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Shri Amarnath Yatra Must Remain Safe, Seamless and Spiritually Fulfilling: LG Sinha



LG Releases 2026 Pilgrimage Guide Book ; Comprehensive Information Manual to Assist Devotees Across Both Routes

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 15: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday released the 15th edition of the Shri Amarnath Yatra Guide Book 2026 at Lok Bhavan, emphasizing the need to ensure that the

annual pilgrimage remains a safe, seamless and spiritually fulfilling experience for devotees from across the country. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor praised the Tourism Federation of Jammu for its sustained

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No Shortcomings Will Be Allowed During Muharram: CM Omar Abdullah



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday asserted that the government would leave no room for shortcomings in arrangements for Muharram, directing all departments to ensure the timely delivery of essential services and effective coordination for the smooth observance of the occasion across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a high-level review meeting in Srinagar, the Chief Minister said extensive preparations had already been undertaken at the district, divisional and departmental levels and that the administration was focused on completing all remaining works well ahead of time.

"The preparations for Muharram have not started today. Extensive groundwork has already been undertaken. This review is aimed at

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Kashmiri Pandits Seek Dedicated Township in Rainawari for Rehabilitation

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 15: Reaffirming their desire to return to their ancestral homeland, members of the Kashmiri Pandit community on Monday urged the government to facilitate their rehabilitation through concrete policy measures, including the establishment of a dedicated township in Rainawari and the creation of an enabling environment for community-led investment in Kashmir.

The demand was raised at a press conference held in Srinagar following the conclusion of the week-long Global Kashmiri Pandit Heritage Tour and a two-day international conclave at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC).

Addressing the media, community representative Dr. Surinder Kaul said the initiatives were aimed at reconnecting displaced Kashmiri Pandits, particularly younger generations, with their cultural roots and historical heritage in Kashmir.

He said the heritage tour, conducted from June 6 to June 12, covered several temples, shrines, ashrams and historically significant sites across the Valley, providing participants an

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Government Has Focused on Improving Quality of Life of Ordinary Citizens Over the Last 12 Years: PM Modi

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the NDA government has consistently worked to improve the quality of life of ordinary citizens during its 12 years in office, with a strong focus on expanding opportunities, strengthening infrastructure and ensuring better access to essential services.

In a statement marking the government's achievements, Modi said governance over the past decade has increasingly centered on making everyday life easier for people through



improved public services, affordable healthcare, quality education, cleaner urban environments and modern infrastructure.

"Over the last decade, governance has increasingly focused on improving the quality of life of ordinary citizens. Our efforts are about easier access to opportunities, better infrastructure, improved public services, affordable healthcare, quality education, cleaner cities and reduced burdens in everyday life," the Prime Minister said.

Describing his administration as a "government for the middle class,"

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Chargesheet Filed Against J&K Housing Board Official and Wife in Special Anti-Corruption Court in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday filed a chargesheet against a Junior Engineer of the J&K Housing Board and his wife for allegedly possessing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income.

According to an official statement, the chargesheet in FIR No. 18/2020 was presented before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, under provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act and the Ranbir Penal Code.

The accused have been identified as Tariq Ahmad

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No Fear, No Shortage of Facilities; Pilgrimage Will Be Successful This Year

Sadhus from across India begin arriving in Jammu ahead of Amarnath Yatra

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JUNE 15: Weeks before the commencement of the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra on July 3, a growing number of sadhus and spiritual seekers from different parts

of the country have started arriving in Jammu, filling the historic Ram Mandir in the old city with an atmosphere of devotion, prayer and religious reflection.

The temple, which traditionally serves as a major transit centre for ascetics before they proceed to the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, has witnessed a steady influx of visitors preparing

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India-Mongolia Friendship Tree Embodies Deep-Rooted Cultural, Spiritual and Diplomatic Ties

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH, JUNE 15: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday planted a Mongolian larch sapling named the "India-Mongolia Friendship Tree" at Lok Niwas, describing it as a living symbol of the enduring cultural, spiritual and diplomatic relationship between India and Mongolia. The plantation ceremony comes

days after Saxena led an Indian delegation to Mongolia and oversaw the return of sacred relics of two disciples of Gautama Buddha from Ulaanbaatar to New Delhi following a 10-day public exposition in the country.

In a statement shared on social media, the Lieutenant Governor said it was an honour to plant the sapling, which was presented to him by Atul Malhari Gotsurve on

behalf of the people of Mongolia after the conclusion of the exposition on June 10.

"The sapling, named as 'India-Mongolia Friendship Tree', embodies the deep-rooted cultural, spiritual and diplomatic ties between our two nations," Saxena said.

He expressed hope that the tree would grow into a lasting

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CS Administers Oath of Office to Chairperson, J&K Water Resources Regulatory Authority

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 15: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today administered the Oath of Office to Suresh Kumar Gupta, who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority (JKWRRRA).

The oath ceremony was held at the Civil Secretariat and was attend-



ed by senior officers of the Government and officials associated with the water resources sector.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary extended his congratulations to Shri Gupta and expressed confidence that his rich administrative experience and deep understanding of natural resource management would further strengthen the Authority's

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CM Omar Abdullah hands over appointment letters to 132 junior engineers at SKICC

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today handed over appointment letters to 132 newly recruited Junior Engineers (Civil) of the Public Works (Roads & Buildings) Department at a function held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Addressing the appointees and their families, the Chief Minister described the occasion as a significant milestone in the lives of the young engineers and



urged them to view their appointment not merely as a government job but as a solemn

responsibility towards the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

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19 property owners booked for lapses in Samba

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUN 15: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday filed 19 FIRs against property owners for not providing details of tenants in Samba district, officials said.

The cases were registered at Samba and Bari Brahmana police stations during a special verification drive launched to enhance security measures and ensure strict adherence to mandatory tenant verification norms, they said.

The verification process was initiated for the outsiders staying as tenants and domestic helpers.

During the drive, 13 cases were registered at Bari Brahmana police station and six cases were registered at Samba police station under relevant sections

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Shri Amarnath.....

efforts to strengthen pilgrimage tourism and improve facilities for pilgrims undertaking the annual journey to the holy cave shrine. He also commended the collective contribution of various organizations associated with the pilgrimage in enhancing the overall experience for visitors.

The newly released guide book has been prepared as a comprehensive reference manual for pilgrims and contains detailed information on registration procedures, accommodation facilities, medical services, safety guidelines, emergency contacts and other essential arrangements available along both pilgrimage routes from Lakhampur to the holy cave.

Chairman of the Tourism Federation of Jammu Rajesh Gupta informed the gathering that extensive preparations have been made for the upcoming pilgrimage season. He said the federation has expanded its religious outreach programmes following the success of the Jammu Tawi Aarti initiative, with regular prayer ceremonies now being conducted at several prominent places of worship across the region.

Gupta said arrangements have been finalized in coordination with Jammu Smart City Limited for the continuation of regular prayer ceremonies from June 29. He added that community meal services for pilgrims will also commence at the current registration centre in Jammu from the same date.

He further announced that the federation is preparing a documentary showcasing the upgraded facilities available to pilgrims along the entire route from Lakhampur to the shrine. The film, expected to be released before the commencement of the pilgrimage, will provide information about available amenities while educating visitors on safety measures and pilgrimage guidelines.

The guide book has been designed and printed for free distribution among pilgrims to help them access reliable information and undertake the journey with greater convenience and preparedness.

The release function was attended by senior officials, representatives of tourism bodies and stakeholders associated with the annual pilgrimage.

No Shortcomings.....

ensuring that whatever remains is completed well in time," he said. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Cabinet Ministers, legislators, senior civil and police officers, representatives of community organisations, religious leaders and civil society members from different parts of the Union Territory.

Emphasising the importance of uninterrupted public services, Omar Abdullah directed the Power Development Department to ensure regular electricity supply at all major congregation venues and procession routes. He called for adequate backup arrangements, including generators and battery-inverter systems, to prevent disruptions. The Chief Minister also asked officials to explore the possibility of installing rooftop solar power systems at major religious centres.

Reviewing drinking water arrangements, he instructed the Jal Shakti Department to ensure an uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water in all affected areas. He directed authorities to deploy water tankers where necessary and establish fixed water distribution points at locations expected to witness large gatherings.

The Chief Minister also ordered intensified sanitation drives around religious centres, congregation venues and procession routes. Urban Local Bodies were directed to deploy additional manpower and maintain cleanliness throughout the observance period. He further stressed close coordination between municipal authorities and Fire and Emergency Services for road washing and cleaning operations wherever required.

On healthcare preparedness, Omar Abdullah directed the Health and Medical Education Department to deploy sufficient medical personnel, ambulances, emergency response teams and medical camps at strategic locations. He said all health facilities must remain fully operational to provide immediate assistance in emergencies.

Traffic management was another key focus of the review. The Chief Minister instructed the Traffic Police and district administrations to ensure the smooth movement of processions while minimising inconvenience to commuters, tourists and the general public through effective planning and deployment.

Reviewing road infrastructure, he directed the Roads and Buildings Department to carry out repairs and fill potholes along procession routes and other areas expected to witness large gatherings. While acknowledging challenges posed by supply-chain disruptions, he emphasised that roads should be made safe and levelled wherever full resurfacing work could not be completed immediately.

To strengthen accountability, the Chief Minister directed all designated nodal officers to remain accessible to the public and available around the clock for grievance

redressal. He also announced that the Chief Minister's Secretariat would directly oversee Muharram-related arrangements, monitor departmental performance and review complaints received from the public.

In a significant announcement, Omar Abdullah said the government would consider a dedicated allocation in the next Budget for strengthening Muharram-related infrastructure and arrangements. He said such funding would enable departments to undertake preparatory works in advance and ensure better facilities in the years ahead.

During the meeting, elected representatives, community organisations and civil society members raised issues related to electricity, water supply, sanitation, healthcare, road connectivity and other public services. Senior officials informed the Chief Minister that extensive field inspections, public outreach programmes and inter-departmental coordination efforts were already underway to ensure the peaceful and smooth observance of Muharram across Jammu and Kashmir.

Detailed presentations by the Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu outlined preparations relating to security, traffic regulation, healthcare deployment, civic services, road repairs, power and water supply, emergency response measures, fuel availability and contingency planning, reflecting a comprehensive administrative effort to facilitate the observance across the Union Territory.

Kashmiri Pandits.....

opportunity to reconnect with places closely associated with the community's history and traditions.

"For the first time in more than three decades, members of our community came together for a structured heritage tour across Kashmir. The objective was to strengthen the connection of our younger generation with their roots, traditions and cultural legacy," Dr. Kaul said.

He noted that the displacement of Kashmiri Pandits in 1989-90 had scattered the community across different parts of India and abroad, creating challenges in preserving its identity and cultural continuity.

"Our foremost concern over the past three decades has been the preservation of our heritage and ensuring that future generations remain connected with their roots," he said, adding that the response to the heritage tour had been highly encouraging.

Referring to discussions held during the conclave, community representatives said the event served as an important platform to deliberate on issues related to rehabilitation, cultural preservation and the future of displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

The speakers also welcomed recent remarks by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha regarding the events of 1989-90, describing his acknowledgment of the community's suffering as significant and meaningful.

Calling for a comprehensive rehabilitation policy, the representatives urged the government to examine the feasibility of developing a dedicated township in Rainawari, one of the historic centres of Kashmiri Pandit habitation in Srinagar.

According to them, such a township could provide a secure and dignified environment for returning families while also serving as a centre for educational, cultural and community institutions aimed at reviving the community's presence in the Valley.

The community leaders also appealed to successful entrepreneurs, professionals and business leaders from the Kashmiri Pandit community to invest in Kashmir and contribute to its economic development.

"The time has come for members of the community to contribute to the development of their homeland. Investment can create opportunities, strengthen confidence and support the economic growth of Kashmir," Dr. Kaul said.

He, however, stressed that sustainable investment would require a stable environment marked by peace, security and economic progress.

Expressing optimism about the future, the speakers said that despite the hardships faced over the past 35 years, the Kashmiri Pandit community remains committed to preserving its heritage, empowering younger generations and pursuing a peaceful, secure and dignified return to Kashmir.

Government.....

Modi said it remains committed to fulfilling the aspirations of middle-class families, acknowledging their significant contribution to nation-building.

The government's citizen engagement platform, MyGov India, highlighted what it described as substantial improvements in living standards during the past 12 years. It attributed the progress to investments in infrastructure, enhanced connectivity, tax relief measures and expanded public services.

According to the platform, digital connectivity has witnessed unprecedented growth, with internet access expanding

rapidly across both urban and rural regions. More than 103 crore internet connections and reduced data costs have enabled wider access to education, employment, digital payments and online services.

The platform also pointed to significant advancements in railway infrastructure, particularly through the expansion of the Vande Bharat Express network. With 164 trains currently in operation and more than nine crore passengers served, rail travel has become faster and more comfortable, while new sleeper services are expected to further improve long-distance travel.

Urban transportation has also received a major boost through the expansion of metro rail systems in several cities, helping to reduce congestion and improve mobility for millions of commuters.

In addition, improvements in highway infrastructure and streamlined toll collection systems have enhanced travel efficiency and strengthened logistics networks, contributing to smoother intercity movement for both individuals and businesses.

The Prime Minister's remarks come as the NDA government highlights its governance record, emphasizing citizen welfare, infrastructure development, digital inclusion and service delivery reforms as key drivers of national progress over the past twelve years.

Chargesheet.....

Ganie, a Junior Engineer with the J&K Housing Board, and his wife, Rukhsana Jan, an Anganwadi worker in the Integrated Child Development Services Department. Both are residents of Chandergam area of Tral in Pulwama district.

The ACB said the case originated from a verification conducted into allegations that the public servant had accumulated wealth beyond his legitimate sources of income. During the inquiry, investigators reportedly uncovered financial transactions amounting to several crores of rupees through multiple bank accounts.

"The investigation conducted by Police Station ACB Srinagar against the accused public servant and his wife substantiated the allegations levelled against them," an ACB spokesperson said.

The Bureau stated that after obtaining the required government sanction for prosecution, the chargesheet was filed before the Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, for further judicial proceedings.

Reiterating its commitment to combating corruption, the ACB said it would continue to pursue cases involving alleged abuse of public office and unlawful enrichment while promoting transparency and accountability in public institutions.

The matter will now be taken up by the Special Anti-Corruption Court for further legal proceedings.

No Fear, No.....

for the 57-day pilgrimage. Religious hymns and prayers echo through the temple premises as devotees engage in spiritual discourses and community service while awaiting the start of the yatra.

Among those who have arrived is Amar Dass from Ayodhya, who said he reached Jammu nearly six weeks before the pilgrimage to assist fellow saints and devotees.

"I serve the saints and devotees and help manage kitchen and food service activities. Serving pilgrims gives me immense satisfaction," he said.

A regular participant in the Amarnath pilgrimage since 2014, Dass recalled overcoming serious health challenges to complete the journey last year despite medical advice against undertaking the trek.

Ganesh Puri, a pilgrim from Himachal Pradesh who has been undertaking the yatra for more than three decades, expressed confidence in the arrangements being made for this year's pilgrimage.

"This year, with strong security arrangements and cooperation from all stakeholders, the pilgrimage is expected to be very successful. There will be no shortage of facilities and no major difficulties for devotees," he said.

He also prayed for the safe and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage, expressing hope that all participants would complete their journey without hardship.

For some devotees, this year's pilgrimage marks a first-time spiritual experience. Brespatri Giri, a woman ascetic from Chhattisgarh, said she felt fortunate to have the opportunity to undertake the sacred journey.

"It is by divine grace that I have been able to come here," she said.

Another pilgrim, Bramchari Parth Dev, said he decided to undertake the pilgrimage while travelling across different parts of the country.

He said the gathering of saints was focused on prayers for peace, prosperity and the well-being of all living beings.

Among the early arrivals is Bhairav from Tamil Nadu, who described the pilgrimage as a deeply fulfilling spiritual experience. He said his journey to Amarnath forms part of a wider circuit of religious destinations across India that he visits annually before reaching

Jammu.

The Ram Mandir has for decades served as an important base camp for saints and ascetics travelling from various states ahead of the Amarnath Yatra. The early arrival of pilgrims this year reflects growing enthusiasm for the annual pilgrimage and confidence in the arrangements being put in place for its smooth conduct.

The Shri Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to commence on July 3 and will continue for 57 days, drawing thousands of devotees from across the country to the Himalayan cave shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva.

India-Mongolia.....

reminder of the shared values that bind the two countries together.

"As the tree grows, may it stand tall as a testament to our shared values of peace, harmony and brotherhood, inspiring future generations to cherish and strengthen the friendship between India and Mongolia," he said.

The symbolic gesture reflects the continuing efforts of both nations to strengthen bilateral relations through cultural and spiritual exchanges, with Buddhism serving as an important link in their long-standing historical relationship.

The plantation of the friendship tree is being viewed as another step towards deepening people-to-people connections and reinforcing the bonds of goodwill between India and Mongolia.

CS Administers.....

efforts towards ensuring sustainable, equitable and efficient management of water resources across the Union Territory.

The Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority is a statutory body mandated to regulate and oversee the development, management and conservation of water resources in the Union Territory. The Authority plays a crucial role in promoting integrated water resource management, safeguarding water security and advising the Government on policies and strategies for sustainable utilization of this vital resource.

Gupta was appointed as Chairperson of the JKWRA by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir vide Notification S.O. 164 dated June 9, 2026, issued under Section 139 of the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010. His appointment came into effect upon assumption of charge.

A distinguished officer of the 1991 batch of the Indian Forest Service (IFS), Suresh Kumar Gupta brings with him more than three decades of experience in public administration, environmental governance, forest management and natural resource conservation. During his illustrious career, he served in several key positions in Jammu and Kashmir, including Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force (HoFF), the highest professional position in the Forest Department.

He has also held important assignments as Principal Secretary, Culture, Tribal Affairs and School Education Departments besides serving as Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council, Chief Wildlife Warden; Director, Social Forestry, Director Forest Protection Force, Director J&K Forest Research Institute and Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation (JKFDC). His extensive experience in environmental stewardship, watershed conservation and sustainable resource management is expected to greatly benefit the functioning of the Water Resources Regulatory Authority.

On assuming office, Gupta expressed his gratitude to the Government for reposing confidence in him and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening water governance mechanisms, promoting sustainable water use and ensuring effective regulation of the Union Territory's precious water resources in the larger public interest.

CM Omar.....

Congratulating the new recruits across Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah said that the appointment orders represented the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance and sacrifices made by their families. He emphasized that public expectations and aspirations were attached to every government appointment and called upon the engineers to discharge their duties with honesty, integrity and professional commitment.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir expect us to use public resources responsibly and deliver quality services and infrastructure. Every rupee spent by the government belongs to the people and must be utilised judiciously for their welfare," the Chief Minister said.

Highlighting the crucial role of engineers in development, he said that roads, bridges, hospitals and other public assets created today should stand the test of time and serve future generations. He stressed that quality should never be compromised in the execution of public works.

"If a hospital is built, it should serve people for decades. If a bridge is constructed, it should remain strong and reliable for

generations. Citizens have every right to expect durable and quality infrastructure from us," he said.

The Chief Minister urged the newly appointed engineers to remain guided by professional ethics and personal accountability throughout their careers. He said that true satisfaction comes from performing one's duties honestly and efficiently, adding that every public servant must strive to ensure that they can look back at their day's work with a sense of fulfilment and integrity.

CM Omar Abdullah observed that the young engineers would play an important role in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir over the next three decades of service. He encouraged them to leave behind a legacy of quality work and meaningful contributions to the region's development.

Referring to the challenges often faced in public service, the Chief Minister said that ideal conditions do not always exist and officers must be prepared to work effectively even in difficult circumstances. He maintained that sincerity of purpose and commitment to public welfare should remain the guiding principles in every situation.

The Chief Minister also advised the new recruits to serve wherever they are posted and avoid seeking transfers immediately after appointments. He urged them to embrace opportunities to work in remote and underserved areas and ensure that people living in far-flung regions receive the same quality of services and infrastructure as those in urban centres.

"Take care of the people living in remote areas. Through your work, leave a lasting mark on Jammu and Kashmir. Let the quality of the roads, bridges and public infrastructure you build become your identity and contribution to society," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, while congratulating the newly appointed Junior Engineers and their families, said that the appointments carried immense responsibility towards the people and development of Jammu and Kashmir.

He urged the engineers to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, transparency and integrity in their work and stressed that there should be no compromise on quality under any circumstances.

"As Junior Engineers, you will play a vital role in preparation of DPRs, project execution, billing processes, quality testing, monitoring and supervision of developmental works. Ensure that every project entrusted to you is executed with technical excellence and within stipulated timelines," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed confidence that the newly recruited engineers would contribute significantly towards improving departmental performance and delivering quality infrastructure to the people.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, also addressed the gathering and congratulated the appointees. He said that their selection was a recognition of their merit and capabilities and described engineers as the backbone of development and nation-building.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Engineer-in-Chief (Secretary Technical), Public Works Department Purshotam Kumar also addressed the gathering and highlighted the important role of engineers in accelerating infrastructure development across Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior officers of the Public Works Department, newly appointed engineers and their family members were present on the occasion.

19 property.....

of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), a spokesperson said.

District Magistrate Samba has ordered the mandatory police verification of the tenants. Despite these directives, the concerned house and land owners failed to comply, leading to legal action.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Samba Anuj Kumar has appealed to house and land owners to cooperate with the police and promptly provide complete details of their tenants and domestic helpers at their nearest police station.

He emphasised that timely police verification is essential for maintaining law and order and preventing any misuse of rented accommodations by anti-social or criminal elements.

The drive comes two days after the SSP conducted an extensive review of security arrangements in the Bari Brahmana area to assess the readiness of police for the smooth and secure conduct of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage.

As part of the inspection, the SSP visited various lodgement centres designated for accommodating pilgrims and thoroughly reviewed the security deployment and operational preparedness of the police personnel posted at the locations.

During the review, special emphasis was laid on strengthening security arrangements at all national highway checkpoints falling within the district. (Agencies)



Div Com Kashmir visits Baltal, takes spot appraisal of arrangements for SANJY-2026 along Baltal axis

Chairs review meeting of line departments, assesses level of preparedness

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 15: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg today visited Baltal and conducted an extensive inspection of the arrangements being put in place for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

During the visit, he reviewed the progress of various development and preparatory works aimed at ensuring a safe, smooth and comfortable pilgrimage experience for devotees.

Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Sudhanshu Dhama and officers of various departments, Garg inspected the Yatri Niwas, RFID registration counters, dormitory facilities, facilities in Baltal base camp as well as the pony stand. He took stock of the facilities being put in place for pilgrims and interacted with officers and field functionaries regarding the status of ongoing works.

During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure timely installation of signages, information boards and public awareness banners at all key locations to facilitate better guidance and accessibility for pilgrims. He also emphasized proper



sanitation management, queue regulation, traffic arrangements and availability of essential services across the Yatra route.

Later, he chaired a high-level review meeting at Baltal to assess the preparedness of all stakeholder departments for the annual pilgrimage.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, gave a detailed presentation on the overall pre-

paredness for the Yatra and briefed the meeting about infrastructure development, accommodation facilities, registration arrangements, disaster management preparedness and departmental works across various departments.

Reviewing the arrangements department-wise, the Divisional Commissioner directed all concerned agencies to complete the

remaining works by June 20th and ensure full operational readiness before commencement of the Yatra. He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among departments and directed that officers remain available round the clock for prompt response and coordination. The Health Department informed that medical aid centres along the track would be made

fully functional by June 28, while oxygen booths would be established by June 25. The department also apprised that advance medical teams have already been deployed and adequate emergency response arrangements have been put in place.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed the status of sanitation, water supply, power supply, telecommunication facilities, disaster management, transportation and fire safety arrangements. He directed the Rural Development Department to maintain sanitation in toilet facilities, while Jal Shakti and KPDCI were instructed to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply with adequate backup arrangements.

The meeting was informed that registration of service providers is underway and identity cards shall be issued within the stipulated timeline. Telecom agencies reported that communication infrastructure has been established and are operational.

The meeting was attended by officers from Sonamarg Development Authority, Rural Development, Health, Jal Shakti, KPDCI, Forest, Tourism, Fire & Emergency Services, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Disaster Management, Police, BRO, BSNL, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and other concerned departments.

Bhat Sehran Receives Young Visionaries Award 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK

GHAZIABAD, JUNE 15: Young Author, Poet, Writer, Motivational Speaker, and Social Activist Bhat Sehran has been conferred with the prestigious Vijaya Swapn Young Visionaries Award 2026 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to literature, youth empowerment, and social service from Jammu & Kashmir.

The award was presented during the National Youth Exchange-cum-Award Ceremony held at CSHP Public School, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad. Bhat Sehran received the honor from Keshav Kumar Choudhary, DIG & Additional Police Commissioner



Ghaziabad, Mamta Sharma (Founder & President, Vijaya Swapn Foundation), and Ms. Savita Gupta (Founder & Director, CSHP Public School, Ghaziabad) in the presence of distinguished guests, dignitaries, and youth delegates from across the country.

More than 15 awardees from different states were recognized for their exceptional achievements and contributions in various fields. Among them, Bhat Sehran was honored for his remarkable literary accomplishments, inspirational leadership, and dedication to social causes at a young age. Speaking on the occasion, Bhat Sehran dedicated the award to the youth of Jammu & Kashmir. He said:

"This recognition is not mine alone. It belongs to every young dreamer who believes in the power of education, literature, and positive change. I dedicate this award to the youth of Jammu & Kashmir and to everyone who continues to work hard to make society better through knowledge, creativity, and service."

The Vijaya Swapn Young Visionaries Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership, innovation, and vision in their respective fields, inspiring the next generation through their dedication and achievements.

Bhat Sehran's recognition highlights the growing impact of young achievers from Jammu & Kashmir and reaffirms the importance of promoting literature, education, social awareness, and youth leadership across the nation.

CCO Drugmulla conducts field visits to ensure effective implementation of Census Operations

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JUNE 15: On the directions of the Principal Census Officer, Kupwara, the Charge Census Officer (CCO) Drugmulla, Syed Basharat Rasool, continued his field inspections across various areas of Tehsil Drugmulla to review the progress of ongoing Census operations being carried out at the grassroots level.

As part of the inspection programme, the officer on Monday visited the HLBs of Bramri-Arampora and Bumhama, along with adjoining field areas, where he took stock of the ongoing Census work. During the visit, he inspected field operations, examined layout maps and Census records, and reviewed the progress achieved by the field staff.

The Charge Census Officer also held interactions with Supervisors, Enumerators and local residents to assess the implementation process and ensure that Census guidelines are being followed in letter and spirit.

While appreciating the commitment and dedicated efforts of the field functionaries, Syed Basharat Rasool emphasized the need for maintaining utmost accuracy, transparency and completeness in the collection of Census data. He stressed that quality data collection remains vital for the successful conduct of the Census exercise and urged all concerned officials to perform their responsibilities with sincerity and dedication.

Build infra which future generations will remember: CM's Advisor to new JEs

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 15: Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani on Monday urged newly-appointed Junior Engineers in the Public Works Department (PWD) to focus on creating durable infrastructure that future generations of Jammu and Kashmir would remember and benefit from.

Speaking at the appointment order distribution ceremony held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here, Wani, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said engineers play a central role in shaping development as roads, bridges and public buildings reflect their vision and capability.

"Whatever governments build or develop, engineers are at the centre of it. Roads, bridges, buildings and public infrastructure are all reflections of an engineer's vision and capability," Wani said.

Highlighting the need for long-term thinking in infrastructure develop-

ment, Wani said engineers should not limit their work to present-day requirements alone.

"The biggest thing is to expand your thinking. Work in a manner that your contribution is remembered in the future. The projects you execute should serve not only today's generation but future generations as well," he said.

Referring to SKICC, where the event was held, Wani described the convention centre as an example of visionary planning and engineering excellence, noting that it continues to serve Jammu and Kashmir decades after its construction.

"Today we are sitting in SKICC. When this facility was built, its planners thought far ahead of their time. Even today, it continues to serve Jammu and Kashmir and remains one of the most important public assets. Its design, utility and relevance have endured," he said.

He said such infrastructure becomes the identity of a place and reflects the legacy of those who build

it. "This is the kind of work that gets remembered. Such projects become the identity of a place and the legacy of those who built them," he added.

Wani also expressed hope that Jammu and Kashmir, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, would witness the creation of similar landmark infrastructure projects in the coming years.

"I want that during our time we create such infrastructure and public assets that people decades later will acknowledge and appreciate. Jammu and Kashmir should receive projects that become examples for the future," he said.

Congratulating the newly-appointed engineers, Wani said their selection reflected their merit and hard work and urged them to uphold professionalism in public service. "Make your name through your work. The appointment order is only the beginning. Your real identity will be created by the quality of work you deliver in the field," he said—(KNO)

DC Bandipora reviews Key Education Initiatives; Stresses Technology-Driven Education

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 15: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Education Department Bandipora at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora, to assess the progress of various educational initiatives and technology-driven programmes being implemented across the district.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on APAAR ID generation, UDISE data updation, Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), ULLAS, CWSN support mechanisms and other educational interventions.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for effective use of technology in the education sector and emphasized accurate data capturing, timely updation of records and regular monitoring for better governance and



improved learning outcomes.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that real-time data capturing is essential for improving ILM (knowledge) and strengthening academic monitoring. She further directed that various bots and technology-driven interventions in the education sector shall be monitored on a weekly basis to ensure their effective implementation and progress.

The Deputy Commissioner

directed the concerned officers to strengthen collaboration with CSC centres to facilitate Aadhaar enrolment and corrections for students facing difficulties.

The meeting also reviewed various UDISE data issues, including dropbox students, infrastructure details and updation of teachers' records. Concerned officials and Heads of Institutions were instructed to take immediate corrective measures to ensure accuracy and completeness of

data on the UDISE portal.

While reviewing the Vidya Samiksha Kendra initiatives, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of digital learning platforms and data-driven decision making in improving attendance, governance and learning outcomes. She also stressed the need for maximum student and teacher participation in Vidya Samiksha Kendra initiative and other digital learning platforms.

It was informed during the meeting that an orientation programme for Vidya Samiksha Kendra initiative would be organised in the month of July to create awareness among students and teachers regarding effective utilisation of the platform.

The meeting also discussed issues concerning Children with Special Needs (CWSN). The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to organise a special camp in Gurez for children with special needs to facilitate better access to support services and assessments. He further directed officers to ensure close monitoring of all educational programmes.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Education Officer Bandipora, along with all nodal officers of various educational initiatives, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), Principals, and Headmasters of both government and private schools.

Decade of Decline 'J&K Records 20% Fall In Students Transition From Secondary to Hr Sec'

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 15: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded its sharpest decline in student progression from secondary to higher secondary in a decade, with the transition rate falling more than 20% between 2014 and 2024.

The official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that J&K has recorded the second highest decline in the transition rate across the country during this period.

"The steepest declines in transition from secondary to higher secondary between the years 2014 and 2024 were recorded in Arunachal Pradesh with 81.8 percent to 60.7 percent and Jammu & Kashmir with 93.38 percent to 72.9 percent." The documents said that despite notable improvements, persistent challenges remain in ensuring retention through the higher secondary stage.

"As participation beyond Grade 10 lies outside the mandate of the RTE Act, financial constraints, early entry into the workforce, and social pressures continue to impede progression, underscoring the need for sustained policy and institutional support," it reads.

As already reported by KNO last year, in Jammu and Kashmir, over 17 percent of students at primary level and 12 percent learners at senior secondary level quit studies midway. The news agency had reported that "The retention rate at Primary level in Jammu and Kashmir was 82.70 and 88.42 at senior secondary level."

However, in the previous academic session, nearly 46,000 Out of School Children (OoSC) were mainstreamed. Furthermore, the figures further reveal that during the year 2024-25, electricity coverage was completed in 87.2 percent of schools in Jammu and Kashmir.

The overall trend highlights sustained policy push, investment in school infrastructure, and greater convergence with rural electrification schemes. "Yet, bridging the last-mile gaps in challenging geographies remains critical to achieving true universality," it reads—(KNO)

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Medical Camp at Zadibal Srinagar ahead of holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 15: In view of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today inaugurated a comprehensive medical camp at Zadibal here aimed at ensuring accessible healthcare services and emergency medical preparedness for devotees and the general public during the sacred month.

The medical camp has been established by Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura as part of Government's extensive preparations for Muharram-ul-Haram.

The camp will provide a range of healthcare services including general medical consultations, health screening, first-aid assistance, emergency care support, distribution of essential medicines and public health awareness.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized that the Government is committed to ensuring adequate healthcare facilities and seamless medical services during Muharram. She



stated that special arrangements are being put in place across key congregation points and procession routes to cater to the healthcare needs of mourners and visitors.

"The holy month of Muharram

holds immense religious and spiritual significance. Our priority is to ensure that devotees observe the occasion with complete access to quality healthcare facilities and emergency medical support. The Health Department has been directed to remain fully prepared and responsive throughout the period," the Minister said.

Sakeena Itoo highlighted that dedicated medical teams, ambulances, emergency response

units and essential medicines are being deployed at strategic locations across Srinagar and other districts witnessing Muharram gatherings.

She also stressed the importance of coordination among various departments to ensure smooth conduct of the religious events. Recent government reviews have focused on deployment of adequate medical teams, emergency response units and essential medicines at key Muharram locations.

The Minister interacted with healthcare professionals and local representatives at the camp and appreciated their efforts in strengthening public health outreach.

She directed the concerned officers to ensure uninterrupted medical services, availability of medicines and round-the-clock readiness of emergency healthcare infrastructure during the holy month.

MLA Zadibal Tanvir Ali Sadiq; Director SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganie; Director Health Services Kashmir, CMO Srinagar, other senior officers of district administration and health department were also present on the occasion.

Thathri and Bhalessa crowned Volleyball Champions as day 12 showcases Girls' sporting excellence

HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JUNE 15: The Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament 2026, organized by the Youth Services and Sports Doda under the overall supervision of DYSSO Ashok Kumar enters its 12th day.

The event witnessed impressive performances in Girls' Martial Arts and Volleyball competitions. Participants from various zones competed enthusiastically in Boxing, Karate, Thang-Ta and Wushu events, displaying remarkable skill, discipline, determination and sportsmanship throughout the day.

The Volleyball finals proved to be a major attraction, with Zone Thathri defeating Zone Assar to lift the U/17 Volleyball Championship Trophy. While Zone Bhalessa emerged victorious over Zone Assar in the U/14 final to claim the title. Both matches showcased excellent teamwork, coordination and competitive spirit among the young athletes.

The tournament, which commenced on 4th June 2026, continues to serve as a significant platform for nurturing sporting talent and promoting healthy competition among the youth of district Doda.

The active participation and outstanding performances of the athletes reflect the growing sporting culture in the district and the department's commitment to developing future champions.

The Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament 2026 continues to foster unity, sportsmanship and excellence among the young sportspersons of Doda.

U-14 Girls Kho-Kho Championship Begins in Baramulla

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 15: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Baramulla today commenced the Inter-Zonal District Level Under-14 Girls Kho-Kho Championship at HS Ground Khawaja Bagh, marking another significant step towards promoting sports among young girls in the district.

The championship was inaugurated by District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Baramulla, Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori, in the presence of departmental officials, technical staff and participating teams.

Speaking on the occasion, DYSSO Baramulla emphasized the vital role of sports in fostering confidence, discipline and leadership qualities among young girls.

He appreciated the increasing participation of girls in sporting activities and highlighted the department's commitment to providing platforms that nurture talent and encourage healthy competition.

A total of 216 athletes representing 18 zones are participating in the two-day championship. The tournament is being conducted in a league-cum-knockout format, ensuring ample competitive exposure for all teams.

The opening day witnessed spirited performances across both courts.

Zone Rohama, Nehalpora, Kunzer and Sopore registered victories on Court No. 1, while Zone Dangiwa, Dangerpora, Pattan and Wagoora emerged victorious in their respective matches on Court No. 2.

The championship showcased remarkable enthusiasm, teamwork and sporting spirit among the participants, reflecting the growing sports culture in the district.

The tournament is being conducted under the supervision of DYSS Baramulla and will conclude tomorrow with the final matches and felicitation of the winning teams.

DC Ramban finalizes arrangements for Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, JUNE 15: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired a meeting of the District Task Force to finalize arrangements and review the overall implementation strategy for the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) Programme 2026.

The meeting brought together senior health officials and representatives from various departments to ensure meticulous preparedness for the district-wide campaign.

ADC Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak, CMO Dr. Kamal Je Zadu, MSDH Ramban, Dr. Mohammad

Rafi, BMOs and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the comprehensive micro-plan presented by the Health Department and issued directions for ensuring 100% coverage of all eligible children across the district. The DC emphasized the need for coordinated efforts across all four medical blocks—Batote, Ukheral, Banihal and Gool to achieve complete saturation.

The DC directed the PO ICDS and CEO Ramban to depute their staff as per the prescribed directions. Executive Engineer JPDC, was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply for main-

taining the cold chain required for vaccination.

The IPPI 2026 programme aims to administer polio drops to an estimated 59,530 children aged 0-5 years in Ramban district on June 28, 2026. A door-to-door follow-up drive will be conducted on June 29 and June 30, 2026 to ensure that any left-out children are vaccinated. To facilitate smooth and effective implementation, the administration has established 425 vaccination booths, supported by a strong deployment of 1,700 team members and 85 supervisory officers. Additionally, 9 transit teams and 4 mobile teams have been constituted to cover nomadic, migratory and other floating popula-

tions so that no child is left unvaccinated.

The district has projected a requirement of 75,603 vaccine doses, factoring in standard wastage norms to ensure uninterrupted supply throughout the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining vaccine quality, cold chain integrity, and timely distribution to all vaccination sites.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all officers to lay special focus on covering the "Hard to Reach Areas," including remote and mountainous locations. He instructed the field staff to prioritize these areas with enhanced monitoring to

ensure equitable health access across the district.

Underscoring the importance of community engagement, the Deputy Commissioner called for close inter-departmental coordination involving ASHA and Anganwadi Workers, Education Department and public representatives. He also directed the BMOs to ensure widespread awareness through public announcements and other media platforms to mobilize parents for maximum participation.

The Deputy Commissioner asked all stakeholders to work with utmost dedication to ensure that every child below five years receives the polio vaccine during the upcoming drive.

DC Kishtwar flags off JKRTC bus service for Shri Machail Mata Yatra pilgrims

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 15: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today flagged off a dedicated JKRTC bus service from the DC Office Complex Kishtwar for the convenience of devotees undertaking the ongoing Shri Machail Mata Yatra.

The bus will operate on the Kishtwar-Padder-Machail route to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims visiting the holy shrine of Shri Machail Mata.

On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the service will run on the Gulabgarh-Machail route, providing safe, affordable and hassle-free travel to pilgrims. From Monday to Thursday, the bus will ply the Kishtwar-Gulabgarh-Chishoti route, enhancing public transport connectiv-

ity for local residents and commuters in the area.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma said that the Shri Machail Mata Yatra is currently underway and witnessing a significant influx of pilgrims. In view of the increasing rush of devotees and the growing demand for transportation, the dedicated JKRTC bus service has been introduced. He expressed confidence that the service would significantly ease travel to the holy shrine while improving connectivity to the remote areas of the Padder region.

Among those present were Additional District Commissioner (ADC) Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, Tehsildar (Hq) Mohd Rafie Naik, ARTO Kishtwar Tasleem Wani, Manager JKRTC Doda/Kishtwar Ravinder Sharma and other officials concerned.

DC Rajouri reviews preparations for International Yoga Day celebration

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, JUNE 15: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a meeting to review and finalize arrangements for the smooth conduct of the International Yoga Day celebration scheduled to be held on June 21, 2026.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparedness of all concerned departments and stressed the need for coordinated efforts to ensure the successful conduct of the event across the district.

The DC directed the concerned officers to make necessary arrangements for the observance of International Yoga Day in Vibrant Villages and at de-addiction centres to maximize outreach and promote the message of healthy living and well-

being among all sections of society.

He also instructed the officers to identify and develop one iconic location in the district for the main Yoga Day event, ensuring wide participation and creating a memorable experience for participants.

Emphasizing the importance of yoga in promoting physical and mental wellness, the Deputy Commissioner called upon all departments to ensure active public participation and make the event a grand success.

ADDC Malikzada Sheraz-ul-Haq, PO ICDS, Harpal Singh, CMO Manohar Lal Rana, CEO Mohd Hafeez, District Ayush Officer, DySP, Satish Sharma, Executive Engineer PHE Sudesh Kumar and other district and sectoral officers of various departments attended the meeting.

JKAACL, NZCC organise Sanskritik Yatra-Sindhu Darshan Festival at Ramban

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, JUNE 15: The J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Patiala today organised the Sanskritik Yatra-Sindhu Darshan Festival at DPL Ramban.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The festival showcased the rich and diverse cultural heritage of India through vibrant folk performances by artists from different states of the country.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Additional Superintendent of Police, Mujeeb-Ur-Rehman; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Assistant Commissioner Development, Sheraz Ahmed along with several senior officers from the District and Police Ad-

ministration, prominent citizens and a large number of locals were present on the occasion.

Welcoming the guests and artists, Assistant Director, NZCC Patiala, Ravinder Sharma highlighted the importance of such festivals in strengthening national unity and promoting cultural exchange.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of JKAACL and NZCC in bringing together diverse cultural traditions on a common platform. He emphasized that such events foster mutual understanding, preserve cultural heritage and strengthen the bonds of national integration. He also lauded the initiative and urged that such programmes reach the maximum number of people, especially the younger generation to help them connect with and appreciate India's rich cultural legacy. UNI

DC Rajouri conducts surprise inspection of medical establishments; Licenses of medical stores suspended for violations

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, JUNE 15: In a major crackdown against the misuse of habit-forming medicines and to ensure strict compliance with drug regulations, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, today conducted surprise inspections of medical establishments in Rajouri town. The inspections were carried out in the presence of Chief Medical Officer Rajouri, Dr. Manohar Lal Rana and SHO Rajouri. During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed records pertaining to the sale and distribution of habit-forming formulations and other regulated medicines. Detailed scrutiny of documents and stock registers was undertaken to ver-

ify adherence to prescribed norms and licensing conditions.

At M/s Hopewell Medicos, Kheora Rajouri and M/S Star Medicos Gujjar Mandi serious discrepancies were detected including the non-maintenance of sale records through the mandatory computerized billing system and alleged irregularities in the sale of habit-forming medicines.

Taking a serious view of the violations, action was initiated under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Consequently, the retail drug sale licenses of M/s Hopewell Medicos and M/S Star Medicos Gujjar Mandi were suspended by the Licensing Authority pending further orders. The DC emphasized that the sale and distribution of



habit-forming formulations and medicinal products must strictly conform to the regulatory framework to prevent misuse and safeguard public health. He reiterated that the district administration has adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards any violation of drug regulations. The DC cau-

tioned that any medical establishment found violating licensing conditions or indulging in the unauthorized sale of regulated medicines would face stringent legal action. He directed all chemists and medical establishments to maintain proper records, ensure transparency in transactions through computerized billing and strictly follow all licensing norms. The Deputy Commissioner further stated that the district administration remains committed to the fight against drug abuse and to making Rajouri a drug-free district. He added that surprise inspections of medical establishments would continue across the district to ensure compliance with regulations and protect the interests of the public.

Adbi Markaz Kamraz Celebrates "Youm-e-Aslaf"

Literary Personalities and Institutions Honoured with Warq-e-Tahseen 2026



JAMEEL ANSARI

BARAMULLA, JUNE 15: Adbi Markaz Kamraz, Jammu and Kashmir, organised a grand and dignified function titled "Youm-e-Aslaf" at its headquarters in Kanispora, Baramulla, to commemorate the founders, builders and distinguished literary figures whose contributions laid the foundation for the promotion of Kashmiri language and literature and strengthened the institution over the decades.

The event witnessed the participation of a large number of eminent writers, poets, critics, scholars, academicians and literature enthusiasts from across the Valley.

The first session was presided over

by renowned poet and critic Prof. Shad Ramzan, while noted broadcaster, writer and critic Dr. Satish Vimal attended as the Chief Guest. Patron of the institution Dr. Rafiq Masoodi was also present on the dais.

Welcoming the guests, Vice President Shakir Shafi said that the observance of Youm-e-Aslaf is aimed at paying tribute to those literary elders who dedicated their lives to the service of language, literature and culture.

Senior member of AMK, G.N. Shakir presented a detailed research paper titled "Adbi Markaz Kamraz and Its Forefathers", highlighting the history of the institution, the circumstances surrounding its establishment and its literary contributions through different periods. Dr.

Firdous Ahmad also presented a paper shedding light on the literary, academic and social contributions of the founding members of the organisation. The second session was chaired by distinguished litterateur and scholar Prof. Mohammad Zaman Azurdah, with Syed Rafiq Masoodi and President Mohammad Amin Bhat sharing the dais.

On the occasion, Warq-e-Tahseen 2026 was conferred in recognition of the literary services of late writers and intellectuals Manzoor Hashmi, Mohammad Ahsan Ahsan, Saifi Sopori, Mohammad Amin Shakeeb and Ghulam Rasool Bacha. The honours were received respectively by Syed Akhtar Mansoor, Master Ghulam Mohammad Wagay, Mir

Ghulam Rasool Dardpuri, Khwaja Sher Ali Mashghool and DPS School Srinagar. Noted writer Dr. Satish Vimal and acclaimed singer Shazia Hameed were also felicitated for their outstanding contributions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Satish Vimal described Adbi Markaz Kamraz as a vibrant literary and cultural institution that has played a significant role in introducing Kashmiri language and literature at national and international levels.

Prof. Shad Ramzan recalled his long association with the institution and said that Adbi Markaz Kamraz has consistently served literature with sincerity, commitment and intellectual integrity.

Prof. Mohammad Zaman Azurdah

observed that living nations and institutions never forget their benefactors and predecessors. He termed Youm-e-Aslaf an important literary tradition that helps connect younger generations with their intellectual and cultural heritage.

Dr. Rafiq Masoodi paid rich tributes to the founders and former office-bearers of the institution, stating that the true strength of any organisation lies in its traditions and ideals. He stressed the need to preserve and pass on this literary legacy to future generations.

Expressing his views, Syed Rafiq Ahmad Masoodi said that the services of the pioneers of Adbi Markaz Kamraz continue to inspire generations and that commemorating them

is a reaffirmation of the commitment to preserve the region's literary and cultural heritage.

President Mohammad Amin Bhat said that the institution was founded on the ideals of serving language, literature and culture and continues to pursue the same mission with dedication. He described the day as carrying the significance of a "Foundation Day" for the organisation.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Vice President Javid Iqbal Maweri, while the proceedings were conducted by General Secretary Shabnam Tilgami. The event ended on a note of renewed commitment towards the promotion and preservation of Kashmiri language, literature and culture.

2-Day Seminar on Kashmir's Traditional Cultural Heritage of Bhand Pather Concludes Successfully

GULFAM BARJI

CHADOORA, JUNE 13: A two-day seminar on "Bhand Pather: The Traditional Cultural Heritage of Kashmir" organized by National Bhand Theatre, Wathora, Chadoora, Budgam, concluded successfully at Government Primary School, Bilpora Wathora. The seminar was held under the Guru-Shishya Repertory Grant Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi. A large number of students from the school participated in the programme and gained valuable knowledge about the history, significance and artistic traditions of Bhand Pather, the centuries-old folk theatre of Kashmir. During the seminar, resource persons and theatre practitioners highlighted the rich cultural legacy of Bhand Pather and emphasized the importance of preserving this unique performing



art form for future generations. The participating students were also provided practical training and demonstrations to help them better understand the techniques and traditions associated with the art. The seminar commenced on June 12, 2026, and concluded on June 13, 2026. On the occasion, the school administration expressed gratitude to National Bhand Theatre and the Ministry of Culture for organizing the educa-

tional and culturally enriching programme. They also hoped that similar initiatives would continue to be conducted in the future for the benefit of students and the local community. At the concluding session, certificates of participation were distributed among the students. The organizers also thanked the school authorities for their valuable cooperation in making the seminar a success.

Balwant Thakur Extends His Creative Mission to Lucknow, Conducts Transformative Children's Theatre Workshop

HT NEWS NETWORK

LUCKNOW, JUNE 15: Renowned theatre visionary Balwant Thakur, widely acclaimed as the "Magic Man of Indian Theatre," has extended his remarkable journey of creativity to the historic city of Nawabs, Lucknow. The Black Box Theatre of the Bhartendu Academy of Dramatic Arts came alive with extraordinary energy as more than 100 children participated in an innovative theatre workshop conducted by the celebrated theatre director and educator.

The workshop offered a rare and enriching experience, transporting young participants into a world of imagination, innovation, and self-discovery. Through a carefully designed series of theatre games, creative exercises, movement activities, and interactive processes, Balwant Thakur enabled children to explore dimensions

of their personalities that often remain untapped in conventional educational environments.

What distinguished this workshop from routine theatre training programmes was the introduction of cutting-edge theatre methodologies inspired by contemporary child centred practices being developed and successfully implemented in several European countries including USA, China, and Japan. These innovative approaches focus not merely on performance skills but on the holistic development of children, nurturing creativity, confidence, emotional intelligence, communication abilities, teamwork, and leadership qualities.

Over the years, Balwant Thakur has evolved a unique dramaturgy specifically designed for children. His pioneering work views theatre as a powerful tool for personality development rather than merely an artistic activity. Through his methodologies, children learn to express themselves freely, overcome inhibitions, develop empathy, strengthen concentration, and discover their innate potential. The process encourages independent thinking and problem-solving while fostering respect for diversity and collaborative learning.

The impact of such theatre interventions on young minds is profound. Participants are empowered to become more confident individuals, capable of articulating their thoughts with clarity and conviction.

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

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NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
(An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

J&K ACADEMY OF ART, CULTURE & LANGUAGES

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
(An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
THEATRE IN EDUCATION CENTRE, SRINAGAR
In collaboration with
J&K ACADEMY OF ART, CULTURE & LANGUAGES

ORGANISES

SUMMER CHILDREN THEATRE WORKSHOP

WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING SUMMER VACATION

The National School of Drama, Theatre in Education Centre, Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages is going to organize two separate 15 days Theatre / Drama in education summer workshops with school children during summer vacation.

THE WORKSHOP AIMS TO:

- ★ Develop and strengthen life skills
- ★ Explore latent potential of the students

ELIGIBILITY

School children of age group 8 - 12 & 12 - 16 years as on 20th June 2026.

Interested aspirants may collect the application forms from NSD, TIE Centre, Srinagar, Cultural Academy Campus, Lal Mandi, Srinagar from **10th June 2026** between **11:00am to 4:00pm** before the announcement of summer vacation.

"REGISTER YOUR NAME BEFORE SUMMER VACATION STARTS"

FREE

ADMISSION IS TOTALLY FREE.

AFTER THE COMPLETION OF WORKSHOP CERTIFICATES WILL BE AWARDED TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. Copy of Aadhar Card & identity card issued by school authorities.
2. Consent from parent / guardian

For further information contact Director

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HT EDITORIAL

Beyond Enforcement : Building A Drug-Free Future for J&K's Youth

The fight against drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir has gained unprecedented momentum in recent years, and much of the credit goes to the sustained efforts of the administration under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Through the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, the government has sought to address one of the most pressing social challenges confronting the region today. The campaign has gone beyond routine official measures, bringing together law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, community organisations and citizens in a common mission to protect the younger generation from the devastating consequences of substance abuse.

The determination shown by the administration in dismantling drug networks, seizing properties acquired through narcotics trade, strengthening awareness initiatives and expanding public participation deserves recognition. Such measures have demonstrated that the battle against drugs is not merely a law-and-order issue but a larger social cause that requires the involvement of every stakeholder. Yet, while government intervention forms the backbone of this struggle, lasting success will depend on the willingness of society itself to confront the problem with honesty, compassion and collective resolve.

Drug addiction does not emerge in a vacuum. It often finds fertile ground where social isolation, emotional distress, lack of guidance and unhealthy peer influences prevail. The increasing exposure of young people to substance abuse is therefore not only a warning about narcotics trafficking but also a reminder of the changing social realities around us. Addressing the crisis requires looking beyond symptoms and understanding the deeper factors that make vulnerable youth susceptible to addiction.

In this regard, parents occupy the most critical position. The family remains the first institution where values are shaped and character is built. Modern life has created new pressures and distractions, often reducing meaningful interaction within households. Many young people struggling with anxiety, frustration or confusion find themselves without adequate emotional support. Parents must therefore cultivate stronger bonds with their children, encouraging open dialogue and mutual trust. Vigilance is important, but so is empathy. A supportive family environment can often prevent experimentation with drugs before it begins.

The responsibility, however, does not end at the doorstep of the home. Kashmir has long been distinguished by its strong community spirit and neighbourhood culture. Mohalla committees, social organisations and local leaders can play a decisive role in strengthening social awareness and creating protective networks around vulnerable youth. Community-driven initiatives, ranging from awareness programmes to recreational and sports activities, can provide constructive avenues for young people and help reduce the appeal of destructive habits. The revival of collective social responsibility is essential if the fight against drugs is to achieve meaningful and lasting results.

Equally important is the contribution of religious scholars and preachers. Their influence extends far beyond places of worship and reaches the moral conscience of society. At a time when many young people are searching for direction and purpose, faith-based guidance can serve as a powerful source of inspiration. Religious leaders can help reinforce values of self-discipline, responsibility and respect for life while encouraging families and communities to actively support those affected by addiction. Their role is not merely to warn against substance abuse but also to foster an environment of compassion and rehabilitation.

Educational institutions must also become active partners in prevention. Schools and colleges are often the first places where behavioural changes become visible. Teachers, counsellors and administrators should be equipped to identify early signs of substance abuse and provide timely intervention. Awareness programmes should not be limited to occasional events but integrated into a broader effort to promote mental well-being, resilience and informed decision-making among students.

At the same time, society must recognise that individuals trapped in addiction require support rather than social ostracism. Effective rehabilitation and reintegration are indispensable components of any successful anti-drug strategy. The goal should not simply be to punish those who have fallen victim to addiction but to help them reclaim their lives and become productive members of society once again.

The path ahead is clear. The government must continue its uncompromising action against drug traffickers and criminal networks, while society strengthens its own institutions of support and guidance. Families must reconnect with their children, communities must revive their collective vigilance, educational institutions must expand preventive efforts, and religious leaders must continue to provide moral direction. Above all, young people must be offered hope through opportunities in education, employment, entrepreneurship, sports and cultural engagement.

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Shujaat Bukhari:

A Legacy of Truth, Courage, and Responsible Journalism



REYAZ BADANA

Journalism is often described as the conscience of society, and a journalist is someone who carries the realities, struggles, and aspirations of people to the wider world through words and voice. Yet, some journalists go beyond reporting events—they become symbols of principles, integrity, and courage. Among such distinguished names stands Syed Shujaat Bukhari, a prominent Kashmiri journalist who continues to be remembered as a symbol of responsible journalism, moderation, and intellectual integrity.

Throughout his journalistic career, Shujaat Bukhari remained committed to presenting facts, highlighting public concerns, and maintaining a balanced narrative. He belonged to that rare category of journalists who saw their profession not merely as a means of delivering news, but as a responsibility towards society. His work consistently reflected an effort to encourage awareness, dialogue, and a deeper understanding of complex realities.

His writings carried more than reports of events; they portrayed the human side of stories, the challenges faced by ordinary people, and the layered social realities of Kashmir. His journalism reflected seriousness, depth, and an unwavering commitment to public interest.

Working as a journalist in a region as sensitive and complex as Kashmir has never been an easy



task. Journalists often operate under immense pressure, uncertainty, and difficult circumstances. In such an environment, Shujaat Bukhari continued to practice journalism with a strong sense of responsibility and professional ethics. He consistently advocated for dialogue and believed that even amid disagreement, space must remain for understanding, coexistence, and peaceful engagement.

One of the defining aspects of his professional identity was integrity. He believed that journalism must serve society by providing credible information and encouraging thoughtful public discourse. His writing gave greater importance to facts than emotions and to reason rather than noise. This approach earned him respect across different sec-

tions of society and established him as a trusted voice.

Another remarkable quality that defined Shujaat Bukhari was courage. Courage in journalism is not merely the ability to face risk it is the determination to continue speaking and writing with honesty despite difficult circumstances. He represented that spirit through his work and remained committed to his profession with dignity and perseverance.

His killing remains one of the most painful chapters in Kashmir's journalistic history. His passing during the final days of the holy month of Ramadan deeply affected not only media circles but also many people who valued thoughtful public conversation and peaceful coexistence. His absence created a void that continues to be felt.

Yet, while a journalist's life may come to an end, the values they stand for often endure. Shujaat Bukhari's contribution continues to inspire young journalists to pursue truth with courage, responsibility, and professional ethics. His journey reminds us that journalism is not merely a career it is a public trust.

Today, as media continues to evolve and information moves faster than ever before, examples like Shujaat Bukhari become even more relevant. His life teaches that the real strength of a journalist lies not in influence or visibility, but in credibility, integrity, courage, and commitment to the people.

The memory of Shujaat Bukhari is not simply the memory of an individual; it represents a larger vision of journalism rooted in truth, dignity, dialogue, and humanity. His contribution and sacrifice will continue to be remembered with respect, and his name will remain an enduring chapter in the history of journalism in Kashmir.

May his legacy continue to inspire future generations of journalists and remind them of the responsibility that comes with the power of the pen.

Raiyar-Ich: A Village of Natural Beauty and Cultural Heritage



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Nestled in the lap of nature, Raiyar-Ich is a village blessed with multifaceted charm, lush green forests, and breathtaking landscapes. The melodious chirping of birds every morning fills the air with joy and freshness, while the crystal-clear night sky appears as if countless stars have descended upon the earth. The buzzing of bees around colorful flowers creates a scene that resembles planets revolving in harmony.

Raiyar-Ich is an emerging village in Tehsil Khanshab of District Budgam. The village comprises several mohallas, including Bhatti Mohallah, Dinda Mohallah, Tantray Mohallah, Sheikh Mohallah, and Khan Mohallah. The people of the village are cultured, hospitable, and deeply connected to their traditions. They have been living in harmony and brotherhood for generations.

The village has witnessed remarkable development over the last two decades, particularly after the world-famous tourist destination Doodhpathri gained recognition. Along with Doodhpathri, nearby attractions such as Mujpathri, Sotchal Pathri, Arizal, and many other scenic spots add to the beauty of the region and attract visitors from across the globe.

An Endowed and Peaceful Hamlet in District Budgam

Budgam is one of the ten districts of the Kashmir Valley and possesses a unique historical and cultural identity. Located only 12 kilometers from Srinagar's Lal Chowk, Budgam has long shared close ties with Srinagar. Several areas that now form part of



Srinagar district were once included within Budgam's boundaries.

The district is renowned for its natural beauty and spiritual significance. The revered shrine of Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) at Charar-e-Shareef is among its most cherished landmarks. Budgam is also home to famous tourist destinations such as Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan, Sotchal Pathri, Sukhnag, and many other unexplored treasures waiting to be discovered.

About Raiyar-Ich

Raiyar-Ich is rapidly developing and serves as a Panchayat Halqa consisting of nine Panch wards. It is known for its picturesque topography and peaceful environment.

According to local tradition, the name "Raiyar" originates from two Kashmiri words: "Rai," meaning lost, and "Yaar," meaning friend. The name is associated with the great Kashmiri Sufi saint Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali (RA). It is believed that when he arrived in this area from the forests of Pir Panjal, he sent his companions to different regions of Kashmir to spread the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) while he continued his spiritual journey alone toward the Dreygam cave.

Why Raiyar-Ich Attracts

Tourists

The village is blessed with a rich culture, dense forests, and a tranquil atmosphere. During the late hours of the night, the cool breeze refreshes both mind and soul. The soothing sound of the Sukhnag River resembles soft, calming music flowing through nature.

The people of Raiyar-Ich are known for their simplicity, kindness, and hospitality. The village is also famous for its delicious rajma (kidney beans), traditional maize bread, and high-quality walnuts, which add to its cultural identity.

Sources of Livelihood

The rise of Doodhpathri as a prominent tourist destination has significantly benefited the local population. Tourism has generated employment opportunities for thousands of young people and has become an important source of income for many families in the region.

Demands of the Local Population

As Raiyar-Ich has emerged as a central hub for surrounding villages, residents demand the upgradation of the existing high school to a higher secondary school. Many families struggle to afford daily transportation

costs to Khanshab for their children's education.

Sports Stadium

A modern and well-equipped sports stadium is needed to nurture and promote local sporting talent.

Children's Park

The village requires a safe and well-maintained children's park with modern recreational facilities.

Grazing Areas

For centuries, local families have depended on livestock rearing. The preservation of traditional grazing areas is essential for sustaining their livelihoods.

Computer Skill Centres

The establishment of computer and skill development centres under centrally sponsored schemes would greatly benefit unemployed youth and help them pursue careers in various fields.

Housing Support Schemes

All deserving households should be covered under government housing schemes to improve living standards and strengthen rural development.

Road Connectivity

The Bhatti Mohallah-Tangnar road should be prioritized for development. Improved road connectivity would not only benefit residents but also provide alternative tourist routes, enabling visitors to experience local culture while creating additional economic opportunities for villagers.

Raiyar-Ich is a land of natural beauty, cultural richness, and immense potential. With proper infrastructure, educational facilities, and sustainable tourism development, the village can become one of the most prominent rural destinations in District Budgam.

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Moti Lal Saqi: A Luminous Chapter in Kashmiri Literature and Culture



■ SHAH NAWAZ NAZIR

Kashmir's fertile cultural landscape has produced countless luminaries who have enriched the fields of literature, spirituality, and art. Among these distinguished figures, Moti Lal Saqi occupies a place of exceptional prominence. A poet, scholar, critic, translator, and cultural historian, Saqi devoted his life to preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Kashmiri language and culture.

Born in 1936 in the historic village of Mehnoor, Chadoora, in Budgam district, Moti Lal Saqi emerged as one of the most influential literary voices of modern Kashmir. His literary journey began with poetry, and his first collection, *Modur Khwab* (Sweet Dreams), was widely appreciated for its originality and artistic depth.

Saqi's poetry transcended mere emotional expression. It explored the inner dimensions of human existence, spiritual quest, self-realization, and the cultural ethos of Kashmir. His writings

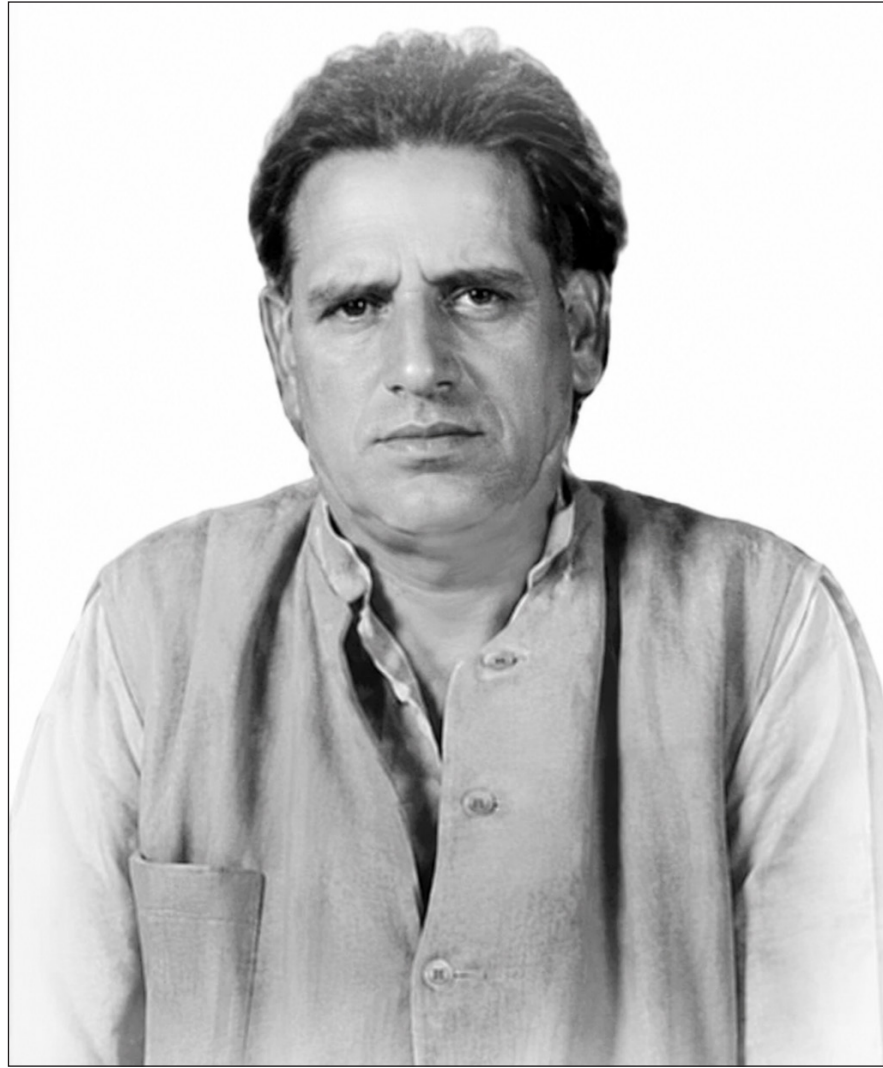
reflected the values of Sufism, humanism, and introspection, making his work both timeless and deeply relevant.

His acclaimed masterpiece, *Mansar*, earned him the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award and is regarded as a landmark contribution to Kashmiri literature. More than a literary work, the book is a profound exploration of human consciousness, self-discovery, and spiritual awakening.

The breadth of Saqi's intellectual vision is evident in his celebrated work *Iqbal and the Gita*, where he presents a thoughtful comparative study of Allama Iqbal's concept of *Khudi* (Selfhood) and the philosophy of Karma Yoga found in the *Bhagavad Gita*. The work stands as a remarkable example of dialogue between diverse philosophical and cultural traditions.

Moti Lal Saqi also played a pivotal role in the preservation of Kashmir's cultural heritage. He was among the founding members and early patrons of the Azad Cultural Forum Chadoora, established in 1973. Through his guidance and commitment, the Forum evolved into an important platform for the promotion of literature, culture, and spiritual values.

His book *Agar Neeb* remains an authoritative source on Kashmiri culture, folklore, and spiritual traditions. Equally significant are his scholarly contributions on revered Kashmiri saints and poets, including Sheikh-ul-Alam (Nund Rishi) and Samad Mir. His two-volume collection of Kashmiri folk songs continues to



serve as a valuable resource for researchers and cultural enthusiasts alike.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to literature and culture, the Government of India honoured him with the Padma Shri, one of the country's highest civilian awards.

Moti Lal Saqi passed away in New Delhi on May 21, 1999, but his intellectual and cultural legacy continues to inspire generations. His writings remain a guiding light for scholars, writers, and readers seeking a deeper understanding of Kashmir's literary and spiritual traditions.

Notably, the Azad Cultural Forum Chadoora, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, commemorates his birth anniversary every year in his native village of Mehnoor. The celebrations feature literary gatherings, poetry recitals, academic discussions, and cultural programmes attended by writers, poets, scholars, and cultural activists. These events not only pay tribute to Saqi's immense contributions but also help connect younger generations with their linguistic and cultural heritage.

Moti Lal Saqi was not merely an individual; he was an institution, a vision, and a cultural movement. His name will forever occupy a place of honour in the history of Kashmiri literature and culture.

The author is a General Secretary, Azad Cultural Forum Chadoora

Domination of AI and Indian Job Market



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The twenty-first century has thrust India into a paradox. On one hand, the nation stands at the forefront of technological adoption, boasting one of the world's fastest-growing digital economies. On the other, it faces a creeping anxiety: the fear that artificial intelligence—once a tool meant to empower—may instead dominate the very people who created and nurtured it. This tension is not new. It echoes the philosophical warnings of J. Bronowski, who insisted that man must remain the master of the machine, and the haunting narrative of Frankenstein, where a creation turns monstrous in its rebellion against its human maker. Today, as India grapples with the rapid integration of AI into its job market, these two intellectual anchors—Bronowski and Frankenstein—offer a lens through which to understand the unfolding drama. More than one crore jobs are decimated by AI.

India's job market is enormous, diverse, and deeply human. It thrives on interpersonal interaction, improvisation, and the uniquely Indian ability to navigate complexity with intuition. Yet AI systems—efficient, tireless, and increasingly autonomous—are infiltrating every sector: IT services, banking, retail, logistics, healthcare, and even creative industries. The result is a growing fear that machines may not merely assist workers but replace them. This fear is not irrational. It is rooted in lived experience, economic data, and the accelerating pace of technological change. But to understand the "dreadful domination" of AI in India, one must first revisit Bronowski's humanistic philosophy. Bronowski believed that machines were extensions of human imagination, not replacements for it. He argued that the essence of humanity lies in creativity, empathy, and moral judgment—qualities no machine can authentically replicate. In his view, technology should amplify human potential, not diminish it. His warning was clear: if humans surrender their agency to machines, they risk losing the very qualities that make them human.

The country's IT sector, once the pride of its economic rise, is undergoing a silent transformation. Routine coding, testing, data entry, and customer support—jobs that once employed millions—are increasingly automated. AI-powered chatbots handle cus-

tomers queries; machine-learning models generate code; robotic process automation replaces back-office operations. The result is a shrinking demand for entry-level workers, the very demographic that fueled India's IT boom. For a nation where nearly half the population is under 25, this shift is alarming. The Indian manufacturing sector faces a similar challenge. Automation in factories—once limited to high-end industries—is now spreading to textiles, automotive assembly, and electronics. Robots do not tire, demand wages, or join unions. They offer precision, speed, and predictability. For business owners, the economic logic is irresistible. For workers, it is devastating. The fear is not merely job loss but job displacement: the replacement of human labor with machine labor.

This is where the metaphor of Frankenstein becomes chillingly relevant. Mary Shelley's novel is not merely a tale of horror; it is a cautionary story about creation without responsibility. Frankenstein's monster becomes dangerous not because it is inherently evil but because its creator abandons it. The creature, left without guidance or moral grounding, becomes a threat to the very society it longs to join. In India's context, AI is not a monster in itself. But if deployed without ethical oversight, social responsibility, or human-centered design, it can become a force that undermines livelihoods, deepens inequality, and erodes human dignity. The Indian job market is particularly vulnerable because of its structural characteristics. A large portion of the workforce is semi-skilled or low-skilled. These workers are the first to be replaced by automation. Meanwhile, high-skilled workers—AI engineers, data scientists, machine-learning experts—benefit disproportionately. This creates a widening gap between those who can harness AI and those who are displaced by it. The result is a dual economy: one thriving on technological innovation, the other struggling to survive in its shadow.

Bronowski would argue that this imbalance reflects a failure of imagination. Technology, he believed, must be guided by human values. It must serve society, not dominate it. In India, however, the rush to adopt AI often prioritizes efficiency over empathy, profit over people. This is not a technological inevitability but a policy choice. If AI is allowed to evolve without humanistic oversight, it risks becoming a modern Frankenstein—powerful, unregulated, and indifferent to human suffering. Yet the story is not entirely bleak. India has the potential to shape AI in a way that aligns with Bronowski's vision. The country's demographic dividend, entrepreneurial spirit, and cultural emphasis on community provide a foundation for a more inclusive technological future. But this requires deliberate action. First, India must

invest heavily in reskilling and upskilling. Workers displaced by automation must be equipped with new skills—digital literacy, data analysis, AI supervision, creative problem-solving—that allow them to thrive in an AI-augmented economy. This is not merely an economic necessity but a moral imperative. Bronowski believed that education was the cornerstone of human progress. In his view, knowledge empowers individuals to shape their own destiny. India must embrace this philosophy by democratizing access to high-quality training programs.

Second, India must adopt ethical AI frameworks that prioritize human welfare. AI systems should be transparent, accountable, and aligned with societal values. This requires collaboration between government, industry, academia, and civil society. The goal is not to halt technological progress but to guide it responsibly. Frankenstein's tragedy occurred because the creator failed to take responsibility for his creation. India must not repeat that mistake. Third, India must encourage human-machine collaboration rather than replacement. AI should augment human capabilities, not render them obsolete. For example, in healthcare, AI can assist doctors in diagnosis but cannot replace the empathy and judgment of a human physician. In education, AI can personalize learning but cannot replicate the mentorship of a teacher. In creative industries, AI can generate ideas but cannot replace the emotional depth of human expression. Bronowski believed that creativity was the essence of humanity. AI should be designed to enhance this creativity, not suppress it.

Fourth, India must address the social and psychological impact of AI-driven job displacement. Unemployment is not merely an economic issue; it affects mental health, social cohesion, and personal identity. Workers who lose their jobs to machines often experience a sense of worthlessness, anxiety, and alienation. This emotional dimension is often overlooked in policy discussions. Yet it is central to Bronowski's humanistic philosophy. He believed that technology must serve human flourishing, not undermine it.

Fifth, India must ensure that the benefits of AI are equitably distributed. If AI enriches only a small elite while impoverishing millions, it will become a source of social unrest. The Frankenstein metaphor becomes literal when technology turns against its creators—not because the machines rebel, but because society fractures under the weight of inequality. Inclusive growth must be at the heart of India's AI strategy.

The Indian government has taken steps in this direction. Initiatives like Digital India, Skill India, and the National AI Strategy aim to harness technology for development. But these efforts must be scaled up dramatically. The pace of AI adoption is accelerating

faster than the pace of policy adaptation. Without bold action, India risks being overwhelmed by the very technologies it seeks to master. Bronowski's warning is clear: man must remain the master of the machine. This is not a call to reject technology but to humanize it. Machines are tools, not rulers. They reflect the values of their creators. If India approaches AI with wisdom, compassion, and foresight, it can transform the job market in ways that empower workers rather than displace them. Frankenstein's lesson is equally important: creations without responsibility become destructive. AI must be guided by ethical principles, social responsibility, and human oversight. Otherwise, it may evolve in ways that harm the very society that created it.

AI is reshaping economies across the world, and its influence is increasingly visible in regions with fragile employment structures such as Jammu & Kashmir. The unemployment problem in Kashmir has deep historical, political, and structural roots, but the rapid rise of artificial intelligence adds a new layer of complexity. At the same time, AI also offers opportunities for transformation if the region invests in the right skills and infrastructure. Understanding this dual nature is essential to addressing the unemployment crisis in a sustainable way.

Kashmir has long struggled with high unemployment, especially among educated youth. Reports from national labour surveys consistently show that the region's unemployment rate is significantly higher than the Indian average, with thousands of graduates competing for a limited number of government jobs. The private sector remains underdeveloped, and political instability has discouraged large-scale investment. Into this already strained environment enters AI—a technology capable of automating tasks, reducing the need for human labour, and transforming traditional job roles. Globally, AI has been shown to displace repetitive and clerical jobs, and Kashmir is not immune to this trend. Sectors such as administration, retail, and basic service work are particularly vulnerable, and many young people in the region currently depend on these sectors for employment.

Yet AI is not only a threat; it is also a potential catalyst for economic renewal. Kashmir's strengths—tourism, handicrafts, agriculture, and education—can all benefit from AI-driven innovation. In agriculture, for example, AI tools are already being used to detect diseases in apple orchards, helping farmers protect their crops and income. In tourism, AI-powered digital marketing and virtual guides can help local businesses reach global audiences. Even in remote areas, AI-based learning platforms are helping students overcome teacher shortages. These examples show that AI can create new forms of work

if the region embraces technological change rather than resisting it.

The real challenge lies in the skills gap. Most AI-related jobs require digital literacy, coding, data analysis, or technical training—skills that many unemployed youth in Kashmir have not yet acquired. Government initiatives such as Mission Youth and various entrepreneurship schemes are steps in the right direction, but they must expand to include AI literacy and advanced digital skills. Without this shift, AI may deepen inequality by benefiting only a small, already skilled segment of the population.

To address unemployment effectively, Kashmir needs a multi-layered strategy. First, large-scale reskilling programs must prepare young people for AI-driven industries. Second, the government and private sector should collaborate to build digital infrastructure and support AI-based startups. Third, traditional sectors must be modernized through AI so that they generate new employment rather than lose it. If these steps are taken, AI can become a tool for empowerment rather than displacement. AI's impact on Kashmir's unemployment problem depends on how the region responds. With thoughtful planning, investment in human capital, and a willingness to innovate, AI can help build a more resilient and inclusive economy.

The future of India's job market depends on which of these two paths the nation chooses. It depends on the choices India makes today—choices about education, ethics, policy, and human dignity. AI is not destiny. It is a tool. And like all tools, its impact depends on how it is used. India stands at a crossroads. The path of human mastery leads to empowerment, creativity, and inclusive growth. The path of machine domination leads to inequality, displacement, and social unrest. Bronowski and Frankenstein offer two contrasting visions—one hopeful, one cautionary. The challenge for India is to heed both. If India chooses wisely, AI can become a partner in progress, a catalyst for innovation, and a force for good. If it chooses poorly, AI may become a source of dread, domination, and despair. The stakes could not be higher. The future belongs not to machines but to the humans who shape them.

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■ BURHAN MUSHTAQ

Milk: An Almost Complete Food

Milk has long been considered as one of nature's most nutritious foods and remains an essential part of the daily diet for millions of people worldwide. Health experts often describe milk as an "almost ideal food" because it has high nutritive value. It provides most of the nutrients required for growth, development, and overall well-being. Its rich nutritional composition makes it a valuable food for people of all age groups, from young children to the elder ones.

Milk contains a balanced combination of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals. The high-quality proteins found in milk, mainly casein and whey proteins, provides almost all the essential amino acids that are necessary for body growth, tissue repair, and

muscle development. Milk fat serves as an important source of energy and acts as a carrier for essential vitamins, while lactose, the natural sugar present in milk, provides carbohydrates needed for daily activities.

Another major advantage of milk is its abundance of essential minerals. It is particularly rich in calcium and phosphorus, which play a crucial role in building and maintaining strong bones and teeth. Regular consumption of milk can help reduce the risk of bone-related disorders and support healthy skeletal development.

Milk is also an excellent source of vitamins such as Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin), and Vitamin B12. These nutrients contribute to healthy vision, improved

immunity, efficient metabolism, and proper functioning of the nervous system. As a result, milk is often recommended as an important component of a balanced diet.

In addition to being consumed directly, milk is used to produce a wide range of dairy products, including yogurt, paneer, cheese, butter, ghee, and ice cream. These products not only enhance dietary variety but also provide additional nutritional benefits.

However, despite its impressive nutritional profile, milk does not contain adequate amounts of iron, Vitamin C, and dietary fiber. For this reason, nutritionists classify it as an "almost complete food" rather than a completely balanced food. To meet all nutritional requirements, milk should be consumed alongside fruits, vegetables, cereals, and pulses.

Milk continues to be one of the most valuable foods

available to humankind. Its rich supply of proteins, vitamins, minerals, and energy makes it indispensable for maintaining good health and supporting growth. Although it lacks a few essential nutrients, its overall nutritional value fully justifies its reputation as an "almost complete food." Including milk as part of a balanced diet can contribute significantly to a healthier and more active life.

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HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY NATION

The Importance of Exercise and Home Gyms

■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Health is the most precious gift of nature. There is nothing more valuable in the world than good health. Unfortunately, many people damage their health by consuming drugs, smoking, and eating unhealthy and unhygienic food. Today, junk food is widely available everywhere, from cities to villages. Barbecues, fast foods, and many processed food items have become common. However, excessive consumption of such foods can lead to serious health problems. Therefore, we should prefer organic and home-made food, which is healthier and more beneficial for our well-being.

Regular exercise reflects discipline and helps keep us fit, active, and healthy. In today's fast-paced world, people often suffer from stress, anxiety, obesity, fatty liver disease, high cholesterol, and many other health-related issues. To overcome these problems, we must adopt a disciplined lifestyle by following a balanced diet, exercising regularly, and undergoing routine medical check-ups.

Our body performs countless functions such as digestion, blood circulation, and waste removal. These complex processes remind us of the wonders of creation. We should always be grateful to Almighty Allah for blessing us with life, health, and intelligence.

A healthy body is the foundation of a successful life. While people often focus on wealth, fame, and achievements, health should always remain the top priority. Exercise not only improves physical fitness but also enhances mental well-being, confidence, and productivity.

One effective way to maintain fitness is by setting up a home gym. A home gym allows individuals to exercise regularly without the need to travel. Even a small room equipped with basic fitness equipment can help people stay active and healthy. As financial conditions improve, more equipment can be added grad-

ually.

Based on my personal experience, regular exercise and bodybuilding bring positive changes in life. They increase energy levels, reduce fatigue, improve physical appearance, and promote a positive mindset. Gym activities also help young people stay away from harmful habits such as smoking and drug abuse. Schools, colleges, and communities should

encourage physical fitness by establishing gym facilities and promoting sports activities. Such initiatives can help create awareness about healthy living and contribute to building a stronger and healthier society.



In conclusion, exercise is not merely a physical activity; it is an investment in our future. By adopting healthy eating habits, exercising regularly, and encouraging fitness culture, we can create healthier individuals, stronger communities, and ultimately a healthier nation.

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Brain Aneurysm: The Silent Threat Within



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

A brain aneurysm is one of the most dangerous yet often overlooked medical conditions affecting the human body. Hidden deep within the intricate network of blood vessels that nourish the brain, an aneurysm can remain unnoticed for years, silently growing without any warning signs. However, when it ruptures, the consequences can be sudden, devastating, and sometimes fatal. This is why brain aneurysms are often referred to as "silent killers."

The human brain is the command center of the body, controlling thoughts, emotions, memory, movement, and every vital function necessary for life. Any disorder affecting this highly sensitive organ can have profound implications for an individual's health and quality of life. A brain aneurysm occurs when a weak area develops in the wall of a blood vessel within the brain. Over time, the continuous pressure of blood flowing through the artery causes this weakened section to bulge outward, resembling a balloon. While some aneurysms remain small and stable throughout a person's lifetime, others may enlarge and eventually rupture.

When a brain aneurysm ruptures, it causes bleeding in or around the brain, resulting in a hemorrhagic stroke. This is a medical emergency that requires immediate intervention. Without prompt treatment, a ruptured aneurysm can lead to severe brain damage, permanent disability, or death.

Blood vessels are naturally designed to withstand constant blood pressure. However, when a portion of a vessel wall becomes weakened, it may gradually stretch and expand, forming an aneurysm. The exact cause of this weakening is not always clear, but several

factors are known to increase the risk of developing a brain aneurysm.

High blood pressure is one of the most significant risk factors. Persistent hypertension places excessive stress on blood vessel walls, increasing the likelihood of aneurysm formation and rupture. Smoking is another major contributor, as it damages blood vessels and weakens their structural integrity. Individuals with a family history of brain aneurysms are also at greater risk, suggesting a genetic predisposition. Aging further increases susceptibility because blood vessels naturally lose elasticity and strength over time.

Excessive alcohol consumption can elevate blood pressure and weaken blood vessel walls, while the abuse of stimulant drugs, particularly cocaine, significantly increases the risk of aneurysm rupture. In some cases, head injuries or infections affecting blood vessels may contribute to aneurysm development. Certain congenital conditions can also predispose individuals to aneurysms due to abnormalities in the structure of blood vessels present from birth.

One of the most challenging aspects of brain aneurysms is that many produce no symptoms until they become large or rupture. However, some growing aneurysms may cause persistent headaches, pain behind or above the eye, blurred or double vision, drooping of the eyelid, difficulty speaking, facial numbness or weakness, and episodes of dizziness.

The rupture of an aneurysm presents dramatically and demands urgent medical attention. Patients often experience a sudden, severe headache frequently described as the worst headache of their life. This may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, a stiff neck, sensitivity to light, loss of consciousness, seizures, confusion, and disorientation. Recognizing these warning signs and seeking immediate medical care can be life-saving.

The consequences of a ruptured brain aneurysm can be devastating. Physical complications may include paralysis, difficulty walking, speech impairment, vision problems, and chronic headaches.

Damage to brain tissue can affect memory, concentration, learning ability, and decision-making skills. Many survivors also struggle with anxiety, depression, emotional instability, and fear of recurrence. Tragically, ruptured aneurysms carry a high mortality rate, and many survivors are left with permanent neurological disabilities.

Advances in modern medicine have greatly improved the ability to detect brain aneurysms before they rupture. Diagnostic tools such as Computed Tomography (CT) scans, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), CT angiography, and cerebral angiography enable doctors to identify aneurysms, assess their size and location, and determine the level of risk they pose.

Treatment decisions depend on the aneurysm's size, location, symptoms, and likelihood of rupture. Small aneurysms with a low risk of rupture may simply be monitored through regular imaging studies. For higher-risk cases, surgical clipping may be performed, in which a neurosurgeon places a small metal clip at the base of the aneurysm to prevent blood flow into it. Another widely used approach is endovascular coiling, a minimally invasive procedure in which tiny coils are inserted into the aneurysm through a catheter. Flow-diversion devices, including specialized stents, may also be used to redirect blood away from the weakened area of the vessel. In cases of rupture, intensive care, blood pressure management, surgery, and long-term rehabilitation are often necessary.

Although not all brain aneurysms can be prevented, healthy lifestyle choices can significantly reduce the risk. Maintaining healthy blood pressure through regular monitoring and treatment is essential. Avoiding smoking is one of the most effective preventive measures, while limiting alcohol consumption can help protect blood vessel health. Regular physical activity promotes healthy circulation and cardiovascular function.

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ह. प्रधान, चवरा / -Sd/- Head,Chavara

cbc48139/12/0006/2627

No: 58/DAHK-Estb0EMW/7/2026-2-I/734842/2026 | Dated: 13.06.2026.

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

**Directorate of Animal Husbandry Kashmir
(GOWKADAL SRINAGAR - 19000)**

Ph. No: 0194-2455091 | E-mail: est@jkanimalhusbandry.net | Fax: 0194-2470518

Sub: Selection of candidates on the post of Veterinary Pharmacist in Animal Husbandry Deptt. Kashmir -- appointment thereof.
Ref: Final Selection list issued by JK SSB received through Adm. Deptt. vide letter No. ASHF-AHONGAZ /38/2024 (7540394) dated 07.04.2026.

Order No. 325-DAHK of 2026 | Dated: 13-06-2026

Consequent upon their selection by the J&K Service Selection Board, as per the Select list forwarded by Administrative Department vide aforesaid reference and after receiving satisfactory Character & Antecedents verification report from Special DG CID J&K via EVS portal and in continuation to this Office Order No:-294-DAHK of 2026 dt: 21/05/2026, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of 10 (Ten) selected candidates (listed in Annexure to this Order) as Veterinary Pharmacist in the Pay Level 4 (25500-81100) on temporary regular basis in the cadres (Division/District) shown against each. The appointees shall report to the Chief Animal Husbandry Officers/eqv. within a period of 21 days, where they shall be allowed to join on production of following documents in original and will be subsequently relieved to report at their places of posting shown against each:

1. Date of Birth certificate.
2. Academic qualification certificates
3. Domicile Certificate.
4. Physical Fitness Certificate.
5. Valid relevant category certificate, if any.
6. That if the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the domicile District, he/she shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self - employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He/she shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his/her salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self -employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.

Further, the appointment shall be;
(i) on probation for a period of two years during which they have to qualify the mandatory one-year Veterinary pharmacist Training Course at departmental Paravet Training Institute, orders for which shall be issued separately.
(ii) governed by "New pension scheme" (NPS) as per SRO-400 of 2009 dt:24-12-2009.
(iii) verification of all the required documents from concerned quarters.
(iv) outcome of any writ petition (s) if any pending before any court of law.
(v) the appointee shall tender an affidavit duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate to the effect that he/she will serve the Department at least for 03 years failing which the appointee shall refund the salary drawn by him/her.
(vi) Salary shall be drawn & disbursed only after satisfactory report of their qualification & allied documents and if at any stage, documents/ information submitted proved to be fake / fabricated, their appointment shall be cancelled forthwith, for which they shall also tender an affidavit.
(vii) Appointment shall have notional effect from 21-05-2026 with prospective monetary benefit, as provided under Govt. Order No: 528-J K(GAD) of 2021 dated: 21-06-2021
(viii) inter-se- seniority of the appointees shall be drawn in their respective Cadres(s) on the basis of merit acquired by them during selection process.
(ix) Appointment of the appointees who fail to join within stipulated period of 21 days shall deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

Annexure to this office No.58/ DAHK-Estb0EMW/7/2026-2- 1/734842 /2026, Dt: 13.06.2026

S.No	Name of the candidate	Parentage	Address	Category	Character & Antecedents report received under form No.	Controlling officer to whom report
Divisional Cadre Kashmir						
1	Zunain Ahmad Dar	Mehraj Ud Din Dar	1, Bonpora Jawahirpora Lam Aripal Pulwama, 192123	OM	156397 dt: 02-06-2026	L/P Shopian
2	Jyoti Bhagat	Ravinder Pangotra	103, Govind Nagar Digiana Ashram Jammu (South) 180010	SC	156455 dt: 14-05-2026	L/P Bandipora
3	Nayaz Ahmed	Mohd Shafiq	36, Chajjila Simkan Manakote Poonch, 185111	ST	156376 dt: 20-05-2026	L/P Srinagar
4	Tousif ul Hassan	Shabir Hussain Shah	Nil, Moori Gursai (Chrungh) Gursai Mendhar Poonch, 185211	PSP	156370 dt: 15-05-2026	PMO Srinagar
District Cadre Baramulla						
1	Gurpreet Singh	Paramjit Singh	261, 7, Qila Darhal Qila Darhal Rajouri 185151	SC	156386 dt: 14-05-2026	VD Sangri
District Cadre Budgam						
1	Aasif Ali	Ali Mohd Dar	1221 Zinpanchal Charar I Sharief Budgam 191112	OM	156418 dt: 01-06-2026	LSD Branwar
2	Kuljeet Singh	Vidya Singh	Jarnal Panchal Pogal Paristan Ramban, 182145	RBA	156360 Dt: 21-0-05-2026	SU Charisharief
3	Shafiq ur Rehman	Mohammed Aziz	103, Madina Basti, Ghambir Mughlan Manjakote Rajouri 185132	PSP	156400 dt: 14-05-2026	LSD Nagbal
District Cadre Anantnag						
1	Shoket Ali	Ghulam Hussain	79,3, Prori Gujran Koteranka Rajouri, 185132	ST	156375 dt: 14-05-2026	ICD Batgund
District Cadre Srinagar						
1	Umer Mukhter	Mukhter Ahmad	Dangarpura Tailbal Srinagar (North) 190006	OM	156440 dt: 15-05-2026	ICD Mirbahari

Sd/- (Dr. Rakesh Koul)
Director, Animal Husbandry Deptt. Kashmir

DIPK: 2163/26 | Dated: 15-06-2026

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
**OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR
KALANTRA / KREERI**

Subject: Application of AADILAHMAD DAR S/O GH MOHAMMAD DAR R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self for the issuance of RBA in his own favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the DAR community having annual income 2,60000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..GH MOHAMMAD DAR Father 58 years Farmer
- 2...HAJIRA BAGUM Mother 57 years House wife
- 3...AADIL AHMAD DAR self 31 years student

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I, Shabir Ahmad Lone S/o Abdul Ahad Lone, R/o Puthar Reshipora, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, have applied before the office of the AEE, KPDCW Wagoor for transfer of the electricity connection/agreement bearing Consumer ID No. 0212040014363, which stands in the name of my deceased father.

Any person having any objection, claim, right, title, interest, or dispute regarding the transfer of the aforesaid electricity connection/agreement in my favour may submit the same in writing along with supporting documents to the office of the AEE, KPDCW Wagoor within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there is no objection from any quarter, and the concerned authorities may proceed with the transfer of the said electricity connection/agreement in favour of the undersigned as per rules.

**Shabir Ahmad Lone, S/o Abdul Ahad Lone
R/o Puthar Reshipora, Tehsil Kreeri**

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as HAJAM KHAZIR MOHAMMAD in my passport bearing passport No. K0678371 while my correct name is KHAZIR MOHD HAJAM S/O GHULAM NABI HAJAM as per aadhaar record Which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the passport office shrinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....KHAZIR MOHD HAJAM
S/O...GHULAM NABI HAJAM , R/O...DOLIPORA
KREERI , Distt.... BARAMULLA**

Public Notice

In the school record the mother's name of my children has been mentioned as ROHI BEGUM instead of REHANA BEGUM . Now I am applying for its correction if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file same to the PRINCIPAL ISLAMIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DUNGARA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name....ABDUL HAMEED GANAI
R/O DUNGARA**

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Seed License under the title of Malik Agrotech, and Seed related items. situated at KHISIPORA, Kreeri, Baramulla. In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Aijaz Ahmad Malik, S/o: Gh Rasool Malik
R/o: Khisipora Kreeri**

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Admission (1st Round)	01 June - 06 June 2026
2nd Merit List	09 June 2026
Admission (2nd Round)	10 June - 15 June 2026
Spot Round	18 June - 25 June 2026

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Legislator, deputations call on Forest Minister; Project developmental issues

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 15: Legislator Qaiser Jamsheed Lone besides several public deputations and individuals today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at Civil Secretariat here and apprised him of various public welfare issues, developmental concerns and other pressing concerns affecting their respective areas.

MLA Lolab discussed several constituency related matters and sought the Minister's intervention for augmentation of public infrastructure, improvement in water supply schemes, irrigation facilities and other developmental works in his area.

During the interaction, the legislator highlighted the need for timely execution of the ongoing works and early resolution of issues concerning public service delivery.

He also projected several de-



mands related to strengthening civic amenities and improving infrastructure.

Besides the legislator, several deputations and individuals from different areas also met the Minister and projected their grievances and demands.

A delegation from Pir Panjal raised the issues concerning ex-

ecution of works under the Jal Jeevan Mission and sought timely resolution of matters for smooth implementation of projects. The delegation urged the Minister for necessary intervention to ensure uninterrupted progress of works being undertaken under the mission. Another delegation from the area sought the Minister's inter-

vention for blacktopping of roads in their locality and highlighted several other developmental and civic issues for redressal.

Likewise, several delegations and representatives from different parts of Kashmir highlighted the matters related to roads, power supply, health facilities, potable water, pending development projects and other local concerns requiring departmental attention.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputations and assured them that all their genuine issues and demands projected during the meetings would be examined on priority. He reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring responsive governance and timely redressal of public grievances.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to take appropriate follow-up action on the issues raised by the visiting delegations and individuals for prompt redress.

Health Minister Sakeena Itoo inspects Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Srinagar Airport

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 15: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today inspected the Voluntary Blood Donation Camp organised by Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, in collaboration with Airport Authority Limited and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Sheikh-ul-Alam International Airport here.

The Minister appreciated the collective efforts of SKIMS and stakeholders in promoting voluntary blood donation and creating awareness about the life-saving significance of donating blood. She lauded the enthusiastic participation of airport employees, security personnel and volunteers who came forward to contribute to this noble humanitarian cause.

Interacting with donors and organisers, Sakeena Itoo highlighted the critical role of voluntary blood donation in strengthening healthcare services and ensuring the availability of safe blood for patients in need. She emphasized that regular blood donation is a selfless act that can save countless lives and reflects the spirit of social responsibility and community service.

The Minister commended SKIMS for



its continued initiatives aimed at encouraging voluntary blood donation across Jammu and Kashmir and for fostering partnerships with various institutions and organisations to expand the reach of such awareness programmes.

She also acknowledged the active support of the CISF staff, airport authorities, AAL employees and volunteers whose cooperation contributed significantly to the successful conduct of the camp.

Reiterating the Government's commitment towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure and public health awareness, Sakeena Itoo urged citizens, particularly the youth, to actively participate in blood donation drives and contribute towards building a healthier and more compassionate society.

ADDC Kulgam reviews Education Sector Performance in District

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 15: A comprehensive review meeting of the Education Sector was held today under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Kulgam, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), and other concerned officers and officials of the Education Department.

During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted regarding the implementation and impact of JOY Classes, status of educational infrastructure, dropout rates, gender-wise enrolment ratio, and other key educational indicators across the district.

The Chair emphasized the need to strengthen efforts aimed at improving learning outcomes and ensuring access to quality education for all students. He directed the Chief Education Officer and field functionaries to closely monitor academic activities and undertake regular inspections of educational institutions to assess the quality of education being imparted.

The meeting also reviewed the availability of basic infrastructure in schools, including classrooms, laboratories, libraries, smart classrooms, sanitation facilities, and other essential amenities. Directions were issued to identify infrastructure gaps and submit proposals for their timely redressal.

Special focus was laid on reducing dropout rates and ensuring the re-enrolment of out-of-school children.

The Chair stressed the importance of maintaining a balanced gender enrolment ratio and promoting inclusive education across all educational institutions in the district.

Reviewing the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the ADC directed the concerned officers to ensure strict monitoring of the scheme at every level. He emphasized adherence to prescribed nutritional standards, maintenance of hygiene, timely supply of food items, and regular inspections to ensure effective implementation of the programme.

The Chair called upon all officers to work in a coordinated manner for achieving the educational goals of the district and reiterated the administration's commitment towards strengthening the education sector and improving academic standards in all schools of Kulgam.

The meeting concluded with directions to the concerned officers to ensure effective implementation of all educational initiatives and submit periodic progress reports for review.

Amit Sharma reviews Census-2027 operations in Anantnag

Terms Census as founding pillars of development with accurate data collection

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 15: In continuation of ongoing Districts' Review streak, Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma along with Biswajit Das, Deputy Director General, MHA, Office of Registrar General of India, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Conference Hall, Anantnag to assess the progress of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) being conducted under Census 2027 in the district.

The meeting was also attended by Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner), Anantnag, Dr Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Joint Director, DCO J&K, Arun Kumar, Assistant Director DCO J&K, Vijay Kumar; Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer), Vikas Ahlawat; ACR, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, DSEO (Additional District Census Officer), Charge Officers and other concerned officials associated with the Census exercise.

In his remarks, the CPCO termed Census Data as the found-

ing pillars of future development and prosperity, not only in Kashmir valley but the entire nation.

Reviewing the progress, Amit Sharma appreciated the preparedness of the Anantnag district and emphasized that Census is the country's largest administrative and statistical exercise, forming the basis for planning, resource allocation and socio-economic development for years to come. He termed Anantnag as the oldest districts of J&K with pristine glory and famous tourist spots.

Amit Sharma stressed the importance of maintaining the highest standards of accuracy during data collection and directed enumerators and supervisors to ensure that every entry is recorded correctly and verified thoroughly. He cautioned that even minor errors or conceptual misunderstandings can adversely impact the quality of Census data and affect future policy planning.

The CPCO directed Charge Officers to ensure that Supervisors undertake regular field inspections and conduct random quality checks instructed to intensify monitoring and ensure

strict adherence to Census guidelines. He also emphasized verification of household information, coverage of migratory populations, forest areas and other special categories to ensure that no household or individual is left out of the enumeration process.

The district being a peculiar destination for migratory and seasonal populations, special emphasis was laid on ensuring their comprehensive coverage during the ongoing Census exercise.

Deputy Director General, Census, MHA, ORGI, Government of India held a direct interaction session with the present Enumerators and Supervisors, Charge Officers, etc to take first hand feedback which shall help in improving the upcoming technology based second most important phase of Census, which is Population Enumeration (PE), in the coming months of September 2026 and February 2027.

The Principal Census Officer assured full administrative support for the smooth conduct of Census operations and directed all concerned officers to closely

monitor field activities to ensure timely completion of Census work, strictly in line with defined timelines and as per guidelines and Circular instructions issued from time to time.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer) briefed the CPCO on the district profile and the status of preparations for Census-2027. He informed that all House Listing Blocks (HLBs) have been successfully created and demarcated on the CMMS portal, while field operations are progressing smoothly across the district. He also apprised Chair in the meeting about the training imparted to enumerators and supervisors, self-enumeration progress, awareness campaigns undertaken through various IEC activities, and the monitoring mechanisms put in place to ensure quality data collection and comprehensive coverage of all households, including migratory populations.

Amit Sharma directed field functionaries to track migration routes and collect details of all eligible tribal population and individuals to ensure that no person is left out of the enu-

meration process. Highlighting the role of technology, Amit Sharma said the digital mode of data collection would enhance efficiency and improve the quality of information gathered.

The meeting also reviewed training activities, awareness campaigns, supervision mechanisms and field-level monitoring arrangements aimed at ensuring comprehensive and error-free Census operations across the district.

Later, the CPCO briefed the media regarding the progress achieved under the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) of Census-2027 in the district and highlighted the extensive preparations undertaken to ensure smooth, accurate and timely completion of the exercise.

He appealed to the public of both the UTs of J&K and Ladakh and especially residents of Anantnag district to fully cooperate with Census Enumerators and provide accurate information, stating that reliable Census data serves as the foundation for informed governance, developmental planning and equitable distribution of resources.

Prosthetic Aid Distribution Camp organised at Anantnag

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 15: Social Welfare Department, Anantnag, in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) and J&K Bank, today organised a one-day Prosthetic Aid distribution camp at Bondialgam.

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, presided over the function as the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by DSWO, TSWO, Zonal Head of J&K Bank, representatives from ALIMCO, and field officials from Social Welfare Department, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC reiterated that the district ad-

ministration is committed to the holistic empowerment of Specially Aabled Persons (SAPs). He noted that while significant progress has been made regarding SAPs affected by physical or mobility-related disorders, there must be an equal focus on rehabilitating those suffering from neurological or developmental conditions.

Dr. Bilal asked the Social Welfare Department to explore sustainable initiatives dedicated to the overall betterment of SAPs especially individuals affected by CNS or developmental disorders such as Autism and Cerebral Palsy, assuring full administrative and financial support.

The DDC also laid strong emphasis on the education and self-em-

ployment of SAPs as enshrined under the PwD Act, underlining that they are an integral part of society. He stressed that the administration's ultimate goal is to ensure inclusive development and empowerment of the needy sections of the community.

During the camp, quality prosthetic aids and assistive devices provided by ALIMCO were distributed among pre-identified beneficiaries to help enhance their daily mobility and independence. Notably, a total of 649 Divyangjans (PwDs) were pre-identified with 1124 number of Aids and Assistive Devices through an extensive assessment and registration exercise conducted in the month of July 2025.

Awareness, Sports Activities continue across Pulwama under NMJKA Campaign

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 15: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), a series of awareness, counselling and youth engagement activities were conducted across various parts of District Pulwama today to strengthen the collective fight against substance abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society.

Awareness programmes were organised at Gulshanpora Aripal, Larkipora Awantipora, Buchoo Dadsara, Hanjipora Kakapora, Chakoor Litter, Kamrazipora

Shadimarg, Dhobi Mohalla Khrew and Gangoo Pulwama.

During these programmes, participants were sensitised about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraged to play an active role in preventing substance abuse within their communities. Awareness sessions, counselling interactions, pledge ceremonies, Padyatras and community outreach activities were conducted to reinforce the message of a Nasha Mukht society.

Meanwhile, Self Help Group (SHG) members organised awareness and counselling sessions along with a padyatra at Dadsara.

The programme highlighted the importance of community participation, family support and collective responsibility in safeguarding youth from the menace of drug abuse and guiding them towards constructive pursuits.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Pulwama, continued its awareness and outreach initiatives under NMBA by organising a series of sports and educational activities across various zones of the district. As part of the campaign, Zone Pulwama conducted Softball Trials at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Pulwama,

witnessing enthusiastic participation from aspiring players.

Meanwhile, Zone Kakapora organised a zonal-level Kabaddi Tournament for AAG Boys at PS Namam. Students from various institutions across the zone participated with great enthusiasm, displaying sportsmanship, teamwork and competitive spirit. In Zone Tral, awareness and educational programmes were organised at Government Middle School (GMS) Tral Bala, while speech competitions were conducted at High School Rath-

Saimaoh. The events provided students with an opportunity to express their views on the harmful consequences of drug abuse and the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles.

Similarly, Zone Tahab organised a speech competition at High School Naina to educate students about the dangers of substance abuse and encourage them to become ambassadors of a drug-free society. Zone Pampore also conducted awareness programmes and speech competitions to sensitise students about the ill effects and long-term repercussions of drug abuse.

Week-Long Free Medical Camps for Rural

Women conclude across Bandipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 15: Week-long series of Free Medical-cum-Awareness Camps for rural women across Bandipora district concluded successfully today.

The initiative was jointly organised by SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti, Department of Social Welfare Bandipora, NRLM Bandipora and AYUSH Health Department Bandipora with the objective of improving women's access to healthcare services, health awareness and welfare schemes.

During the camps, women beneficiaries availed free health check-ups, health screenings, medical consultations and free medicines. Awareness sessions on yoga, mental well-being, balanced nutrition, healthy lifestyles, women's health, gender equality, education and empowerment were also conducted. Participants were sensitized about various legal safeguards and government initiatives for the protection and welfare of girls and women.

The camps witnessed active participation from AYUSH doctors including Dr. Riyaz-ur-Rehman, Dr. Iftikhar Hussain, Dr. Tariq Ahmad, Dr. Shabana Khan and Dr. Wajahat Ahmad, who provided healthcare services and valuable health guidance to the beneficiaries.

Officials of SANKALP HEW Mission Shakti, including the District Mission Coordinator, Gender Specialists and Financial Literacy Specialist, conducted awareness sessions on women-centric schemes, financial inclusion, gender equality and services available through the Social Welfare Department. Women were encouraged to prioritize their health and make full use of the facilities available through various government departments.

Delhi Police to hold weekly 'Thana Divas-Jan Sunwai' at all police stations

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 15: In a major initiative aimed at strengthening public outreach and making policing more citizen-centric, Delhi Police has issued comprehensive guidelines for the institutionalisation of Thana Divas-Jan Sunwai across all police stations in the national capital.

The move follows directions from Delhi Lieutenant Governor Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who has consistently emphasised accessible, interactive and public-oriented policing as a means to strengthen trust between citizens and law enforcement agencies.

Acting on the directions of the Lt Governor, Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golchha has issued a detailed circular to all Special Commissioners

of Police, Joint Commissioners of Police and Deputy Commissioners of Police, outlining measures to improve public grievance redressal, police-public engagement and institutional accountability.

Under the new framework, Thana Divas-Jan Sunwai will be organised at every police station every Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The initiative is intended to provide citizens with an open platform to raise grievances, submit complaints, offer suggestions and discuss local safety and law-and-order concerns directly with police officials.

To ensure effective grievance redressal, senior officers from the rank of Special Commissioners of Police to Assistant Commissioners of Police will compulsorily attend these public hearings on a rotation-



al basis. The guidelines make it clear that all complaints brought before the Jan Sunwai must be addressed, irrespective of whether they are registered on the Integrated Complaint

Monitoring System (ICMS) or through any other formal mechanism.

Delhi Police said the objective is to create a structured and transparent mechanism through which public grievances can be resolved swiftly at the grassroots level while enhancing confidence in the policing system.

The circular also mandates time-bound inquiry and disposal of complaints received during the hearings. Dedicated assistance desks will be established at police stations to facilitate citizens, while efforts will be made to ensure a more welcoming and citizen-friendly environment for visitors.

To strengthen accountability, district Deputy Commissioners of Police, Assistant Commissioners of Police and Station House Officers have

been made personally responsible for the effective implementation of the initiative. The guidelines stipulate strict action against any casual approach, negligence or undue delay in addressing public grievances.

Officials said the initiative emerged following a meeting between the Lt Governor, the Commissioner of Police and senior Delhi Police officers, where the need for enhanced accessibility and responsive policing was discussed in detail.

The institutionalisation of Thana Divas-Jan Sunwai is expected to provide a direct interface between citizens and senior police officers, enabling faster resolution of complaints and fostering greater transparency, accountability and public trust in the police administration across Delhi. UNI

Funds alone won't revive Yamuna; public participation essential, says Delhi Speaker

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 15: Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijendra Gupta said that expenditure alone could not revive a river (Yamuna) as he participated in a cleanliness drive under the Yamuna Swachhta Abhiyan at Chhath Ghat near Purana Loha Pul on Sunday. To protect the river, he noted that "thousands of crores of rupees have been spent," yet the river has become even more polluted and degraded over the years.

The Speaker stressed that sustainable change could be brought only when government initiatives were complemented by active citizen participation and a shared commitment to protecting the river. "Accountability, public ownership, and continuous civic engagement were equally essential," he added.

Calling upon citizens to make the Yamuna restoration a true people's movement, Gupta expressed confidence that through collective resolve, public participation and sustained action, the Yamuna would regain its "historic glory and emerge once again as a source of faith, civic pride, ecological well-being and cultural identity for Delhi." He urged people from all walks of life to join the movement and contribute towards preserving the purity, dignity and ecological health of the river for generations to come.

Gupta also spoke about the cultural and spiritual significance of the river on the occasion and stated that the true spirit of Chhath Puja and other traditions and festivals associated with the Yamuna could be realised only when devotees were able to worship on clean and well-maintained ghats.

He further emphasised that public faith and environmental responsibility must go hand in hand and called for maintaining the sanctity of the river through responsible civic behaviour, including the respectful removal and proper disposal of damaged idols and religious offerings from riverbanks and ghat areas. UNI

Massive fire at Kalkaji restaurant triggers LPG cylinder explosions; Elderly woman rescued

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 15: A massive fire broke out at a restaurant in Delhi's Kalkaji area early Sunday, engulfing an entire multi-storey building and triggering explosions in three commercial LPG cylinders. A 75-year-old woman trapped on the second floor in a neighbouring building was rescued safely by firefighters.

The incident occurred at the Punjabi Tadka Restaurant near the Govindpuri flyover. According to the Delhi Fire Service, the initial call about the blaze was received at around 4:45 am, fol-

lowing which six fire tenders were rushed to the spot. As the fire intensified rapidly, a "Make-4" call was issued and additional fire units were deployed.

According to fire officials, the flames spread quickly from the basement and ground floor to the third floor, also affecting a temporary structure on the rooftop. During the incident, three commercial LPG cylinders exploded, causing panic in the surrounding area. The fire also posed a serious threat to adjacent buildings. An elderly woman, identified as 75-year-old Sita Devi, became trapped on the



second floor of a nearby building due to thick smoke. Firefighters

carried out a swift rescue operation and safely evacuated her, averting a major tragedy.

A total of nine fire units, including water tenders, a water bowser, a breathing support unit and a multipurpose vehicle, were deployed to control the blaze. The operation was supervised by ADO Yashwant, ADO Sarabjit, STO Phool Singh, STO Manish Kumar and SO Raj Kumar.

The fire has been brought under control and cooling operations are underway. Police are investigating the cause of the blaze. No casualties have been reported. UNI

Govindpuri fire tragedy: CCTV footage reveals arson conspiracy; four accused arrested

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 15: What initially appeared to be an accidental fire tragedy in South Delhi's Tughlakabad Extension has taken a dramatic turn, with Delhi Police uncovering a criminal conspiracy behind the blaze that claimed three lives.

The fire broke out at around 2:24 AM on June 12 in Building No. RZ-171/1, Gali No. 1, TKD Extension, engulfing the structure from the ground floor to the fifth floor. Eight people sustained injuries and were shifted to AIIMS Trauma Centre and Safdarjung Hospital. Three victims — Pankaj Pandey, Sushila Devi and Sonia Kumari — later succumbed to their injuries. Police had initially registered a

case under Sections 287 and 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), treating the incident as a case of negligence. However, during the course of investigation, CCTV footage revealed a woman entering the premises shortly before the blaze erupted, prompting investigators to suspect foul play.

Further probe led to the identification and apprehension of a 17-year-old girl from Navjeevan Camp, Govind Puri. During questioning, she allegedly disclosed that Sarita (27), a resident of Girinagar, Govind Puri, had provided her with petrol and a matchbox and instigated her to set fire to the scooter of Deepak, a resident of the fifth floor of the building, over a monetary dispute. According to police,

Sarita further revealed that the plan had been orchestrated by Niranjana (33) and his brother Rajkumar (27), both residents of Navjeevan Camp, Govind Puri, who allegedly sought to settle a personal score. Delhi Police said the fire, which ultimately engulfed the entire building, was the result of a deliberate act of arson. The minor girl and all three accused have been apprehended. In view of the new findings, police have invoked additional provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including Sections 61 (criminal conspiracy), 105 (culpable homicide), 110 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 326(g) (mischief by fire) and 331(4) (lurking house-trespass by night). Further investigation into the case is underway. UNI

'Worship cannot be complete if Yamuna is polluted': CM Rekha Gupta

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 15: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday urged residents to stop throwing waste into the Yamuna, including religious offerings, flowers, garlands, idols, plastic, and other materials, to keep the river pollution-free.

She said, "If people continue to pollute the Yamuna, the purpose of any form of worship cannot truly be fulfilled." Gupta made this appeal as she participated in a massive cleaning drive in the Capital as part of the Yamuna Riverbank Cleanliness Campaign 2026.

The Chief Minister led the cleaning activity from Geeta Colony ghat while other Delhi government officials and public took part in the activity across 28 ghats and riverbank locations in the city, including Chilla Village Ghat, Nizamuddin Ghat, Old Yamuna Bridge Ghat, Signature Bridge-Wazirabad Ghat (Eastern Bank), Zero Pushta Radha-Krishna Ghat (Sonia Vihar), Dhai Pushta Ghat (Sonia Vihar), Chautha Pushta Ghat (Sonia Vihar), Kalindi Kunj Ghat, ITO Ghat, Ram Ghat, and Kali Ghat, among others.

She noted that a large quantity of broken idols, garments used for deities, worship materials wrapped in plastic, and other waste had been removed from the riverbanks during the drive, indicating the need for changes in public habits and behaviour as well. Gupta added that maintaining the cleanliness of the river is a shared responsibility that requires both the government and society to work together and asked the citizens to join the movement of keeping the Yamuna riverfront across different parts of Delhi clean.

Experts have noted earlier that nearly 22 km of the Yamuna flows through Delhi, which is just 2 per cent of the river's total length, yet it carries more than 80 per cent of the pollution load.

Highlighting the commitment of the BJP-led Delhi Government to prevent pollution from entering the river, the Chief Minister noted several projects related to Yamuna rejuvenation and water management are being fast-tracked, with projects worth more than Rs 1,000 crore already approved.

Under the AMRUT scheme, 12 new decentralised sewage treatment plants are being set up in the Najafgarh area for Rs 860 crore to prevent untreated sewage from flowing into the Najafgarh Drain and the Yamuna. According to officials from the Chief Minister's office, work is also being undertaken to upgrade the Keshopur STP, promote rainwater harvesting and several other important water conservation initiatives. UNI

Trinamool Congress on the brink: Rebel MPs claim majority, push for Parliamentary split in bold power play

■ SHAHID K ABBAS

NEW DELHI, JUN 15: A dramatic power struggle within the Trinamool Congress reached a critical tipping point on Sunday as around 19 to 20 dissident Lok Sabha MPs convened in New Delhi for a secretive strategy meeting. The group prepared to submit a joint representation to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, asserting themselves as the "real TMC" and demanding recognition as a separate parliamentary bloc.

This marks one of the gravest internal crises faced by TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee since the party's inception, as the rebellion threatens to escalate from internal discord to a formal parliamentary schism with major national political ramifications.

Sources reveal the dissidents, commanding a majority of the party's 28-member Lok Sabha

contingent, aim to secure separate seating and official status in the Lower House. Spearheaded by senior leaders like Barasat MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, the faction is growing increasingly vocal against the party leadership's direction.

"The numbers are on our side, and we will present undeniable proof to the Speaker," said a rebel leader confidently, citing signed letters from MPs backing the move.

The revolt gained steam following a high-profile meeting between veteran TMC parliamentarian Sudip Bandyopadhyay and union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, accompanied by dissident MP Satabdi Roy, signalling potential alliances beyond party lines.

Bandyopadhyay's involvement, given his close ties to Banerjee and key parliamentary role, underscores the rebellion's



deepening roots within the party establishment. Discussions with BJP heavyweights, including Home Minister Amit Shah, suggest the rebels will back the BJP-led NDA government on crucial legislation, potentially tipping parliamentary arithmetic.

With the Monsoon Session looming, the rebellion's timing is strategic, offering the NDA fresh legislative support amid past struggles to secure supermajorities for constitutional amendments.

In response, TMC has initiated crackdown measures, replacing leaders sympathetic to rebels and appointing veteran MP Saugata Roy as parliamentary adviser to restore order. Loyalists also question the legal legitimacy of the split, pointing to anti-defection laws that could block the dissidents' claims and trigger disqualification. Amid mounting speculation, Jadavpur MP Sayani Ghosh's silence and TMC MP Mala Roy's arrival in Delhi add layers of uncertainty to the unfolding drama.

As rival factions prepare for a multifaceted showdown—in Parliament, within the party, and potentially in constitutional courts—Mamata Banerjee faces her toughest challenge yet. The outcome could redefine the Trinamool Congress's future and reshape the balance of power in Indian politics during a pivotal parliamentary session. UNI

Reddy: 'You've got to do something about your mindset' in order to succeed



■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DHARAMSALA: Nitish Kumar Reddy had a strong IPL 2026 for Sunrisers Hyderabad with bat and ball, and has now had a good start to the ODI series against Afghanistan, returning 2 for 31 in four overs in a 25-over shootout in the first game.

In Hardik Pandya's absence, he is the main seam-bowling allrounder in the team, a new role for Reddy in ODIs, and he was "expecting this situation to come at any point" and was "ready at the right time", he said after the game, which India won by seven wickets.

"Just simple. As I always keep telling myself, as an all-rounder, I have to keep doing both the jobs for my team, then the team is going to be in a great position," Reddy said at the press conference after the match in Dharamsala. "I just have to show up, captain gives me the ball or team needs some runs, I just have to show up there and show some intent in the field. That's how I see it as an allrounder."

The big wicket on Saturday was that of Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who was beaten by an inswinging yorker, bowled at pace, from Reddy after scoring 102.

"In T20s, like IPL and all, because of the impact player, I was not able to do complete four overs. So I was preparing myself to, you know, [that I] shouldn't be clueless when captain gives me the ball. I have to have some plans," Reddy said. "If it's not regularly bowling in matches, at least I would do my stuff in practice so I am ready at the right time."

"For allrounders, it is a bit difficult because we always expect to get four overs [in T20s]. Even at first, one or two overs, if you get [hit], at least there will be two overs [left]; you can come back and you can give your effort. It used to be like that, but now if you bowl one or two overs bad, maybe that's the end of the tournament also for some allrounders or bowlers. I would say when there is chance for the comeback - after one over, you have to come back and show up - that's where players' mindset determines everything. I believe bowlers should get four overs, and allrounders should get four overs. At least they need to get that experience."

Some of the improvement in Reddy the bowler - he is quicker, for starters - is down to the work he has done recently with fast-bowling and high-performance coach Steffan Jones. It's not over, and "hopefully in the future, you can see me bowling [with] a little bit [more] pace". But that's not all.

Gill impressed with newbies Gurnoor Brar and Harsh Dubey

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DHARAMSALA: India captain Shubman Gill is impressed by his early sightings of Gurnoor Brar and Harsh Dubey in international cricket. After rain in Dharamsala had reduced the ODI series opener between India and Afghanistan to a 25-over game, Brar and Dubey marked their debuts with three-fors each.

While Brar hit speeds close to 150kph and got the ball to nip around at that extreme pace, Dubey, the left-arm fingerspinner, derailed Afghanistan's innings in the middle overs by denying them pace after Rahmanullah Gurbaz had hit a 48-ball century. Brar and Dubey's strikes were central to India dismissing Afghanistan for 194 in 24.5 overs.

"Very impressive upfront - how Gurnoor bowled, brilliant pace and the way he was swinging the ball, the kind of lengths he bowled consistently,"



Gill said after India took a 1-0 lead against Afghanistan. "And even Harsh as well. After, in the first over, he went for 16-17 runs [16]... the way he pulled the game back, trusted himself and kept tossing the ball up. It was very impressive."

After Dubey controlled the middle overs with the ball in a truncated game, India maintained the control with Gill leading the chase with an unbeaten 84 off 66 balls. Quickfire thirties from Ishan Kishan and KL Rahul ensured there would be no way back for Afghanistan. Gill touched upon the gains India had made, especially in the middle overs on Saturday.

"I think the middle overs in one-day games is very crucial," Gill said. "If you can, as a bowling group, keep building pressure in the middle overs and keep creating opportunities.... And same when we are batting, if we can keep rotating the strike, keep batting at a healthy run rate, six-six and a half without losing too many wickets, then you can really set up the game in the death. So these are the key points that we discuss in team meetings - how can we keep creating opportunities in the middle overs as a bowling group. And when we are batting, how can we keep really pumping on the runs."

'Her rough phase is gone' - Harmanpreet pleased with Ghosh's return to form

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Sometimes one good innings is all you need to regain confidence and Harmanpreet Kaur believes Richa Ghosh's lone hand against England in India's last match before opening their T20 World Cup campaign has sparked a welcome transformation. Ghosh scored 85 runs across the five-match series in South Africa, which India lost 4-1 in April, at 42.50 and striking at 157.40. During India's 2-1 defeat at the hands of England in the lead-up to this tournament, she scored 18 in the space of three innings.

But, in Wednesday's warm-up match, against England once more, she finally found form with 68 off 36 balls, almost rescuing her side who were bowled out with the penultimate ball for a five-run defeat. No other batter in India's line-up passed 18.

"We were waiting for Richa to get that confidence back," Harmanpreet said on the eve of their tournament opener with

Pakistan. "She's a key player, a game-changer for us, and we are all very happy that now she's back in form and confident again."

"She's looking really well after that game, even in the nets. One good innings always gives you a lot of confidence, and we have seen that the moment she got those runs she looks like a completely different player in the nets.... I think that her rough phase is gone."

Like Ghosh, Harmanpreet believes her side is peaking at the right time, having spent a good amount of time now playing in English conditions.

"You can't just go with a fixed plan; you have to be very flexible with a lot of things, I think that is the key point we have learned so far and hopefully will use in this major tournament," she said. "I personally feel that when things are always going well, sometimes you don't know which areas you need to improve in as a team, but when you lose, you learn a lot. That's what the last one-and-half-



months has shown, lots of things, lots of scope for improvement."

"That's what we have been discussing in team meetings and trying to apply ourselves on the field -- how we can do better in that area, how to improve ourselves and bring that onto the

field. And I think those losses have given a lot of learning and hopefully we'll use that experience for this tournament."

While Harmanpreet said India had a fully fit squad to choose from, captain Fatima Sana sent a scare through the Pakistan

camp on match eve when she was struck on the knee while bowling in the nets by a ball hit back at her by Ayesha Zafar. But Fatima said she was hopeful of being fit to take the field on Sunday.

"I think it is good now," Fatima said. "We all are ready and we know what the conditions are because we are here since almost two weeks because we played the series against Ireland as well in Ireland. We just need to execute better plans and we need to be more calm."

Pakistan lost their two completed matches of the recent tri-series in Dublin, to West Indies and Ireland and lost a three-match T20I series in Ireland 2-1 last year. They also lost a three-match series in South Africa 2-1 in February of this year.

Fatima said her side had been working on an attacking batting style and facing pace and bounce delivered in the nets by head coach, Wahab Riaz, the former Pakistan left-arm pace bowler.

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