.

**Tushar Raheja - TNPL**  
A dashing opener who can also keep wicket, Tushar Raheja has been the top run-getter across the past two TNPL seasons. From being a pace-hitter in the powerplay, Raheja has evolved into a more rounded batter. His game against spin has particularly evolved this season; his manner of taking down Varun Chakravarthy and R Ashwin in the competition is ample proof.

Raheja may have deflected a ques-

tion on his IPL prospects cheekily after leading Tiruppur Tamizhans to the title - he also topped the run charts with 488 runs in nine innings at a strike rate of 185.55 - but he might not be too far away from breaking into the league.

**Akshat Raghuvanshi - Madhya Pradesh Premier League**

"At 21, I haven't seen a more talented player. I'm keeping my fingers crossed. Big things are waiting for him in the future." That's state senior Venkatesh Iyer on top-order batter Raghuvanshi, who was the standout batter in the tournament even though he didn't top the run charts.

Scouts and coaches believe he could be the next Priyansh Arya-like IPL star. Raghuvanshi had everyone sit up and take notice of him when he smacked 105 off 45 balls against Bhopal Leopards. He hit 239 runs in four innings, striking at 177. Since being part of MP's Ranji Trophy-winning campaign in 2022, Raghuvanshi's career has hit a rough

patch. But his recent white-ball performances provide hope for a brighter future.

**Kraains Fuletra - Saurashtra Pro T20**  
Left-arm wristspinners are a rare breed, and at just 21, Fuletra's combination of skill and temperament has got people in Saurashtra excited. First spotted by Jaydev Unadkat and brought in as a net bowler in Rajkot, Fuletra was fast-tracked into the Vijay Hazare Trophy squad during the 2024-25 season, and debuted against Karnataka. He was later part of Sunrisers Hyderabad as a net bowler at IPL 2025.

More recently, he picked up 10 wickets in nine matches for Anmol Kings Halar in the Saurashtra Pro T20 League, where he earned the Emerging Player award. From being on the fringes of the state set-up just over a year ago, Fuletra has already broken into Saurashtra's Under-23 squad. A call-up to the senior team across formats appears to be a matter of when, not if.



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