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Revive India's Knowledge Heritage and Build Future-Ready Education: LG Manoj Sinha

Calls for stronger cultural diplomacy, deeper intellectual exchange

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called for the revival of India's rich traditions of knowledge and spirituality, urging stakeholders to build an education system that blends the country's civilizational heritage with modern technology and innovation.

Addressing the Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue in Srinagar, Sinha said India must draw upon its historic intellectual strengths to shape a confident and progressive future while ensuring that



younger generations remain connected to the nation's cultural roots.

"Our goal is to revive our great inheritances of knowledge and spirituality, strengthen India's civilizational traditions, and shape a future-oriented education that connects our youth to both the past and modern technology," he said.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Tourism, the Department of Culture, Jammu and Kashmir, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, the National School of Drama and Nava Nalanda Mahavihara University. Emphasising the relationship between

governance and culture, the Lieutenant Governor said effective governance encourages cultural dialogue and together they help shape the moral, cultural and social character of a society while contributing to inclusive policymaking.

Highlighting the historic intellectual links between Kashmir and Nalanda, Sinha said scholars from both regions played a significant role in shaping one of the world's oldest continuous civilisations. He described this shared legacy as a source of inspiration for future generations and stressed the need to

Home Secretary Reviews Security Preparedness for Amarnath Pilgrimage

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Saturday conducted a comprehensive review of security and logistical preparations for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, underscoring the government's focus on ensuring a safe, peaceful and well-coordinated journey for thousands of devotees expected to participate from July 3.

Chairing a high-level meeting at the Police Headquarters in Srinagar, Mohan was briefed by senior officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force and intelligence agencies on the overall security environment in the Kashmir Valley and the arrangements put in place for the 57-day pilgrimage.

Officials informed the Home Secretary about measures

Eastern India Emerging As Gateway To Development: PM Modi

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

RAIRANGPUR, JUNE 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said eastern India is transforming into a major



centre of growth and development, asserting that the region, which he said lagged behind during previous Congress-led governments, is now playing a pivotal role in India's economic progress.

Addressing a public gathering in

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India to Host BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting on June 22-23

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 20: India will host the BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting on June 22 and 23, bringing together senior security officials from member nations to deliberate on emerging global threats and evolving security challenges, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Saturday.

The high-level meeting will be chaired by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval

and will focus on the theme, "Non-Traditional Security Challenges Confronting the World Today." National Security Advisers and heads of delegation from BRICS countries are expected to exchange views on a range of issues affecting international security, including the growing impact of new technologies on national security frameworks.

According to the MEA, the discussions will examine the rapidly changing

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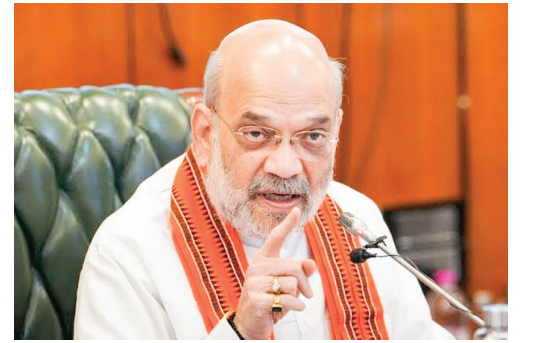
Modi's 12-Year Tenure Will Be Written In Golden Letters In India's History : Amit Shah

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KOLHAPUR, JUNE 20: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12 years in office as a defining chapter in independent India's journey, saying the period would be remembered for building a stronger nation and enhancing its standing on the global stage.

Addressing a public gathering after launching the Ambabai Temple Corridor Project in

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Retired Police Officer Accused of Securing Job With Forged Certificate

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JUNE 20: The Crime Branch's Special Crime Wing has registered two separate FIRs against three individuals, including a retired police official, in connection with alleged job fraud, cheating and the use of forged documents, officials said on Saturday.

One of the cases involves retired Assistant Sub-Inspector Hamid-ullah of Ramnagar, who is accused of obtaining employment in the Jammu and Kashmir Police by submitting a forged educational certificate at the time of his recruitment.

According to the Crime Branch, a preliminary inquiry found that the retired officer had allegedly produced a fake

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CS Reviews 4G, BharatNet Progress

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: The 11th Meeting of the State Broadband Committee (SBC) of Jammu and Kashmir was today held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo, to review the progress of key digital connectivity initiatives aimed at ensuring universal access to high-speed telecommunications and internet services across the Union Territory.

The meeting besides ACS, PDD and ACS, PWD was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology (IT); Secretary, RDD; CGM, BSNL; MD, JPDCL/KPDCL; Representatives from DoT and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the progress of land allotment and statutory clearances, the Chief Secretary impressed upon all Deputy Commissioners to clear the pending tower sites on a fast-track basis. He directed the Information Technology Department to obtain district-wise status reports and timelines for every identified site proposed for installation of telecom towers in far-flung and uncovered habitations. He further instructed that weekly

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VP Radhakrishnan Visits Ladakh, Pays Tribute to Soldiers

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: Vice President of India C.P. Radhakrishnan on Saturday paid homage to the country's brave soldiers, offered prayers at the sacred Sindhu River and reviewed developmental initiatives in Ladakh during the second day of his first official visit to the union Territory.

Officials said the Vice President visited the Hall of Fame War Memorial in Leh, where he paid tribute to personnel of the Indian Armed Forces who laid down their lives in service of the nation.

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HT EXCLUSIVE

Public Trust Under Scrutiny as Healthcare Controversies Trigger Valley-Wide Debate

From Alleged PMJAY Irregularities to a Roadside Childbirth in Bandipora, Recent Incidents Renew Focus on Accountability, Patient Safety and Healthcare Reforms

HT NEWS ANALYSIS

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: Alleged Cardio Scam Surfacing from GMC Anantnag has sent Shock Waves across the UT of J&K. Two separate healthcare-related incidents that surfaced during last few days have ignited a wider public conversation across Jammu and Kashmir on patient welfare, institutional accountability and the

urgent need to strengthen public confidence in the healthcare system.

While disciplinary proceedings initiated by the Health and Medical Education Department over alleged irregularities involving pacemaker procedures at Government Medical College Anantnag have generated intense debate across the Valley, a separate incident in Bandipora, where a wom-

an reportedly delivered her baby on a roadside shortly after being discharged from a district hospital, has further amplified public concern over healthcare delivery and patient care standards.

Together, the incidents have become a major talking point in public spaces, social media discussions and community gatherings, prompting calls for

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Revive India's.....

carry it forward through renewed scholarship and exchange of ideas.

The Lieutenant Governor also called for strengthening India's soft power through cultural diplomacy, asserting that the country's ancient traditions of learning and knowledge-sharing continue to hold global relevance.

"Centuries ago, India's knowledge unified the globe. Today, we can be the bridge the world needs. The world is watching. Let us lead with confidence and compassion," he said.

Sinha said India's diversity of languages, beliefs, artistic traditions and philosophical thought remains one of its greatest strengths. He stressed the importance of fostering unity while preserving the unique cultural identities of different regions across the country.

Referring to ancient centres of learning such as Nalanda, Takshashila and Vikramashila, the Lieutenant Governor noted that these institutions attracted scholars from across Asia and beyond, making India a global centre of intellectual exchange. He said Kashmir's historic Sharda Peeth also served as a distinguished seat of learning, drawing students and scholars from distant regions.

The Lieutenant Governor underlined the need for young people to understand and appreciate India's knowledge traditions, describing the Srinagar-Nalanda Dialogue as an important platform for reviving intellectual engagement and encouraging the exchange of ideas in a contemporary context.

He further stressed the importance of preserving historic towns and cultural centres that embody centuries of accumulated knowledge and experience. Calling for greater investment in heritage conservation and infrastructure development, Sinha said cultural festivals, exhibitions and academic dialogues should be promoted to strengthen connections among scholars, artists and citizens.

The event was attended by senior government officials, academicians, literary figures, cultural leaders and a large number of students and young participants.

Home Secretary.....

being undertaken to protect citizens, preserve the prevailing peace and continue efforts to dismantle the terror network operating in the Union Territory. The meeting also reviewed the multi-layered security framework planned for the pilgrimage routes and base camps.

Detailed presentations were made on deployment strategies, convoy protection, emergency response systems, healthcare facilities, communication infrastructure and transportation services aimed at ensuring the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

The review assumes significance as authorities intensify preparations ahead of the annual event. Security forces have conducted a series of mock drills in recent days to test response mechanisms, strengthen preparedness and improve coordination among various agencies responsible for managing the pilgrimage.

The Amarnath pilgrimage, one of India's largest religious gatherings, attracts thousands of devotees each year. Authorities said all necessary measures are being taken to ensure the pilgrimage is conducted in a secure and orderly manner.

Eastern India.....

Odisha's Mayurbhanj district after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for projects worth more than Rs. 47,600 crore, Modi said the development of eastern India remains central to the government's broader vision for national growth.

He said Odisha is witnessing rapid progress across sectors and has emerged as an important destination for investment and industrial expansion. According to the Prime Minister, investment proposals worth nearly Rs. 20 lakh crore have been received in the state, with projects valued at approximately Rs. 3.5 lakh crore already under implementation.

Modi said Odisha possesses significant advantages, including abundant natural resources, a long coastline, strong agricultural potential and a large young population, which together position the state for sustained economic growth. He highlighted advancements in infrastructure, including railways, roads, ports, power generation, semiconductor manufacturing and renewable energy.

The Prime Minister said coordinated efforts between the Centre and the Odisha government have accelerated development and improved delivery of public services. He also praised the state administration for initiatives aimed at supporting farmers, expanding welfare programmes and strengthening infrastructure.

Earlier in the day, Modi visited Pahadpur village in Mayurbhanj district on the occasion of President Droupadi Murmu's 68th birthday and announced that it would be developed into a model solar-powered village. He said every household in the village would be connected to solar energy generation systems.

Extending his greetings to the President, Modi described her rise from a tribal region of Odisha to the country's highest constitutional office as an inspiring example of achievement and public service. He said her journey serves as a source of motivation for young people, particularly those from disadvantaged and tribal communities.

Reaffirming his government's commitment to tribal welfare, the Prime Minister said special

emphasis is being placed on improving access to education, healthcare and essential services in remote tribal areas. He highlighted various initiatives aimed at supporting vulnerable tribal communities and expanding educational opportunities for tribal students.

Modi said hundreds of residential schools for tribal children have already been established across the country, with many more approved for construction. He also announced the establishment of an additional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Mayurbhanj district.

The Prime Minister further referred to the government's campaign against sickle cell disease, which disproportionately affects tribal populations, and said efforts are underway to improve awareness, screening and treatment.

Calling on people to participate in International Day of Yoga celebrations on June 21, Modi described yoga as a valuable tool for promoting physical and mental well-being. He also paid tribute to the creator of the Ol Chiki script for the Santali language and reiterated the government's commitment to preserving and promoting indigenous languages and cultural heritage.

The Prime Minister's visit underscored the Centre's focus on infrastructure expansion, tribal development and economic growth in eastern India, with Odisha occupying a prominent place in that strategy.

India to Host.....

nature of security threats and explore ways to strengthen cooperation among member states in addressing challenges that transcend national borders.

The delegates will also review the outcomes of the recently held BRICS Joint Working Group meetings on Counter-Terrorism and Security in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies. The review is expected to assess progress made in enhancing coordination among member nations in tackling terrorism and safeguarding digital infrastructure.

The meeting assumes added significance as India holds the BRICS Chairship for the fourth time in 2026, following its earlier tenures in 2012, 2016 and 2021. New Delhi has adopted the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" for its presidency, reflecting its emphasis on inclusive development and stronger international partnerships.

BRICS, which now comprises eleven major emerging economies, has evolved into an influential forum for dialogue and cooperation on political, economic and security matters. The grouping includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.

Officials said the agenda of the security advisers' meeting reflects the expanding scope of BRICS cooperation, which increasingly addresses global challenges such as terrorism, climate change, food and energy security, digital governance, trade and economic stability.

The deliberations in New Delhi are expected to contribute to broader discussions within the bloc and help shape coordinated responses to emerging threats in an increasingly interconnected world.

Modi's 12-Year.....

Kolhapur, Maharashtra, Shah said the Modi government's achievements over the past 12 years had transformed several long-standing aspirations into reality and ushered in a new era of national confidence and development.

"When the history of independent India is written, the chapter on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12 years in office will be recorded in golden letters for creating a resurgent India and enhancing the country's prestige across the world," Shah said.

The Home Minister credited the Prime Minister with spearheading major initiatives in infrastructure, manufacturing, technology, space research and cultural preservation. He said projects once considered unattainable had been successfully completed under Modi's leadership, including the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the redevelopment of major religious and heritage sites across the country.

Shah said the government had pursued a development model that combined economic progress with the preservation of India's cultural legacy. He described the Ambabai Temple Corridor Project as a significant step in strengthening the country's heritage while creating modern facilities for pilgrims and visitors.

The proposed corridor, with an estimated cost of Rs. 500 crore, will include advanced security systems, heritage galleries, improved public infrastructure, visitor amenities and cultural attractions designed to transform the historic shrine into a modern pilgrimage destination.

Highlighting India's technological and scientific achievements, Shah said the country had emerged as a leading force in sectors such as semiconductors, quantum technology, software development and space exploration. Referring to the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, he said the achievement had elevated India's global stature and inspired pride among citizens.

The Home Minister also noted that Modi had recently become the country's longest-serving elected Prime Minister, describing the milestone as a reflection of public confidence in his leadership and governance.

During his address, Shah touched upon

political developments and reiterated the government's commitment to addressing illegal infiltration. He said strict action would continue against those residing in the country unlawfully and accused opposition parties of pursuing vote-bank politics on the issue.

Earlier in the day, Shah offered prayers at the historic Mahalaxmi Temple and inaugurated several conservation and development works under the temple's master plan. The broader project, approved by the Maharashtra government with an allocation of Rs. 1,445 crore, aims to preserve heritage structures, improve infrastructure and promote tourism in the region.

Officials said the development plan is expected to enhance facilities for devotees while strengthening Kolhapur's position as an important cultural, religious and tourism destination.

Retired Police.....

school leaving certificate claiming he had passed Class 8. Verification carried out through the Chief Education Officer, Udhampur, reportedly confirmed that no such candidate existed in the records of Government Higher Secondary School, Basantgarh. A departmental inquiry subsequently recommended criminal proceedings, leading to the registration of a formal case.

In a separate case, the Crime Branch booked Mohd Younis and Sarfaraz Ahmed, both residents of Mendhar, following allegations that they deceived several families by falsely promising government jobs for their children in the Military Engineering Services.

Investigators said the accused allegedly collected more than Rs. 6 lakh through cash and online transactions from four complainants. The victims were later provided purported appointment orders carrying forged stamps and signatures of the Chief Engineer, Headquarters Central Command, 56 APO.

Verification by the concerned authorities established that the appointment orders had never been issued and were fabricated, officials said.

The Crime Branch has launched detailed investigations into both cases and stated that further legal action will follow based on the outcome of the inquiries.

CS Reviews.....

progress reports be sought regarding feasibility assessments, land identification, statutory clearances and transfer of land to the executing agencies so that project implementation proceeds without delay.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized that all uncovered habitations identified across the Union Territory should be incorporated in the fresh list of sites prepared jointly by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and BSNL. He stressed that every eligible habitation must be brought under mobile network coverage to eliminate connectivity gaps and ensure that no village remains off-air in any part of Jammu and Kashmir.

He further directed the Power Development Department, including KPDC and JPDC, to ensure timely provisioning of on-grid electricity connections to all feasible telecom tower locations. He also reviewed the implementation of the Call Before a Dig (CBuD) platform and the compliance of Standard Operating Procedures governing road cutting and excavation works by various departments and agencies. He stressed the importance of strict adherence to the prescribed procedures to safeguard critical infrastructure and minimize disruptions.

Reviewing the implementation of the Amended BharatNet Programme, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned agencies to closely monitor the operationalisation of BharatNet infrastructure at the Gram Panchayat level. He asked the local telecom authorities together with the RDD to ascertain the status of BharatNet Udyamis (BNUs) in all Gram Panchayats already commissioned through the State Network Operations Centre (S-NOC) network.

He emphasized that the ultimate objective of the programme is not merely to establish broadband infrastructure but to extend high-speed internet connectivity to households through Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) services. He directed that all commissioned Gram Panchayats should be progressively enabled through BNUs so that aspiring households in rural areas can avail reliable broadband services.

The Commissioner Secretary, IT, Saurabh Bhagat took this occasion to apprise the meeting about the implementation status of the flagship 4G Saturation Project, Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP), preparedness for 5G infrastructure deployment, and the progress under the Call Before a Dig (CBuD) initiative.

He further gave out that substantial progress has been achieved under the Government of India's 4G Saturation Project, which seeks to extend reliable mobile connectivity to remote, border, hilly and underserved areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was informed by the CGM BSNL that out of the total 847 mobile tower sites planned, 566 sites have already become operational, marking a significant increase from 506 operational sites reported during the previous State Broadband Committee meeting.

He added that work is presently underway on the remaining sites, with tower foundations completed at 128 locations out of whom tower erection had been completed at 97 sites, and

passive infrastructure works completed at 82 sites.

It was elucidated that work orders have already been issued for 775 sites, and BSNL has been tasked with ensuring the completion of the remaining sites under the current work orders by December 31, 2026.

The meeting highlighted the transformative impact of the project in improving communication facilities in border villages. Out of 1,419 identified border villages, 1,402 villages have already been covered under mobile network connectivity, leaving only 17 villages yet to be connected. Of these, 10 villages have already been included under the ongoing 4G Saturation Scheme.

The meeting was informed that electricity connectivity has been completed for 647 telecom tower sites, while power meter connections have been provided to 581 sites. The remaining cases are being actively pursued for early completion.

The Committee also reviewed progress under the Border Out Post (BOP) and Border Infrastructure Project (BIP), under which 30 sites have been planned to provide enhanced communication facilities in sensitive and strategically important areas.

Reviewing the progress under the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP), the Chief Secretary was informed that the project covers 285 blocks and 4,299 Gram Panchayats across the Union Territory.

It was apprised that the physical surveys have already been completed in 2,401 Gram Panchayats, while 282 Gram Panchayats have been commissioned on the State Network Operations Centre (S-NOC). Work orders have been approved for 107 blocks covering 1,599 Gram Panchayats, while additional approvals are under process.

The meeting was informed that approximately 744 kilometres of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) have already been laid under the programme. Upon completion, the initiative will provide reliable broadband access, facilitate digital governance, strengthen online education and healthcare services, support entrepreneurship and enable greater participation in the digital economy in rural areas.

Concluding the Chief Secretary reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring seamless digital connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in remote, border and rural areas. He emphasized that reliable telecommunications infrastructure has become a critical enabler for governance, education, healthcare, security, economic growth and citizen services.

VP Radhakrishnan.....

Describing the memorial as a symbol of patriotism and sacrifice, he said the unwavering commitment of the armed forces to the Motherland embodied instils in every visitor the spirit of "Nation First: Always and Every Time."

"I deeply appreciate the Indian Army for establishing and maintaining this memorial, which preserves the inspiring legacy, courage and sacrifices of our heroes and serves as a source of inspiration for present and future generations," Vice-President of India said on X.

He also visited galleries depicting operations during the Indo-Pak and Indo-China wars, describing them as a testament to the bravery, dedication and sacrifices of armed forces personnel.

Later, the Vice President visited the sacred Sindhu Ghat near Leh and offered prayers on the banks of the revered Sindhu River. He described the river as a timeless symbol of Bharat's civilisational heritage and cultural unity, inspiring generations through its enduring legacy.

During his tour, Radhakrishnan also visited the Pashmina Goat Farm at Upshi, where he reviewed efforts aimed at preserving and promoting Ladakh's renowned Pashmina heritage. He praised the role of Changthangi goats and the globally acclaimed Pashmina wool industry in sustaining local livelihoods and preserving the region's rich cultural traditions.

The Vice President commended the work of scientists, staff and local stakeholders associated with the farm, noting that their efforts were strengthening rural livelihoods, promoting women's economic participation and safeguarding a valuable national asset.

He also visited the first rock check dam on the Sindhu River at Upshi, constructed under the Sindhu Jal Samridhi Abhiyan. Appreciating the eco-friendly and cost-effective initiative, he said such locally adapted interventions could significantly enhance water security, support agriculture and contribute to the long-term development of Ladakh.

Vice President Radhakrishnan also interacted with personnel of the 5th Battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and commended their unwavering dedication, professionalism and steadfast commitment to guarding the nation's frontiers under some of the

most challenging conditions.

He expressed the gratitude of the people of India for the force's selfless service and sacrifices, stating that their efforts play a vital role in ensuring the country's security and territorial integrity.

Radhakrishnan arrived in Ladakh on Friday and received a traditional welcome on his first official visit to the union Territory.

Public Trust.....

transparency, corrective measures and continued reforms within the healthcare sector.

The controversy surrounding GMC Anantnag emerged after the Health and Medical Education Department initiated disciplinary action against a senior cardiologist over allegations linked to violations of PMJAY-SEHAT guidelines and suspected financial irregularities. While the matter remains under investigation and no final findings have yet been reached, the allegations have sparked widespread debate on ethical practices and safeguards within healthcare institutions.

At the same time, the Bandipora incident has raised questions regarding patient assessment and maternal healthcare management after a woman allegedly gave birth on a roadside minutes after being discharged from District Hospital Bandipora. Authorities have already responded by constituting a five-member inquiry committee to establish the facts and recommend appropriate action.

Across the Valley, many citizens say the incidents have struck a sensitive chord because healthcare remains one of the most critical public services.

"People place immense trust in doctors and hospitals. Whenever questions arise regarding patient care, naturally there is concern and people expect clear answers," said Muhammad Amin a resident of Srinagar. Another citizen from south Kashmir said the incidents have strengthened public demand for stronger oversight mechanisms. "Healthcare affects every family. Investigations must be fair, transparent and aimed at improving the system," he remarked.

Health experts caution against drawing premature conclusions before official inquiries are completed. However, they acknowledge that such incidents underscore the importance of continuous monitoring, adherence to established medical protocols and robust institutional accountability.

A senior public health expert said healthcare systems derive their strength from public confidence. "Every allegation must be examined objectively and every concern addressed through due process. At the same time, it is important that investigations are evidence-based and free from speculation," he said.

Medical professionals note that while isolated incidents should not overshadow the contributions of thousands of healthcare workers serving across Jammu and Kashmir, they do provide opportunities to identify gaps and implement corrective measures.

Significantly, the government's response has focused on institutional accountability and systemic improvement rather than defensiveness. Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo has repeatedly emphasised her commitment to ensuring transparency, accountability and quality healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials point to the swift initiation of departmental proceedings in the GMC Anantnag case and the immediate constitution of an inquiry committee in Bandipora as evidence of the government's resolve to address concerns promptly and transparently.

According to officials, the minister has made it clear that any malpractice, negligence or violation of established norms will not be tolerated and that the administration remains committed to "putting the house in order" through institutional reforms, stronger monitoring mechanisms and patient-centric governance.

Observers believe the coming days will be crucial as inquiries into both matters progress. Beyond the specifics of the individual cases, they say, the larger challenge lies in ensuring that public confidence remains strong through transparent investigations, timely action and visible improvements in service delivery. For common masses, the expectation is simple: that healthcare institutions remain places of trust, compassion and professional excellence, and that every concern raised by patients is addressed with seriousness, sensitivity and accountability.

As investigations continue, the twin controversies have become a reminder that maintaining public trust is as important to healthcare as medical treatment itself. Responsibility shared by institutions, professionals and policymakers alike.

DC Srinagar conducts comprehensive visit of Mir Behri Dal Khushipora HMT

Holds series of meetings with community representatives; takes stock of developmental needs of area & arrangements for smooth conduct of Muharram processions

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday conducted a comprehensive visit to various areas of the City and Imam-bargahs in interior localities of Mir Behri Dal and Khushipora HMT to review the arrangements made for the smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram processions and to also take stock of the developmental needs of the area.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz

UI Aziz; PO, ICDS, Bureeda Majeed; Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid; IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintendent Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; CEO, Ghulam Mohi Din; BMO Hazratbal, Dr Ab Majeed; Executive Engineers R&B, Farid Khan; Executive Engineer R&B, Arif Hazari; Executive Engineer, KPDC, Abrar Ahmad; Secretary LCMA,

Mohammad Altaf Bhat; Executive Engineer PHE, Muzamil Ahmad; DSWO, Mohammad Yousuf and senior Officers from the De-



partments of Health, Fire & Emergency Services, Forest and other line departments.

During the visit, the DC held a series of meetings with local representatives and community members at Mir Behri Dal, Nandpora, Moti Mohalla, Zaldar Mohalla and Khushipora HMT.

In the presence of Officers from all concerned departments, the DC reviewed the preparations made for Muharram and inspected facilities related to sanitation, electricity, drinking water supply, healthcare and other essential services.

On the occasion, the DC

emphasized elaborate arrangements with sustained efforts facilitating the observance of important proceedings and Muharram processions.

He directed the Officers to ensure seamless inter departmental coordination for proper sanitation, lighting, electricity and water supply and other essential services around the Imambaras and the procession routes.

Interacting with community representatives, the DC assured them that the District Administration has put in place all necessary measures to facilitate mourners during the Muharram period.

He issued several on-the-spot directions to concerned Departments and stressed the need for sustained efforts to ensure the smooth conduct of religious proceedings and processions.

The DC also listened to public issues and developmental demands raised by the residents of the areas. He assured them that genuine concerns, particularly those related to the upgradation of water supply systems, drainage infrastructure, healthcare and education facilities as well as dredging of interior portions of the Dal, would be addressed on a priority basis.

ADC Anantnag chairs Census-2027 review meet

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 20: A review meeting regarding the ongoing Census-2027 operations was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) who is also District Census Officer, Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat today at DC Office.

The meeting was attended by District Statistics and Evaluation Officer (Additional District Census Officer), Charge Officers (Tehsildars and EOs of MCs) and other concerned officials.

The purpose of the meeting was to assess the progress of HLO activities, coverage of migratory population and preparedness for 2nd Phase (Population Enumeration) in snow bound areas. Detailed discussions were held on these important aspects of the Census-2027 exercise during the meeting. While reviewing the coverage of migratory population, it was informed that lists of registered grazers and Pony Walas obtained from concerned authorities have been shared with all Charge Officers to ensure comprehensive census coverage before their migration to higher pastures. The Charge Officers were directed to furnish Action Taken Reports (ATRs) regarding the completion of the exercise.

The chair was informed that progress reports regarding completion of HLOs are being shared with all Charge Officers on a daily basis to facilitate regular monitoring and ensure timely completion of census activities.

Regarding snow-bound areas, it was informed that 17 such revenue villages have been identified in the District after obtaining requisite information from the Tehsildars. The Charge Officers were directed to examine the requirements and furnish inputs regarding inclusion of any additional villages, if required.

The meeting also reviewed preparations for the next phase of Census operations. The ADC issued directions to furnish necessary information regarding the estimated number of Enumeration Blocks (EBs) for the second phase of Census-2027 as per the directions received from the Directorate of Census Operations.

The District Census Officer stressed upon all concerned officers to maintain close coordination, ensure accuracy in data collection and complete all preparatory activities within the stipulated timelines.

He further directed the officers to regularly monitor the progress and promptly address any issues arising during the census preparations adding that data accuracy and adherence to SoPs be ensured by all Census-2027 functionaries.

DC Baramulla chairs meeting to review status of Developmental Works

Reviews Progress of works under ADP, PWD, JJM, PDD, PMGSY and various Employment Generation Schemes

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 20: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr.S.F.Hamid, today chaired a comprehensive meeting with all the district and sectoral officers at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to review the progress of developmental works under various departments.

During the meeting, the Chief Planning Officer, Heads of Departments (HoDs), Superintending Engineers (SEs), and Executive Engineers (ExEns), through a presentation, provided a comprehensive overview of the status and progress of projects being executed across various sectors for the financial year 2026-27.

The DC conducted a detailed review of both the physical and financial progress of the projects

being implemented across various sectors, assessing the status of ongoing works and expenditure incurred against approved allocations.

Meanwhile, the DC also reviewed the implementation status of various centrally sponsored flagship schemes in the district including JJM, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), PMDDKY, PM Vishwakarma, Self Employment Schemes, besides other financial inclusion and livelihood generation schemes.

Reviewing the progress of developmental works sector-wise, the DC directed all executing agencies to intensify efforts and ensure the timely completion of projects in accordance with the prescribed timelines.

The DC directed all officers



to prioritize public grievances and ensure their prompt redressal, emphasizing that responsive grievance handling is essential for people-centric governance.

While reviewing the progress, the DC stressed the need to focus on self-employment schemes and directed the Assistant Director Employment to convene a

meeting of all concerned departmental heads and orient them on the employment generation schemes being implemented under their respective departments.

Furthermore, Dr.S.F.Hameed directed the formulation of Tehsil-level Disaster Management Plans incorporating contact details of Tehsildars, con-

cerned SHOs, Civil Defence volunteers, and other key stakeholders who will be first responders during any calamity, thereby minimizing loss of life and property.

Later, the DC reviewed the progress made under various indicators of the Aspirational District Programme, including health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, and basic infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Arshad Ahmad Khan; Chief Planning Officer, Nisar Ahmad; SDM Uri, Prince Kumar; SDM Pattan, Gulzar Ahmad, Superintending Engineers and other district and sectoral officers.

District Admin Bandipora intensifies Anti-Drug Awareness Activities under 100-Day Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 20: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, educational institutions across Bandipora district on Saturday organized a series of awareness programmes, life skills sessions and pledge ceremonies aimed at sensitizing students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The activities were conducted in Government High School Achoora, Government High School Garoora, Government High School Odina, Government High School Kanzalwan, High School Panar, Higher Secondary Schools Quilmuqam, Chuntimulla, Nowgam Bandipora and Sumbal, besides Government Degree College Gurez. During the programmes, students were educated about the

physical, mental, social and economic consequences of substance abuse. Special focus was laid on Life Skills (Refusal Skills), enabling students to confidently resist drugs and other harmful substances, overcome negative peer pressure and make responsible decisions.

At several institutions, students actively participated in interactive awareness sessions and discussions highlighting the importance of self-confidence, discipline and healthy lifestyle choices. Anti-drug pledge ceremonies were also held wherein students and staff reaffirmed their commitment towards creating a drug-free society and spreading awareness about the dangers of substance abuse.

Meanwhile, Higher Secondary School Sumbal organized a pre-Yoga Day rehearsal ahead of the International Day of Yoga,

emphasizing the significance of physical fitness, mental well-being and healthy living as key components of a drug-free lifestyle.

At Government Degree College Gurez, an awareness programme was organized for outgoing sixth-semester students. Principal, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir addressed the participants and highlighted the adverse impacts of drug abuse on individuals, families and society. He urged students to adopt a healthy and disciplined lifestyle and play an active role in promoting awareness within their communities.

The programmes concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to the objectives of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan and the collective resolve to build a healthier, safer and drug-free Bandipora.

Lead Bank Bandipora, CFL organise Special Night Awareness Camp on Financial Inclusion for Fishermen at Kulhama

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 20: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, a Special Night Awareness Camp on Financial Inclusion was organized at Kulhama village of Bandipora by the Lead Bank Bandipora in collaboration with the Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL).

The programme was specifically conducted for the fishermen community of Kulhama, who remain engaged in their livelihood activities during the daytime and are generally unavailable to participate in awareness programmes.

During the camp, participants were sensitized about various financial inclusion initiatives, social security schemes, banking services and government welfare programmes aimed at improving financial security and economic well-being. Awareness was also generated regarding the growing threat of cyber frauds and the precautionary measures required to safeguard against online financial scams.

The Deputy Commissioner, who attended the programme virtually, appreciated the efforts of Lead Bank Bandipora, Centre for Financial Literacy and participating NGOs for organizing the awareness camp at a time convenient for the fishermen community. She urged the fishermen to avail the benefits of various social security and financial inclusion schemes and emphasized the importance of financial literacy in improving their economic well-being and securing their future.

Lead District Manager (LDM) Bandipora, Liaqat Maqbool, highlighted the importance of financial literacy and urged participants to avail the benefits of various banking and social security schemes. Representatives from NGOs, RSETI and other stakeholders also participated in the programme and interacted with the fishermen community.

A large number of fishermen attended the awareness camp and appreciated the initiative for bringing important financial information and services directly to their doorstep during a convenient time.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which participants raised queries related to banking services, Government schemes and financial assistance programmes, which were addressed by the resource persons.

Preparations completed for International Day of Yoga 2026 in Shopian

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 20: In order to ensure meticulous planning and seamless conduct of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 celebrations at the district level, a preparatory meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, in the meeting hall of the Mini Secretariat, Shopian.

The meeting reviewed in detail the arrangements and logistical requirements for the successful observance of the International Day of Yoga, which is scheduled to be celebrated on June 21, 2026, at the Mini Secretariat, Shopian. During the deliberations, a comprehensive



assessment of the preparedness of all stakeholder departments was undertaken.

The ADDC emphasized coordinated efforts among all concerned agencies to ensure the smooth and successful con-

duct of the event. Specific responsibilities were assigned to the concerned departments and officers for effective execution of the programme.

Key arrangements reviewed included adequate security mea-

sures, supply of yoga mats and yoga dresses, establishment of connectivity for live streaming of the event, installation of an outdoor LED screen and Public Address System (PAS), provision of drinking water facilities, uninterrupted power supply, refreshments, medical aid and emergency response services, deployment of mobile toilet facilities, besides other necessary arrangements.

The ADDC directed all concerned departments to remain fully prepared and ensure that all assigned tasks are completed well in time so that the event is conducted in a befitting manner.

It was informed during the meeting that, in addition to the main district-level event at Mini Secretariat, parallel yoga sessions

shall also be organized at GDC Shopian, GDC Zainapora, SDM Office Zainapora and Indoor Stadium Arhama.

Besides, yoga programmes will be conducted at all 11 AYUSH Arogya Mandir Centres and one AYUSH Unit in the district in collaboration with 12 Government UPS, MS, HS and HSS institutions to promote mass participation and spread awareness about the benefits of yoga.

The meeting was attended by ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Principal GDC Shopian, Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir; GM DIC Shopian, Shurjil Naik; ASP Shopian, Rameez Raja, District Ayush Officer, district and sectoral officers and representatives of various departments of the district.

HT EDITORIAL

Healing the Healthcare System :
Accountability Must Begin at
the Bedside

The recent developments emerging from Jammu and Kashmir's healthcare sector have generated widespread concern and sparked an important debate about accountability, professional ethics and patient welfare. The allegations surrounding the purported pace-maker irregularities at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag and the disturbing incident of a woman delivering her baby on a roadside shortly after being discharged from District Hospital Bandipora may be different in their circumstances, but both point towards a common issue: the need to strengthen public confidence in healthcare institutions.

Healthcare occupies a unique place in society. Unlike most public services, it deals directly with human lives and well-being. Patients and their families enter hospitals with trust and hope, believing that every decision will be guided solely by medical necessity and their best interests. Any incident that raises questions about professional conduct, clinical judgment or institutional oversight therefore attracts public attention and concern far beyond the walls of a hospital.

In the GMC Anantnag case, allegations relating to medical procedures and the possible misuse of benefits under the PMJAY-SEHAT scheme have triggered intense public discussion. The matter is under investigation and it would be inappropriate to arrive at conclusions before the inquiry is completed. Nevertheless, the public reaction reflects the seriousness with which people view any allegation involving healthcare. If public welfare schemes are to retain their credibility, every beneficiary must remain confident that medical decisions are based on clinical requirements and not influenced by any other consideration. Similarly, the Bandipora incident has raised troubling questions about patient assessment and maternal healthcare practices. According to reports, a woman who had spent considerable time under medical observation delivered her baby shortly after being discharged from the hospital. The facts will ultimately be established through the inquiry ordered by the authorities, but the episode has understandably alarmed many people. Maternal healthcare demands exceptional vigilance, and every expectant mother deserves the assurance that her condition is being evaluated with the utmost care and professionalism.

What deserves appreciation is the manner in which the government has responded to both matters. Rather than ignoring public concerns or attempting to downplay the incidents, the authorities have initiated inquiries and disciplinary proceedings. Such action sends a clear message that accountability remains a priority and that allegations involving patient welfare will be taken seriously. This approach is essential for maintaining public confidence in institutions that provide critical services to society.

The government's commitment to improving healthcare in recent years is evident through substantial investments in infrastructure, expanded insurance coverage and efforts to make quality treatment accessible to ordinary citizens. Schemes such as PMJAY-SEHAT have provided financial protection to countless families and have significantly expanded access to healthcare services. However, even the most ambitious reforms can only succeed when they are matched by professionalism, integrity and a strong sense of responsibility among those entrusted with implementing them.

The reality is that no healthcare system can function effectively on infrastructure and funding alone. Buildings, equipment and insurance schemes form the framework, but the true strength of a healthcare system lies in the conduct of its professionals. A single instance of negligence or unethical behaviour can undermine years of progress and erode public trust that takes decades to build.

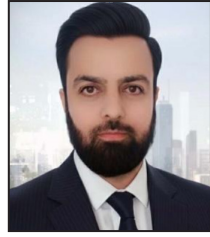
It is equally important to recognise that the vast majority of doctors, nurses and healthcare workers continue to serve with dedication and commitment, often under difficult conditions. Their contribution remains the backbone of the healthcare system. Yet precisely because the medical profession commands such respect, any departure from accepted standards attracts greater scrutiny and demands a firm response.

The incidents now under investigation should therefore serve as an opportunity for deeper reflection. Stronger monitoring mechanisms, regular clinical audits, transparent review systems and stricter adherence to ethical standards are essential if similar controversies are to be prevented in the future. Accountability cannot be limited to reacting after problems emerge; it must be embedded within the system itself. The public is not demanding perfection. What people seek is assurance that institutions are capable of identifying mistakes, correcting shortcomings and taking action wherever responsibility is established. Trust grows when there is transparency, and confidence is strengthened when accountability is visible.

The government's willingness to act is a positive sign, but much remains to be done to ensure that the healthcare system consistently meets the expectations of the people it serves. The ultimate objective should not merely be to investigate individual incidents but to create a culture where patient welfare remains the highest priority and where professional standards leave no room for doubt.

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Environmental Hazards and
the Fight for a Sustainable Future



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Environmental hazards have emerged as one of the defining challenges of the twenty-first century. Across the globe, communities are increasingly facing the consequences of environmental degradation in the form of extreme weather events, polluted air and water, shrinking forests, declining biodiversity, and mounting waste. What were once considered isolated environmental concerns have evolved into interconnected crises that threaten public health, economic development, and the future sustainability of human civilization. As nations strive to achieve growth and prosperity, the challenge of balancing development with environmental protection has become more urgent than ever before.

The environment serves as the foundation of life on Earth. Clean air, freshwater resources, fertile soil, forests, oceans, and biodiversity provide essential services that sustain societies and economies. However, decades of rapid industrialization, urban expansion, overconsumption of natural resources, and unsustainable practices have placed unprecedented pressure on natural systems. Environmental hazards are no longer confined to specific regions; they have become global in scope, affecting both developed and developing countries alike.

Among the most pressing environmental hazards is climate change. Scientific evidence has consistently shown that human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels and large-scale deforestation, have increased greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. This has resulted in rising global temperatures and significant changes in weather patterns. Climate change is contributing to more frequent and severe heatwaves, floods, droughts, storms, and wildfires, causing widespread damage to communities and ecosystems.

The consequences of climate change are visible across continents. Prolonged droughts are affecting agricultural production and reducing water availability. Floods are destroying homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods, while rising sea levels threaten coastal communities. Extreme weather events have become increasingly common, placing additional pressure on governments and disaster management agencies. These challenges are particularly severe for vulnerable populations who often lack the resources needed to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Air pollution represents another major environmental challenge. Rapid urbanization, industrial activities, and increasing numbers of vehicles have contributed to declining air quality in many parts of the world. Harmful pollutants released into the atmosphere can have serious consequences for human health. Respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, and other chronic conditions are often linked to prolonged exposure to polluted air.

The health impacts of air pollution extend beyond physical illness. Research indicates that poor air quality can affect cognitive development in children and contribute to mental health problems. Millions of people living in urban centers are exposed to air pollution levels that exceed recommended safety standards. The economic costs associated with healthcare expenses, reduced productivity, and premature deaths further highlight the magnitude of this challenge.

Water pollution continues to pose significant risks to both human health and the environment. Industrial waste, agricultural runoff, untreated sewage, and plastic debris frequently contaminate rivers, lakes, and oceans. Access to clean drinking water remains a challenge for many com-



munities, particularly in developing regions. Polluted water contributes to the spread of diseases and undermines efforts to improve public health and sanitation.

Aquatic ecosystems are also suffering from the effects of contamination. Excessive nutrient pollution can lead to harmful algal blooms that reduce oxygen levels in water bodies and threaten aquatic life. Toxic chemicals and heavy metals can accumulate in fish and other organisms, disrupting food chains and affecting biodiversity. The degradation of freshwater and marine ecosystems highlights the need for stronger environmental regulations and improved waste management practices.

Plastic pollution has become one of the most visible symbols of environmental degradation. The convenience and affordability of plastic products have led to widespread use across industries and households. However, inadequate waste management systems have allowed enormous quantities of plastic waste to enter the environment. Oceans, rivers, forests, and urban areas are increasingly burdened by discarded plastic materials.

Marine life is particularly vulnerable to plastic pollution. Sea turtles, fish, birds, and marine mammals often ingest plastic debris or become entangled in waste. The growing presence of microplastics in water sources and food chains has raised concerns about potential impacts on human health. Addressing plastic pollution requires comprehensive strategies that promote recycling, reduce single-use plastics, and encourage sustainable alternatives.

Deforestation remains another critical environmental hazard. Forests play a vital role in regulating climate, conserving biodiversity, and protecting watersheds. Yet large areas of forest continue to be cleared for agriculture, infrastructure projects, mining, and urban development. The loss of forests reduces the planet's ability to absorb carbon dioxide and contributes to climate change.

Deforestation also has significant ecological consequences. Many species depend on forests for survival, and habitat destruction is one of the leading causes of biodiversity loss. Indigenous communities and rural populations that rely on forests for their livelihoods often face social and economic challenges when these ecosystems are degraded. Protecting forests is therefore essential not only for environmental conservation but also for human well-being.

The decline of biodiversity has become a growing concern among scientists and conservationists. Species extinction rates are occurring at levels far above natural background rates. Habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, invasive species, and overexploitation of natural resources are contributing to the loss of plant and animal species worldwide.

Biodiversity is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems. Pollination, nutrient cycling, water purification, and soil fertility are among the many ecosystem services supported

Plastic pollution has become one of the most visible symbols of environmental degradation. The convenience and affordability of plastic products have led to widespread use across industries and households. However, inadequate waste management systems have allowed enormous quantities of plastic waste to enter the environment. Oceans, rivers, forests, and urban areas are increasingly burdened by discarded plastic materials

by diverse biological communities. The loss of biodiversity weakens ecosystem resilience and reduces the ability of natural systems to recover from disturbances. Ultimately, biodiversity loss threatens food security, economic stability, and environmental sustainability.

Chemical pollution presents additional environmental and public health challenges. Industrial chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals, and hazardous waste can persist in the environment for long periods, contaminating soil, water, and air. Exposure to toxic substances has been linked to a variety of health problems, including cancer, neurological disorders, reproductive issues, and developmental abnormalities.

The management of chemical pollution requires effective regulatory frameworks, improved monitoring systems, and greater accountability from industries. Many countries continue to face challenges in controlling hazardous waste and ensuring the safe disposal of toxic materials. Strengthening environmental governance is essential to minimizing the risks associated with chemical contamination.

Urbanization has further intensified environmental pressures. As cities continue to grow, demand for energy, water, housing, and transportation infrastructure has increased significantly. Urban expansion often results in the loss of green

spaces and natural habitats, while traffic congestion and industrial activities contribute to pollution. Managing sustainable urban growth remains a major challenge for policymakers worldwide.

Waste generation has become another pressing concern. Increasing consumption levels have resulted in growing volumes of municipal, industrial, and electronic waste. Improper disposal practices can contaminate soil and water resources and contribute to environmental degradation. Developing efficient waste management systems and promoting circular economy approaches are important steps toward reducing environmental impacts.

One of the greatest difficulties in addressing environmental hazards is their interconnected nature. Climate change influences water availability, biodiversity, and agricultural productivity. Deforestation contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and habitat loss. Pollution affects ecosystem health and human well-being simultaneously. Because these issues are closely linked, effective solutions require integrated and coordinated approaches.

Despite the scale of these challenges, opportunities for positive change remain. Advances in renewable energy technologies, sustainable agriculture, environmental monitoring, and conservation practices are providing new tools for addressing environmental problems. Governments, businesses, researchers, and civil society organizations are increasingly recognizing the importance of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Public awareness has also grown significantly in recent years. Citizens around the world are becoming more conscious of environmental issues and are demanding stronger action from policymakers and industries. Individual actions such as reducing waste, conserving energy, supporting sustainable products, and participating in environmental initiatives can collectively contribute to meaningful change.

The environmental hazards facing humanity are serious, but they are not insurmountable. Scientific knowledge, technological innovation, and international cooperation provide a foundation for addressing these challenges. The decisions made today will shape the environmental conditions experienced by future generations.

Protecting the environment is no longer an option but a necessity. A sustainable future depends upon the ability of societies to balance economic growth with environmental responsibility. As the world confronts increasingly complex environmental hazards, collective action, informed policymaking, and long-term commitment will be essential to safeguarding the planet and ensuring a healthier future for all.

The author is a senior analyst and environmentalist. Feedback can be sent to m.hanief@gmail.com. Twitter/X: @haniefmha

DIPR's Cultural Unit organises Awareness Programme under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan at HSS Palpora

HT NETWORK NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Srinagar, organised an awareness programme at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Palpora, Srinagar, aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

During the programme, students delivered thoughtful and informative speeches highlighting the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of adopting a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

Adding a creative dimension to the awareness campaign, artists of Kashmir Kala Manch presented a thematic short play depicting the adverse social and personal consequences of drug addiction. The performance was widely appreciated by the audi-



ence for its powerful message and effective presentation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Cultural Officer Kashmir and AECO stressed the need for active youth participation in the fight against drug abuse. They urged students to become ambassadors of change and contribute towards making Jammu and Kashmir a drug-free society.

The Principal of HSS Palpora expressed gratitude to the DIPR Cultural Unit for organising the programme and appreciated the department's efforts in spreading awareness among students. The Principal also highlighted the importance of collective action in addressing the menace of drug abuse.

At the conclusion of the programme, participants were felicitated by the Cultural Unit, DIPR, in recognition of their enthusiastic participation and contribution to the success of the event.

Seminar on Cultural Heritage Preservation and the Importance of Theatre Held at GGMS Hanjigund in Budgam

GULFAM BARJI

BUDGAM, JUNE 20: A seminar on "Theatre in Education" was organized by Karam Buland Folk Theatre Wathora Chadoora, Budgam at Govt. Girl's Middle School Hanjigund Chadoora Budgam. The seminar was conducted under the Repertory Grant "Guru Shishya Parampara" Scheme of the Ministry of Culture Govt. of India New Delhi. Chairman of the All J&K Artists Association Gulzar Ahmad Bhat attended the event as the Chief Guest while Headmaster Javid Ahmad participated as the Guest of Honour. During the seminar young artists high-



lighted the importance of theatre in education and the preservation of cultural heritage. Faizan Ali stressed the need to promote and safeguard the traditional Kashmiri folk theatre form Bhand Pather, while Junaid Nazir spoke about the role of theatre in education and environmental awareness. Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Gulzar Ahmad Bhat emphasized that theatre is a powerful medium for personality development, creativity and social awareness among students. He underscored the importance of engaging young people in cultural and artistic activities. President of KBFT Ali Mohammad Bhat and Secretary Fayaz Ahmad also addressed the participants, highlighting the need to preserve the region's rich cultural heritage and encourage active youth participation in cultural initiatives. The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and teachers, who expressed their commitment to promoting and preserving the cultural traditions of Kashmir.

DMO Kupwara Launches Major Enforcement Drive; 12 Tractors Seized; Rs 1.70 Lakh Penalty Recovered

DR. AB QAYOOM

KUPWARA, JUN 20: In a major crackdown on illegal mining and unauthorized transportation of minerals, the Geology and Mining Department Kupwara seized 12 vehicles and recovered Rs 1.70 lakh in penalties during a special enforcement drive conducted across the district over the past three days.

The operation was launched on the directions of District Mineral Officer (DMO) Kupwara, Naveed Hussain Badroo (JKAS), as part of an intensified campaign to curb illegal extraction and ensure strict compliance with mining and environmental regulations.

According to in-charges, despite limited manpower, field teams are working round the clock to prevent illegal mining and unauthorized transportation of minerals across the district.

During the drive, 12 tractors involved in the illegal transportation of minerals were seized from different locations. The department also imposed and recovered penalties amounting to Rs 1.70 lakh from vehicle owners found violating mining laws and transportation norms. Speaking to Headlines Today, DMO Naveed Hussain Badroo said this was his first major enforcement operation since assuming charge as District Mineral Officer Kupwara.

He said the action is part of an ongoing campaign aimed at curbing unlawful mining activities and safeguarding the district's natural resources.

"All seized vehicles have been taken into custody and further legal proceedings are underway. Illegal mining not only violates the law but also poses a serious threat to the environment and water resources," he said. Referring to a recent review meeting, Badroo expressed satisfaction over the dedication and commitment of the department's field staff.

"I am satisfied with the excellent work being carried out by our field teams in tackling illegal mining activities across



the district, especially in Langate and Handwara and Kupwara, despite manpower constraints," he said.

As part of the enforcement exercise, officials also blocked several unauthorized routes near Nallah Talri in Gonipora Handwara, and Hanjipora Kupwara, where illegal extraction activities had reportedly been taking place in recent days. The DMO issued a stern warning to those involved in illegal mining, stating that strict action under the provisions of the Mining Act would be taken against anyone found violating the law. He also thanked Handwara and Kupwara Police especially ADC Handwara, the both magistrates Tehsildar Handwara and Tehsildar Langate for their timely assistance and coordination during enforcement operations. Appealing to the public, Badroo urged residents to cooperate with the department in protecting the environment and conserving the district's water resources, which he described as the lifelines of Kupwara.

The Geology and Mining Department reiterated its commitment to continue regular inspections and enforcement drives to prevent illegal mining and promote the sustainable use of natural resources throughout the district.

750 Farmers Join PM-KISAN Live Webcast at SKUAST-K as ₹18,880 Crore Released Nationwide

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: Around 750 farmers from across Kashmir Valley participated in a live webcast of the Prime Minister's PM-KISAN program at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Saturday, coinciding with the release of the 23rd installment under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.

During the national program held at Tarakeswar in West Bengal's Hooghly district, the Hon'ble Prime Minister released Rs. 18,880 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), benefiting over 9.44 crore farmers across the country.

The webcast at SKUAST-K witnessed participation of 510 male

and 240 female farmers from different districts of Kashmir. The event also highlighted key government schemes and interventions aimed at strengthening the agricultural sector and improving farmers' livelihoods.

Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Shri Javid Ahmad Dar, attended the program as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Shri Dar termed PM-KISAN a transformative initiative that has provided timely financial assistance to farmers across the country.

He also highlighted the growing participation of youth in agriculture and urged farmers to take maximum benefit from flagship programs such as the Holistic Agriculture Develop-

ment Program (HADP) and the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP).

Speaking on the occasion, SKUAST-K's Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai underscored the importance of farmer-centric schemes and emphasized the role of agricultural institutions in bridging scientific knowledge and field-level adoption. He reiterated the university's commitment to supporting farmers through research, innovation, and extension services.

Earlier, Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth welcomed the guests and participants and highlighted the Directorate's efforts in connecting farmers with modern agricultural technologies and innovations.

On the Eve of International Day of Yoga, Balwant Thakur Shares Its Global Success Story

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 20: In celebration of the International Day of Yoga, Natrang organized a special interactive talkshow at its studio theatre featuring eminent theatre personality and cultural ambassador Balwant Thakur, who shared inspiring experiences from his global journey of promoting yoga and highlighted its extraordinary impact across continents.

Addressing a gathering of yoga enthusiasts, students, artists, and cultural practitioners, Balwant Thakur reflected upon the historic moment when the United Nations, in 2014, unanimously adopted India's proposal to declare 21st June as the International Day of Yoga. At that time, Thakur was serving with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Ministry of External Affairs—the premier organization entrusted with taking India's rich cultural heritage, including yoga, to the world.

During his tenure as a Cultural Diplomat of India earlier in South Africa and later in Mauritius, Thakur played a pivotal role in expanding the reach of yoga among diverse communities. He described yoga as one of the most powerful instruments of India's soft power, transcending geographical, linguistic, religious, and cultural boundaries to unite humanity through the universal message of health, harmony, and inner peace.

Sharing vivid memories from the COVID-19 pandemic, Thakur emphasized that yoga emerged as a beacon of hope during one of the most challenging periods in modern history. As fear, uncertainty, and isolation gripped societies worldwide, millions turned to yoga for physical fitness, emotional resilience, mental well-being, and spiritual strength. Indian Cultural Centres across the globe conducted extensive virtual yoga sessions, workshops, and wellness campaigns, connecting with people in every corner of the world. These initiatives witnessed unprecedented participation and significantly enhanced global awareness about the therapeutic and preventive benefits of yoga.

Thakur also narrated fascinating anecdotes about organizing massive International Day of Yoga celebrations at iconic venues such as the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the historic Apravasi Ghat in Port Louis, Mauritius.

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय
NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
(An Autonomous Institution of the 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
9419059895, 9419422935

Director
National School of Drama

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Legal rights must translate into accessible, coordinated, dignified institutional support for women: Justice Vikram Nath

J&K Legal Services Authority organises awareness programme on "Empowering Women and Strengthening Institutional Legal Support"

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority under the guidance of National Legal Services Authority today organised a mega awareness programme on "Empowering Women and Strengthening Institutional Legal Support" at SKICC, Srinagar.

Among others present on the occasion were Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority; Justice S. V. N. Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Supervising Judge for J&K Legal Services Authority; Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority; Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, High Legal Services Committee besides other Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The programme was conceived as a common institutional platform to strengthen awareness of the legal rights of women and girl children and to improve coordination among the Legal Services Institutions, Police, Health, Education, Social Welfare, One Stop Centres, Child Welfare Committees and other authorities responsible for protection, legal assistance, compensation, rehabilitation and follow-up support. In his presidential address, Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, emphasized that the effectiveness of Legal Services Institutions must be judged by whether a person in distress is able to approach the system without fear, be heard with dignity and receive competent assistance without avoidable delay. He called upon all the stakeholders to strengthen the legal literacy,

institutional coordination and grassroots outreach so that constitutional and statutory safeguards become a practical reality for women and girl children.

Justice Vikram Nath further stressed that the proceedings and key deliberations of this conference should be translated into vernacular languages and circulated among all concerned stakeholders, so that the knowledge and guidance emanating from the conference are easily understood and effectively acted upon at grassroots level.

Justice S. V. N. Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Supervising Judge for the J&K Legal Services Authority, during his special address, highlighted the need for functional grievance mechanisms, trained stakeholders and victim-sensitive procedures. He observed that women and children should not be compelled to navigate a fragmented institutional system or repeatedly recount traumatic experiences before different authorities. Clear referral pathways, confidentiality and accountability, he stated, are necessary for meaningful legal empowerment.

While delivering the inaugural address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, underscored that access to justice cannot be measured merely by the availability of laws and institutions.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar called for stronger grassroots outreach and effective functioning of Front Offices, Legal Aid Clinics, Panel Lawyers and Para-Legal Volunteers so that persons in need are guided to appropriate remedies without procedural hardships. He also stressed the importance of convergence among all stakeholder institutions dealing with women in

distress.

Recalling the distinguished tradition of humanitarian and justice-oriented intervention by the J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sanjeev Kumar highlighted its exemplary response in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2005. The J&K Legal Services Authority undertook proactive measures to reach out to the affected population and facilitated timely settlement of their claims. In a significant departure from conventional court-based proceedings, Judicial Officers stepped beyond the confined traditional courtrooms and conducted Lok Adalats in the open, closer to the affected communities, enabling victims to receive compensation and have their claims settled on the spot.

Senior functionaries, including the General Managers of the concerned insurance companies, were brought together on a common platform so that insurance claims could be examined and settled expeditiously, thereby demonstrating how responsive, innovative and compassionate justice-delivery mechanisms can provide meaningful relief during times of crisis.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, in his address, observed that recognition of a right in law is only the beginning and that the real test of justice lies in whether the right can be understood, approached and effectively enforced.

Justice Sanjay Dhar emphasized that the constitutional character of the justice system is reflected in the manner in which a woman is received by the first institution she approaches. Prompt assistance, confidentiality, sensitivity and institutional follow-up, he said, are essential to prevent secondary victimisation and restore confidence in the justice system.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Sumbal

Advertisement Notice No: 01 of 2026
Dated: 20-06-2026

Subject: Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (AWWs) and Sahayikas (AWHs) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Sumbal.
Reference: 1. Government Order No 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022
2. Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023
3. Letter No. SWD-ICDS/42/2022 Dated: 14-08-2023.
Approval has been accorded vide letter No: MD/Poshan/22180-87 dated 18-06-2026 for filling up of vacant positions of Sanginis (AWWs) and Sahayikas (AWHs) in AWCs of Poshan Project Sumbal as per below given details.

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. Of Posts
1	Sumbal	AWW (Sanginis)	02
2	Sumbal	AWH (Sahayikas)	04
	Total		06

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helper on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

- Date of commencement for submission of application from the date of publication of Notice.
- Last date for submission of applications is fourteen working Days from the publication of notice
- Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection
- Annexure C-Affidavit

ANNEXURE 'A'

Format of Application

- Name of POSHAN Project Sumbal
- Name of Anganwadi Centre _____
- Post applied for _____
- Name of the Candidate _____
- Father's Name _____
- Husband's Name _____
- Residence/Panchayat Halqa _____
- Ward No. _____
- Address for correspondence _____
- Contact No. _____
- Date of Birth _____
- Age as on 01.01.2026 _____
- Academic Qualification: _____

S.No	Examination passed	Board/ University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	Percentage

- Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO)
- Document Attached:
Date: _____
Signature of the candidate _____

ANNEXURE 'B'

Detail of Vacant Posts (AWWs & AWHs) along with name and location of AWC.

S.No	Name of Panchayat / Municipal Ward	Ward No	Name of Anganwadi Centre	Name of Post	No. of Posts
01	MC Sumbal	01	Wangipora Bala	AWW (Sangini)	01
02	Asham B	01	Sofipora Asham	AWW (Sangini)	01
03	Asham B	08	Ganie Mohalla Asham	AWW (Shahyika)	01
04	Naninara	06	Tengpora Nesbal	AWW (Shahyika)	01
05	Palhallan A	02	Yatoo Mohalla Palhallan	AWW (Shahyika)	01
06	Palhallan C	04	Bhat Mohalla Palhallan	AWW (Shahyika)	01

Eligibility:

A. Anganwadi Workers:

- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2026 shall be considered for the post.
- The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where AWC is situated.

Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being unmarried issued by the concerned Tehsildar.

Wherever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.

- Ward certificate from concerned Block Development Officer.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+2 and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Poshan.
- In case suitable candidate is not available from adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the panchayat can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Poshan.
- Weightage shall be given on the Basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection be done purely on merit basis and no other criterion be considered.
- In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWWs/AWHs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.

- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- Candidates with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.
- The selection shall be made as per Government order no.222-(JKSWD) of 2022 Dated 30-11-2022.

B. Anganwadi Helpers:

- The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi centre is located.
- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2026 shall be eligible.
- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate is available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- The Committee shall select the most meritorious and suitable destitute/needly married woman of the concerned Ward as an Anganwadi Helper from amongst the candidates who fulfil the prescribed eligibility criteria.
- The selection shall be made on the basis of merit along with the above-mentioned conditions. In case no eligible married candidate is available, an unmarried candidate may be considered for selection.
- Selection shall be made purely as per Govt Order No: - 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022 and Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023.

Document Verification:

1) The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.

- Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
 - Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate.
 - Domicile Certificate & Ward Certificate.
 - Unmarried Certificate from concerned Tehsildar (where required).
- 2) Candidates have to bring two passport size recent colour photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:
i) Aadhaar Card
ii) Voter ID card.
- 3) The candidates, who are supposed to furnish various certificates issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.

ANNEXURE 'C'

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

- All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
- Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for AWH and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
- The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

No: CDPO/SBL/ADV/2026-27/373-87 | Date: 20-06-2026

Sd/- Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project Sumbal

DIPK: 2392/26 | Dated: 20-06-2026

Awareness Programme on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 Held at Industrial Estate (SIDCO), Rangreth Budgam

REYAZ BADANA

BUDGAM, JUN 20: An awareness programme on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 was conducted at Industrial Estate (SIDCO) by the Office of the District Child Protection Officer, Budgam.

The programme aimed to sensitize factory owners, small-scale business unit holders, manufacturing unit holders, and union representatives about their responsibilities in ensuring child protection and preventing child labour practices within indus-



trial and business establishments. The programme focused particularly on issues related to child labour in industries, factories and commercial establishments, highlighting the legal and social responsibilities of business owners in safeguarding children's rights.

Officials elaborated on the provisions under Section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, explaining various categories of children considered to be in need of care and protection. Participants were informed about identification of such cases and the procedure for reporting instances involving children found working under exploitative conditions in business establishments and industrial units.

The department also guided participants on the appropriate channels and mechanisms for reporting such cases to ensure timely intervention and protection of affected children.

Factory owners and union representatives appreciated the initiative and thanked the department for organizing the awareness programme. They emphasized the importance of conducting such programmes regularly in the future and suggested issuing official circulars to industrial offices and business establishments for more effective monitoring and control of child labour and exploitation.

The programme concluded with a collective commitment towards creating a safer and child-friendly environment across industrial and business sectors in the district.

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as SHAHNAZA GANI in my Bank Account bearing Account No. 0486040100006724 while my correct name is SHAHEENA GANI as per Adhaar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may contact with J&K BANK WAGOORA within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...SHAHEENA GANI
ACCOUNT NO..0486040100006723

Public Notice

This is for the information general public that MOHAMMAD SHAREFF SHAH S/o: NOOR SHAH R/o: KACHWA MUQAM Tehsil WAGOORA district BARAMULLA expired on 06 of April 2026. Now the family of deceased including BILAL AHMAD SHAH (son), GOUSIA SHAREEF (daughter), SHAZIA SHAREEF (daughter), & SHAHMEEMA BEGUM (wife), want to apply for issuance of dependent certificate of the deceased. Anyone having any objection in this regard may contact ACR Office Baramulla within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After the lapse of 7 days period no objection will be accepted.

SHAHMEEMA BEGUM
W/O: LATE.MOHAMMAD SHAREFF SHAH
R/o :KACHWA MUQAM,
Tehsil: WAGOORA BARAMULLA.

Public Notice

FOR TRANSFER OF KPDCL ELECTRICITY AGREEMENT

It is notified for the information of the general public that the electricity agreement/consumer connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0212040008296 is presently registered in the name of Late Ghulam Mohammad Dar S/o In-law Ahmad Dar, R/o Saloosa, Tehsil Kreeeri, District Baramulla.

The said consumer has expired and his son Bashir Ahmad Dar S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Dar, R/o Saloosa, Kreeeri, Baramulla has applied before the AEE, KPDCL Sub Division Wagoora for transfer of the said electricity agreement/consumer connection in his favour as the legal heir of the deceased.

Therefore, any person having any objection, claim, lien, dispute or interest regarding the transfer of the said electricity agreement/consumer connection may file the same in writing before the office of the AEE, KPDCL Sub Division Wagoora within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, the electricity agreement/consumer connection shall be transferred in favour of Bashir Ahmad Dar and no claim or objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Name of Applicant:
Bashir Ahmad Dar
S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Dar
R/o Saloosa, Kreeeri, Baramulla
Consumer ID: 0212040008296

Commissioner SMC flags off Four High-Capacity Water Tankers to ensure robust Water Supply during Muharram and SANJY-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening water supply infrastructure and enhancing civic service delivery, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, today flagged off four newly inducted high-capacity water tankers for the Water Works Division at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar.

The newly added tankers, each with a carrying capacity of 10,000 litres, have been procured to augment the Corporation's water distribution network and improve its capacity to respond effectively to water supply requirements across the city. The induction of these tankers marks a major step towards ensuring reliable access to potable water, particularly in areas facing supply constraints and dur-



ing periods of heightened demand.

Speaking on the occasion, the

Commissioner said that the provision of safe and adequate drinking water remains one of the

core responsibilities of the Corporation. He noted that the addition of the new tankers would significantly enhance the operational efficiency of the Water Works Division, enabling quicker response to public needs and ensuring timely water supply to residents across Srinagar.

Highlighting the importance of the initiative, Faz Lul Haseeb stated that the strengthened fleet assumes special significance in view of the ongoing Muharram observances and the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026. He said that these major religious occasions witness large congregations and increased demand for civic amenities, particularly drinking water. The newly inducted tankers will play a crucial role in ensuring uninterrupted water supply along procession routes, congregation venues, transit camps, and other important locations associ-

ated with these events.

The Commissioner further emphasized that the initiative reflects SMC's proactive and citizen-centric approach towards improving urban infrastructure, strengthening emergency preparedness, and delivering efficient public services. He reiterated the Corporation's commitment to ensuring that all necessary arrangements are put in place to facilitate smooth conduct of major religious events while maintaining uninterrupted civic services for the general public.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by senior officers of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, officials of the Water Works Division, and other concerned functionaries, who reaffirmed their commitment to providing efficient, responsive, and uninterrupted civic services to the people of Srinagar.

ADDC Shopian chairs District Road Safety Review Meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 20: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone today chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee to review the road safety scenario in the district and assess measures being undertaken for reducing road accidents and associated casualties.

At the outset, the chair was informed that road safety meetings are conducted regularly with the objective of minimizing road accidents and associated casualties through coordinated efforts in the areas of engineering improvements, enforcement, public awareness and emergency response.

The meeting reviewed the status of road safety in the district, enforcement measures, identification of accident prone locations, safety audits of bridges and public buildings, action taken on previous decisions, road safety planning



for 2026-27 and recommendations for future interventions.

During the meeting, a detailed data regarding road accidents, enforcement activities and safety audits was presented before the chair. It was informed that during the year 2026, a total of 27 road accidents were reported in the district, including three fatal and 24 non fatal accidents.

The committee was further informed that 100 percent road accident cases are being monitored and uploaded on the designated road safety portal to facilitate timely analysis, monitoring and corrective action.

Regarding enforcement measures, it was informed that during the current financial year 2026-27, the Motor Vehicles Department issued 224 challans, with penalties amounting to Rs 4.10 lakh.

The chair was informed that corrective measures have been undertaken at accident prone locations and other vulnerable road stretches identified through accident analysis. Concerned departments have taken necessary interventions including installation of signages, improvement of road markings, strengthening of safety infrastructure and other preventive measures aimed at reducing accident risks.

He stressed upon the adoption of the 4E Strategy—Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Emergency Care for effective road safety management.

The chair also directed the concerned officers to intensify awareness campaigns regarding the RahVeer Scheme so that maximum people become aware of its benefits and are encouraged to assist road accident victims during emergencies. He emphasized wider publicity through educational institutions, social media platforms and public outreach programmes.

The meeting was attended by ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, Project Director NHAI, Dy.SP, DAR, Executive Engineers from PMGSY, R&B and I&FC, Dy. Sp Traffic, ARTO, representatives from BRO, and SDRF Shopian.

Secretary RDD reviews sanitation preparedness near Holy Cave for SANJY-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BALTAL, JUNE 20: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today undertook an extensive review of sanitation arrangements and allied facilities from Baltal Base Camp to the Holy Cave Shrine and Panjtarni to assess preparedness for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

The Secretary conducted an extensive field visit along the Yatra route, covering key locations including Baltal, Domail, Rail Pathri, Brari Marg, Kali Mata Track, Sangam Top, Sangam Down, the Holy Cave Shrine and Panjtarni.

Commencing his tour from Baltal Base Camp, the Secretary reviewed the sanitation infrastructure and facilities established along the entire Baltal axis up to the Holy Cave. He was accompanied by Director General, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra, sanitation officers (BDOs) deployed at various locations and other departmental officials.

At the Holy Cave Shrine area, the Secretary took a first-hand appraisal of the sanitation arrangements and later visited Panjtarni to assess the infrastructure and public amenities put in place for the annual pilgrimage.

During the visit, Aijaz Asad reviewed sanitation facilities, health camps, solid waste management systems and other essential amenities established for the convenience of pilgrims. He assessed the overall preparedness and stressed the need to ensure that all facilities remain fully functional and operational well before the commencement of the Yatra.

The Secretary also visited health camps and reviewed the waste management mechanisms put in place across camps and designated locations. He was informed that a four-stream waste segregation system has been introduced for effective and scientific management of waste generated during the pilgrimage.

Emphasising environmental sustainability, he directed officers to ensure strict adherence to waste segregation protocols and maintain cleanliness along the entire route. He reviewed the functioning of toilets, washrooms, dustbins, grey water drainage systems, wet waste segregation sites and plastic waste management units. He also examined the placement of dustbins at strategic locations to facilitate waste disposal at source and promote cleanliness among pilgrims.

While reviewing arrangements at the Holy Cave Shrine area, the Secretary directed officials to ensure regular cleaning, proper maintenance and periodic upkeep of the installed toilets and bathing facilities so that hygienic and dignified amenities are available to pilgrims throughout the Yatra.

Taking stock of the sanitation workforce deployed along the Baltal axis, he instructed officers to ensure adequate manpower at all locations and maintain the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness throughout the Yatra period. He underscored that all tracks leading to the Holy Cave must remain clean, hygienic and pilgrim-friendly at all times.

The Secretary further directed that dedicated toilet facilities for women pilgrims be earmarked at all major locations with proper and clearly visible signage to ensure convenience, accessibility and dignity for female devotees.

Reviewing the overall sanitation and support arrangements, he instructed all executing agencies to accord top priority to ensuring seamless operation of facilities, strengthening solid waste management systems and undertaking all necessary measures for the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

Advocating sustainable waste management practices, Aijaz Asad called for the adoption of a zero-landfill approach along the entire pilgrimage route to minimise environmental impact and ensure scientific disposal of waste.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to providing safe, clean and efficient facilities to pilgrims, the Secretary stressed the need for close coordination among all stakeholder departments and agencies to ensure seamless arrangements for the successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

DC Doda reviews progress of NRLM, directs enhanced coverage of households and self help groups across district

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JUNE 20: Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and the functioning of Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the district.

The meeting, held in the Mini Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Doda, focussed on financial inclusion, household mobilisation, SHG formation, livelihood promotion and implementation of NRLM initiatives.

During the meeting, officials reviewed job card holders' status, household census records, target versus achievement of household coverage, formation of Self Help Groups and village-wise progress under NRLM.

The Deputy Commissioner examined block-wise performance including the percentage of household coverage, village saturation and achievements against prescribed targets.

The Deputy Commissioner urged officials to enhance NRLM outreach, particularly in Doda Town and Thathri, where greater registration and mobilisation efforts are required and directed that all villages and panchayats be brought under the ambit of NRLM to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out.

The meeting also reviewed the performance of Self Help Groups in income-generating activities, entrepreneurship development, community mobilisation and



women empowerment, along with financial assistance extended to SHGs, bank linkage, credit flow and the status of bank loans across various blocks.

The progress of the Lakhpati Didi initiative was reviewed as well, with emphasis on creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and enhancing household incomes through skill development and enterprise promotion.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the departments concerned to furnish updated lists of Self Help Groups, monitor their performance regularly and identify successful SHGs for recognition and replication of best practices. He emphasised

healthy, viable and sustainable functioning of SHGs by strengthening capacity-building, promoting financial literacy and facilitating timely access to institutional credit and directed officials to conduct regular field monitoring, improve coordination with banking institutions and intensify awareness campaigns to maximise community participation under NRLM.

Among those present were Chief Planning Officer Doda Manesh Kumar Manhas, Assistant Director Planning Kishore Kumar, officials of banking institutions and other stakeholders associated with the implementation of NRLM in the district.

Director Skill Development reviews progress of VVP-II in Purana Tulail & Neeru Villages of Gurez Valley

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 20: Director Skill Development Department and Prabhari Officer for Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) for the villages of Purana Tulail and Neeru in Block Tulail, Dr. Owais Ahmed, today undertook an extensive visit to the two border villages to review the implementation of developmental initiatives under the Vibrant Village Programme and assess the progress of various government schemes being executed in the area.

The visit was accompanied by officers from various line departments, including Rural Development, Education, Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Public Health Engineering, Power Development Department, Social Welfare, and other stakeholder departments.

During the visit, Dr. Owais Ahmed held detailed interactions with residents, community representatives, former Panchayat representatives, youth, women, and local stakeholders at Government Higher Secondary School Purana Tulail and later at Government Middle School Neeru.

The meetings provided a

platform for the local population to highlight their developmental needs, aspirations, and concerns relating to infrastructure, public services, livelihood generation, education, healthcare, connectivity, drinking water supply, skill development, tourism potential, and welfare schemes.

Addressing the gatherings, Dr. Owais Ahmed emphasized that the Vibrant Village Programme envisions the comprehensive and sustainable development of remote border villages, transforming them into vibrant centres of economic activity, social progress, and improved quality of life. He underscored the importance of ensuring convergence among different government departments to deliver tangible benefits to the people and bridge developmental gaps in far-flung areas.

The Prabhari Officer stressed that the programme is not merely focused on infrastructure creation but also aims at strengthening livelihoods, promoting local entrepreneurship, enhancing access to essential services, and creating opportunities for youth and women. He assured the residents that all genuine issues raised during the interactions would be



taken up with the concerned departments for timely resolution.

During the course of his visit, Dr. Owais Ahmed also visited Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Gurez, where he conducted a comprehensive review of the institute's functioning and infrastructure. He inspected the available facilities, assessed the status of skill development programmes being offered, and interacted with students and faculty members. He encouraged the trainees to make optimum use of the opportunities available under various skill development initiatives and emphasized the importance of vocational education in enhancing employability and self-reliance among youth.

At Middle School Neeru, the

Director also interacted with students and teaching staff, inquiring about their academic activities, learning environment, and educational aspirations. He motivated the students to pursue their studies with dedication and avail the benefits of various educational and skill development programmes being implemented by the Government.

Dr. Owais Ahmed also reviewed the status of ongoing and proposed developmental works under various schemes and sought department-wise updates from the officers present. He directed the field functionaries to maintain close coordination, ensure effective implementation of approved projects, and prepare realistic action plans based on the specific requirements of the villages.

The officers from different departments apprised the Prabhari Officer about the developmental interventions undertaken in the villages and informed the gathering about various beneficiary-oriented schemes available for local residents. They also responded to queries raised by the participants and explained the modalities for availing benefits

under different government programmes.

The local residents appreciated the initiative of conducting on-the-spot consultations and expressed hope that the Vibrant Village Programme would accelerate the pace of development in the region. They highlighted several priority issues and developmental requirements, seeking continued administrative support for the socio-economic advancement of the villages.

The visit forms part of the ongoing efforts of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to ensure participatory planning and effective implementation of the Vibrant Village Programme in strategically important border areas. The programme seeks to create robust infrastructure, strengthen service delivery, generate sustainable livelihood opportunities, and improve the overall living standards of residents in remote frontier villages.

The proceedings concluded with a reaffirmation of the administration's commitment to making Purana Tulail and Neeru, model vibrant villages through coordinated developmental interventions and active community participation.

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DUBAI: India's pace attack has received a timely boost with the return of fast bowler Harshit Rana, who has been added to the squad for the third and final One-Day International against Afghanistan in Chennai on June 20. The young pacer makes his comeback after a lengthy injury layoff that kept him out of action since February this year.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed that Rana has successfully completed his rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence and has now joined the Indian ODI squad in Chennai. His return comes as encouraging news for the team management ahead of a busy international calendar.

Rana's absence began after he suffered a knee injury during India's warm-up match against South Africa ahead of the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The injury proved serious enough to rule him out of the prestigious tournament. Subsequently, he underwent knee surgery and was also forced to miss the entire IPL 2026 season, dealing a significant blow to his franchise, Kolkata Knight Riders. The talented fast bowler's last international appearance came in February, making this comeback a significant milestone in his recovery journey. Known for his pace, aggression and ability to deliver crucial breakthroughs, Rana is expected to strengthen India's bowling resources and add greater depth to the pace department.

Meanwhile, the updated squad did not include all-rounder Hardik Pandya. Although the BCCI has not issued an official fitness update, reports suggest that Pandya suffered a leg strain while training at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru ahead of the Afghanistan series. His absence has raised concerns, though team officials remain hopeful about his recovery.

India have already sealed the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead with convincing victories in Dharamsala and Lucknow. With the series already in their grasp, the Chennai ODI could provide an ideal opportunity for Rana to ease back into international cricket and regain match rhythm after months on the sidelines.

Cricket enthusiasts will be eager to see how the young pacer performs after his extended break. A strong showing could enhance his chances of becoming a regular feature in India's limited-overs setup as the team prepares for several important assignments in the months ahead.

Harshit Rana Returns to India ODI Squad Ahead of Afghanistan Clash



Australia bowlers close out T20I series after Renshaw stars with 89*

■ AGENCIES

CHATTOGRAM: Australia clinched the T20I series with a seven-run victory in the second game of the three-match series in Chattogram. The visitors settled scores with Bangladesh who won the ODI series in Dhaka and it was also Australia's first T20I series win in the country after they went down by 4-1 in 2021.

Their win was based on Matt Renshaw turning in a star performance with his unbeaten 89. He added 97 for the fourth wicket with Tim David who struck a 26-ball 45, lifting Australia from a tricky position after they lost three wickets in the



powerplay, while the skill of Nathan Ellis was on show in the closing stages.

Bangladesh fought back with the ball after David's big-hitting spree, with Nasum Ahmed the pick of the bowlers with 2 for 27. At 130 for 2 in the 13th over, they had a chance to hunt down the target but there was no repeat of the record-breaking chase in their last outing in Chattogram against New Zealand.

Tanzid Hasan gave Bangladesh the powerful start they needed in the chase. He started with two chancy fours off Aaron Hardie in the first over, before he took Spencer Johnson for his first six in the following over. Johnson then bowled a wide down the leg-side that went for four. Saif Hassan followed it up with a four and a six over cover as Johnson went for 22 runs in his first over - his most expensive in T20 cricket. Tanzid struck two more fours before Renshaw, Australia's best bowler on tour, removed him with a caught-and-bowled in the fourth over.

Johnson then went for two more fours and a six in the fifth over, with Soumya Sarkar getting into the big-hitting groove almost straight away. However, Soumya however fell in the seventh over when he couldn't clear Adam Zampa over long-on, with Hardie taking the simple catch though he didn't pick up the ball at first.

Stafanie Taylor, spinners help West Indies overcome Scotland threat

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

LEEDS: Stafanie Taylor navigated a huge scare at the hands of Scotland as West Indies scrapped their way to a second win of the Women's T20 World Cup.

Taylor, playing her first match of the tournament, injected much-needed impetus to the West Indies' innings with a boundary-laden 47 not out off just 19 deliveries striking at 247.36 after West Indies had slumped to 85 for 5 in the 15th over of the match.

A spirited half-century by just-turned 21-year-old opener Darcey Carter while battling a leg injury took Scotland close to victory in the face of a nervy performance with the ball and in the field from West Indies. She shared half-century partnerships with Katherine Fraser and Ailsa Lister, but Hayley Matthews' 3 for 19 in four overs, which included 13 dot balls, gave her side just enough hope to hold onto and Aaliyah Alleyne's three wickets in the 19th over stifled Scotland just as they threatened to take the match away once more.

Fraser had been outstanding for Scotland with 2 for 34, a spectacular catch on the boundary's edge to remove opener Qiana Joseph and the sharp run-out of Shemaine Campbelle, West Indies' star in their nail-biting victory over New Zealand on Saturday.

West Indies became bogged down by a disciplined Scotland bowling attack complemented by excellent fielding all round. But, led by Taylor, they scored 69 runs in the last six overs to set Scotland a sizeable target - one the qualifiers came far closer to reaching than their opponents would have liked.



Taylor came in with her side floundering and in desperate need of someone to give their innings a belated jump start. Jahzara Claxton struck West Indies' first six on the last ball

of the 17th over, heaving a short one down the leg side from Kathryn Bryce over cow corner as she and Taylor looked to accelerate. But Bryce, stationed in the same spot in the field four balls later, claimed a straightforward catch to remove Claxton and give Fraser her second wicket.

Taylor picked off boundaries down the ground and over the covers then launched twin sixes back over the bowler's head and over deep extra cover before a third, 83m maximum over deep midwicket to give West Indies' bowlers plenty to defend.

Scotland were sharp in the field from the outset and their bowlers kept a lid on West Indies' openers Matthews and Joseph, who managed just 13 runs in the first three overs. Rachel Slater was particularly frugal,

conceding only a wide from her opening over. An out-of-sorts Matthews produced a premeditated release shot over mid-wicket for four off Gabriella Fontenla, who was making the ball swing nicely. But it was Joseph's attempt to properly break the shackles which proved her undoing and demonstrated just how up for the contest Scotland were.

Fraser offered a contender for catch of the tournament so far when Joseph muscled a Slater delivery to deep midwicket. Fraser leapt to pluck the ball from the air just inside the boundary then showed wonderful spatial awareness to avoid touching the sponge with her elbow by mere centimetres as she landed. By the end of the powerplay, West Indies were 33 for 1 and Matthews had scored 12 off 17.

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