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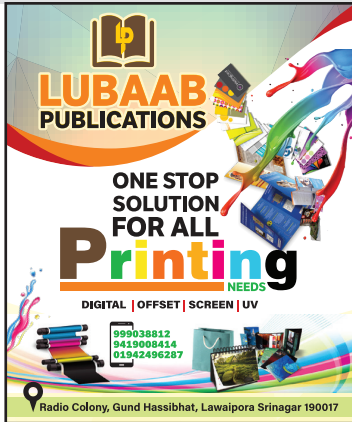
15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATION



HEADLINES

TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



Drawing Protests From Opposition, The Draft Laws Referred To JPC

After HM Amit Shah Introduced Bill for Removal of PM, CM, Ministers Who Face Arrest On Criminal Charges

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, AUG 20: Union Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday introduced three Bills in Lok Sabha for the removal of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers arrested on serious criminal charges for 30 days, drawing fierce protests from the Opposition as the draft laws were referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament.

Amid repeated disruptions, Shah introduced the three Bills as a resolution was passed by a voice vote to

refer the measures to a Joint Committee of Parliament comprising 21 members from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.

The Committee has been mandated to submit its report to the House by the last day of the first week of the next session. The next session (Winter session) of the Parliament is likely to be convened in the third week of November.

As soon as the Bills were tabled, the Opposition members began protesting and trooped into the well, raising slogans. Some even tore cop-

ies of the Bills in front of Shah.

Opposition MPs, including AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress' Manish Tewari and K C Venugopal, spoke against the introduction, terming the proposed law against the Constitution and federalism, while Shah rejected criticism that the Bills were brought in haste.

The Home Minister also said that the Bills will be sent to the Joint Committee of Parliament where members of both Houses, including those from the Opposition, would get an opportunity to give their suggestions.



When Venugopal raised the issue of Shah's arrest while he was the Gujarat home minister and asked about his claim of morality in politics, the senior BJP leader countered, saying he had resigned on moral grounds before his arrest and joined the Government only after being discharged by the court.

"We cannot be so shameless that we continue to occupy constitutional positions while facing serious charges," Shah said.

Amid continuous noisy protests, the House was adjourned till 5 pm as

Speaker Om Birla repeatedly asked the Opposition members to take their seats and maintain the dignity of the House.

Earlier in the day, as the protests escalated, there was a brief jostling between Opposition and ruling party MPs with BJP members, including Union Ministers Ravneet Singh Bittu and Kiren Rijiju, stepping in to shield Shah.

Three House marshals formed a protective ring around Shah. Even after the House was adjourned,

● Cont. on Page 2

Day 07: Rescue ops continues in Chasoti village

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 21: Rescue operations in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district entered seventh consecutive day on Wednesday, following the devastating cloudburst that triggered flash floods in Chasoti village on August 14, officials said on Wednesday.

The officials said that four specially trained sniffer dogs from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), along with eight handlers from Punjab, have been deployed to assist in the search for missing persons.

The dogs, trained to detect human remains, have already helped in locating four bodies and continue to be used extensively across debris-laden zones, they said.

The disaster has so far resulted in 65 deaths, with over 70 individuals still reported missing. The officials said bodies are still being recovered from various locations near the site of the cloudburst. Search operations are ongoing across multiple sectors, with teams using heavy machinery and manual methods to locate the missing.

Locals have been moved to nearby villages where temporary relief camps have been established to provide food, shelter, and medical aid.

The cloudburst struck near Chasoti village, which is located on the route of the annual Machail Mata Yatra, a major pilgrimage that draws thousands of devotees to the Chandi Mata temple in the remote Paddar Valley. The pilgrimage, which began on July 25 and is scheduled to continue until September 5, was halted due to the disaster.

"Rescue teams from the Army, NDRF, SDRF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and

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Shun '*SAB CHALTA HAY*' Attitude, Work For Revolutionary Academic Changes To Transform India Into Knowledge Economy: LG Sinha

■ HT News Desk

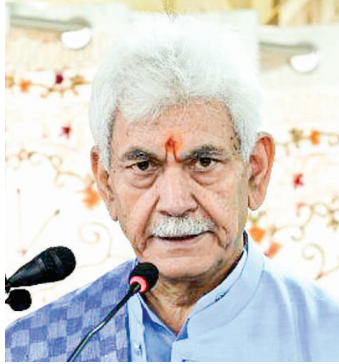
GANDERBAL, AUG 20: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the Administrative Block and Amphitheatre at Central University of Kashmir, Tulmulla Campus, Ganderbal.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke about the need for vital contribution by academicians and students as India is poised for significant growth over

the next two decades with the ultimate objective of Viksit Bharat@2047.

"Our growth model should focus on creating human capital that can contribute significantly to economic growth," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of providing an engaging learning environment, foster critical thinking and life skills, problem solving and innovation among



students.

"We must get rid of 'Sab Chalta hai Attitude' and make revolutionary changes in the old curriculum of Colleges and Universities to transform India into a knowledge economy. Our topmost priority should be investment in human capital, innovation and research.

Adequate attention must be given to interdisciplinary courses. Apart from developing creativ-

ity, innovation, thinking, skills, the interdisciplinary courses also help in making the students aware of their social and moral responsibilities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the university is the axis of development and the students are its periphery. Human development is never mechanical. It requires a better university, teachers

● Cont. on Page 2

Immediate Tendering And Execution of Works is Need of The Hour : CM To Officials

Reviews GST Collection, Revenue Generation And Implementation of District Capex Plans

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 20: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of financial inclusion schemes, social security coverage, district capex and progress of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) works programme. Chief Minister also reviewed the GST collection - tax and non-tax revenue for the current financial year.

The meeting was attended by the Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, all Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners of all districts, and other concerned, both in person and through virtual mode.



Principal Secretary Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, gave a detailed presentation on the financial and social inclusion schemes, revenue generation trends and district-wise progress under capex and CDF works.

The Chief Minister noted tardy pace in uploading & tendering of works and issued directions to all departments and districts to focus on revenue realization & social inclusion schemes and monitor progress on a monthly basis rather than leaving corrective measures to the last quarter of the financial year.

"Departments must not wait for February and March to chase revenue targets. Each department will receive specific communication from the Finance Department flagging their areas of concern and giving a six-month revenue target breakdown. They should start working on improving revenue realization today, with a clear monthly plan," the Chief Minister stressed.

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J&K receives normal rainfall in last 81 days

MeT predicts rains at isolated places till Aug 26

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 20: Amid the cloudbursts, flash floods, and heavy rainfall, Jammu & Kashmir has recorded normal precipitation in the last 81 days. As against the normal rainfall of 398.9 mm, the region has received 397.8 mm during this period.

The data prepared by the Meteorological Department (MeT) reveals that the region has recorded only a 5 per cent deficit in rainfall from June 1, 2025, to August 20, 2025.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, along with eight stations, including Baramulla, Doda, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kathua, Poonch, and Ramban, has recorded normal precipitation in the last 81 days, the data reveals.

Six other stations, including Anantnag, Budgam, Bandipora, Kulgam, Kupwara, and Pulwama, saw deficit rainfall ranging between 20% and 59%, it added.

Kishtwar district, despite witnessing massive flash floods triggered by a cloudburst, has recorded a large deficit in rainfall. Against the normal precipitation of 309.1 mm, the station has recorded only 91.8 mm. The Shopian station has also recorded a large deficit in rainfall of 70 per cent.

Reasi, Samba, and Udhampur stations have recorded excess rainfall ranging between 20% and 59% during the period, the data reveals.

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CS, ICRISAT Discuss 'Climate Smart Agriculture'

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 20: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held detailed deliberations with a delegation from the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, to advance the agenda of Climate Smart Agriculture in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation, led by Dr. Stanford Blade, Deputy Director General, ICRISAT, also included

Senior Scientists, Dr. Manzoor Dar and Dr. Demaris Odeny, while Professor Haroon Naik, Director Research, SKUAST-Kashmir, was present during the meeting.

The discussions primarily revolved around the establishment of Himalayan Centre of Excellence for Dryland Agriculture at SKUAST-K, envisioned as a landmark initiative to position J&K as a leader in climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture.

The proposed Centre will serve as a hub for research, innovation and technology dissemination suited to the unique agro-ecological conditions of the Himalayan region. Its focus areas will include development of climate-resilient crop varieties, strengthening decentralized seed systems, promoting regenerative and dryland farming practices and advancing soil and water conservation besides enhancing farmer-centric value chains across the UT.

A key part of the deliberations highlighted the critical importance of fodder security for J&K. With a large proportion of farming households dependent on livestock particularly in hilly and rainfed areas.

The Chief Secretary was apprised of the urgent need to strengthen fodder development programs. He was informed that ensuring year-round availability of quality fodder would improve livestock

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6200 food samples fail safety tests in J&K over 5 years

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 20: Jammu & Kashmir has reported alarming levels of food adulteration in the past five years, with more than 6,200 food samples failing safety standards out of 41,717 tested, according to data presented in Parliament.

The figures show that nearly 15 per cent of food items analyzed between 2020 and 2025 were found unfit for consumption.

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65% of J&K's landslide areas classified as low risk, 12% high risk: Survey

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 20: Around 65% of Jammu and Kashmir's landslide-prone areas are classified as low risk, 23% fall under moderate risk, and 12% are identified as high-risk zones, according to the latest landslide susceptibility mapping by the Geological Survey of India.

The Government of India, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), has made significant progress in mapping landslide-prone areas across the country, including Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), as part of its efforts to manage natural disasters more effectively.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI), the

nodal agency for landslide studies, has completed comprehensive landslide susceptibility mapping for the entire landslide-prone hilly and mountainous regions, including Jammu & Kashmir.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the landslide susceptibility maps classify areas into low, moderate, and high-risk zones based on the likelihood of landslide initiation. In Jammu & Kashmir, about 65% of the landslide-prone area falls under the low-risk category, 23% under moderate risk, and 12% under high-risk zones.

This detailed mapping, created on a 1:50,000 scale, covers about 4.3 lakh square kilometers

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CUK expecting fund grants from Gol in a month: VC

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, AUG 20: Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kashmir (CUK) A. Ravinder Nath Wednesday said that the varsity is expecting the fund grants from Government of India in a month for the construction of buildings, automation and innovation.

In an interview with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the VC when asked about the overall development of

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Railway Board Approves First Cargo Train Service From Delhi To Budgam In Kashmir Valley

■ HT News Desk

NEW DELHI, AUG 20 : The Railway Board has approved a cargo train between Delhi and Budgam in the Kashmir valley to benefit the local population and the business class.

A circular dated August 20 said the Railway Board examined the proposal of the Northern Railway Zone under which the Jammu Division falls, and decided to accord approval for a Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo (JPP-RCS) train service on the Badgam-Adarsh Nagar (Delhi)-Badgam route on daily basis.

"The train service shall operate with

eight VPs (parcel vans) and one SLR (seating-cum-luggage rake). It will have an intermediate loading/unloading facility as Baribrahman (BBMN)," the circular said.

It added that the service will initially run on pilot basis for one year from the date of operation.

"Northern Railway shall coordinate with the state police in matters connected to the security of running this train. Security of the parcels shall be ensured at both the originating and terminating ends. Scanning of the parcels shall be ensured in consultation with the state police," the Railway Board said.

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DIV COM, IGP JAMMU VISIT CLOUDBURST, FLASH-FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS OF KATHUA

Assure speedy relief, restoration of services

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, AUG 20: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu, B.S. Tuti today conducted an extensive tour of cloudburst and flash flood-induced landslide hit areas of Kathua district to assess the situation and review the ongoing relief and restoration measures.

At the relief camp established at SIDCO Ghati, the Div Com met the affected families of Jode area where five persons lost their lives in the recent

calamity. He interacted with the displaced families, expressed deep concern over the loss of lives and extended condolences. He assured the victims of every possible support from the government and informed that immediate financial assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has already been provided by the District Administration. He directed Deputy Commissioner Kathua to ensure speedy restoration of road connectivity in the affected areas.

The Div Com also visited Dilwan village, which wit-



nessed significant damage to road infrastructure and habitations due to flashfloods. He directed the concerned Executive Engineers of PWD, PHE and PDD to work in close coordination for restoration of essential services in the shortest possible time to mitigate the hardships of the affected families.

Later, the Div Com visited Government Medical College, Kathua, where he met the injured persons of Jakhole and Janglote who were admitted for treatment. He enquired about their health and medical care being provided. He directed the

GMC authorities and district administration to ensure best possible treatment and proper care of the injured and their families. Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, apprised the Div Com that adequate medical facilities and all necessary assistance are being extended to the victims.

DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma; ADC Kathua, Vishavjeet Singh; Tehsildar concerned besides officers of PWD, PHE, PDD and other departments accompanied the Divisional Commissioner during the visit.

DC Bandipora reviews functioning of Health sector

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, AUG 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today reviewed the functioning of the health sector in a meeting held at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

On the occasion, DC took stock of the status of various national health programmes, including NHM, Child and Maternal Health, RBSK, Anaemia Mukht Bharat, Ayushman Bharat, PMJAY-SEHAT, NP-NCD, National Dialysis Programme, and National Mental Health Programme. She emphasised the need to reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), improve NFHS indicators, and strengthen JSSK and JSY implementation.

Reviewing infrastructure and projects under District and State CAPEX, DC directed BMOs to visit all ongoing sites and submit reports. She asked R&B to coordinate closely with the district administration and main-

tain the pace of works.

Medical Superintendent (MS) apprised the chair about the overall performance of District Hospital Bandipora, highlighting a good footfall in OPD with nearly one lakh patients visiting every month. He informed that DH Bandipora has been providing 24x7 services in Emergency, Gynaecology, Medicine, Blood Bank, and Laboratory, while specialties including Surgery, Anaesthesia, ENT, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, and Dental are operational on a day-care basis. Facilities like CT Scan, Dialysis, and Tele-radiology were also reviewed.

During the meeting, DC directed concerned departments to ensure fencing of all structures and urged concerned officers to resolve land issues in coordination with CMO and BMOs.

DC directed J&K Housing Board to ensure early resolution of issues, including the functioning of the lift at DH Bandipora. She also stressed the importance of maintaining tele-consultation schedules under e-Sanjeevani and ensuring proper utilisation of equipment under Biomedical Equipment Management and Maintenance Programme.

She appreciated the role of on-ground health workers, noting that their dedication has ensured strong performance in Kayakalp,

ABDM, National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, Rabies Control, and other national schemes.

Indu urged all stakeholders to work with dedication and on a fast-track basis to ensure timely completion of projects and improved service delivery to meet the growing needs of patients effectively.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Maqbool Lone; Chief Medical officer Bandipora, Dr. Ishitiyaq Naik; Ex-En R&B Bandipora and Sumbal, Medical Superintendent, DH Bandipora, BMOs of different blocks, and other concerned officers.

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Drawing Protests.....

Opposition members persisted with loud sloganeering.

The three Bills are the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill 2025; the Constitution (One Hundred And Thirtieth Amendment) Bill 2025; and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2025.

The Bills have proposed that if the Prime Minister, Union Ministers or Chief Ministers, are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days for offences that attract a jail term of at least five years, they will lose their job on the 31st day.

Opposing the Bills at the introduction stage, Owaisi said the Constitution is being amended to "destabilise governments".

Tewari echoed similar views, saying an individual is "innocent till proven guilty".

"This Bill is against the jurisprudence of criminal justice and distorts Parliamentary democracy. The Bill opens door for political misuse and throws all constitutional safeguards to the winds," he said.

RSP MP NK Premchandran alleged that the Bills are being introduced in "undue haste".

"These Bills are not being introduced as per the procedures of the House. What is the undue haste in bringing such important Bills that they have not even been circulated to the members," he said.

According to the Bill, there is no provision under the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 (20 of 1963) for the removal of the Chief Minister or a Minister arrested and detained in custody on account of serious criminal charges.

Hence, there is a need to amend section 45 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, to provide a legal framework for the removal of a Chief Minister or a Minister in such cases. (PTI)

Shun 'SAB.....

and learning environment, he added.

"Due to rapid growth and evolving technology, we need human resources with exceptional qualities. They should have lifelong learning skills and the ability to change with time for re-skilling and up-skilling," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The occasion also witnessed the commencement of a 7-day induction programme for newly recruited faculty of the Central University of Kashmir.

Prof. A. Ravindra Nath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir; Shri Rajiv Pandey, DIG Central Kashmir Range; Shri Jatinder Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal; Head of Departments, faculty members, staff and students of the university were present.

Day 07: Rescue.....

civil administration are coordinating efforts to find missing persons and restore basic services in the affected areas," they added.

Given the region's difficult terrain, specialized all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) have been deployed to access remote zones. Earth movers are also being used to clear large sections of debris, particularly around a langar site

where many pilgrims were gathered at the time of the incident.

Officials said the primary focus remains on locating missing individuals, with continued support from central and state agencies. Adverse weather conditions and the rugged terrain have posed challenges to the operation, but efforts continue across all impacted zones.

Local administration confirmed that the search will continue until all possible areas are covered and those missing are accounted for. (KNO)

Immediate....

He further directed that Deputy Commissioners will be given district-specific instructions from the Finance Department, particularly regarding the coverage of social welfare schemes such as PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Integrated Social Security Scheme, widow, old-age and disability pensions. He called DCS to find out reasons for drop in enrollment of account holders under PMJDY and other schemes. "We will conduct another review of social welfare schemes after three months, and I expect to see a significant improvement in coverage at the district level," Omar Abdullah said.

CM called for expediting finalization of works plans under the CDF and to upload the works on BEAMS portal. He gave instructions that MLAs be informed about the works included in the UT & District Capex plans which were prioritized by the MLAs during pre-budget meetings and to intimate them about works which were found unviable.

The Chief Minister cautioned that delays in revenue mobilization could force the government into difficult decisions such as imposing cuts in departmental expenditure. "If departments do not want to find themselves in a position where expenditure is curtailed, they must focus as far as possible on improving revenue realization. The responsibility lies with each department to ensure timely progress," he emphasized.

During the meeting, it was noted that while social security schemes have shown impressive growth in recent years—with PMJDY account holders crossing 23 lakh, PMSBY enrollments touching 23.8 lakh account holders, and PMJJBY covering nearly 9.83 lakh individuals.

Similarly, in respect of welfare schemes administered by Building & Other Construction Workers Board, the meeting was informed that 166.90 crore was disbursed to 2.5 lakh beneficiaries in 2024-25, yet active worker registration remains low, requiring expansion efforts.

The Chief Minister underlined the need to strengthen monitoring of both expenditure and revenue flows, ensure 100% uploading of works on BEAMS, and expedite accord of administrative approvals, tendering and execution of district capex works. He also called for intensified awareness campaigns to improve access to social security schemes and faster settlement of claims.

The Chief Minister reiterated his govern-

ment's commitment to social security, inclusive growth and fiscal discipline, while urging all departments and Deputy Commissioners to work in close coordination with the Finance Department to achieve the set targets.

J&K receives.....

Meanwhile, Director Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, said that generally hot and humid weather is expected, with a brief spell of rain and thunderstorms at a few places over the next two days, with isolated heavy rain over Jammu division, especially in Reasi, Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, and Samba, during late night on the 22nd.

From August 23-26, he said, light to moderate rain and thunderstorms are expected at many places, with heavy rain at a few places in Jammu, including Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur, Samba, Kathua, and Rajouri, and in Anantnag and Kulgam districts of Kashmir, with moderate or intense showers over Poonch, Ramban, Doda, and Kishtwar.

He added that from August 27-30, hot and humid weather with a brief spell of rain and thunder is expected at a few places.

Moreover, in its advisory, the MeT has said that there is a possibility of intense, heavy rain and thunder at a few places in Jammu division and Kashmir division during August 23-26.

It states that cloudbursts and flash floods may occur at vulnerable places, with a possibility of landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones.

The people have been advised to stay away from water bodies, streams, nallas, river embankments, loose structures, and kaccha houses. "All concerned are advised to follow accordingly," the MeT advisory reads. (KNO)

CS, ICRISAT.....

productivity and enhance both nutritional and livelihood security for rural communities.

The Centre of Excellence is expected to integrate the crop-livestock systems, advanced research, and farmer-focused innovations, thereby contributing to sustainable livelihoods, resilience against climate shocks and long-term prosperity of J&K's farming communities in the times to come.

6200 food.....

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in 2020-21, 4,094 samples were tested, of which 871 were declared non-conforming, leading to 573 penalties.

In 2021-22, testing expanded to 8,109 samples, with 1,735 failing standards. That year also saw the highest enforcement, with 1,931 penalties imposed.

In 2022-23, authorities tested 13,502 samples—the highest in the period—but 1,195 failed to meet safety norms. A total of 1,592 penalties were issued. The following year (2023-24), 9,057 samples were tested, 750 were adulterated, and 1,612 penalties were imposed, including some pending cases from previous years.

In the current year (2024-25), 6,955 sam-

ples were tested, with 651 found unsafe, leading to 1,239 penalties.

Overall, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 6,202 non-conforming samples and more than 6,900 penalties between 2020 and 2025.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been urging states and Union Territories, including J&K, to strengthen enforcement mechanisms and fill vacant posts of food safety officers.

The Health Ministry informed the Rajya Sabha that whenever samples are found non-conforming to provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, legal action and penalties are initiated against defaulters—(KNO)

65% of J&K's.....

across 19 states and union territories.

The GSI continuously updates its landslide database, which includes over 33,900 field-validated landslides, supported by remote sensing and field data.

The maps and inventory are publicly accessible through the National Geoscience Data Repository and Bhukosh portals, helping authorities and stakeholders in disaster preparedness and land-use planning.

For more detailed local assessments, the GSI is also working on meso-scale mapping at scales of 1:10,000 and 1:5,000. In Jammu & Kashmir, this will enable more precise risk evaluations and guide safer infrastructure development. By 2028, 200 critical sectors across the country, including those in J&K, are targeted for completion of this high-resolution mapping.

The government is actively enhancing landslide forecasting capabilities to respond to the increasing frequency of natural calamities. The Regional Landslide Forecasting System (RLFS), developed by GSI in collaboration with the Indian Meteorological Department and other agencies, provides early warnings based on rainfall and weather models.

This system supports disaster management authorities to take timely preventive actions in vulnerable regions.

Jammu & Kashmir, with its mountainous terrain and susceptibility to natural hazards, benefits from such forecasting efforts. While specific operational forecasts for J&K districts are currently under development, the government is committed to expanding these services across all high-risk zones.

In addition to mapping and forecasting, the Government of India provides special assistance to states with high-risk landslide areas through financial aid and capacity-building programs.

The National Landslide Risk Mitigation Programme and the Aapda Mitra scheme, implemented by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), offer funding and train community volunteers in disaster response, ensuring local preparedness and resilience—(KNO)

CUK expecting.....

the campus said, "This University was established in the year 2009. It took a bit of time to get the university in the development stage. When I took charge as VC of the CUK,

I sought details of the issues and the obstacles to overcome it."

"After getting the feedback, we submitted a DPR to the Government of India (GoI) and the authorities accordingly started acting and resolving the issues submitted in a proposal in a phased manner," Nath said.

He also said that "In a month, we are expecting the fund grants that will be immediately utilized in constructing buildings, automation, innovation and construction management."

Nath further said that in Jammu division, the construction work of buildings has been going on for the past 24 months "But in Kashmir division, I wanted to see the development of CUK going at the rapid pace so that it could also be counted among the premier educational institutions in the country."

The VC said that with this, there will be diversity and ultimately the intellectualism and the intellectual property will make-up. "Since we have a huge scope of tourism in Kashmir, we are focusing more on bio-tech and tourism related courses."

"As of now we are reorienting the courses and the curriculum taught in the CUK in accordance with the NEP-2020. As regards the academic reforms, we have brought the three important things including the global trend of syllabus, national needs and the regional gap difference," Nath said.

He added that "There are three other important things we are bringing in the programs including the addressal of societal needs, market demands and character building of the students so that knowledge, competency and skills are developed among the students. We are also teaching them attitude and values. Besides, we are giving students an education of global citizenship and socially responsible citizenship."

"We are bringing holistic approach in education in curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular," Nath said—(KNO)

Railway Board.....

It added, "Half-yearly review may also be carried out to assess the effectiveness of the pilot project from time to time. Necessary instructions may be given to the staff concerned and wide publicity may be done among the stakeholders, especially in the Jammu Division."

Officials from the Jammu Division said the initiative aims to increase the share of Railways in the courier business and provide an efficient, reliable and economical option to the customers.

"This service is focused to benefit the business class. Its main objective is to showcase the unique products of Jammu and Kashmir, such as dry fruits and handicrafts, and to encourage their marketing in India and abroad," Uchit Singh, senior commercial manager, Jammu Division, said.

"This train will reach its destination station Adarsh Nagar (Delhi) safely in about 23 hours, which is less time than road traffic from Budgam. Products such as apples, saffron, walnuts, pashmina shawls, carpets and Kashmiri handicrafts can be transported faster than ever now," he added. (Agencies)



Committee on Estimates reviews functioning of Power Development Department

Chairperson stresses on pro-public measures, improvement in HT/LT lines, power supply

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 20: The House Committee on Estimates today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to review the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD). The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairperson, Shamim Firdous, and attended by members including Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Chander Prakash Ganga, Gharu Ram Bhagat and Arjun Singh Raju. Senior officers present in the meeting included MD JKSPDC/JKPL, Rahul Yadav; Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita; MD JKPTCL, Roheela Wani; MD JKPDCL, GP Singh; DG Budget, Finance Department, MS Malik; MD KPDC, Mahmood Ahmad Shah; Special Secretary PDD, M.Y. Malik; Chief Engineers and others. The Committee held a detailed review of progress on implementation of various schemes. These included the status of smart metering, cabling, allocation and



utilization of funds, infrastructure development in power generation and transmission, improvement in HT/LT lines, replacement of defunct transformers and ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply across Jammu and Kashmir. The Committee also reviewed the implementation of Amnesty Scheme, RDSS, IPDS, PMDP and other ongoing projects. The Chairperson emphasized the need for result-oriented initia-

tives to address the power cuts and curtailment, prompt repair and replacement of damaged transformers, restoration of defunct street lights besides eradication of power theft. She stressed the importance of ensuring scheduled power supply to consumers, particularly during peak hours. The Committee called for effective resource mobilization for power generation, better power management and timely

disposal of ex-gratia relief to the families of daily wagers/casual labourers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The Chairperson directed for taking up the vacancies in the department with the recruitment agencies for early selection. She also asked for ensuring rationalization of staff for the convenience of the public. The Committee further stressed on expediting fund utilization under RDSS and other

schemes. He urged for concrete steps for implementation of the Chief Minister's Amnesty Scheme for recovery of power dues from consumers. It also underlined the importance of inter-departmental coordination for seamless service delivery and effective scheme implementation. The Chairperson emphasized on taking pro-public measures while strengthening the infrastructure development and ensuring general public is majorly benefitted under various schemes of the department. Directions were also passed for sustainable measures to minimize T&D losses across J&K. The Committee resolved to continue the performance monitoring of key departments, while thoroughly scrutinizing budget estimates, revised allocations and expenditures to promote accountability and transparency in infrastructure development. The members of the Committee also offered valuable suggestions and flagged several issues related to the functioning of the department.

SSP Kulgam chairs PCPG meeting at Village Sangran Qazigund, Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUG 20: Continuing its commitment to strengthening police-public relations and addressing public grievances, SSP Kulgam *Shri Sahil Sarangal-IPS* chaired a Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting at the village Sangran in the jurisdiction of Police Station Qazigund. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various sections of society, including representatives of Market Associations, Auqaf Committees, Chowkidars, Numberdars, local youth, and other prominent community members. Besides, senior police officers of Kulgam police including SDPO Qazigund were also present on the occasion. SSP Kulgam attentively listened the concerns raised by the participants and assured them that



their genuine grievances pertaining to other departments would be taken up with the concerned authorities for swift action and Police-related issues will be redressed on top priority. In his address, SSP Kulgam emphasized the importance of public cooperation in maintaining law and order, urging all stakeholders to actively assist Police in eliminating criminal activities, especially drug trafficking and other unlawful practices. He appealed to the gathering to promptly report any suspicious activities to help foster a peaceful and crime-free environment in the district. Finally, the meeting concluded on a positive note with a vote of thanks exchanged between the Police and community representatives, reaffirming mutual trust and shared responsibility towards societal well-being.

Altaf Memorial Govt. Degree College Kilam Organizes Awareness Programme under NCORD

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUG 20: Altaf Memorial Government Degree College (AMGDC) Kilam organized a one-day seminar on "Drug Abuse Prevention" as part of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan under the National Committee on Reforms in Drug Policy (NCORD) framework. The awareness programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the college faculty—both teaching and non-teaching staff—along with students and NSS volunteers. The seminar aimed to sensitize the youth and community about the growing threat



of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Padder, Convener of the College NCORD Committee, delivered the welcome address. He emphasized the urgent need to educate the public about the dangers of drug addiction and urged students to stay vigilant and steer clear of this alarming social menace. Prominent faculty members, Dr. Kowser Ahmad Ganai and Prof. Suhail Salam Bhat, shared their insights during the seminar. They highlighted the detrimental impact of drug abuse on the mental and physical health of young people and stressed the importance of continued awareness efforts. All speakers concurred on the need for sustained community engagement and educational initiatives to curb the rise of drug addiction in society. The event concluded with a collective resolve to strengthen efforts against this pressing issue.

Educational Trust Kashmir Organises One-Day Workshop on Career Counselling & Skill Awareness

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 20: Educational Trust Kashmir (ETK) today organised a one-day workshop on Career Counselling and Skill Awareness, bringing together Principals and nominated Teachers from 14 High and Middle Schools of the Trust network. The workshop was aimed at equipping educators with the necessary insights to guide students of Imamia Public Schools towards meaningful career choices and essential skill development. The programme commenced with a warm welcome address by Mr. Akhter Ali Gazi, President ETK, who highlighted the importance of aligning educational efforts with the aspirations of students and the needs of society. Mr. Tanweer-ul-Sadiqain, Chairman Academic Council ETK, introduced the objectives of the workshop, underlining its significance as a much-anticipated and highly desired initiative of the Trust. In the first session, Mr. Hakim Ilyas Hussain delivered an insightful lecture and interactive deliberation on Skill Development for students. He stressed on the need to inculcate practical, life-oriented skills in young learners to better prepare them for future challenges. The second session was addressed by Prof. Mohd Ayub Shah from the Department of Management Studies, University of Kashmir, who focused on the theme of Career Counselling. Prof. Ayub Shah shared valuable perspectives on career opportunities, guidance strategies, and the role of teachers in shaping students' career trajectories.



The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Mr. Syed Abid Gowhar, General Secretary ETK, who expressed gratitude to the speakers, participating Principals, and Teachers for making the programme a success. The initiative was well-received by the participants and marked another milestone in ETK's continued efforts to enhance educational standards and student empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir. The workshop marks another milestone in the long journey of ETK, established in 1968, as a non-commercial, non-political, and voluntary welfare organisation. Over the

decades, ETK has remained committed to uplifting education, nurturing moral values, and fostering leadership among youth. By organising academic programmes, counselling sessions, and training workshops, the Trust continues to build on its mission of shaping responsible, skilled, and visionary individuals who can contribute positively to society. With its focus on academic excellence, skill development, and value-based learning, Educational Trust Kashmir reaffirms its pledge to prepare the young generation to face the challenges of the future with confidence and competence.

Mera Yuva Bharat Baramulla

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, AUG 20: Sadbhavana Diwas organised by My Yuva Bharat Baramulla. Sadbhavana Diwas, meaning the "Day of Harmony," is observed every year on August 20 to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was the youngest Prime Minister of India. The day symbolizes his vision of promoting peace, harmony, national integration, and



goodwill among people, regardless of caste, creed, or religion. On this occasion, citizens across the country take a pledge to uphold tolerance, brotherhood, and unity in society. To mark this day, My Yuva Bharat Baramulla observed Sadbhavana Diwas at Arampora Pattan with great enthusiasm. The program witnessed the active participation of more than 60 individuals, including both male and female participants. The resource person on the occasion highlighted the significance of Sadbhavana Diwas and emphasized its role in fostering peace, communal harmony, and national integration. The event concluded with a collective pledge by participants to work towards building a peaceful and inclusive society, in line with the true spirit of Sadbhavana Diwas.

38th NCORD meeting held at Budgam

144 Kanals wild cannabis destroyed, 38 FIRs registered

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, AUG 20: The 38th District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) meeting was held today in Budgam, under the chairmanship by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat to review ongoing measures against drug abuse and finalize fresh strategies for a drug-free Budgam. At the outset, DC took a detailed review of the action taken on previous NCORD decisions. It was informed that wild cannabis on 144 kanals of land has been destroyed in different parts of the district, besides 38

FIRs have also been registered against culprits involved in illicit cultivation, and also 57 arrests have taken place. DC reiterated that drug abuse is a grave social problem, demanding deterrence, enforcement, treatment, and awareness as a multi-pronged strategy. He directed for immediate execution of the District Drug De-Addiction Centre to strengthen treatment and rehabilitation facilities. DC directed BDOs, EOs, Agriculture, and Excise departments to clear all main roads from cannabis and poppy cultivation, particularly from Budgam to

Chadoora, Magam, Beerwah, and Khag, and along Humhama to Budgam route. He stressed that 100% CCTV and Computerized Billing Systems (CBS) be ensured in drug stores across the district, besides ensure continued monitoring of pharmacies with CCTV/CBS integration. It was informed that Budgam has 630 retail and 225 wholesale chemist outlets, all under strict monitoring. Dr Bilal noted that 108 calls have been received on the Tele-MANAS mental health helpline, reflecting its growing role in community support.

SDMs were directed to convene meetings with religious scholars and stakeholders at sub-divisional levels, encouraging sermons against drug abuse and formation of Nasha-Mukt Panchayats. DC directed Rural Development Department to hold Gram Sabhas dedicated to drug abuse awareness. DSWO was directed to organize mega IEC drives across district for mass awareness. CMO Budgam was directed to ensure 24x7 availability of medical facilities at the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Centre in District Hospital Budgam.

DC underscored the importance of cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among departments and communities to eradicate the drug menace. He said that zero-tolerance against drug peddling will continue with strict punitive action against culprits while equal focus will be given to rehabilitation, awareness, and mental health support. He urged all stakeholders, departments, institutions, civil society, and community leaders to work with collective resolve to break the drug supply chain and promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

Research-driven education key to addressing contemporary challenges, building a knowledge-based society: Sakeena Itoo

Inaugurates two day International Conference on Emerging Trends at Jammu

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, AUG 20: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today remarked that research-driven education is key to addressing contemporary challenges and building a knowledge-based society.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a Two-Day International Conference on Emerging Trends in Interdisciplinary Research (ICET-MR-2025), after its inauguration, organized by Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College here today.

MLA Jammu East, Yudhveer Sethi; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Vice Chancellor Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K S Chardrasekar; noted academicians of Jammu University, Prof. Rajnikant; Principal, GGM Science College Prof. Romesh

Kumar Gupta, eminent academicians, distinguished dignitaries, invited speakers, delegates from diverse disciplines and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

In her Presidential Address, the Minister lauded GGM Science College for its commitment to academic excellence and for providing a platform to young researchers. She highlighted on the importance of fostering innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and critical thinking among researchers and students to prepare them for future global challenges.

The Education Minister also appreciated the efforts of the faculty and administration in nurturing a culture of inquiry and encouraged them to actively contribute towards nation-building through meaningful research and innovation.

While speaking on the significance of this two day confer-



ence, the Minister said that this conference is a unique platform for vibrant exchange of ideas and scholarly discussions aimed at uplifting the educational standards of Jammu and Kashmir. She added that the conference will bring together leading aca-

demicians, researchers, and experts from across the country and around the globe to deliberate on new frontiers of research, innovation, and knowledge exchange, which will help in shaping the academic and research ecosystem here for a long time.

Addressing the gathering, MLA, Yudhveer Sethi appreciated the College for hosting a conference of such scale, emphasizing the role of youth in shaping a progressive society.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Chief Secretary

highlighted the government's initiatives to promote innovation-driven education across Jammu and Kashmir.

In his welcome address, Principal, Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta highlighted the institution's vision of nurturing academic excellence and fostering multidisciplinary learning. He reaffirmed the college's commitment to empowering students and faculty to contribute meaningfully towards societal progress and national development through quality education and research.

Vice Chancellor Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K S Chardrasekar spoke in length about the need to strengthen research culture in higher education institutions.

In his keynote address by Prof. Rajnikant underscored the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing research and inspired participants

to pursue research that blends scientific innovation with societal relevance.

Convener and Organizing Secretary, Dr. Parshotam Singh Manhas presented an overview of the conference, informing that 178 researchers will present their work during the two-day event while as Conference Coordinator, Dr. Vandana Khajuria highlighted the significance of such platforms in inspiring young minds and encouraging collaborative learning.

On the occasion, the Minister also released the Abstract Book and the College Newsletter, reflecting the scholarly contributions of the participants.

Earlier, the Education Minister e-inaugurated Skill Tower hosting different Skill laboratories, Geography Block, renovated Physics and Chemistry Block of heritage Building, Conference Hall and Browsing centre for the GGM Science College.

DDC Budgam chairs orientation/ awareness programme on IT-enabled social security schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, AUG 20: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired an orientation cum awareness programme on Information Technology (IT) integration in social security schemes held at conference hall Budgam.

The event was aimed at sensitizing officers, bankers, nodal officials, and field-level functionaries about the role of IT platforms in strengthening implementation, monitoring, and delivery of central and state-run social security schemes.

During the orientation, detailed presentations were delivered highlighting the status, features, and achievements of various flagship schemes operational in district Budgam.

The schemes discussed in detail included Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) which has Annual Premium of Rs.436 per annum, Life insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh in case of death (any reason), so far in Budgam 23,876 subscribers have been enrolled.

Similarly, under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) which has Annual Premium of Rs.20 per annum and Accidental insurance of Rs.2 lakh, total 61,811 subscribers are enrolled in Budgam. Also, under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) total 5,128 subscribers are enrolled. Further, under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), a total 1,15,477 accounts were opened.

DDC reviewed targets versus achievements for the financial year 2025-26, stressing the importance of covering every eligible household. He directed officials to redouble efforts to achieve saturation under all schemes and ensure that no eligible citizen is left uncovered.

He emphasised that these schemes are lifelines for economically weaker sections, vulnerable families, and marginalized groups, and IT-driven processes are the key to en-



suring transparency, accountability, and citizen-friendly services

Dr Bilal highlighted that integration of IT tools and data-driven governance is the cornerstone for achieving transparency, efficiency, and accountability in scheme implementation.

He stressed on real-time dashboards to track enrollments and disbursements, digital outreach campaigns to spread awareness at grassroots levels, beneficiary verification and Aadhaar seeding to eliminate duplications and leakages, use of mobile applications, SMS alerts, and grievance portals for faster redressal and citizen engagement.

DDC underlined that Budgam is taking pioneering steps in adopting IT solutions to modernize governance, empower citizens, and bring welfare schemes closer to people's doorsteps.

He called upon all stakeholders including line departments, banks, Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), and community organizations to work in close coordination. He urged them to take ownership of the mission to ensure that every farmer, laborer, worker, woman, and senior citizen in Budgam reaps the benefits of social security coverage.

Satish Sharma emphasizes integration of Technology, Industry for people-centric innovations

Distributes Appointment letters among appointees of S&T department

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 20: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today emphasized the need for greater synergy between the technology and industry to ensure that new technical innovations are designed to meet the real needs of the people.

The Minister was speaking at a review meeting of the Science & Technology Department.

The meeting was attended by Additional Directors Dr Nasir Shah, Mushtaq Ahmad, Additional Secretary, Neelam Khajuria and other senior officers.

Satish Sharma said that technological advancements must not



remain confined to laboratories but should translate into practical, people-friendly solutions that directly benefit the society. He directed the department to encourage research collaborations, promote

startups and develop incubation centres where innovative ideas can be nurtured into viable enterprises. He further underlined the importance of promoting local talent and ensuring that the Union Territory

of Jammu & Kashmir becomes a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship.

"Technology must not be innovation for the sake of innovation but innovation for the sake of the people," the Minister remarked, stressing that industries and institutions must work hand-in-hand to achieve this vision.

Senior officers of the department presented progress reports and ongoing initiatives during the meeting.

The Minister assured full government support in further strengthening the infrastructure and policies to encourage science-driven growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, the Minister distributed appointment letters among the newly appointed Research Assistants of Science and Technology (S&T) Department.

DDC Samba reviews implementation of Rural Development Schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SAMBA, AUG 20: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Rural Development Department to assess the progress achieved under the District Capex Plan 2025-26 and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes including MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and others.

During the meeting, the DDC held detailed deliberations on physical and financial achievements under each scheme. He

directed the officers to work in close coordination with all stakeholders to ensure timely and effective implementation. She laid special focus on the flagship scheme MGNREGA, which plays a pivotal role in providing sustainable livelihood opportunities at the grassroots level.

While reviewing the District Capex Plan 2025-26, the DDC instructed the concerned officers to expedite the preparation of estimations, tendering and allotment of works within a week's time to avoid delays and to ensure that developmental benefits reach the people at the earliest.

DC Rajouri Meets Chashoti Flash-Flood Victim's Family at Beri Pattan

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, AUG 20: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today visited Beri Pattan to console and extend support to the bereaved family of Sushma Devi (55), wife of Sita Ram, who tragically lost her life in the recent flash flood incident at Chashoti, Kishtwar district.

Expressing profound grief over the irreparable loss, the Deputy Commissioner conveyed heartfelt condolences on behalf of the district administration. He reassured the family that the administration stands firmly by their side during this hour of grief.

During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to the concerns of the family members and assured them that all possible assistance, including relief under government provisions, will be provided in a timely manner. He highlighted that the district administration is making coordinated efforts with the concerned departments to ensure that families affected by such natural calamities do not face undue hardship.

Mr. Sharma further emphasized that the administration is committed not only to providing immediate relief and ex-gratia support but also to facilitating long-term rehabilitation measures where required. He directed the concerned officials to maintain close contact with the bereaved family and extend every possible support, including social welfare benefits and livelihood assistance, to help them cope with the aftermath of the tragedy.

While sharing his condolences, he also appealed to the public to remain vigilant during the ongoing monsoon season, stressing the need for strict adherence to safety advisories issued by the district and disaster management authorities. He reiterated that disaster preparedness and community cooperation are vital in minimizing risks and safeguarding lives during such extreme weather events.

The visit of the Deputy Commissioner was received as a gesture of compassion and solidarity, offering some solace to the family amid their irreparable loss. The bereaved family members expressed gratitude for the administration's concern and assurance of support.

DC Ramban Sets Strict Timeline for Execution of District Capex Budget 2025-26 Works

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, AUG 20: In a bid to accelerate the pace of development and ensure time-bound execution of government projects, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Aiyas Khan, today chaired a high-level meeting and set strict timelines for the estimation, tendering, allotment, and execution of works sanctioned under the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; ACD Mohammad Ashfaq; Chief Education Officer; Chief Medical Officer; Executive Engineers; BDOs; and other district officers.

Addressing the officers, the Deputy Commissioner underlined that timely completion of developmental works is crucial to meeting the aspirations of the people, especially in far-flung and snow-bound areas of Ramban.

He directed all executing agencies to work in close coordination and ensure that no project is left incomplete due to procedural delays.

It was informed in the meeting that 3,554 works have been approved under the District Capex Budget 2025-26, including 1,373 ongoing projects and newly sanctioned works, with an estimated cost of 47.64 crore. Out of these, 3,000 works fall under the Rural Development Department (RDD), while nearly 500 works are being undertaken by the Public Works Department (PWD) and other allied sectors.

The DC directed the REW Department to complete all SOS works by September 10, stressing that strict adherence to the set deadlines for estimation, tendering, and allotment will be mandatory. He asked the Executive Engineer REW to share real-time updates with BDOs to facilitate effective monitoring, while also instructing BDOs



to take personal responsibility for supervising field-level execution in mission mode.

Similarly, the DC laid down timelines for the 81 developmental works approved under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), reiterating that 100% physical and financial targets must be achieved within the stipulated period.

Highlighting the geographical challenges of Ramban, the DC

stressed:

"The present working season must be fully utilized. With the onset of winter, construction becomes extremely difficult in snow-bound areas. Any delay at this stage will directly hamper public welfare and development delivery."

The officers from Health, Education, Youth Services & Sports, Urban Local Bodies, and other departments also presented the current status of works under their sectors. The DC directed them to remove bottlenecks, ensure transparency, and resolve inter-departmental issues on priority. He also instructed SDMs and Tehsildars to extend complete cooperation to executing agencies and promptly address local-level hurdles, particularly in land clearance and community coordination.

The Deputy Commissioner further emphasized the importance of public accountability, instruct-

ing officers to make progress visible on the ground so that people gain confidence in the administration's commitment to inclusive growth. He said the district administration will regularly review progress and strict action will be taken against any officer or contractor found responsible for unnecessary delays.

The meeting concluded with a strong message from the Deputy Commissioner:

"Development is not just about numbers and budgets—it is about reaching every household with real benefits. The time has come to move beyond files and show visible results on the ground."

The renewed push is expected to bring greater momentum, efficiency, and accountability to Ramban's developmental landscape, ensuring that both urban and rural populations benefit from the ambitious District Capex Budget.



Advisor to CM meets KCCI delegation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 20: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the issues raised by the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), in Civil Secretariat, here today.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, S. Vikramjit Singh, Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Musarat Islam and President, KCCI, Javed Tenga, amongst others.

During the meeting, President KCCI raised the issue concerning handicrafts and handloom sector, particularly in light of the recent Notices issued by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom to the Kashmir Handicrafts showrooms regarding sale of machine-made products along with handcrafted items. He also raised the issue of expediting testing and certification of GI



products at PTQCC lab at Baghe-Ali Mardan Khan.

The Advisor was briefed by the Department about the background of the Notices issued, in light of the formal complaint lodged by tourists for being sold machine-made imitations in the garb of Kashmir Handicrafts. He was informed that in one serious case of unfair trade practice, one showroom was blacklisted for selling

a counterfeit product and pasting a fake GI label on it, with the sole intention to dupe the buyer.

Reiterating the Government's resolve to secure the interests of talented artisans and weavers of Kashmir, Nasir Aslam directed the department to submit a comprehensive proposal for safeguarding the interests of the artisans as well as the business stakeholders associated with the crafts trade. He

further advised the KCCI delegation to initiate formal discussions with the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, and to submit a comprehensive proposal at the earliest for consideration of the Government to allow the sale of machine-made products, provided they are properly labeled and segregated as a distinct product category. This would ensure transparency and prevent buyers from being misled into purchasing misbranded goods.

The KCCI delegation was also urged to sensitize all dealers about the importance of protecting and promoting authentic Kashmiri handicrafts. The Government, it was emphasized, will take strict action against mislabeling, misbranding, and deceptive alterations of products that are intended to pass off as genuine Kashmiri handicraft items.

Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce briefed the Advisor about the steps taken by the Department to upgrade the testing labs, in particular PTQCC,

which has acquired new digital microscope and is in the process of procuring more high-end machines like SEM and additional HR Digital Microscope to further enhance the rate of testing of GI registered products.

The KCCI delegation also apprised the Advisor to the Chief Minister of the adverse impact on genuine hotels and restaurateurs caused by the sale of sub-standard meat by unscrupulous elements. They urged the Government to identify the suppliers of such harmful meat along with their entire supply chain.

In response, the Advisor assured the delegation that the Government is taking all necessary measures to curb the supply and sale of unsafe food. He emphasized that public confidence can only be restored when those engaged in the trade proactively educate consumers about food safety and the hygienic practices being followed, as public health remains a matter of paramount importance.

DC Pulwama Chairs 24th DLC Meeting to Review HADP

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, AUG 20: In a significant step towards strengthening the agricultural ecosystem, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired the 24th District Level Committee (DLC) meeting at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama to review progress and approve applications under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP).

During the meeting, the committee approved a total of 2,386 applications under HADP, spanning multiple sectors:

Agriculture: 1,620
Horticulture: 456
Sheep Husbandry: 233
Sericulture: 65
Animal Husbandry: 05
Horticulture (P&M): 04
Fisheries: 03

Additionally, 232 applications under JKCIP were cleared, including 210 in Agriculture and 22 in Sheep Husbandry.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Qayoom described HADP as a transformative initiative designed to reshape the farming landscape of Pulwama by integrating modern technologies, infrastructure development, and strong value-chain linkages. He said:

"The twin programmes—HADP and JKCIP—aim to not only boost productivity but also create sustainable livelihood opportunities for farmers, youth, and agri-entrepreneurs. Our focus is on equipping the farming community with knowledge, resources, and technology so that Pulwama emerges as a hub of modern, profitable, and climate-resilient agriculture."

The DC stressed that transparency, timely implementation, and beneficiary handholding will remain the guiding principles in the execution of these schemes. He directed all line departments to establish robust monitoring mechanisms and maintain close contact with beneficiaries to ensure that the approved projects translate into higher yields, better market access, employment generation, and enhanced income security.

He also emphasized the importance of skill-building and capacity development, noting that farmers must be trained to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices, integrated farming models, and innovative post-harvest management techniques.

The DC further highlighted that Pulwama, with its strong base in horticulture and dairy farming, has the potential to serve as a model district for holistic rural prosperity. He encouraged officials to link local farmers with agri-startups, FPOs, and co-operative societies for collective marketing and branding of produce, especially in high-demand crops like apples, walnuts, and saffron.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama; General Manager DIC Pulwama; Chief Agriculture Officer Pulwama; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Pulwama; Assistant Director Fisheries Pulwama; District Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama; and Lead District Manager Pulwama.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to implement all approved cases in a mission mode, with regular progress reviews at the district level to ensure that Pulwama's farming sector becomes more competitive, sustainable, and profitable.

JKEDI conducts boot camp at Government College for Women, Jammu; 7 innovative ideas shortlisted

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, AUG 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Boot Camp Campaign under J&K Startup Idea Challenge reached Government College for Women (GCW) Parade, Jammu on Wednesday. The boot camp, which was the fourth in the series of 46 programs, aimed to foster startup ideation and entrepreneurial spirit among the students.

The boot camp was conducted by a three-member team from JKEDI comprising Zahid Ali, Project Manager, Rajesh Kumar Kotwal, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Jammu and Sorab Mengi, Assistant Manager.

The boot camp witnessed the participation of around 100 students, showcasing their enthusiasm for exploring entrepreneurship as a viable career choice. Out of these students, 13 participants pitched their startup ideas before the panel of experts. After a rigorous evaluation process, seven innovative ideas were shortlisted for the next rounds. The panel appreciated their creativity and provided constructive feedback. The session concluded with an interactive exchange of ideas, where students received encouragement and insights from the distinguished panel.

The J&K Startup Idea Challenge was inaugurated on July 10 by the Deputy Chief Minister of J&K at a Startup and Entrepreneurship meet held at JKEDI. Aligned with the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, the initiative will cover all districts of J&K through 46 boot camps and multiple workshops, under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI.

The shortlisted participants will undergo intensive mentoring and pitch training at JKEDI's Pampore and Bari Brahmana campuses before competing in a Grand Finale, where the best 20 ideas will be presented before a jury of industry experts, investors and policymakers. Winners will receive prizes, incentives and incubation support at JKEDI and partner incubators across J&K.

A total of 46 boot camps shall be held across the colleges and universities of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir under the J&K Startup Challenge. In addition, two major workshops and two intensive boot camps will be organized at JKEDI's Pampore and Bari Brahmana campuses. These sessions will offer focused mentoring, pitch training and business model refinement for the shortlisted participants. The initiative will culminate in a Grand Finale, where the top 20 shortlisted ideas will be pitched before a distinguished jury comprising industry experts, investors and policymakers.

MD-JJM Reviews Implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Tangmarg Subdivision, Inspects WSSs

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, AUG 20: Continuing the government's efforts to provide safe and adequate drinking water to every household, Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today reviewed the implementation of JJM in Tangmarg subdivision and carried out an extensive tour to inspect various Water Supply Schemes (WSSs).

He was accompanied by Superintending Engineer (Hydraulics) Baramulla/Bandipora, Faisal Abdullah; Executive Engineer FBI Division Tangmarg; and other sub-divisional officials.

Progress Review & Achievements During the review meeting, it was informed that:

Out of 23 Water Supply Schemes, 16 have been completed, while work on the remaining is in progress.

Of the 38 allotted works pertaining to the civil component, 27 have been completed, while the rest are at different stages of execution.

These works include Bore Wells, Rapid Sand Filtration Plants (RSFPs), Over Head Tanks (OHTs), Pipe Networks, Slow Sand Filtration Plants (SSFPs), General Service Reservoirs (GSRs), and Pump Rooms.

Officials apprised the Mission Director that out of 19,098 total households in the Tangmarg subdivision, 18,664 households have already been



provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), leaving only a small number of households yet to be covered.

Mission Director's Directions

While taking stock of the progress, Shah emphasized the importance of timely completion of all ongoing works so that the goal of 'Har Ghar Jal' certification can be achieved in Tangmarg at the earliest. He directed the officers to give a renewed push for covering the remaining households and ensuring universal access to potable water.

He also stressed the need to ensure sustainability of water sources, proper operation and maintenance of schemes, and adherence to technical and quality standards.

"The Jal Jeevan Mission is not just about infrastructure creation—it is about ensuring reliable, safe, and sustainable drinking water access to every household. The pace of work must be accelerated, and all bottlenecks resolved in a time-bound manner so that no household is left uncovered," the Mission Director as-

serted.

Field Inspections & Public Interaction

The Mission Director also conducted on-site inspections of several WSSs to assess the quality of construction, functionality of filtration plants, and efficiency of pumping stations. He interacted with locals, PRI members, and field staff, taking direct feedback regarding water supply, challenges faced, and the impact of JJM schemes in their villages.

Locals appreciated the government's initiative, noting that access to clean and regular drinking water has significantly improved their living conditions. Some also flagged issues related to water pressure and coverage in far-flung hamlets, which the Mission Director assured would be addressed promptly.

Way Forward

The MD directed all concerned engineers and field officers to work in mission mode, ensuring quality execution, real-time monitoring, and regular progress reviews. He also urged community participation in the operation and maintenance of schemes to guarantee their long-term sustainability.

The inspection reinforced JJM's broader objective of equitable, sustainable, and universal drinking water coverage across rural Jammu and Kashmir.

NTEP progress reviewed at Shopian

DC directs officers to step up IEC activities to spread awareness regarding prevention & timely treatment of TB

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, AUG 20: In order to review the progress of the district towards the elimination of TB and to chart out a roadmap for achieving TB-free status, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Wednesday chaired a meeting at Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

At the outset, District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) gave a detailed

presentation on the current TB scenario, progress made under NTEP, status of patients, treatment success rates and challenges being faced in implementation.

It was informed that the health department is ensuring free diagnostic and treatment facilities through the network of Designated Centres and TB Units.

DC called upon the health department to ensure early detection



of suspected cases, prompt laboratory confirmation and uninterrupted drug supply.

He directed the officers to step up IEC activities to spread awareness regarding prevention and timely treatment of TB. To ensure early diagnosis, the meeting also discussed the procurement of machines to enhance testing capabilities at health institutions.

Gupta assured full support from

the district administration, encouraging collective action and consistent monitoring to eliminate tuberculosis from every household and every village. He directed the health department to submit weekly progress reports.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Arshid Hussain Tak; MSDH Shopian, DTO, BMOs, Health Supervisors and ASHA coordinators.

SSCL to Undertake Restoration Work at Gonikhan Market After Completion of Underground Cabling

Delay Attributed to Encroachments by Shopkeepers; Bridge Development Nears Completion

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 20: The Srinagar Smart City Ltd. (SSCL) today issued a clarification regarding the ongoing works at Gonikhan Market, one of the city's busiest commercial hubs, assuring the public and traders that restoration and enhancement works will be undertaken immediately after the completion of underground electric cabling.

Civil Works Completed Earlier According to SSCL officials, the major civil works at Gonikhan Market were completed nearly two years ago. These included:

Granite flooring throughout the market,

Installation of granite cobblestones at key locations, and

Upgradation of overall market aesthetics, which had given the area a modern, organized, and visually appealing look.

Current Underground Cabling Work

Presently, underground electric cabling is in progress at the site. This phase is expected to be completed in the coming days. Afterward, SSCL will carry out corrective and finishing works, including re-laying of flooring, tidying up of utility corridors, and restoring damaged sections,



to ensure the market regains its full aesthetic appeal.

Encroachment Issue Delayed Progress

Responding to concerns highlighted in a recent news report, particularly regarding the entry point of Gonikhan Market from Amira Kadal Bridge, SSCL clarified that the delay in this stretch was caused due to encroachments by a few shopkeepers who had extended their structures onto the abutment of the Old Amira Kadal Bridge.

To resolve the matter, SSCL constructed new shops for the affected shopkeepers, thereby freeing the encroached space and enabling the bridge development works to progress smoothly.

ly.

Bridge Development at Advanced Stage

Officials informed that the Amira Kadal Bridge development project is now at an advanced stage of completion. Once finished, it will improve traffic movement, pedestrian access, and connectivity to the Gonikhan Market, further enhancing its commercial viability.

SSCL's Commitment to Quality Development

In its statement, SSCL reiterated its commitment to ensuring timely, sustainable, and high-quality infrastructure development across Srinagar, while also

safeguarding the interests of local stakeholders.

"The Smart City projects are not merely about beautification, but about creating long-term functional infrastructure that balances modern urban needs with the livelihoods of traders and shopkeepers. Gonikhan Market will emerge as a model commercial hub once the ongoing works are completed," an SSCL spokesperson said.

The assurance comes as a relief for traders and shoppers, who had raised concerns about the inconvenience caused due to prolonged works and encroachments.



HT EDITORIAL

Ganderbal incident a wake-up call for all

A shocking incident took place in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district a few days back when a 14 year old girl was found dead just a few hundred meters away from her house. The police immediately swung into action and launched a thorough probe in the incident following which the elder sister was arrested. It came out that the elder sister hit her younger sister on her head many times with a hard object.

The incident sent shock waves among the people and most of them were at loss as to how come an elder sister murdered her younger sister. In most of the cases the elder sister is referred to as no less than a mother of her younger siblings and she showers her immense love on the younger ones. In the Ganderbal case the elder sister turned out to be a beast since she killed her younger sister who was just 14 years old.

The incident somewhat exposed the rot in the system and it also highlighted the lack of compassion among some people. There was a time when the elders were looked upon with respect by the young ones and in turn the young ones would receive all the love from their seniors. With the passage of time there has been a huge change in the attitude of the people and the system has been virtually hit by the lack of trust, love and compassion.

Educational institutions like schools and colleges were instrumental in shaping the lives and careers of the young students. The teachers at these educational institutions besides imparting the academics would also teach them the basic values of life. It was due to this reason that a student who passed out from a school or a college would be a human being in the real sense. These students would give all the respect to their elders and at the same time they would be compassionate as well as loving to their young siblings and other young ones.

As on date the educational scenario is limited to receiving degrees from schools, colleges and universities. No thrust is laid on imparting values of life to children and it is due to this reason that unfortunate incidents take place every now and then. It is important to inculcate human values to the children so that they become human beings and contribute towards the society in a meaningful manner.

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In a City of Stones, Becoming Glazier

An Autobiographical Note



■ Ghani Ghayoor

I was born in the remote village of Gursai in Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch, cradled amidst the lofty peaks of the Pir Panjal range. My childhood, though simple and steeped in hardship, is etched in memories of meadows, cattle, and mountain pastures. My father, a hardworking farmer, and my mother, Attra, struggled with limited resources to raise a large family. Together they toiled in the small maize fields and modest grasslands with livestock, so that we children could survive—if not thrive.

Every summer, we moved our cattle—buffaloes, oxen, and horses—to the higher reaches of Pir Panjal. Their milk gave us curd, paneer, and butter, which we sold in Surankote and Mendhar markets to Khatri merchants. Twice a year, in Baisakh and Manghar, my parents went to these merchants to purchase cloth and other essentials. These rhythms of rural life, harsh yet dignified, shaped my earliest world.

My schooling began in a local mobile school in Gursai. I passed the eighth class there and in 1978 joined the High School in Surankote, twelve kilometers away. The daily journey was no small ordeal. For four years, from class nine to twelve, I walked across steep mountain slopes, cutting the distance in half, yet still covering twelve kilometers both ways. Hunger, fatigue, and poverty were constant companions. Often, with only a morsel of food in the morning and evening, I endured empty days. But the fire of learning within me kept me going.

In 1981, I passed my twelfth examination with distinction. That year became the turning point of my life. I secured admission to the Regional Engineering College (REC) Srinagar, supported by an educational loan and a scholarship from the Social Welfare Department. It was not just

an admission—it was my entry into a new life. I felt as though I had broken the walls of poverty and stepped into the open horizon of opportunity.

In 1988, after completing my professional education, I entered service in the Public Works Department (PWD). My employment allowed me to support my family and begin to heal the wounds of poverty—though the scars, as I often feel, remain visible even today.

During my early years in service, I became an avid reader. Philosophy, history, prose, poetry—I devoured them all. At first, this vast reading left me confused, but soon I discovered a compass: the world of Urdu and Persian poetry. Sheikh Sa'di's works, and above all, Rumi's Mathnavi, became my guiding light. Rumi's verses gave me solace amidst the fog of sectarian strife, opening before me a vision of spiritual freedom, humanity, and divine love.

By the year 2000, I myself began to compose poetry and prose in Urdu. My first book, Sulagta Sehra, appeared in 2006, marking my formal entry into the literary world. This was followed by Der Tak, a collection of ghazals, and Haqiqat-e-Neem Shab (fiction, 2016). My literary voice—shaped by my lived experiences, nurtured by Rumi, and sharpened by the lessons of hardship—grew deeper with each work.

Over time, I extended my work beyond poetry and fiction to criticism, translation, and evaluation. I contributed not only to Urdu but also to Gojri literature, striving to enrich the cultural heritage of my Pir Panjal homeland. After serving long years as an Executive Engineer in the PWD, I retired in 2022. Since then, I have devoted myself wholly to reading and writing.

Among my notable contributions after are:

- Nei Urdu Ghazal volume 1 (A study and brief account of 42 eminent poets after Zafar Iqbal)
- Moheet-e-Besahil (2022), a critical study with translations of Bedil.
- Saedi Sukhan o Qalam (2022).
- Aazaar-e-Jaan (with Moqaddama), presenting 101 ghazals of Hakeem Manzoor with detailed critical study (2023).
- Nakhl-e-Noor (ghazals of Raiq

Raaz with critical study).

Qalam Qalam Roshni (collection of ghazals, 2022).

Dastoor-e-Zubaan-e-Gojri (2023), a major linguistic study.

Maqalaat-e-Ghani Ghayoor (in Gojri, including accounts of 36 poets).

Bhoom Bhakh (Gojri poetry collection, 2024).

Do Kashtiyaan Ko Sawar (Gojri short stories).

Sandal Paiker (on Raaj Kumar Chandan's 100 ghazals, with Moqaddama).

Chaan Chaan Dero (Gojri prose sketches).

Sulagta Sehra (Revised Edition, 2025).

Ghazliyat-e-Ghani Ghayoor maa Nashrat (selected ghazals and poems).

Poonch Rajouri ka Adabi Manzar Namah (critical study of 51 poets from the Pir Panjal region).

Through these, I have sought to establish myself not only as a poet but also as a critic, translator, and chronicler of regional literary traditions.

From the meadows of Pir Panjal to the shelves of literary circles, my journey has been one of endurance, transformation, and devotion to letters. My writings carry the wounds of deprivation and the fragrance of awakening. I have given voice to the richness of Gojri while also contributing to Urdu literary criticism and poetic expression.

My aspirations remain as steadfast as the mountain peaks of Pir Panjal. I accept challenges with courage and strive to rise above them. My spirit leaps toward the stars, eager to grasp them. Upon my desk, manuscripts continue to awaken—God alone knows how many more worlds they will open.

As my own verses testify:

Irade pukhta hote hain, bare log-on ke dil dariya
Mutabiq hauslon ke aur oonche bakht hote hain
Resolves are steadfast, like oceans are the hearts of great men;
Fortunes too rise high, in measure with their courage.
Aza'im jin ke oonche the bulandi par hu'e fa'iz
Nazar men past logon ki, nazare past hote hain
Those whose ambitions were lofty

attained exalted heights;

To the eyes of the lowly, all visions remain lowly.

Nazdik hai bas fasla do-tin qadam ka hai

Paighambar-e-'ishq 'Arab ka na 'Ajam ka hai

Regional Engineering College

The distance is but two or three steps away;

The Messenger of Love belongs neither to Arab nor to non-Arab.

Izhar ki har bat men andaz anokha sa

Ek dard rawan har taraf avaz-e-qalam ka hai

In every utterance of expression lies a unique style;

Everywhere flows the voice of the pen, alive with pain.

And if my life's odyssey is to be condensed, let these lines stand as its mirror:

Tumhari kham khayali yahan marunga main

Hazar tukh'm uge gajahan marunga main

Your illusion is that I will perish here;

But a thousand seeds will sprout where I fall.

Rakho na sar pe mere bandishon ke ye gul gir

Zaban se zinda hun main, be-zaban marunga main

Do not place these shackles of silence upon my head;

I live through speech—without it, I shall not die, but live on.

Sukhan ke bij bahut main ne bo diye hain yahan

Rahunga zinda hamesha kahan marunga main

I have sown many seeds of verse upon this earth;

Forever shall I live—where, then, could I ever die?

Ghani Ghayur burhape men kaun marta hai

Agar mara bhi kahin to jawan marunga main

O Ghani Ghayoor, who truly dies in old age?

Even if I die somewhere, I shall die young.

Excerpt from the forthcoming book by Ghani Ghayoor, a noted poet, critic and fiction writer in Urdu. He can be reached at ghani.jagil@gmail.com/ https://abdulghanijagil.com

Husband's deliberate incompetence in housework: A crisis of changing relationships

Modern marriage will only survive through partnership and equality



■ Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Marriage is not just about living together, it is a partnership of equals. Household chores are just as important as jobs or businesses. Willful incompetence ruins relationships. Equal division of responsibilities is the foundation of a happy family. Modern marriage will only survive if there is both partnership and respect.

While the modern lifestyle has opened up new opportunities in relationships, it has also posed many new challenges. Education, employment and technology have made women more independent and self-reliant than ever before. Today's woman is actively moving outside the confines of the home and taking on jobs, businesses and administrative responsibilities. But the irony is that her position within the threshold of the home has not changed as much as it should have. In most families, the responsibility for household chores still lies almost entirely with women.

A new and alarming form of this problem has emerged - the husband deliberately shows incompetence in household chores. This is called armed incompetence in Western society, which simply means that the husband deliberately disrupts household chores in order to show that he is incapable of doing these tasks. As a result, the wife has to do everything again and gradually the entire burden of the house falls on her shoulders.

Imagine the wife asking him to cook vegetables in the kitchen. The husband will add so much salt that the food will not be edible. Or while washing

clothes, he will put colored and white clothes together so that they will get dirty. If he is given the responsibility of getting his child to do his homework, he sits half-heartedly and confuses the child more. In such cases, he later says bluntly - "Look, I can't do this, you do this." Such repeated incidents force the wife to take care of everything herself.

This tendency is not just a form of laziness, but a gender bias hidden in the psyche. For centuries, society has created the perception that domestic work is the responsibility of women and men are limited to only external responsibilities. But in today's times, when women are also fulfilling equal responsibilities outside, this argument is neither valid nor acceptable.

This situation became more evident during the Corona pandemic and lockdown. When offices became confined to homes, children started staying at home all the time and help from outside stopped coming, it was observed in millions of families that the workload on women increased manifold. They were in online meetings all day and also had to take the responsibility of cooking three times a day, teaching children, cleaning and taking care of the elderly. Husbands avoided these responsibilities as much as possible and the excuse was that they were not that skilled in household chores. This situation created tension in many relationships and the incidence of divorce and separation increased in many families.

Women are no longer silently compromising with the situation as they used to. Being educated and self-reliant, they are demanding equality. For them, marriage is no longer just a matter of following tradition, but a partnership. This partnership means that both partners share the responsibilities of the home. When the husband shows deliberate incompetence, it directly affects the wife's self-esteem and mental health. Sometimes this situation leads to depression, anxiety and fatigue.

This tendency also damages relationships from

a psychological perspective. A relationship is strong only when there is a sense of equality and trust in it. If one party repeatedly runs away from responsibility and the other party does everything under compulsion, then gradually resentment, bitterness and distance grow. The wife feels that her hard work is not being appreciated and the husband feels that he has run away for his own convenience. This imbalance cannot last long.

Research on this topic has also been conducted internationally. Several sociological studies in the US, Canada and Europe have found that unequal division of household chores is a major cause of divorce. The same trend is being observed in India too. Against the backdrop of changing urban life, dual employment and smaller families, women are becoming more vocal and openly demanding equality.

This problem will not be solved by law or social pressure alone, but it is possible only through mutual communication and understanding between husband and wife. Men have to understand that household chores are not just ordinary chores, but they keep the foundation of the family strong. If cooking, children's education or house cleaning are not done on time and properly, the atmosphere in the house deteriorates and tension increases. Therefore, it is not right to take them lightly or impose them only on women.

Similarly, women should also remember that they should not take on every responsibility without being told. Sometimes women remain silent thinking that "if he won't do it, then I will have to do it." Gradually this pattern becomes permanent and the husband becomes accustomed to avoiding responsibility. Therefore, it is important that the habit of sharing work is developed between the two from the very beginning.

The author is a Research scholar in political science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045

Abdul Ahad Azad: An Unsung Patriotic and Revolutionary Poet



■ Professor Mohammad Aslam

Born as Abdul Ahad Dar in 1903, Abdul Ahad Azad was one of the well-known poets of his era. He is often referred to as the John Keats of Kashmir, as both Azad and Keats wrote modernist poetry and both died very young. In the beginning, Azad's education remained confined to the holy Quran and a couple of Persian books, but when his elder brother opened a private school, Azad also learned Urdu and Persian. He became a self-learner in his teens.

In 1918, when Azad was 16, he was appointed as an Arabic teacher in a government primary school in a nearby village called Zuhama where he spent 13 years on a monthly salary of thirteen rupees. In 1931, he was transferred to a middle school in Tral as a punitive measure for his alleged involvement in anti-government activities. Although his house was searched, nothing incriminating was found there. It is said that during this period, the death of his only son dwindled Azad's faith, and he started leaning toward socialism. In 1934, he was posted once again at the Zuhama school, where he spent ten years, up to 1944. After that, for one year, he was transferred to Branwar school, Budgam. In 1945, he was transferred to Surasiyar, and until he died in 1948, he spent his time there.

Azad's sojourn enabled him to study a lot. Especially, he learned the Urdu language and its literature. During this period, Azad also learned mathematics, geography, history, and other subjects. He no longer remained confined to teaching Islamiyat or Arabic but took classes of other subjects also. In 1925, Azad took the munshi-aalim examination which he passed with distinction. He wanted to move to another step known as munshi-fazil also, but he fell ill with pneumonia and couldn't appear in the examination. Pneumonia and other ailments kept Azad infirm almost throughout his life. Azad's health deteriorated in 1948 at Surasiyar where he suffered from fever and gastritis. He was treated by local Unani practitioners and at the Ratan Rani Hospital in Srinagar where he was diagnosed with appendicitis, for which he should have been operated earlier but wasn't. When things deteriorated further, he was shifted to the biggest Government hospital, where doctors operated upon him, but the poison from appendicitis had infected his body so much that he couldn't survive. On 4 April 1948, Azad passed away at the age of 45.

Initially, Azad wrote ghazals, but later on, he tried his hand at other forms of poetry as well. He changed his nom de plume from Janbaaz to Azad in 1935. In 1935, he met Mahjoor, and both became friends. Their friendship continued till Azad's death, though Mahjoor had distanced himself from Azad because of his communist ideology. Azad would send his ghazals to Mahjoor for review and corrections. He also got engaged in writing Mahjoor's biography, which eventually became a part of his unparalleled prose work, A History of Kashmiri Language and Poetry (1959). Azad felt the need to study Kashmiri poetry in detail. He became a real researcher. Facing enormous odds, he was able to collect enough material for his pioneering work on the history of Kashmiri literature. This work has been acclaimed as equivalent to Browne's Literary History of Persia (Edward Granville Browne (1862-1926)) and Shibli's Sher-ul-Ajam. Unfortunately, the book couldn't see the light of day during his lifetime. It was posthumously published as Kashmiri Language and Poetry in three volumes by the J&K Academy of Art and Culture.

Azad was very shy and simple, which kept him away from pomp and show, thereby adversely affecting the chances of publishing his poetry in his lifetime. Although he had written many revolutionary poems, he couldn't make them known to people or was scared to publish them. However, his meeting with

Pandit Prem Nath Bazaz (the then editor of a popular newspaper, Hamdard) in 1942 made Azad known to the people. Azad started contributing to the paper, resulting in a lifelong friendship between him and Bazaz. The duo would often meet and discuss various issues together. Azad and Bazaz were both actively involved in the political matters of Kashmir.

Kashmiri poetry had considerably changed at the beginning of the twentieth century from mysticism to a description of Nature and as a tool for awakening the people of Kashmir against cruel autocracy. In this regard, Mahjoor and Azad unequivocally became the harbingers of the renaissance in Kashmiri poetry. Azad was greatly influenced by Mahjoor, but unlike Mahjoor, he couldn't earn any fame during his lifetime.

Azad was greatly influenced by Marxism and became a staunch advocate of socialism. He joined a group of poets who openly advocated communism. On the pattern of the Progressive Writers Front headed by Munshi Prem Chand in India, they established a Front in Kashmir which was banned by the second Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Bakhshi Ghulam Mohammad, in 1953. However, Azad continued to write poetry, especially on social issues and the plight of common Kashmiris—labourers, workers and the poor.

Azad was a revolutionary by nature and wanted action against exploiters like landlords, factory owners and the rich. He criticized the political leaders also for the mess in society and instigated the youth to come forward and save their country from the corrupt leaders and officers.

In the beginning, Azad wrote lyrics, but later in his life, he became a rebel and a standard bearer of social revolution and freedom. He was greatly influenced by the Russian Revolution. He repeatedly asks the youth and the poor to shake off their timidity and stand up against oppression and suppression. He says:

*Why has the fire of self-respect
extinguished in you
O, fellow countrymen, wake up
from slumber*

Later on, in the same poem, he urges his countrymen to fight bravely. He says:

*Submerged you lay in the
mud of fear
Like an earthworm you are in
slumber
Come out like a dragon wavering
O, fellow countrymen, wake up
from slumber.*

In, one of his poems, he tells them:
*Following those ahead, you lamb
Look ahead and see for yourself
You might land in a ditch for a
meadow
Play with the sword of truth.*

In his poems 'The Russian Revolution' and 'Marxism', he says that this Revolution gave power to the powerless and the downtrodden. He found socialism a better alternative and a good system to change the lives of people. Azad praises Marx thus:

*His faith a mirror to Nature
Refined gold, Spring of springs.*

Azad hails Marxism for its people-friendliness and for taking them away from poverty and helplessness. He even praises it for talking of faith in faithlessness: "kufra saet karaan roshan deenuk charaag" (Enkindles the candle of faith with faithlessness). Azad likens the Capitalists with Nimrod (the king of Babylon) who considered himself more powerful than God. Azad advised people to unite so that they could overcome their sufferings. Like his comrades in the Progressive Movement in Kashmir, Azad's slogan, too, was:

*Rise to shape your life
You become your own guide.*

Azad was a true socialist, humane at heart, and a real patriot who wanted people to rise above all sectarian considerations and divides. He wanted to foster communal harmony and love for



their country. He sang:

*Different is my tale, music and
instruments are different
Different is my tavern, goblets
and glass are different
Intoxication is mine, mine is the
wine bearer and heart
The music is my own, heart is
mine, so is the sanfloor*

In his poem, 'The Question', he sings:
*The water that reared Ghani,
Safri and Kalhan
Should that water be poisonous
for us?*

In at least six poems, Azad speaks about the beauty of his country and why everybody should work towards building it as a beautiful place to live in. These six poems are: 'soan vatan', 'tarana-e-vatan', 'myon vatan', 'sawaal', 'vatan daaro' and 'haa vatan daaro ho'.

*In, 'soan vatan' (Our Country),
Azad talks about the boundless
beauty of his country and considers
it as a heaven. He sings:
This bright environment, clear
fragrant air*

*Life to hearts, cure to life
Ailments are cured, hearts get
comfort
This our country, a beautiful coun-
try
Different flowers smile in
their beds*

*Many a pond is restless
Dancing in love for King Inder
As if fairies from beneath the
ground fill the goblets*

*The damsels are getting
goblets filled
Watching from a distance the
intoxicated narcissuses
How can the bulbul hide
their songs*

*I can't say clearly, saying
openly is vice
This heaven is in sight; that
heaven invisible
This heaven we see, that we
have overheard*

Azad talks about the beauty of his country, clean air and environment, flora and fauna, and how these life-comforting objects of Nature make the country nunda boan (the most beautiful).

The poem entitled 'My Country' (myon vatan) is almost the replica of 'Our Country'. However, here he is more direct in his love for his country. He sings:

*How beautiful is my country, on
seeing it I get the strength
My life and heart be sacrificed in
its ways
We love it, Bulbuls and Doves
hover around it
With goblets in our hands, this
flower garden is blessed*

Towards, the end of the poem, Azad sings:

*Who you have to be afraid of;
labour begets good fruit
Enough is love for your country,
the heart said, blessed be.
Azad, you don't have money, you
are loyal to the country
That's why ready the countrymen
are, blessed are your words.*

In 'Country's Song' (tarana-e-vatan), Azad sends the message of brotherhood, unity, and equality, he sings:

*Together we will say country, my
country
Sing the country's song.*

In the last two stanzas of the poem, Azad makes people understand why he is singing the song for his country. He says:

*All have one God
All will have one voice
Never shall we ask for ourselves
only
Separately or individually.*

Addressing directly his people, Azad exhorts them:

*O Brave, move on
Always quest for
O, young brave people
Have hope and yearning!*

In 'Sawal' (A Question), Azad laments the pathetic condition of his country. He laments:

*Aliens feel for us; the world is
aghast
How could this jackal victimize
the lions?*

In 'vatan daaro' and 'haa vatan daaro ho', Azad tells his countrymen to make their country great and beautiful. He tells them not to bow before anybody but to rise and shape their life. In 'vatan daaro', Azad says:

*Neither you heard nor you saw
What did you get after the great
labour?
I would say but I can't
Listen carefully; find meaning*

In 'ha vatan daaro ho', Azad advises his countrymen not to be scared but fight out bravely. He begins the poem like this:

*Why has the fire of self-respect
extinguished in you?
O, fellow countryman wake up
You're crushed in the mud of fear
Like the earthworm you are lying
down
O, Python, come out wavering
O, fellow countrymen wake up*

In 'Shama' (The Candle) Azad, talks of unity, communal harmony, brotherhood and equality. He says:

*My religion is unity; my faith
equality
This is my clear lesson for all
To me K'abaa and the temple are
the same
Be attentive and listen to my tale*

Azad felt deeply for the people of Kashmir who were living under oppression and suppression by not only the rulers but also landlords, factory owners and the rich. In "shikwah-e-kashmir" (Kashmir's Complaint), he considers the political, social and economic evils responsible for the plight of the people. His solutions to these evils are courage, love for one's country, constant struggle and a scientific approach to life. Therefore, he sings in 'myon vatan' thus:

*Sow the seeds of love; fill it with
love and passion
Among the love, the blessed love
is patriotism.*

He was optimistic about the future of his country and the young generation. Even if his generation did not heed him, he knew the future generations would. He says:

*The world would remember Azad
My love, I would remind you of
this sometime*

“Azad was very shy and simple, which kept him away from pomp and show, thereby adversely affecting the chances of publishing his poetry in his lifetime. Although he had written many revolutionary poems, he couldn't make them known to people or was scared to publish them. However, his meeting with Pandit Prem Nath Bazaz (the then editor of a popular newspaper, Hamdard) in 1942 made Azad known to the people. Azad started contributing to the paper, resulting in a lifelong friendship between him and Bazaz

Azad was a great revolutionary and patriotic poet par excellence of the era who unfortunately couldn't get his due recognition during his lifetime. He loved Kashmiris, Kashmir and its beauty which got trampled under the feet of exploiting landlords and the rich. He lamented and cried out, but there were no comforters for him. It is said that a poet of his stature should have remained unknown in his lifetime, though his elder contemporary and friend Mahjoor became a household name during his lifetime and after his death. Like Mahjoor, Azad wrote in simple language avoiding unnecessary words and metaphors to instill in the young generation a spirit of courage and a sense of devotion to their country, about much in any of the writings on Azad and his poetry.

CLASSIFICATION OF PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS



■ Dr. Arif Maghribi Khan

Lot of misconceptions are there in our society regarding mental health disorders. We all cannot become Psychiatrists or Psychologists but at least we should know about basic concepts in mental health disorders. In psychiatry and psychology there are lot of classifications of psychiatric disorders but I am deliberately giving a classification that all sections of society can understand.

Psychiatry has given a simple classification of psychiatric disorders

1: NEUROTIC

When contact of individual with reality is not broken like Anxiety, OCD, PTSD, Conversion disorders. Phobias, Panic disorders, Eating disorders.

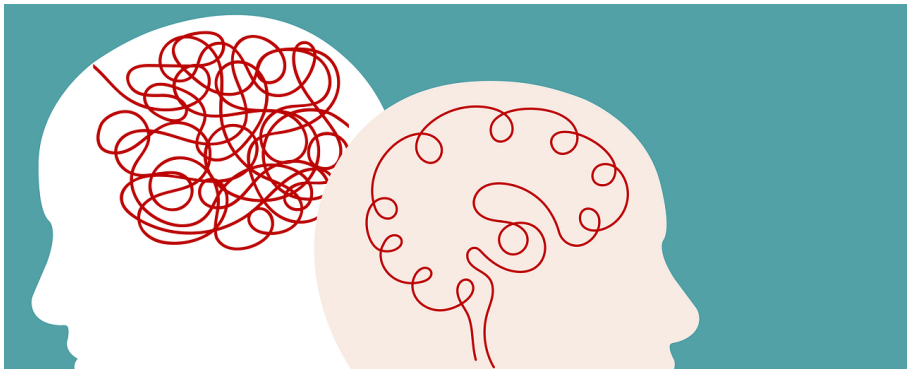
2: PSYCHOTIC

When contact of individual with reality is broken like Schizophrenia, Schizotypal disorder.

Lot of literature is available on depression, anxiety, PTSD, but today let's simplify psychotic disorders usually present only in 2 to 3% of general population. Schizophrenia is a common disorder found in Kashmir.

Major Symptoms: DELUSIONS

They are fixed false beliefs far beyond credibility that may be bizarre [for example 'my right eye is a computer that controls the world or nonbizarre (detectives of my city are after me)] and these remain unmodified despite clear evidence to the contrary. Patients believe that they were born to spread a particular religion or cult; they also wrongly think other persons can hear silent thoughts of patient. Some patients believe that their wife/husband is not faithful



ful without any sort of evidence or believe family members or neighbours' want to poison them.

HALLUCINATIONS:

Even if Patients family and patient are in single room, patients usually complain of hearing strange voices or seeing strange things when others do not hear or see it. Most common are auditory [voices] which patient perceives as coming from outside the patients head. Many times in cases of untreated patients these voices ask the patient to walk on water and many die of accidental suicides. In visual hallucinations patients can see angels, fairies, or ghosts.

Other Symptoms Include; Loosening Of Associations:

Patients ideas are disconnected, they jump from topic to unconnected topic, speech is incoherent.

Over Inclusiveness:

Patients continually may disrupt the flow of their thoughts by including irrelevant information.

Neologisms:

Patients coin new words which may have symbolic meaning for them.

Blocking:

Speech is halted [often in midsentence] and then picked up a moments or minutes later, usually at another place. These patients have short attention span.

Echolalia:

Patients repeat words or phrases in musical or singing fashion without an apparent effort to communicate.

To be considered schizophrenic it is of utmost importance to visit psychiatrist near you, only he can diagnose the disorder, also the following criteria is important.

1: Have at least 6 months of sufficiently deteriorated occupational, interpersonal and self-supportive functioning, have been actively psychotic in a characteristic fashion during at least part of that period and must not be able to account for the symptoms by the presence of a schizoaffective or major mood disorder, autism or an organic condition.

It's very important to mention here contrary to popular belief such patients usually are NOT VIOLENT towards doctors, although due to lack of insight some of them will not visit any doctor or counselor stating that they are healthy and do not need to visit any health care provider.

It's pertinent to say use of cannabis and genetic factors play significant role in development of Schizophrenia.

Treatment

1: Medical Treatment.

Do not stop or start treatment without doctor's advice

2: Family counseling

And 3rdly gradual rehabilitation of patients in work place ensures great results.

Dr. Arif Maghribi Khan is a medical professional and researcher specializing in mental health and substance abuse. He can be reached at arifmaghribi@yathoo.com.

PET HAIR CARE DURING MONSOON



■ Shahnaz Hussain

Monsoons are the time when your pets develop hair and skin issues due to the moisture in the air, humidity and the heat wave. It is, therefore, essential to ensure a thorough and regular grooming session, which will help them survive the season without any issues. For instance, keeping them dry should be the first step to ensure healthy skin and hair.

Keeping your pets clean and healthy will also be beneficial for your hygiene.

I suggest some of the best practices that you can incorporate regarding grooming routine that would ensure your pet does not have to face any issues related to hair and skin:

Keep your pets dry

Make it a point to keep the fur of your pet dry, ensure that after a morning walk or time when there's moisture in the air, or your pet's fur seems damp, dry it with towels. Using a hair dryer on a low setting to dry off their fur is the best way to ensure no moisture is left.

Focus on areas like skin folds, paws and underbelly.

Invest in a good quality rain gear for your pet as they too require protection against the rain. Also, ensure there is no stagnant water in the surroundings where your pet lurks, and keep the environment around them comfortable and clean.

Avoid damp bedding

Keep your pet's bedding dry and ensure there's no moisture to avoid any infections. Place a plastic sheet under the bed or use waterproof bedding.

During monsoons or extreme humidity, reduce their outdoor activities as it may lead to dampness that would settle in their fur, leading to fungal infections.

Regular cleaning and changing of bedding

will ensure that your pet is able to stay dry and their fur is healthy in the monsoon season.

Regular check

Treat your pet like a child and regularly check them for dampness, especially after walks when it is incessantly raining.

Regularly check for any signs of skin irritation or redness. If you see them scratching excessively, then consult a vet.

Keep a regular check to ensure they do not have any fleas or ticks.

Excessive panting and lethargy can be more than just a passing phase. These point to dehydration. Ensure that they have access to clean drinking water at all times.

Consider providing boiled drinking water to your pet to ensure they stay away from any waterborne diseases, especially during summer.

Keep antifungal powder, tick and flea repellents handy to ensure that your pet is free of pests.

Grooming routine

Regularly brush the fur of your pet. This helps dislodge loose fur, prevents matting and enhances air circulation, improving their coat.

Keep their fur trimmed, especially during monsoon. This will protect the fur from dampness and matting.

Use specially formulated antifungal shampoos. It will help prevent fungal infections.

Dirt and muck from the ground easily get stuck in the paws; therefore, I suggest regularly cleaning them with antiseptic after every walk to ensure their hygiene. Additionally, you can invest in good-quality pet boots to protect their paws during monsoons.

Regularly clean their ears

Your pet is like a best buddy that loves you unconditionally, and you should also ensure their life is comfortable and well taken care of. In the same light, ensure you feed them a balanced and healthy diet, inclusive of fibre, omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids for healthy skin and coat. Proper hydration is required to avoid dehydration.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is Popularly known as the Herbal Queen of India

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Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Death of RAFEEQA BEGUM W/O MOHD YOUSUF R/O WATERGAM Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 23/08 /2016 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Wagoora

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Death of ZAIBA BEGUM GM/O SAKEENA BEGUM R/O WATERGAM Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 15/01 /2015 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Wagoora

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of UMER AHMAD GANIE S/O ALI MOHAMMAD GANIE R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 05/03/2006 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of SAHIBA FAISAL S/O MOHAMMAD FAISAL R/O RAJA -KA- TAJPUR Tehsil CHANDPORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 25/04/2018 and event has been shown to be occurred at CHC KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

My Daughter's Date of Birth (DoB) wrongly mentioned in her Aadhar card as 04-03-2001 instead of 17-10-2001.Now i am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned Authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**FAYAZ AHMAD BUKHARI F/O IQRA FAYAZ
R/O KREERI BARAMULLLA**

Public Notice

My son's mother's name has been wrongly written as AFROZA BEGUM in school record while his correct mother's name is ROZI BEGUM as per aadhar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in the office of ZEO WAGOORA / GOVT HIGH SCHOOL WATERGAM within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name...ROZI BEGUM , M/O...HARIS SHABIR
ZONE....WAGOORA**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Death of MOHAMMAD AKBAR LONE S/O ABDUL RAHMAN LONE R/O KHISIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of death as 11/10/2002 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of RAJA BEGUM D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD YATOO R/O DULETPORA Tehsil kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 21/07/1950 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

I have lost Death Certificate of My Son Mohd Ashraf Wani S/O GH Mohd Wani issued on 03-02-2003.Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned Authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**GH MOHD WANI F/O LATE MOHD ASHRAF WANI
R/O KREERI BARAMULLLA**

Public Notice

My Name and My Parentage wrongly mentioned in my Bank Account and Pass Book as Mohd Assadullah Trumboo S/O Gul Mohd Trumboo instead of my Name as Assadullah Wani and my Parentage as Gulle Joo Wani .Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Manager J&K Bank Branch Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**ASSADULLAH WANI S/O GULLE JOO WANI R/O
KREERI BARAMULLLA**

Public Notice

I have lost Death Certificate of My Son Mohd Ashraf Wani S/O GH Mohd Wani issued on 03-02-2003.Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned Authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**GH MOHD WANI F/O LATE MOHD ASHRAF WANI
R/O KREERI BARAMULLLA**

Public Notice

My Name and My Parentage wrongly mentioned in my Bank Account and Pass Book as Mohd Assadullah Trumboo S/O Gul Mohd Trumboo instead of my Name as Assadullah Wani and my Parentage as Gulle Joo Wani .Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Manager J&K Bank Branch Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**ASSADULLAH WANI S/O GULLE JOO WANI R/O
KREERI BARAMULLLA**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that earlier, my bank account 0082040100013659 was under this name, Athar, Ahmad pear S/O Mohd Asadulha pear

R/O Kargama and now it's under this name Syed, Athar Ahmad Shah S/O, Syed Mohammad Assadullah Shah r/o Kargam.Tehsil Handwara district Kupwara as per Adhar record If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his her objection at J&K bank branch office Langate Within a period of 07 day's after that no objection will be accepted.

**Name: Syed Athar Ahmad Shah S/O Syed
Mohammad Assadullah Shah R/O Kargam Tehsil
Handwara district/Kupwara**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of GHULAM MOHD WANI S/O WALI MOHD WANI R/O KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MOHD ASHRAF WANI S/O GH MOHD WANI R.O KREERI has passed away on 07/04/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependant as tabulated below

1. GH MOHD WANI 85 years Father aged
2. SARA BEGUM 75 years Mother aged
3. FAROOQ AHMAD 48 years Brother shopkeeper
4. ASHIQ ABTAL 40 years Brother shopkeeper
5. NASEEMA AKHTER 44 years Sister housewife

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self. If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of AYAZ AHMAD DAR S/O MOHD AKBAR DAR R/O HAIL JAGIR for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that JAVID AHMAD DAR S/O MOHD AKBAR DAR R.O KREERI has passed away on 22/02/1997 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependant as tabulated below:

- 1... MOHD MAQBOOL DAR 58 years brother labour married
- 2....AYAZ AHMAD DAR //50 years //
- 3...FAYAZ AHMAD DAR //40 years
- 4...AB HAMID DAR //37 years //
- 5...SHABIR AHMAD DAR // 33 years //

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self. If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR

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Sub: Extension Notice No. 01

In view of poor response, the Bid Submission end/ opening date (Online) of technical bids in respect of e-NIT No. 19 of 2025 dated: 26.07.2025invited by this office under endorsement No. DOFK-GS0TNDNR/11/2025/E-7731852/e-NIT-19 dated: 26.07.2025 with regard to "Outsourcing of entry ticketing system of Mughal Garden Verinag" is hereby extended as per details given below:-

1.	Bid Submission End date & time	03.09.2025	Up to 02:00 PM
2.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06.09.2025	At 02:00 PM

Other terms & conditions shall remain same as laid down in the concernede-NIT.

No: DOFK-GS0TNDNR/11/2025/E-7731852/e-NIT-19

Dated: 19/08/2025

**Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)**

DIPK: 5328/25 | Dated: 20-08-2025

Office of the Principal
Govt. Polytechnic College Ganderbal

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Website: www.govtpolytechnicganderbal.org.in

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from the eligible desirous candidates for engagement as Guest Faculty in Govt. Polytechnic College Ganderbal, for the session Nov-Dec 2025 purely on temporary basis in the following disciplines:

S.No	Course / Subject	Minimum Qualification
01	Electrical Engineer	B.E/B.Tech in Electrical Engineering from a recognized University/Institute
02	Civil Engineering	B.E/B.Tech in Civil Engineering from a recognized University/Institute
03	Computer Engineering	B.E/B.Tech in Computer Engineering from a recognized University/Institute
04	Entrepreneurship & Business Management	MBA from a recognized University/Institute

REMUNERATION: The Guest Lecturer shall be paid remuneration @Rs. 750 per lecture to the condition that monthly remuneration shall not exceed Rs 20,000/-.

SELECTION CRITERIA: On the date of interaction/Demo class, which shall be communicated to the shortlisted candidates through email, the candidates must come along with all their original certificates, updated C.V and relevant experience certificates. Appearing in Interaction is must and candidates who fail to attend the interaction session shall not be considered for further selection. Selection Criteria in terms of norms prescribed by Directorate order No. 37 of2023 dated 24/01/2023 shall be followed as under:

1. 80 points for basic qualification.
2. 05 points for higher qualification.
3. 05 points for GATE/NET/SET.
4. 05 points for teaching experience (Polytechnic Diploma level or higher) on pro rata basis, 01 point for each academic year.
5. 05 points for interview/Demo class.

OTHER T&C:

1. The Last Date for submission of Application forms is 25-08-2025, 04:00 PM.
2. The Engagement shall be purely on Guest faculty norms and shall be for only 01 academic session.
3. Selected candidates shall submit undertaking /affidavit duly authenticated by First Class Magistrate before joining wherein clearly the conditions are stipulated that he/she shall not claim for continuation of his/her services and the agreement can be terminated at any point of time without any notice period.
4. Hardcopy of the application form along with self-attested copies of the qualification certificate, Domicile, experience (if any) is to be submitted to the Principal office Govt. Polytechnic College Ganderbal by or before 23/08/2025 (Copy Enclosed).
5. Shortlisting of candidates for the interview will be done in 1:5 ratio.

Application Form

1. Post applied for: _____
2. Name of applicant: _____
3. Parentage: _____
4. Sex: Male Female
5. Permanent Address: _____
6. Current Address: _____
7. Contact No. _____
8. Email ID: _____
9. Date of Birth: _____
10. Academic and Technical Qualification: _____

Photo

Exam	Year of Passing	Board/ University	Total Marks	Marks Obtained	Percentage of Marks	Remarks

11. Experience (if any):

Post Held	Organisation (Govt/ Pvt)	Period from	To

Declaration:

I, _____ S/O,D/O,W/O _____ R/o _____ Tehsil _____

District _____ do hereby affirm that the entries made herein above in the application form are true and correct and nothing has been concealed therein.

Date:

Place:

No: GPCG/Estt/2025/427

Dated: 18-08-2025

Signature of Applicant

**Sd/- Principal
Govt. Polytechnic College Ganderbal**

DIPK: 5322/25 | Dated: 20-08-2025

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NDA VP candidate poised to win Sep 9 election, going by numbers game

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 20: The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) seems poised to win the Vice President's election scheduled for September 9, in view of the majority of its Members in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The Electoral College consists of all Members of Parliament from both Houses of Parliament totalling 782, excluding six vacancies. A candidate needs at least 392 votes to win. Looking at the strength in both Houses, the NDA has 293 MPs in Lok Sabha and 130 in Rajya Sabha. This gives the NDA

a solid 422 votes, way above the majority mark, making the NDA candidate C P Radhakrishnan hot favourite. Going by the numbers game, INDIA Alliance's Sudershan Reddy appears to have little chance. INDIA Alliance has 249 MPs in Lok Sabha and 106 in Rajya Sabha. This totals 355 votes. Although not a small number, it, however, falls short of the required 392. Even if the INDIA Block sways smaller parties like the YSR Congress or BJD, the numbers gap remains. The NDA, therefore, is ahead even before the election, even if there are some abstentions or



there is any cross-voting which is highly unlikely. Election to the Vice President's office must be held within 60 days of the resignation by the earlier Vice President, in this case Jagdeep Dhankhar, and before September 19. Voting is done through

secret ballot. Last date for filing nomination is tomorrow. The NDA candidate filed his nomination today. He was accompanied by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Health Minister and BJP President JPNadda and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari. Four sets of papers were filed as part of the nomination process. INDIA Alliance candidate B Sudershan Reddy, a former judge of the Supreme Court, arrived here yesterday evening and was received at the airport by Opposition MPs. He will file his nomination tomorrow. UNI RB 1726

CBI arrests NHAI project director in Telangana while accepting bribe

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI AUG 20: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested two persons, including a Project Director of the National Highways Authority of India (NHA), from Warangal, Telangana, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 60,000 to permit a man run his restaurant along the Highway. The CBI said that they registered this case yesterday against the accused Project Director identified as Golla Durga Prasad and his aide Venu Yadav. The FIR was lodged based on allegations that the accused demanded an undue advantage of Rs.1,00,000 for not causing any hindrance in the operation of the complainant's restaurant located near Gudur



Toll Plaza on the Hyderabad highway. The demand of undue advantage was initiated through the accused private person. After negotiations, the accused Project Director agreed to receive Rs.60,000 promising that during his tenure of five years as Project Director there would not be any problem for the Complainant. The CBI laid a trap and caught both the accused red-handed while demanding and accepting undue advantage. Searches were conducted at three places belonging to the accused. The official said that incriminating documents were seized from them. Further investigation into the matter is ongoing. UNI ATK AAB

US willing to provide air support to Ukraine to aid in reaching peace deal with Russia

■ **United News of India**

WASHINGTON, AUG 20: While ruling out any US boots on the ground in Ukraine, President Donald Trump nonetheless did express willingness to provide the country with air support if it helps in Moscow and Kyiv reaching an agreement for settlement, reports The Guardian. His comments came a day after he pledged

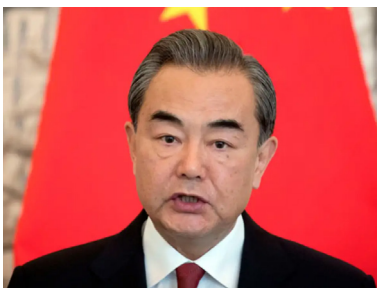


security guarantees to help end the war at an extraordinary White House summit. Affirming Washington's full involvement in Europe's security, Trump had ruled out Ukraine's admission into NATO, calling it 'unrealistic'. "When it comes to security, (Europeans) are willing to put people on the ground. We're willing to help them with things, especially, probably ... by air," Trump said in an interview on Fox News on Tuesday. Russia has repeatedly warned that it will not allow Ukraine to ever join the NATO, and said that one of the preconditions for peace was Kyiv abandoning these aspirations, along with its demilitarisation and denazification. The Kremlin's advance is currently ongoing, as Russian forces have captured further territories in Donetsk and Dnepropetrovsk, while also having targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure on Monday. UNI

Wang Yi flies to Afghanistan instead of Pakistan for China-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 20: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi who was to travel to Pakistan after completing his India visit today, instead arrived in Afghanistan to attend the sixth China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue in Kabul. The talks will cover a wide range of key issues, including political, economic and regional cooperation between the three countries. This is Wang Yi's first visit to Afghanistan in more than three years. Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has already arrived in Kabul to attend the day-long meeting.



Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry while announcing the arrivals of Mr Wang Yi and Mr Dar for the trilateral in Kabul, said the meeting, to be hosted by Afghanistan, "will include comprehensive discussions among the three countries on a wide range of important issues, encompassing political, economic and regional coop-

eration." The participants are expected to exchange views on the future of relations, based on shared interests, mutual understanding and enhanced cooperation, the Ministry said. It said the discussions would focus particularly on political, economic and regional cooperation, as well as the future of relations based on mutual interests, understanding and enhanced collaboration. In addition to participating in the trilateral dialogue, Wang Yi will also hold several bilateral meetings with senior officials of Afghanistan government on strengthening ties, boosting economic cooperation and deepening mutual trust between Kabul and Beijing. UNI RB 1356

IDF puts additional 60,000 reserves on alert for operation to fully take over Gaza City

■ **United News of India**

TEL AVIV, AUG 20: The Israeli Defence Forces have put over 60,000 reserve troops on alert for the total capture of Gaza City. This comes in the wake of Israel's plan to fully occupy the Gaza Strip to remove the Hamas forces in the area. The military is set to launch its offensive against Hamas today in Gaza City, announced Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz. According to The Times Of Israel, the reserves would not be rolled out at once but rather in waves. The majority — around 40,000-50,000 — would be ordered to show up for duty on September 2. Another wave would take place in November-December, and a third wave in February-March 2026, the IDF said. This move markedly increases the number of reserves being called for action, as the IDF already has thousands of reserves currently serving. Additionally, the military is also extending reserve duty for some 20,000 reservists who were currently on duty by another



30-40 days. This would bring the total number of reservists at a given time during the offensive to around 130,000. These reserves include three brigades and several more battalions, and many combat support soldiers, including in intelligence and logistics.

Not all reserves are going to be deployed to Gaza City, but rather will fill in for the active ground troops deployed in various areas currently. In all, five IDF divisions, made up of tens of thousands of troops, were set to participate in the military's planned offensive

against Hamas in Gaza City, according to the army. The forces included 12 brigade-level teams, each of which has infantry, armoured, artillery, and combat engineering forces, along with combat support. In addition, the Gaza Division's northern and southern brigades

— normally tasked with the border — are set to participate in the offensive, bringing the total number of brigades to 14. As per the IDF, the preparation phases for its offensive have already begun, with an ongoing offensive on the outskirts of Gaza City. The Nahal Infantry Brigade and 7th Armoured Brigade have been operating in the Zeitoun neighbourhood, and the Givati Infantry Brigade began a new offensive in the Kafr Jabalia area, north of the city. In addition, the IDF said efforts to set up humanitarian infrastructure in the Strip's south for an estimated one million Palestinian civilians who are set to be displaced from Gaza City have started, including allowing tents and shelter equipment into the Strip in recent days. The military said more aid distribution sites and at least two more field hospitals are set to be established. The European Hospital in Khan Younis, which was closed after the IDF raided a Hamas tunnel running underneath it, was also slated to resume operations. UNI ANV SSP

Ten-point Consensus arrived at India-China SR talks on Border Question

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 20: India and China arrived a 10-point consensus including on border management mechanisms at diplomatic and military levels, trans-border rivers cooperation and sharing of hydrological information during emergency situations at the 24th Round of Talks Between the Special Representatives (SRs) of the two countries on the Boundary Question. Releasing the details of the 10-point Consensus today the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the two countries agreed to give full play to the role of the China-India Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-border Rivers and keep communication on the renewal of relevant MoUs. The Chinese side agreed to share hydrological information

during emergency situations based on humanitarian considerations. It was also agreed to re-open the three traditional border trading markets -- Renqinggang-Changgu, Pulan-Gunji and Jiuba-Namgya. The 24th Round of Talks on the Border Question was co-chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi here yesterday. The 25th Round of SR Talks will be held in China in 2026. "Under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries and in a positive and constructive spirit, the two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the China-India boundary question, and reached ten points of consensus," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. The two sides reiterated the



importance of maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas, emphasized handling the issue properly through friendly consultations, to promote overall development of the China-India bilateral relationship.

They agreed on the need to take a political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship while seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable framework for settlement of the boundary question in accordance with the

Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of the China-India Boundary Question signed in 2005. It was also agreed to set up an Expert Group, under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on the China-India border affairs (WMCC) framework, to explore Early Harvest of boundary delimitation on appropriate Sectors. A Working Group, under the WMCC framework, would be set up to advance effective border management to maintain peace and tranquility in border areas. Both sides agreed to create General-Level Mechanisms in the Eastern and Middle Sectors, in addition to the existing General-Level Mechanism in the Western Sector, and hold the next round of General-Level Mechanism meeting in the Western Sector at an

early date. They agreed to use the border management mechanisms at diplomatic and military levels to carry forward the process of border management, and discuss de-escalation, beginning with the principles and modalities thereof. The two sides also exchanged views on trans-border rivers cooperation and agreed to give full play to the role of the China-India Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-border Rivers and keep communication on the renewal of relevant MoUs. The Chinese side agreed to share hydrological information during emergency situations based on humanitarian considerations. It was agreed to re-open the three traditional border trading markets, namely Renqinggang-Changgu, Pulan-Gunji and Jiuba-Namgya. UNI RB 1436

Shubman Gill returns to India's T20I squad as vice-captain for Asia Cup

■ **ESPNCricinfo**

NEW DELHI: The 15-member squad, picked by the selection committee on Tuesday, will be led by Suryakumar Yadav, and includes Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson as the two other opening candidates. With Gill as vice-captain, however, he is the frontrunner for one of the slots at the top of the order.

"We obviously see some leadership qualities in him, and his form in England was what we were hoping for. [He] exceeded all our expectations, which is a great sign when there's so much pressure as captain," chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar said in Mumbai.

The middle and lower-order batting options are Suryakumar, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh and Jitesh Sharma, who could be the first-choice wicketkeeper if India decide to open with Gill and Abhishek. There are also three allrounders in Axar, Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube. The specialist bowling options are Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy and Harshit Rana, who provides some extra batting depth too.

There was no place for Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was instead among the five reserve players, along with Prashidh Krishna, Washington Sundar,

Riyan Parag and Dhruv Jurel. Shreyas Iyer, who scored 604 runs at a strike rate of 175 in IPL 2025 and led Punjab Kings to the final, also did not find a place in the 15.

"With regard to Yashasvi, it's just unfortunate again," Agarkar said. "There's Abhishek Sharma: what he's done over the last year or so - plus he can bowl a little bit - he gives us that option if required. One of these guys was going to miss out. Yashasvi just has to wait for his chance."

"With regard to Shreyas, who can he replace? No fault of his, nor is it ours. At the moment, you can just pick 15. So he will have to wait for his chance."

Gill was vice-captain in the previous T20I series he had played - in Sri Lanka in July 2024 - but he had not been picked in any of the subsequent series as India prioritised his appearances in the Test and ODI formats. Axar was then appointed vice-captain for the home T20Is against England in January. Gill's return to the T20I format comes on the back of his contributions to India's Champions Trophy triumph earlier this year and his record-breaking run as batter in the five-Test series in England, where he led India to a 2-2 draw in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. He also scored 650

runs for Gujarat Titans in IPL 2025 at a strike rate of 155.87.

"Last time when he [Gill] played T20 for India, post T20 World Cup when we went to Sri Lanka - not Zimbabwe - when I was leading, he was the vice-captain," Suryakumar said after the selection meeting in Mumbai. "So that's where we started a new cycle. After that, he got busy with all the Test series, and he didn't get an opportunity to play T20s because he was busy playing Test cricket and Champions Trophy. So he's there in the squad, and we're happy to have him."

The Asia Cup is India's first T20I assignment since the bilateral series against England at home in January. India are in Group A, along with Pakistan, Oman and UAE. Their first game is against UAE in Dubai on September 10, after which they play Pakistan in Dubai on September 14, and Oman in Abu Dhabi on September 19.

"This is the first big tournament we are playing since the [2024] T20 World Cup," Suryakumar said. "We have played three-four bilateral series. It's a good tournament to test ourselves. After this, there are a lot of T20s - close to 20-22 T20s in total - before we play our first game in the [2026] World Cup, so I think the journey starts from the Asia Cup."



Renuka, Amanjot in India's World Cup squad; Shafali misses out

India squad

Women's World Cup 2025

Harmanpreet Kaur (c)	Jemimah Rodrigues	Amanjot Kaur
Smriti Mandhana (vc)	Yastika Bhatia (wk)	Radha Yadav
Pratika Rawal	Arundhati Reddy	Renuka Thakur
Harleen Deol	Kranti Goud	Shree Charani
Deepti Sharma	Richa Ghosh (wk)	Sneh Rana

■ **ESPNCricinfo**

SYDNEY: Fast bowler Renuka Singh and allrounder Amanjot Kaur have returned from injuries and have been named in India's World Cup squad. Shafali Verma, who fell out of favour in the ODI set-up last year, continues to miss out on selection, while Tejal Hasnabis, Shuchi Upadhyay and Sayali Satghare, who were all part of the recent ODI series against England, have been left out of the 15-member

squad. Amanjot has, however, been rested for the ODI series against Australia leading up to the World Cup, with India captain Harmanpreet Kaur saying she was at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence "working on a few small niggles". Renuka has been named in that squad for the series, which starts on September 14 in New Chandigarh. Satghare will also play the three ODIs against Australia and will be replaced by Amanjot for the World Cup.

Rabada ruled out of Australia ODI series with ankle inflammation

■ **ESPNCricinfo**

LONDON: South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada was ruled out of action for the entirety of the three-match ODI series against Australia on the morning of the first ODI.

Rabada, 30, underwent a scan on Monday, which confirmed the extent of his ankle injury. He will remain in Australia and undergo rehabilitation under the supervision of the South Africa medical staff. Kwena Maphaka, who was the highest

wicket-taker in the T20I series that preceded the ODIs, has been added to the South Africa squad.

With Rabada not available and Marco Jansen still recovering from surgery to his left thumb, the fast bowlers in the squad

are Nandre Burger, Lungi Ngidi and Maphaka. They also have seam-bowling allrounders Corbin Bosch and Wiaan Mulder on the tour. Their spin options are Keshav Maharaj, Senuran Muthusamy and Prenelan Subrayen.

The first of three ODIs is being played at the Cazaly's Stadium in Cairns, after which the teams move to Mackay's Great Barrier Reef Arena for the next two matches. Australia won the hard-fought T20I series 2-1.

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