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# 125-Day Employment Guarantee To Begin Across Rural J&K From July 1

New Rural Livelihood Mission Replaces Existing Programme, Expands Work Opportunities And Strengthens Accountability

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** Jammu and Kashmir is set to witness a major transformation in its rural employment framework with the introduction of a new employment and livelihood mission that will provide up to 125 days of guaranteed wage employment annually to eligible rural households from July 1. The new programme, notified by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, replaces the existing rural employment scheme and is aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities, creating durable community assets and strengthening

rural infrastructure across the Union Territory.

Under the scheme, every eligible rural household willing to undertake unskilled manual work will be entitled to 125 days of wage employment each year, an increase from the previous 100-day guarantee. Authorities have also committed to providing employment within 15 days of demand, with unemployment allowance payable if work is not provided within the stipulated period.

The programme introduces an agriculture-sensitive approach by

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# Zero Tolerance Against Drug Trafficking To Remain Government's Guiding Policy

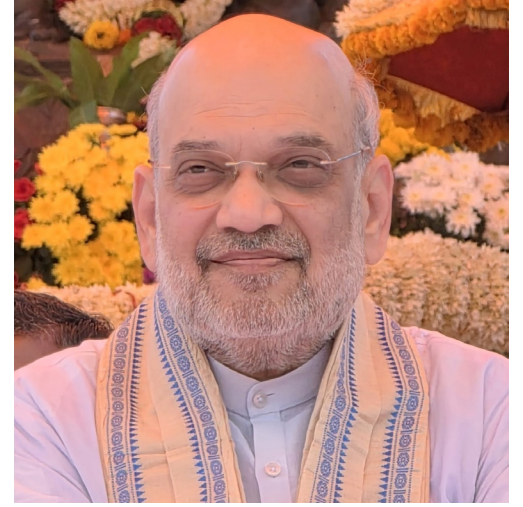
Amit Shah To Unveil National Narcotics Control Vision For 2026-29

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 24:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the 10th apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) on Friday, where the government is set to unveil a comprehensive national vision document aimed at strengthening the fight against drug trafficking and substance abuse over the next three years.

The high-level meeting will bring together representatives from 44 central ministries and departments, along with 108 delegates from state governments and drug law enforcement agencies, to review ongoing efforts and formulate future strategies for achieving a drug-free India.

A key highlight of the meeting will be the release of the Vision Document on Narcotics Control 2026-29, which has been prepared following extensive consultations with government agencies, enforcement authorities and other stakeholders. The document is expected to provide a unified roadmap addressing preven-



tion, enforcement, rehabilitation and public awareness measures.

According to official sources, the framework

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## J&K Will Always Remain an Internal Matter of India: New Delhi at UN

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 24:** India on Tuesday firmly rejected Pakistan's remarks on Jammu and Kashmir during an informal United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting, reiterating that the Union Territory is an internal matter of the country and dismissing attempts to raise the issue on international platforms.

Speaking at a Security Council discussion on the implementation of UN resolutions and the maintenance of international peace and security, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, criticised Pakistan for introducing the Kashmir issue during the proceedings.

Describing the remarks as inappropriate, Harish said it was surprising that a co-chair of the meeting had chosen to politicise a forum that was expected to remain balanced and impartial. He underscored India's position by stating that Jammu and Kashmir "has always been, is, and will

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# LG chairs 36th University Council Meeting of SKUAST-Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired the 36th University Council Meeting of SKUAST-Kashmir, at Lok Bhavan. The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah; Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperatives,



Shri Javid Ahmad Dar; Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shri Shaileendra Kumar; Chairman Committee on Reimagining Agriculture NITI Aayog, Dr. Ashok Dalwai; DDG ICAR, Dr. Yashpal Malik; Principal Secretary

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# Thousands Join 8th Muharram Procession Along Srinagar's Historic Route

Authorities Focused on Ensuring Peaceful and Dignified Conduct of Event

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** Thousands of mourners on Wednesday participated in the traditional 8th Muharram procession through the heart of Srinagar, as authorities implemented elaborate security and traffic arrangements to facilitate the peaceful observance of the religious event.

The procession commenced from

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## NHAI Identifies 595 Critical Locations To Eliminate Unauthorised Parking On Highways

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 24:** The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has identified 595 critical locations across the country as part of an intensified campaign against unauthorised parking and encroachments on national highways, a move aimed at improving road safety and ensuring smoother traffic flow.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, NHAI said unauthorised parking of vehicles, roadside encroachments and other unregulated activities on highways pose serious risks to motorists and frequently disrupt

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# Kashmir's GI QR Code System earns National recognition

Technology-driven authentication system strengthens global trust in Pashmina, Carpets and other heritage crafts

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR/ NEW DELHI, JUNE 24:** Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has been conferred with the prestigious SKOCH Award for its innovative GI QR Code Management System, implemented through the Pashmina Testing & Quality Certification Centre (PTQCC) at the Craft Development



Institute (CDI) and the NABL-accredited Carpet Testing Laboratory at IICT, Srinagar.

The award recognizes the Department's pioneering use of technology to strengthen product authenticity, quality assurance, sustainability and artisan welfare in the handicrafts sector.

In a statement issued here

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# Ladakh LG Approves Setting Up Of Screening Committee To Strengthen Anti-Narcotics Framework

HT NEWS NETWORK

**LEH, JUN 24:** Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday approved the constitution of a screening committee under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act to strengthen the anti-narcotics framework in the region.

Over the past few months, Ladakh has witnessed an alarming rise in cases related to drug abuse and narcotic substances.

Recognising the far-reaching consequences of drug abuse on individuals, families and society, the administration has been pursuing a multi-pronged strategy encompassing prevention,

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## Ladakh Tightens Curbs on Unauthorized Filming

HT NEWS NETWORK

**LEH/JAMMU, JUN 24:** The Ladakh administration has directed agencies concerned to formulate SOPs to prevent unauthorised photography and videography of sensitive areas in Leh, including the dual-use airport, after the Indian Air Force raised concern over the increasing circulation of photographs and videos

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# J&K Placed on Maximum Alert Ahead of Amarnath Pilgrimage

HT NEWS DESK / KNO

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** Jammu and Kashmir has been placed on maximum alert ahead of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, with authorities activating an extensive security and traffic management network to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the 57-day event beginning on July 3.

The heightened alert comes amid intensified preparations by security agencies and civil administration across the Union Territory as thousands of pilgrims are expected to travel to the holy cave shrine through the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal. The pilgrimage will conclude on August 28.

Officials said a multi-layered security framework has been put in place, combining deployment of security personnel with advanced technological

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**CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....**

**125-Day.....**

temporarily suspending public works during peak sowing and harvesting periods to ensure adequate labour availability for farming activities. Officials said the move is intended to protect agricultural productivity while maintaining employment support for rural families. Development activities under the scheme will focus on water conservation, rural infrastructure, livelihood enhancement and climate resilience. Planning and execution will be guided through village-level development plans supported by advanced mapping and monitoring tools to improve efficiency and prevent duplication of projects.

Special provisions have been made for vulnerable sections of society, including women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and other disadvantaged groups. The scheme mandates that at least one-third of the beneficiaries must be women, reinforcing its focus on inclusive growth.

A significant feature of the initiative is the adoption of technology-driven governance measures, including biometric attendance systems, location-based project monitoring, digital records and real-time performance tracking. The use of contractors and machinery that could reduce employment opportunities has been prohibited to safeguard the programme's job creation objective.

Gram Panchayats will remain the primary implementing agencies, handling registration, work applications and execution of approved projects. The scheme will be financed through a shared funding arrangement between the Central Government and the Union Territory administration.

Officials said the framework also includes mandatory social audits, independent evaluations and a time-bound grievance redress mechanism to ensure transparency, accountability and effective delivery of benefits.

The launch of the new mission marks one of the most significant reforms in rural employment policy in Jammu and Kashmir, with the administration expressing confidence that it will strengthen livelihoods, improve infrastructure and support sustainable development across rural communities.

**Zero Tolerance.....**

will focus on tackling emerging threats such as synthetic drugs and trafficking networks operating through the darknet, while also expanding access to rehabilitation and recovery services for individuals affected by drug abuse.

The proposed roadmap outlines a coordinated enforcement approach with clearly defined responsibilities, timelines and measurable targets for all stakeholders. It seeks to strengthen collaboration among agencies while integrating enforcement action with rehabilitation programmes, capacity building initiatives and awareness campaigns.

Shah will also release the annual report of the Narcotics Control Bureau for 2025 and inaugurate newly established zonal offices of the agency in Jammu and Guwahati, aimed at enhancing operational capabilities in key regions.

The meeting will also review progress under the nationwide Drug Disposal Fortnight Campaign, during which central and state law enforcement agencies are expected to destroy nearly 209,500 kilograms of seized narcotics valued at around Rs 6,000 crore.

Officials said the gathering will provide an opportunity for a comprehensive assessment of anti-drug measures undertaken across the country and will help shape policy priorities for the coming years.

The deliberations are expected to reinforce the government's zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking and strengthen coordinated action to curb the narcotics menace through a whole-of-government approach.

**LG chairs.....**

to Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K Bhandari; Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu, Dr B.N. Tripathi; Commissioner Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Ms R Alice Vaz; Registrar SKUAST Kashmir, Dr Azmat Alam Khan and other senior officials.

The Council approved several institutional reforms, including the upgradation of the Agricultural Research Information System into the Directorate of Information Technology, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell into the Directorate of Quality Assurance, and the establishment of an International Students Cell to strengthen global outreach and student support.

As part of SKUAST-Kashmir's future roadmap, three futuristic and self-sustainable flagship initiatives were proposed during the meeting: the establishment of a Centre for Agri Innovation, Analytics and Certification as a National Reference Laboratory; creation of an Agri-Startup Park to nurture and host over 50 SKUAST startup enterprises; and establishment of a Global Veterinary School as an internationally benchmarked centre for veterinary education, research and advanced clinical services.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the University's incredible journey from local roots to global aspirations, praising its sustained growth in academics, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and international partnerships.

He noted that the SKUAST-Kashmir's transformative initiatives have the potential to

position it as a leading, innovation-driven, and globally engaged agricultural university.

The Lieutenant Governor also directed the Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, to ensure that meetings of the University Council are convened regularly, at least twice a year, for timely review of academic and administrative matters.

Presenting the University Report, Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai highlighted SKUAST-Kashmir's remarkable transformation from a regionally focused institution into a nationally recognized university with a clear vision of emerging as a globally competitive institution in agricultural and allied sciences. He also shared the University's vision of excellence in education, research, innovation and societal impact.

The Vice Chancellor informed the meeting that the University has made significant gains in national rankings, developed the largest startup ecosystem among higher educational institutions in Jammu Kashmir, and recorded 123 Intellectual Property Rights including patents, trademarks and designs, reflecting a strong culture of innovation and translational research. Nearly 30 percent of the University's students now come from outside Jammu Kashmir, demonstrating its growing national outreach and academic reputation.

**J&K Will.....**

remain" an internal matter of India. The response came after Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, referred to Jammu and Kashmir during his intervention at the meeting, which was organised jointly by Pakistan and China. Pakistan is currently serving as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the 2025-26 term.

India has consistently maintained that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral parts of the country and has repeatedly rejected any form of third-party involvement in matters concerning the region.

Addressing the broader theme of the meeting, Harish highlighted the distinction between Chapters VI and VII of the UN Charter, which provide different mechanisms for addressing international disputes and threats to peace. He noted that while Chapter VII deals with threats to international peace and security and carries binding measures, Chapter VI focuses on peaceful settlement through negotiation, mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

The Indian envoy argued that mediation frameworks created under changing circumstances should not be viewed as permanent and must be reviewed periodically to reflect evolving realities. He pointed to long-standing issues before the Security Council as examples where approaches have adapted over time in response to developments on the ground.

India also advocated regular reviews of Security Council mandates, stating that if reforms are being undertaken across other parts of the United Nations system to improve effectiveness, Security Council mechanisms should also be examined to ensure they remain relevant.

The remarks come amid India's continued push for comprehensive reform of the Security Council, including expansion of permanent membership to better reflect contemporary global realities. New Delhi has argued that the existing structure of the Council no longer represents the balance of power and responsibilities in the modern world.

India's position on Jammu and Kashmir remains unchanged, with the government maintaining that all issues concerning the region are matters to be addressed within the constitutional framework of the country and through bilateral engagement where applicable.

**Thousands.....**

Guru Bazar in the early hours of the day and proceeded through Jahangir Chowk and Maulana Azad Road towards Dalgate. Large numbers of devotees, dressed predominantly in black, joined the march to commemorate the sacrifice of Imam Hussain and his companions at the Battle of Karbala.

The event marked the fourth consecutive year that the Jammu and Kashmir administration has permitted the procession along the historic Guru Bazar-Dalgate route, which remained suspended for more than three decades following the outbreak of militancy in the early 1990s.

As the procession continued through the day, participants carried religious banners and engaged in prayers and mourning rituals, while volunteers and officials remained stationed at various points to assist devotees and provide drinking water.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the event, police, central armed police forces and traffic personnel established a multi-layered security framework across the route. Drone surveillance and extensive monitoring were also undertaken, while vehicular movement was restricted along key stretches to facilitate the procession.

Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Sundeep Chakravarty, said all arrangements had been carefully planned from the starting point to the culmination of the procession.

"Our only aim is to ensure that the procession is conducted peacefully and in a dignified manner," he said, while appealing for public cooperation with the police and civil administration.

The peaceful conduct of the procession underscored coordinated efforts between the admin-

istration, security agencies, volunteers and religious organisers. Authorities have also announced comprehensive arrangements for the observance of 10th Muharram later this week, when larger gatherings are expected across Kashmir.

**NHAI Identifies.....**

traffic movement. The authority has mapped the identified locations with precise geographical coordinates and is working in coordination with state governments, district administrations and enforcement agencies to remove such violations.

The initiative forms part of a broader strategy to strengthen highway safety and reduce accident risks on major road corridors. NHAI said it has directed all field offices to conduct immediate audits of Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) installations to ensure that critical infrastructure remains fully operational.

The review will cover traffic monitoring cameras, video incident detection systems, speed detection equipment, variable message signboards and emergency call boxes. Officials have been instructed to address any deficiencies promptly to improve monitoring and response capabilities.

NHAI has also prioritised the deployment of ambulances and recovery vehicles, enhanced highway patrolling and closer integration of ATMS alerts with enforcement agencies. These measures are expected to facilitate faster incident response, improve compliance with traffic regulations and enhance the overall safety of highway users.

The authority said sustained enforcement and improved technology-driven monitoring will play a key role in creating safer and more efficient national highways across the country.

**Kashmir's GI.....**

today, a spokesperson of the department said, "The GI QR Code Management System is among the country's first comprehensive QR code-based Geographical Indication (GI) certification mechanisms for handicrafts".

The award was received by Sajid Nazir, Senior Faculty, CDI, on behalf of the Department at a ceremony in New Delhi.

The award-winning system enables buyers to instantly verify the authenticity, origin and quality of products such as Pashmina and Kani shawls, Sozni embroidery, hand-knotted carpets and other GI registered crafts. By scanning the QR code, consumers can trace a product back to the artisan or institution that created it, ensuring transparency and preventing counterfeiting.

The spokesperson said thousands of handicraft products have already been labelled under the initiative, enhancing consumer confidence, expanding market access and supporting export growth.

Congratulations the technical teams of PTQCC and IICT, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Sh. Mussarat Islam, said the recognition reflects the Department's commitment to preserving Kashmir's rich craft heritage. He added that the QR code system provides direct visibility to artisans, helping them connect with buyers and access niche global markets, thereby improving their economic prospects.

The SKOCH Award is a prestigious national recognition honouring innovative initiatives that promote excellence, good governance, and inclusive development.

**Ladakh LG.....**

awareness, rehabilitation and stringent enforcement measures to curb the menace.

A spokesperson of the Lok Bhavan said the screening committee would conduct a prior scrutiny of detention proposals from sponsoring agencies, such as police, NCB and customs in drug trafficking-related cases.

"It will examine evidence, the gravity of offenses, assess the adequacy of material placed on record and make appropriate recommendations to the competent authority as to whether the accused poses a genuine threat to public order and if preventive detention is strictly necessary," the spokesperson said.

"The Committee will also facilitate inter-agency coordination and strengthen the overall enforcement framework against organised drug trafficking in the Union Territory. The PITNDPS Act provides for preventive detention of persons engaged in illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances," the spokesperson said.

However, at present, the Union Territory of Ladakh does not have a formally constituted Screening Committee for prior scrutiny of detention proposals under the PITNDPS Act.

The absence of such an institutional mechanism could potentially lead to procedural inconsistencies and increase the likelihood of detention orders being challenged on legal and procedural grounds.

Recognising this gap, and drawing upon the best practices adopted across the country, LG Saxena has approved the constitution of the screening committee to ensure due diligence, procedural uniformity and reinforce the legal sustainability of preventive detention orders.

"Drug abuse poses a serious threat to our youth, and the social fabric of Ladakh. While rehabilitation and awareness remain equally important, there can be no compromise in our resolve to act firmly against those involved in illicit trafficking of narcotic substances," the Lt Governor said.

He said preventive detention under the PIT-NDPS Act is an extraordinary legal measure and, therefore, every proposal must undergo rigorous scrutiny and legal examination, before such powers are invoked.

"The constitution of this screening committee will ensure procedural consistency, objective assessment and legal robustness in detention proposals. It will also ensure that every preventive action taken by the Administration, stands on the strongest legal footing," Saxena said.

The spokesperson said the move is also in line with evolving practices adopted by several states and Union Territories, which have constituted similar committees comprising senior police officers, legal experts and representatives of enforcement agencies to scrutinise detention proposals before they are placed before the competent authority.

"Such mechanisms have emerged as important procedural safeguards to ensure that preventive detention powers, which are exceptional in nature, are exercised only after careful and objective examination of all relevant material," he said. (Agencies)

**Ladakh Tightens.....**

of operational areas on social media platforms.

The directions were issued during a high-level interdepartmental meeting chaired by Ladakh Civil Aviation Department Administrative Secretary Nidhi Malik to review a range of operational, infrastructure, aviation safety and security issues raised by Air Force Station Leh, officials said on Wednesday.

Malik directed the agencies concerned to strengthen enforcement of existing regulations, launch public awareness campaigns regarding restricted areas and frame appropriate SOPs, the officials said.

The issues were highlighted in a communication addressed to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

In the meeting, Air Force representatives provided inputs on proposed second runway, obstacle limitation requirements, airspace safety, terrain constraints and the need to remove physical obstructions that could adversely affect flight operations.

Air Force officials stressed the need for scientific assessment of such obstacles to ensure compliance with aviation safety standards and to meet future operational requirements.

Malik directed the BRO, Revenue department and other technical agencies to survey the identified locations and submit a report containing technical assessments and recommendations for further action.

The meeting also reviewed concerns related to the installation of CCTV cameras and surveillance infrastructure overlooking sensitive Air Force establishments.

It was decided that surveillance infrastructure would be installed strictly in accordance with prescribed security guidelines and only after obtaining the necessary clearances from competent authorities, they said.

Issues relating to unauthorised constructions, building permissions, land-use regulations around airport zones and compliance with obstacle limitation norms were also reviewed, they said.

The administrative secretary under-

scored the need for strict adherence to regulations governing construction activities within designated aviation safety zones and directed departments to strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. (Agencies)

**J&K Placed.....**

surveillance to monitor movement along the pilgrimage routes and respond swiftly to any emergency.

Additional closed-circuit television cameras equipped with facial recognition technology have been installed at strategic locations, while surveillance systems have been upgraded to strengthen monitoring and threat detection capabilities. Authorities have also completed fire safety inspections of hotels, lodges and other accommodation facilities designated for pilgrims.

In a move aimed at enhancing accountability and security, service providers associated with the pilgrimage have been brought under a digital verification system based on quick response codes.

Preparations have also focused heavily on emergency response and disaster management. Multiple mock drills involving security forces, disaster response teams, health officials and railway authorities have been conducted across Jammu and Kashmir in recent days to assess readiness and improve coordination among agencies.

At Banihal Railway Station, security and emergency services carried out a joint exercise to evaluate preparedness for possible contingencies during the pilgrimage. Similar drills were organised at Bhagwati Nagar, the main transit camp for pilgrims in Jammu, while agencies in Poonch conducted emergency response exercises to test their capability to deal with weather-related and other unforeseen situations.

Senior officials have simultaneously been reviewing arrangements at district and sector levels, directing field officers to maintain strict adherence to standard operating procedures and ensure seamless coordination between departments.

Alongside security measures, authorities have announced a detailed traffic management plan to regulate the movement of pilgrimage convoys and civilian vehicles during the pilgrimage period.

According to the advisory issued by the Traffic Police, dedicated convoy schedules have been prepared for pilgrims travelling towards Baltal and Pahalgam, while specific timings have also been notified for return journeys.

Restrictions have been imposed on non-convoys traffic at several points along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and key intersections in the Kashmir Valley. Cut-off timings have been fixed at major locations including Nagrota, Udhampur, Chanderkote and Banihal to facilitate uninterrupted movement of pilgrimage convoys.

Officials said the measures are intended to ensure the secure passage of pilgrims, minimise congestion and maintain smooth traffic flow along the national highway and the pilgrimage routes.

With less than two weeks remaining before the start of the pilgrimage, authorities said all departments are working in close coordination to ensure that one of the country's largest annual religious gatherings is conducted safely and without disruption.

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# KU hosts Consultative Workshop on “Strengthening Cyber Security Frameworks for State Data”

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** The J&K Information Technology Department in collaboration with the University of Kashmir and with support from the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Union Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), today organized a UT Level Consultative Workshop on “Strengthening Cyber Security Frameworks for State Data” at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

The workshop was organized as part of the national consultative process being undertaken by NeGD, MeitY, to facilitate stakeholder consultations and develop a comprehensive framework for strengthening cybersecurity, data protection and digital resilience across States and Union Territories.

The inaugural session was attended by Professor Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary Information Technology Department; Asha Choudhary Malhotra, Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA; Professor Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, University of Kashmir; Abdul Hafiz Shah, Special Information Technology Department; Shokat Mehmood Special Secretary; Jaskaran Singh Modi, State Informatics Officer, NIC J&K; Maroof Naieem Qadri, Director IT, Uni-



versity of Kashmir; Ashaq Dar, Director, NIELIT, besides representatives from NeGD, CERT-In (through VC), NIC, J&K Bank, SeMT, JaKeGA, Academia and senior officers of various government departments who have also been nominated as CISOs, ISOs and Technical Experts.

Addressing the participants, Saurabh Bhagat emphasized that cybersecurity has emerged as a critical pillar of digital governance and citizen trust. He highlighted the growing dependence of government institutions on digital platforms for delivery of public

services. He underscored the need for robust cybersecurity mechanisms, proactive threat management, and resilient digital infrastructure to safeguard critical government systems and citizen data. The workshop was attended by the policymakers, cybersecurity experts, government officials, academia and industry stakeholders to deliberate on the emerging cyber threats, cybersecurity best practices, incident response mechanisms, data protection frameworks and institutional measures required to strengthen cyber resilience across

the Union Territory.

A major highlight of the workshop was the breakout group discussions, where the participants deliberated on six key thematic areas. These included risk-based security assessments, securing State Data Centres and State Wide Area Networks, strengthening Security Operations Centres (SOCs) and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), modernizing legacy systems, implementing data protection and privacy frameworks besides enhancing the cybersecurity capacity-build-

ing initiatives.

The discussions focused on strengthening the cybersecurity governance, enhancing monitoring and incident response capabilities, securing critical digital infrastructure, promoting secure-by-design principles, protecting citizen data and fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness across government institutions.

The participants also took note of the significant progress made by Jammu & Kashmir in digital governance and cybersecurity. The prominent achievements included establishment of the State Security Operations Centre (JK-SOC), approval of Cyber Crisis Management Plans (CCMPs) across departments, implementation of cybersecurity monitoring mechanisms, large-scale security audits of government websites and various capacity-building initiatives.

The workshop concluded with presentations by the six thematic groups, followed by a plenary discussion on key recommendations and action points. The deliberations and recommendations emerging from the workshop will be shared with the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and will contribute towards formulation of a stronger and more resilient cybersecurity framework for State Governments across the country.

## Sakeena Itoo reviews progress on SSH OPD complex

GMC Srinagar MFC, SDH Pahalgam’s additional 50-bedded building

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today reviewed the progress on construction of OPD Complex of Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Srinagar and Multi Facility Centre (MFC) of Government Medical College Srinagar as well as additional 50-bedded hospital building of SDH Pahalgam here at Civil Secretariat.

MLA Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani; Principal GMC Srinagar; Director Health Services Kashmir; Director Finance/Director Planning Health and Medical Education and other senior officers of health and medical education department were also present in the meeting.

During the review meeting, the Minister took stock of the progress achieved on each project. She directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of all pending civil works within the stipulated timelines.

Emphasizing accountability in execution of public projects, the Minister said that these initiatives are being undertaken with public funds and are aimed at improving the healthcare services for the people. She asserted that any delay in completion of such projects adversely affects the public welfare and, therefore, must be avoided.

Reviewing the construction of the 50-bedded additional building at Pahalgam, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to finalize the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and commence the remaining works without delay. She observed that Pahalgam is one of the most prominent tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir and also serves as the base camp for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. She stressed the need for a well-equipped healthcare facility in the area to cater to both residents, visitors as well as devotees.

The Minister set a target of March 2027 for completion of the hospital building and directed the concerned agencies to ensure that the facility is made fully functional and operational.

Earlier, Director Health Services Kashmir informed the meeting that the project involves an estimated cost of Rs 19.90 crore, out of which civil works worth Rs 12.40 crore have already been tendered. He added that the hospital, once operational will provide a range of essential healthcare services and facilities to the people of the area.

While reviewing the Multi-Tasking Facility Centre (MFC) of GMC Srinagar, the Minister directed that all civil works be completed by the end of July 2026. She also instructed the concerned officers to pursue necessary approvals from the Government of India for installation of additional facilities and infrastructure required for the centre.

Reviewing the progress of works related to the Super Speciality Hospital and other healthcare infrastructure projects, the Minister reiterated that delays in the healthcare sector are unacceptable and called for close monitoring of all ongoing projects.

She directed the Health Department to maintain regular oversight of project implementation. She asked for ensuring that infrastructure is developed strictly in accordance with healthcare requirements and approved standards. She also stressed the need for proper planning, coordination and adherence to guidelines in the execution of all health sector projects to ensure timely completion and optimal utilization of resources.

## NDMA conducts disaster preparedness Table top exercise for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 at Ganderbal

HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL, JUNE 24:** As part of efforts to strengthen preparedness for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) today conducted a comprehensive Table Top Exercise at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, presided over the session and gave a detailed overview of the district’s preparedness measures and emergency response framework for the annual pilgrimage. He highlighted the importance of meticulous planning, close coordination among all stakeholders and prompt response mechanisms to ensure the safety and well-being of pilgrims.

Speaking on the occasion, Brigadier (Retd.) P. S. Gurung, Coordinator, NDMA for the mock exercise, emphasized the significance of regular preparedness exercises in strengthening response capabilities and ensuring the safety of devotees undertaking the Yatra.

He said that the exercise was designed to assess the preparedness of various agencies and review coordination mechanisms in place for handling emergencies during the pilgrimage. The initiative, he added, forms part of NDMA’s efforts to enhance inter-agency coordination and build a robust response system for any unforeseen situation.

During the exercise, various emergency scenarios, including fire incidents in camps, stampede situations, drowning cases and other potential emergencies, were discussed in detail. Participants deliberated on response protocols, resource mobilisation, communication systems and coordination measures required for effective management of such situations.

Earlier, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Syed Faheem Bihagi, briefed participants on the district administration’s efforts to reduce disaster risks, particularly in vulnerable locations along the Yatra route. He also outlined the preparedness measures being undertaken by various departments to ensure timely response during emergencies. Officials from the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) Meteorological Department (IMD), Health Department, Fire & Emergency Services, and other communication agencies and security forces also shared updates on their respective preparedness plans.

The participating agencies were encouraged to clearly define their roles and responsibilities, identify gaps in existing plans, anticipate operational challenges and strengthen coordination to further improve the overall emergency response framework.

The exercise witnessed the participation of Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Chief Executive Officer Sonamarg Development Authority, Assistant Commissioner Disaster Management, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, senior district officers and representatives from various security agencies and line departments.

## SSP Kulgam Reviews Multi-Agency Security Arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026

FAROOQ RATHER

**KULGAM, JUNE 24:** In preparation for the smooth and secure conduct of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), chaired a high-level security review meeting with senior officers of the Police, Army, CRPF, and BSF at Railway Station Anantnag on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by the Commanding Officers of 1 Rashtriya Rifles, 18 Battalion CRPF, 46 Battalion CRPF, Adhoc KS-18 BSF, Additional SP Kulgam, Additional SP NHW Qazigund, Zonal Officers of Zones 06 and 07, DySP PC Mirbazar, SDPO Railway Anantnag, and other senior security officials.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on various aspects of security management, including deployment of personnel, communication networks, traffic regulation on the National Highway and adjoining roads, vehicle parking arrangements, and measures to ensure the



safety and security of pilgrims as well as the general public.

SSP Kulgam stressed the need for heightened vigilance at sensitive locations and directed officers to ensure adequate and effective deployment of forces on the ground to address vulnerabilities and plug any security gaps. He instructed officers to revisit and fine-tune security plans at the zonal level to strengthen preparedness and ensure a swift response to any emergency situation.

Emphasising coordinated efforts

among all security agencies, the SSP called for focused attention on Road Opening Parties (ROPs), lateral deployments, and law and order arrangements to effectively neutralize potential threats and meet emerging security challenges during the annual pilgrimage.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment of all participating agencies to work in close coordination for the safe, peaceful, and successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

## GBHSS Unisoo Kupwara Hosts Awareness Programme Under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

GULFAM BARJI

**KUPWARA, JUNE 24:** An awareness programme under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was organized at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Unisoo Kupwara by the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and

Languages (JKAACL) in collaboration with Azad Dramatic Cultural Club, Repora Ganderbal. The programme was attended by the Principal of GBHSS Unisoo, Mr. Mohammad Javed Ahmad as the Chief Guest. The event aimed to create awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage them to adopt a healthy and positive lifestyle. On the occasion artists of Azad Dramatic Cultural Club staged the play “EHSAAAS” written by Master Abdul Samad and directed by



Ashiq Hussain Najar. Through a powerful presentation the play

highlighted the devastating consequences of drug addiction on

individuals, families and society. The performance received an

enthusiastic response from the audience and was widely appreciated. As part of the programme club artist Mushtaq Ahmad presented an educational and thought-provoking Ladi Shah performance focusing on the dangers of substance abuse, which was well received by the participants. Addressing the gathering, Master Abdul Samad delivered an informative lecture on the social and personal consequences of drug addiction. He urged the youth to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a healthy and progressive society.

A large number of teachers, students, and local residents attended the programme and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting collective efforts against drug abuse and promoting a drug-free society.

# Javed Rana reviews developmental works in Dooru constituency

Calls for collective efforts to ensure effective implementation of public welfare initiatives

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG, JUNE 24:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the status of developmental works and public welfare initiatives being implemented in Dooru constituency.

MLA Dooru, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majeed Bhat and district officers of Jal Shakti, Forest and Tribal Affairs Departments besides other concerned departments attended the meeting.

The Minister reviewed the progress of various developmental projects being executed in the constituency and directed the officers to expedite the ongoing works while ensuring quality and adherence to timelines.

During the meeting, the Minister announced establishment of an Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Ahlan Breng, saying the initiative would significantly enhance the access to quality education for students from tribal and other marginal-



ized communities in the area.

Noting that Anantnag district has a sizeable tribal population, Javed Rana emphasized that it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure better educational facilities for tribal and underprivileged sections of society. He said that education is a key driver for socio-economic transformation and empowerment, and reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthen educational infrastructure in

tribal-dominated and remote areas to ensure inclusive and equitable development.

The Minister said that the Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah remains steadfast in its commitment towards the welfare and upliftment of tribal communities. It is taking concerted measures to provide quality education and improved learning opportunities to students belonging to these sections, he added.

Reviewing the functioning of Jal Shakti, Forest and Tribal Affairs Departments, Javed Rana called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination to ensure optimum utilisation of resources and effective implementation of developmental programmes.

The Minister also reviewed issues pertaining to implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), observing that certain concerns have arisen regarding its implementation. He directed the offi-

cers to adhere to the prescribed procedures while processing FRA-related cases. He stressed that due diligence and compliance with established norms are essential to ensure transparency and safeguard the rights of all stakeholders.

The meeting also reviewed the status of flood protection and irrigation-related works being executed in Dooru constituency, with emphasis on timely completion of ongoing projects and strengthening infrastructure to safeguard the agricultural land and ensure efficient irrigation facilities.

Javed Rana directed the officers to implement all decisions and instructions in letter and spirit and maintain transparency, accountability and efficiency in governance.

The meeting also discussed various constituency-specific developmental issues and strategies for their early resolution.

Senior officers apprised the Minister of the progress achieved under various schemes and programmes in Dooru constituency.

## Committee on Privileges reviews pending cases, emphasizes protection of MLAs' privileges

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** A formal meeting of the Committee on Privileges of the Legislative Assembly was held today at the Assembly Secretariat under the chairmanship of MLA Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi.

Legislators Showkat Hussain Ganie, Khurshied Ahmad, Zafar Ali Khatana, Vijay Kumar, Rajeev Kumar along with officials from Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting.

The Chairman highlighted the significance of the Committee on Privileges, describing it as an important committee of the House entrusted with safeguarding the privileges, dignity and authority of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. He emphasized



the need for expeditious disposal of the pending cases before the committee and called for timely redress of all matters referred to it.

The members deliberated in detail on various issues concerning the functioning of the committee. They underscored the importance of strengthening its role in upholding the privileges of the House. They also offered valuable suggestions for improving the effectiveness and functioning of the committee.

The Committee instructed the Chief Secretary to ensure strict adherence to and protection of the privileges of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. It emphasized that any breach of privilege of a MLA shall be viewed seriously and that necessary measures shall be taken to prevent such instances.

The Committee also took up three privilege motions referred to it and issued notices in all the cases. The concerned officials have been directed to remain present before the committee during its next meeting scheduled for July 8, to facilitate the examination and disposal of the matters.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the committee's commitment to safeguard the privileges of the House and ensure prompt redress of all pending cases.

## Mock Emergency Response Drill Held In Poonch To Assess Readiness Of Security Forces

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JUNE 24:** A joint mock emergency response exercise was conducted in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Wednesday to strengthen preparedness for the upcoming monsoon season and the annual Buddha Amarnath yatra.

The drill was organised near the S K Bridge area of Poonch town to assess the readiness and coordination of security forces and civil agencies in responding to emergencies such as flash floods, accidents and other disaster-related situations, officials said.



The exercise simulated various emergency scenarios and tested the response capabilities of participating agencies, including rescue operations, evacuation procedures and inter-departmental coordination.

Personnel from the State Disaster Response Force, Civil Defence, CRPF, Army and district police demonstrated rescue techniques and emergency response mechanisms during the drill.

Authorities said the exercise formed part of broader preparedness measures being undertaken in view of the monsoon season and the forthcoming Buddha Amarnath Ji Yatra, which attracts thousands of devotees to the border district every year.

They said such joint exercises help identify gaps in response systems, improve coordination among agencies and enhance overall disaster management capabilities to deal with any eventuality effectively. (Agencies)

## Sharma Reviews SANJY-2026 Arrangements at Pahalgam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG, JUNE 24:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science & Technology, ARI & Trainings, and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today convened a review meeting at Pahalgam to take stock of the preparedness and arrangements of transport services, supply of essential commodities, other critical services for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the district administration and line departments, including Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Pahalgam, Deputy Director FCS&CA, Assistant Directors FCS&CA Anantnag and Kulgam, Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) of Anantnag and Kulgam, officers of the Motor Vehicles Department, Assistant Executive Engineers of PDD and PHE besides other concerned officers associated with the transport regulation, essential supplies and service delivery during the Yatra period.

The review meeting focused on the preparedness of departments entrusted with ensuring smooth transport operations, uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, consumer facilitation and provision of other critical services for successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The Minister took a department-wise assessment of the arrangements being made and sought updates on the action plan, preparedness timeline and field-level coordination mechanisms.

During the meeting, the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, briefed the Minister on the transportation arrangements being put in place for smooth movement of pilgrims and service providers associated with the Yatra.

The Minister was informed about

the regulation of passenger transport, availability and deployment of vehicles, route management, traffic facilitation and coordination between the Motor Vehicles Department and local administration to ensure seamless mobility along the Pahalgam axis during the Yatra period.

The Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department also briefed the Minister on the availability and supply position of essential commodities required during the Yatra. The Minister was informed that arrangements are being put in place to ensure adequate stock and timely supply of ration, rice, sugar, LPG and other essential consumer items so that pilgrims, langars, service providers and local support establishments do not face any inconvenience during the course of the pilgrimage.

Reviewing the preparedness of the departments under his charge, Satish Sharma stressed that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is one of the most significant annual pilgrimages and requires meticulous planning, timely execution and close coordination among all concerned departments. He said that the success of the Yatra depends not only on major infrastructural and logistical arrangements but also on the efficiency of routine public service delivery, particularly in the areas of transportation, essential supplies and consumer support.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure that all arrangements relating to transportation, essential supplies and service facilitation are completed well in advance so that the pilgrimage proceeds in a smooth, orderly and hassle-free manner. He stressed that availability of adequate transport, uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, proper regulation of passenger movement, and responsive consumer support systems are central to ensuring a comfortable and safe experience for the yatis.

He instructed the Transport and

Motor Vehicles authorities to maintain strict oversight over the movement and regulation of passenger vehicles, ensure availability of sufficient public transport and keep all required systems in place for smooth mobility of pilgrims. He emphasized that transport planning should be carried out in close coordination with the district administration and other departments so that there are no bottlenecks during peak movement days.

While reviewing the arrangements related to food and civil supplies, the Minister directed officers to maintain adequate buffer stocks of essential commodities at strategic locations and ensure timely replenishment wherever required. He stressed that ration, rice, sugar, LPG and other basic necessities must remain available without interruption throughout the Yatra period. He said that any lapse in the supply chain should be addressed immediately through advance planning and constant monitoring.

The Minister also underlined the importance of a responsive and people-centric approach in dealing with the pilgrims and service providers. He said that the departments must ensure that grievances, supply-related issues and field-level concerns are attended to promptly and effectively.

Emphasizing preparedness at the field level, Satish Sharma directed the officers to identify any existing gaps in service delivery or coordination and address them without delay.

The Minister said that the Government is committed to ensuring that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 is conducted in a well-managed and pilgrim-friendly manner.

Reiterating the importance of coordinated execution, Satish Sharma said that timely completion of works, uninterrupted public service delivery and prompt response to emerging requirements will be key to the successful conduct of the Yatra.

## Vikramjit Singh visits Lohrakote Vibrant Village of Rajouri district, reviews developmental initiatives

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI, JUNE 24:** Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh today visited Vibrant Village Lohrakote of Rajouri district and reviewed the implementation of developmental initiatives aimed at strengthening infrastructure, connectivity and livelihood opportunities in the border village under the Vibrant Villages Programme.

The Commissioner Secretary was accompanied by



Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma; ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma; CPO Maqsood Ahmed; DDE Mohd Nawaz; besides district and sectoral officers from various departments.

During the visit, Commissioner Secretary interacted with local residents and took detailed feedback regarding developmental needs and ongoing interventions in the village. He emphasized that the Government is committed to ensuring focused and sustainable development of border villages through coordinated efforts of all concerned departments.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner Secretary highlighted that special emphasis is being laid on improving road connectivity, power infrastructure, internet services and television connectivity in remote border areas. He said that the Vibrant Villages Programme aims to transform border villages into well-connected, self-reliant and economically empowered communities.

On the occasion, Vikramjit Singh also distributed sanction letters among beneficiaries under Mission YUVA and encouraged young entrepreneurs to utilize the available government support for establishing sustainable self-employment ventures. He urged the beneficiaries to make effective use of the assistance and contribute towards local economic growth.

The Commissioner Secretary also reviewed the functioning of various departments and directed the officers to ensure timely completion of developmental projects and ensure effective implementation of welfare schemes for maximum public benefit.

## JKRLMs' week long Facilitator Training for CRP-EP concludes

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** A week long Facilitator Training Programme for the Community Resource Persons for Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EP) concluded today at IMPARD, marking a significant step towards strengthening the grassroots entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood generation across Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was organized by the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development-Ministry of Skill Development

and Entrepreneurship (MoRD-MSDE) convergence framework. The initiative aims to promote entrepreneurship-led economic growth and support establishment of sustainable rural micro-enterprises across the Union Territory.

The intensive capacity-building programme was attended by members of the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), who underwent comprehensive training sessions conducted by a team of experts from NIESBUD. The sessions focused on enterprise planning, financial management, business modelling, market linkages and mentorship

strategies to enable the participants to effectively guide the aspiring rural entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the valedictory session, Mission Director JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, emphasized the transformative role of entrepreneurship in improving the rural livelihoods and creating self-reliant communities.

"The training has equipped the participants with practical knowledge and entrepreneurial skills that will help them identify opportunities, nurture local enterprises and support livelihood generation at the grassroots level. The real success of this programme will be reflected in the emergence of sustain-

able enterprises and empowered communities across Jammu and Kashmir," she maintained.

Highlighting the importance of trained facilitators in the rural enterprise ecosystem, Dr. Sharma added, "Community Resource Persons are the backbone of enterprise promotion in rural areas. I urge all the participants to effectively utilize the knowledge gained during this programme and become catalysts for innovation, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in their respective communities."

The Mission Director appreciated the efforts of the NIESBUD resource team for delivering high-quality training and

thanked all participants for their enthusiastic involvement and commitment throughout the programme.

She expressed confidence that the trained facilitators would play a pivotal role in accelerating the enterprise development, creating livelihood opportunities and contributing to the vision of inclusive and sustainable rural development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony and a collective commitment by the participants to promote entrepreneurship and support rural enterprises across the Union Territory.

# DC Budgam reviews preparedness for Pulse Polio Immunization Drive scheduled on June 28

Focus on 100% coverage of children under five

HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, JUNE 24:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to finalise preparations for the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive scheduled to be held on June 28th, 2026.

The meeting was attended by the PO ICDS Budgam, CMO Budgam, CEO Budgam, DIO Budgam, all BMOs, ARTO Budgam, and other concerned district officers, health authorities, block-level teams, and officials from supporting departments who are directly involved in vaccination planning, booth management, logistics, supervision, and field execution.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed in detail the district-wide micro-plan for the immunization drive, which included block-wise targets, number of Pulse Polio booths, manpower deployment, and the overall preparedness of health and field teams.

Officers presented the complete structure of booth arrangements across Budgam district along with the deployment of vaccinators, supervisors, and supporting manpower to ensure the smooth functioning of the campaign.

A special focus of the meeting remained on high-risk and



hard-to-reach areas, with detailed block-wise presentations.

The DC emphasised that all these locations must receive dedicated attention, with proper vaccination booths, field supervision, and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that no eligible

child is left out.

The meeting also assessed the location and functioning of transit booths, which will be established at busy mobility points such as markets, bus stands, and major travel routes to cover children who are on the

move during the campaign period.

Officers from the Health Department shared block-wise requirements of vaccine vials, cold chain logistics, printed material, banners, and other necessary supplies for the smooth

execution of the drive.

The DC reviewed the plan for door-to-door verification activities that will follow the booth day, aimed at identifying and vaccinating any missed children.

A detailed schedule of training sessions and workshops for supervisors, vaccinators, ASHAs, AWWs, and other field workers was also presented during the meeting.

The DC directed officials to keep track of all migratory and tribal populations, particularly families moving from one district to another, so that every child under five years of age belonging to these groups is covered under the immunization programme.

He stressed that mobile teams and transit points must work in close coordination to ensure that the movement of such populations does not result in any child being missed during the drive.

The DC stressed ensuring that no child is left out of the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive and directed officers to ensure 100 percent booth staffing, timely reporting, strong monitoring, and an uninterrupted vaccine supply across all blocks.

The DC directed all concerned departments to work collectively for the successful and comprehensive implementation of the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive across District Budgam.

## ADDC Baramulla conducts inspection of KGBV, Palash Hostels in district

HT NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA, JUNE 24:** A team headed by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Pranjal J. Hazarika today undertook an extensive field inspection of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) at Watergam, Tragpora and Palaash/Parisha Hostels at Rebban and Kanispora to assess the quality of facilities and overall living conditions being provided to the resident students.

The ADDC was accompanied by District Information Officer Baramulla, Iftakhar Naseem and representatives from Health, Education, Food Safety and other departments.

During the visit, the team carried out a thorough review of various aspects of hostel management, including sanitation, hygiene standards, availability of basic amenities, quality of food, drinking water facilities, accommodation arrangements, healthcare provisions and overall upkeep of the hostel premises.



The ADDC interacted with hostel wardens, staff members and students to obtain first-hand feedback regarding the facilities available and the challenges faced by the residents. Emphasis was laid on ensuring a safe, secure and conducive environment for the students residing in the hostels.

Special attention was given to the cleanliness of kitchens, dining halls, washrooms and dormitories. The inspection team also assessed the availability and functionality of essential infrastructure, including electricity, water supply, bedding, study spaces and recreational facilities.

As part of the inspection, a detailed review of fire safety measures and emergency preparedness mechanisms was also conducted. The ADDC stressed the importance of maintaining robust safety standards in all residential institutions and directed the concerned departments to prepare and submit a comprehensive fire exit and evacuation plan. The plan, he said, should be duly vetted by the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to ensure preparedness in the event of any emergency or unforeseen exigency.

Meanwhile, the ADDC directed the Food Safety Officer to undertake regular inspections of all KGBV and Palash Hostels across the district to ensure strict compliance with food safety and hygiene standards, emphasizing that the quality, nutritional value and safe handling of food served to students must be monitored on a continuous basis.

The ADDC further instructed the concerned officials to address any deficiencies identified during the inspection in a time-bound manner and ensure strict adherence to prescribed standards of safety, hygiene and student welfare.

## 79th Raising Day of Zila Sainik Welfare Board Celebrated at Kupwara

HT NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA, JUNE 24:** Zila Sainik Welfare Office, Kupwara celebrated the 79th Raising Day of the Department with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse who is President of the Zila Sainik Board, Kupwara. The programme also witnessed the presence of SSP Kupwara, Syed Al-Tahir Gilani and participation of several officers from different departments along with Ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, Veer Mata and their dependents.

The programme commenced by a Welcome address delivered by Col SS Raja, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer (ZSWO) who paid rich tributes to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in the service of the nation and conveyed his heartfelt respects to Ex-servicemen and their dependents. He also highlighted the collective responsibility of every stakeholder in combating the growing menace of drug abuse initiated by the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir and stressed that the fight against drug menace is not merely an administrative responsibility but a larger social mission requiring vigilance, awareness and sustained public participation.

During his address, the ZSWO emphasized that ex-servicemen should strive to become self-reliant by beginning a successful second innings in life and encouraged them to become job creators rather than job seekers by taking advantage of various self-employment and entrepreneurship schemes of the central and UT Government like Mission YUVA, KVIB schemes, HADP schemes, Skill development or small business schemes. He further urged veterans to motivate the youth and their children to embrace self-employment and contribute to nation building and vision of Vikshit Bharat-2047.

To mark the occasion, a free Eye Screening and Medical Camp was organized in association with ASG Eye Hospital, Srinagar for ex-servicemen, Veer Naris and their dependents. The camp received an overwhelming response with large number of beneficiaries availing themselves of the free services.

The programme concluded with the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara visiting the Eye Camp and extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, Veer Mata, Veer Pita and their families on the occasion of the 79th Raising Day while reaffirming its commitment to their welfare and well-being.

## District-Level Mega PM SVANidhi Mahotsav Workshop held at Budgam

Beneficiaries felicitated for successful utilization of Scheme

HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, JUNE 24:** A District-Level Mega PM SVANidhi Mahotsav Workshop was successfully conducted today at Town Hall, Budgam, under the chairmanship of the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Budgam, Vivek Agarwal.

The programme, organized by the Municipal Council Budgam, witnessed enthusiastic participation from representatives and beneficiaries of all Urban Local Bodies of the district, including Municipal Committees Magam, Chadoora, Charar-e-Sharief, Khansahib, and Beerwah. A significant number of street vendors from these municipalities attended the workshop

and actively engaged in the proceedings.

The workshop was organized with the objective of creating greater awareness about the PM SVANidhi Scheme, a flagship initiative of the Government aimed at providing affordable and collateral-free financial assistance to street vendors to help strengthen their livelihoods and improve their socio-economic conditions.

During the programme, various achievements and success stories of beneficiaries from different municipalities were showcased, highlighting the positive impact of the scheme on the lives of street vendors across the district.

Beneficiaries shared their experiences regarding access to

credit and the opportunities created through the scheme for expanding their businesses and enhancing their incomes.

On the occasion, the ADDC felicitated several beneficiaries with Appreciation Certificates in recognition of their successful utilization of the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

Addressing the gathering, the ADDC lauded the beneficiaries for effectively availing the benefits of the scheme and urged them to act as ambassadors of awareness by sharing their success stories with fellow street vendors. He emphasized that such peer-to-peer motivation would encourage more eligible vendors to avail themselves of the scheme and contribute towards their economic empowerment. UNI

## Vikas Kundal reviews developmental works in Vibrant Villages of Karnah

HT NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA, JUNE 24:** Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), Vikas Kundal, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today visited the border Sub-Division Karnah and reviewed the progress of developmental works being executed under the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) Phase-II in the identified villages of Gundi Gujran and Jabdi. During the visit, the Chairman chaired an inter-departmental review meeting at Mini Secretariat, Tangdhar, to assess the developmental profile and implementation status of various projects being

undertaken in the two Vibrant Villages. The meeting was attended by Secretary JKSSB, Khurshid Ahmad Sanai; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Karnah, Mohd Raiyaz; Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer and BDO, Executive Engineer Tangdhar and other district and sectoral officers. On the occasion, the SDM Karnah presented a detailed overview of the socio-economic and developmental status of the villages. It was informed that Gundi Gujran comprises 567 households with a population of 1,819, while Jabdi has 135 households with a population of 739. The Chairman reviewed sector-wise progress in road connectivity, tele connectivity,

power supply, drinking water supply, education, healthcare, agriculture and allied sectors, social welfare and rural development. Stressing the importance of timely execution, he directed the concerned departments to ensure effective implementation of all ongoing works for achieving the objectives of the Vibrant Village Programme.

Later, Vikas Kundal, along with the Deputy Commissioner, conducted a public outreach programme at Government High School Gundi Shart, where residents of Gundi Gujran and Jabdi projected various developmental issues and public demands. Interacting with the public, the Chairman directed

the Roads and Buildings Department to expedite all ongoing road projects and ensure their completion before the onset of winter. He emphasized promotion of livelihood generation through schemes such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mission Yuva and cooperative initiatives. He also called for strengthening Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and cooperative institutions to enhance economic opportunities and self-reliance among rural households.

Among the issues raised by the public were the requirement of permanent paramedical staff

at the Health Centre, Jabdi, and the construction of a community marriage hall. Taking note of the demands, the Chairman directed the concerned officers to take appropriate measures for their early redressal.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara assured the public that all genuine grievances would be addressed on priority. He directed the Chief Medical Officer to examine the feasibility of augmenting healthcare manpower at Jabdi and informed that a comprehensive action plan was being formulated to project important local demands for consideration at the appropriate level.

## District Judiciary Ganderbal pays Homage to Mother of Chief Justice (A) Justice Sanjeev Kumar

HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL, JUNE 24:** District Judiciary Ganderbal today held a condolence meeting at the District Court Complex, Ganderbal, under the leadership of Abdul Nasir, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal, to express grief over the demise of Smt. Shakti Devi, beloved mother of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The meeting was attended by all Judicial Officers of the district, who joined in offering prayers and condolences to the bereaved family.

The participants remembered the departed soul with reverence and acknowledged the profound loss suffered by the family. Speaking on the occasion, the officers conveyed their deepest sympathies and prayed that Almighty grants the departed soul the highest place in heaven and bestows strength upon the family to endure this difficult period with patience and fortitude. To honour the memory of the departed soul a two-minute silence was observed. The gathering reaffirmed its solidarity with Justice Sanjeev Kumar and his family during this time of bereavement.

## GCW Nawakadal marks International Day Against Drug Abuse with multiple events

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** In a massive, multi-dimensional effort to commemorate the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking under the national theme "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan - Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchan", the College Well-being and Anti-Substance Cell of Government College for Women (GCW) Nawakadal organized a mega series of plantation, sports, and music activities today.

Coordinated by Nodal Officer,

Dr. Nuzhat Jan, the day commenced with a campus plantation drive under the sub-theme "Ek Ped Nashey Ke Viruddh" in collaboration with the Department of Botany, led by HOD Dr. Riyaz u Rehman, followed by dynamic competitive matches in badminton, table tennis, and volleyball in collaboration with the Sports Committee.

Simultaneously, a powerful musical awareness program was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Music, led by HOD, Dr. Asmat Ara and CVASC Nodal Officer, Dr. Waseem.

During the event, the Incharge Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Pinu Andrabi, termed drug addiction a silent epidemic, emphasizing that a drug-free generation is foundational to building a developed nation and stressing that continuous institutional intervention, sports, and arts serve as powerful deterrents.

Dr. Nuzhat Jan highlighted that every single activity and planted sapling today symbolizes a student's lifelong pledge toward a healthy, productive lifestyle while encouraging them to be active ambassadors for a drug-free so-

ciety. Dr. Waseem added that a culturally vibrant campus forms a strong psychological barrier against narcotics, while Dr. Riyaz u Rehman emphasized that just as strong roots anchor a tree, strong moral values protect youth from toxic dependencies.

Furthermore, Prof. Rukhsana Shawl noted that sports instill the exact discipline needed to shield youth from addiction, and Dr. Asmat Ara concluded by stating that music holds the unique power to awaken societal conscience and heal minds.

**HT EDITORIAL**

**Bridging the Employment Gap : Why Job Fairs Must Become a Regular Feature**

Unemployment remains one of the most pressing concerns facing Jammu and Kashmir's youth. Every year, thousands of educated young people enter the job market with hopes of securing stable employment, yet the availability of suitable opportunities often falls short of expectations. The gap between academic qualifications and industry requirements, limited private sector presence, lack of awareness about emerging careers, and overdependence on government jobs continue to contribute to the problem.

The large-scale job fair organized in Shopian on Wednesday, which brought together more than 500 job seekers and over 20 companies and institutions under one platform, offers an important lesson for policymakers and society alike. Beyond the immediate opportunities it created for aspiring candidates, the event highlighted both the magnitude of the unemployment challenge and the practical steps that can be taken to address it.

For many young people, the employment journey is complicated not merely by a shortage of jobs but also by inadequate access to information. Numerous vacancies, skill-development programmes, entrepreneurship schemes and career pathways remain underutilized because potential beneficiaries are unaware of them or do not know how to access them. This is where initiatives such as job fairs assume significant importance.

The Shopian event demonstrated the value of creating direct interaction between employers and job seekers. Such platforms allow candidates to understand market expectations, explore opportunities across sectors, and receive guidance regarding skill enhancement and career planning. Equally important, they expose employers to local talent that might otherwise remain untapped.

However, job fairs alone cannot solve the unemployment challenge. They must form part of a broader strategy focused on employability, entrepreneurship and economic growth. Educational institutions need to align curricula with contemporary industry requirements. Greater emphasis must be placed on digital skills, communication abilities, technical training and vocational education. The private sector should be encouraged to expand its footprint in the region through investment-friendly policies and infrastructure support.

Entrepreneurship also deserves greater attention. Not every young person can be absorbed into salaried employment, nor should that be the sole aspiration. Government initiatives aimed at supporting startups, self-employment ventures and small enterprises can play a transformative role if implemented effectively. Access to finance, mentorship, market linkages and business training must be strengthened so that young entrepreneurs can convert ideas into sustainable enterprises capable of generating further employment.

The integration of employment services with digital platforms, career counselling, skill training and job-matching mechanisms is another positive development. Such measures can help bridge information gaps and ensure that youth remain connected to opportunities available not only within Jammu and Kashmir but across the country.

Going forward, job fairs should become a regular feature across districts rather than occasional events. They should be conducted in collaboration with industry bodies, educational institutions, training centres and financial agencies. Sector-specific employment drives in information technology, tourism, healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing and services can help create targeted opportunities aligned with local strengths and market demand.

The Shopian job fair serves as a reminder that meaningful interventions are possible when government agencies, employers and communities work together. While unemployment remains a complex challenge requiring long-term solutions, initiatives that connect youth directly with opportunities, skills and entrepreneurial support provide a practical pathway forward.

The need of the hour is sustained engagement rather than isolated efforts. Regular employment outreach programmes, robust skill development, stronger industry participation and a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem can collectively transform the employment landscape. If pursued with commitment and consistency, such initiatives can help convert the region's demographic potential into a powerful engine of economic growth and social stability.

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**Drowning incidents in Kashmir valley**

Nature is benevolent an sometimes dreadful



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Clear, crystal-clear rivers are meant to quench our thirst, not to be polluted or used recklessly for swimming. Nature is benevolent, but at times it can also be very dreadful. It is heartbreaking that during the current year, a number of drowning incidents have been reported from different places.

Every year, such heart-wrenching incidents occur. Bathing in large water bodies should be permanently banned, and stringent action should be taken against those who pollute and dirty natural resources. These resources possess a unique beauty; their flowing water, serenity, and charm are always at their peak. Humans should never turn such natural resources into bathtubs or swimming pools.

■ Nature is Incredible

It leaves nothing stationary. It calls you, pampers you, makes you happy. Nature bestows upon us mesmerizing surroundings. It is beautiful, joyful, limitless, and full of mysteries. It attracts, enchants, and sometimes terrifies. It can bring catastrophe, demolish great structures, silence the noisiest moments, or compel a scream from the quietest soul.

From a religious perspective, everything that happens is under the supervision of the Almighty. Life and death are not random—each moment, even the rustling of leaves, occurs only by His will, as described in the Holy Quran. So why do we worry? Why do we fear what is already destined?

The answer, though simple, carries deep wisdom: we have a duty to act responsibly. The Almighty has commanded us to take safety measures and protect ourselves and others. We are not permitted to be careless or ignorant. Crying and shouting in moments of regret will not change what was avoidable through prepara-



tion and awareness.

■ Heat, Summer, and the Shift Toward Risk

Kashmir lies in the extreme north, and we are accustomed to bitter cold. During ChillaiKalan—from December 21 to the end of January—temperatures dip as low as -15°C. Yet we endure it with proper arrangements: traditional timber ovens, hammams, and layered winter clothing. Winters, though harsh, are peaceful, and the snow-laden forests and towering mountains reflect the divine beauty of the region.

But summer, starting around June 21 until September 21, presents a new challenge. Between June and late July, the valley experiences scorching heat, especially in urban areas. With few green spaces or cooling infrastructure, people often turn to public parks for relief. Sadly, many of these parks have been replaced with commercial spaces like parking lots.

In the 1990s, Iqbal Park served as a vital retreat for residents from Solina, Sarai Bala, Half Chinar, and surrounding areas. Just a few kilometers from the Zabarwan Mountains, it provided free access to fresh air and open space. Today, with entry fees imposed even on locals, many feel excluded. Development should unite the people—not foster divisions based on affordability.

■ The Rush Toward Water — and the Danger That Follows

Follows

To escape the heat, youth from cities flock to villages, where glacial streams and clear water bodies offer natural relief. These rivers, sourced from melting glaciers, rush with terrifying force—like water driven by powerful motors. Though visually appealing, they are extremely dangerous.

Drowning incidents in Kashmir are steadily rising. These aren't isolated accidents—they happen year after year. The key reason? Lack of proactive safety measures. We often react after tragedies, rather than act in advance—be it in road safety, infrastructure, or water-related risks.

■ Case Study: Raiyar-Ich, Budgam

The residents of Bhatti Mohallah, Raiyar-Ich, Khansahib (Budgam) have been urging the government for over ten years to construct a mini-connectivity bridge. Despite repeated appeals, nothing has been done.

Recently, a minor girl and a 20-year-old biker narrowly escaped drowning in a canal at the same site. The community had already submitted a formal request to the district administration and even filed a written complaint at Police Station Khansahib. Yet, the danger remains.

Without proper infrastructure, the area remains a hazard. A connectivity bridge must be constructed immediately to prevent future tragedies. Authorities must act before more lives are lost.

■ What Needs to Be Done?  
To prevent further loss of life, the following steps are essential:

➤ Ban Open-River Bathing in Tourist Areas

The administration should impose a strict seasonal ban on bathing in high-risk water bodies, particularly at:

- Shali Ganga (Doodhpathri)
- Lidder River (Pahalgam)
- Dal Lake (Srinagar)
- Jhelum River (across various districts)

These sites must be under CCTV surveillance, with fines or penalties for violations.

➤ Develop Public Swimming Pools

Each district should have affordable, accessible swimming pools. Swimming must be taught not only for safety, but also to promote sports and recreation in water-based activities.

➤ Launch Public Awareness Campaigns

Through schools, mosques, social media, and community halls, the government should educate the public—especially young people—about drowning risks, safety practices, and emergency response.

➤ Protect and Respect Water Bodies

Open defecation, littering, and pollution of rivers degrade not just the environment, but also community health. Our rivers are lifelines for thousands of villages—supporting drinking water, irrigation, and ecology. It's our moral duty to keep them clean and pollution-free.

The rising number of drowning incidents in the Kashmir Valley is a tragedy that can be prevented. These deaths are not inevitable. They are the result of neglect—both individual and institutional.

Nature is a gift—but only when respected. With careful planning, awareness, and infrastructure, we can save lives and create a safer, cleaner, more compassionate Kashmir.

Let us not wait for another innocent life to be lost.

Let us act now.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

**Learning Together, Growing Together**



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

Inclusive education is not merely a teaching method; it is a philosophy that upholds the belief that every child has the right to learn and grow in the same educational environment, irrespective of ability, disability, gender, language, religion, social background, or economic status. In today's diverse and interconnected world, inclusive education has emerged as one of the strongest foundations of a fair, democratic, and progressive society.

At its core, inclusive education ensures that all students learn together in regular classrooms and schools. It provides equal opportunities for children with different learning needs, physical or intellectual disabilities, cultural backgrounds, and social circumstances to participate fully in education. Instead of separating students who are different, inclusive education adapts teaching methods, learning materials, classroom settings, and support services to accommodate the needs of every learner. In simple words, it means "education for all, together."

The philosophy of inclusive education is rooted in equality, participation, respect for diversity, individualized support, and a sense of belonging. Every child deserves access to quality education without discrimination. Differences among students are viewed as strengths that enrich learning experiences rather than obstacles that hinder progress. Inclusive classrooms encourage active participation and ensure that each learner feels valued, accepted, and respected within the school community.

The importance of inclusive education lies in its ability to create equal opportunities for all. Education is a powerful tool that shapes the future of individuals and societies, and inclusive schools ensure that no child is left behind because of phys-

ical, intellectual, or social differences. By reducing educational inequalities, they help create a level playing field where every student can strive to reach their full potential.

Inclusive education also plays a vital role in social development. When students learn alongside peers from diverse backgrounds, they develop empathy, understanding, cooperation, and social responsibility. They learn to communicate effectively, build friendships, and appreciate differences. Such experiences prepare them to live and work in diverse communities and contribute positively to society.

Academic benefits are another important outcome of inclusive education. Studies have shown that many students perform better in inclusive classrooms where collaborative learning and exposure to diverse perspectives enhance understanding and problem-solving abilities. Students often become more engaged and motivated when they learn in supportive and accepting environments.

Equally significant is the impact on self-confidence and self-esteem. Students who feel included and supported are more likely to develop a positive sense of identity and confidence in their abilities. This encouragement helps them overcome challenges and participate actively in both academic and social activities.

Inclusive education also helps reduce prejudice and discrimination. When children grow up learning together, misconceptions and stereotypes gradually fade away. They learn to appreciate diversity from an early age, creating a culture of acceptance and mutual respect.

For students with disabilities, inclusive education provides access to quality learning opportunities, better social interaction, improved communication skills, and stronger preparation for independent living and future employment. Students without disabilities also benefit by developing empathy, tolerance, leadership qualities, teamwork skills, and a broader understanding of different perspectives.

The impact of inclusive education extends far beyond school walls. By ensuring equal access to opportunities, inclusive schools contribute to social justice and help reduce social and economic inequalities. They strengthen social cohesion by encouraging respect

for diversity and fostering harmonious relationships among people from different backgrounds.

There are also significant economic benefits. Educated individuals contribute more effectively to the workforce and society. Inclusive education increases employment opportunities and economic participation for people who might otherwise face marginalization. Furthermore, it supports the principle that education is a fundamental human right and promotes international commitments to equality, dignity, and social inclusion.

Despite its many advantages, inclusive education faces several challenges. Many schools struggle with limited resources, including a lack of specialized teaching materials, assistive technologies, and trained support staff. Teachers may not always receive adequate training to address diverse learning needs effectively. Negative attitudes, stereotypes, and social prejudices can create barriers to acceptance and implementation. Large class sizes often make individualized attention difficult, while inaccessible infrastructure and transportation systems can limit participation for students with disabilities.

Addressing these challenges requires a collective effort from governments, educational institutions, teachers, parents, and communities. Schools must invest in accessible infrastructure and assistive technologies while ensuring continuous teacher training. Flexible teaching strategies, parental involvement, awareness programs on diversity and inclusion, and strong educational policies can help create more inclusive learning environments.

The future of education is increasingly moving towards greater inclusion. Technological advancements such as artificial intelligence, digital learning platforms, speech recognition software, and assistive technologies are making education more accessible than ever before. Personalized learning approaches are allowing students to learn according to their individual abilities and pace. Governments and international organizations are also giving greater policy support to inclusive education as a key priority.

The author is a Faculty, Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib, Punjab



# Did Allama Anwar Shah Kashmiri's Life Reflect the Rise, Decline, and Renewal of Islamic Scholarship?



■ SYED NASRULLAH RASHID

"Allama Anwar Shah Kashmiri's life traced a journey from Kashmir to Deoband, shaping Islamic scholarship through teaching, reform, and an enduring intellectual and spiritual legacy."

The story of Allama Anwar Shah Kashmiri (1875-1933) does not begin with his birth alone; it is anchored in a deeper civilisational memory that stretches back to Baghdad, once the intellectual heart of the Islamic world. Baghdad symbolised not merely political authority but the pinnacle of human knowledge, where science, philosophy, and theology flourished in an unmatched synthesis. For centuries, it produced scholars whose works shaped global intellectual history. The Mongol invasion, however, marked a catastrophic rupture. Libraries were burned, scholars massacred, and the intellectual infrastructure that had taken centuries to build was reduced to ashes. The destruction was not only material, but it also disrupted the continuity of knowledge itself. The symbolic image of ink turning into blood in Baghdad's streets captured the scale of this civilisational loss. It is within this historical context that the migration of Kashmiri's ancestors is situated. His forefathers are believed to have left Baghdad during these upheavals, moving through Multan and Lahore before finally settling in Kashmir. Over generations, they established themselves as scholars, merchants, and spiritual figures.

His lineage traces back to Imam Abu Hanifa, founder of the Hanafi school of thought. Yet, consistent with Islamic ethical thought, this lineage was never projected as superior. Rather, it was preserved as a historical record because true honour lies in piety, moral conduct, and intellectual contribution. Among his notable ancestors was Sheikh Masood Narwari, a revered figure associated with Narwara in Srinagar. Known both for spiritual stature and worldly acumen, he symbolised the synthesis of scholarship and livelihood. The family's association with Sufi traditions, particularly Naqshbandi influences, further shaped its intellectual orientation.

Family and Upbringing Allama Anwar Shah Kashmiri was born on November 26, 1875 (18 Shawwal 1292 AH) in Warnov village of Lolab Valley in Kupwara. He was raised in a household where spirituality and scholarship were inseparable. His father, Mawlana Muazzam Ali Shah, was a deeply devout Sufi who spent much of his life in remembrance of God. He was not merely a teacher but a spiritual guide, and many people took allegiance into his hands. His long life, reportedly extending beyond a century, allowed him to witness the intellectual rise of his son. His mother was equally



Anwar Shah Kashmiri's ancestral home in Lolab. A few years back, the Jammu and Kashmir government had declared the old wood structure a heritage building.

virtuous, reinforcing discipline and moral grounding. Together, they created an environment where knowledge was sacred, humility was essential, and discipline was non-negotiable.

From early childhood, Kashmiri displayed an extraordinary intellectual capacity. He began Qur'anic studies before the age of five and quickly moved to advanced subjects. By seven, he had already engaged with Arabic grammar, Persian literature, and jurisprudence. What distinguished him was not just memory but inquiry. He questioned relentlessly. His teachers often struggled to respond without consulting extensive works. This habit of probing deeply into texts later defined his scholarly method. His personal discipline was equally remarkable. His insistence on performing ablution before touching religious texts reflects a fusion of intellectual rigour and spiritual consciousness, a defining feature of his life.

Intellectual Stagnation to understand Kashmiri's intellectual journey, one must situate it within the socio-political conditions of Kashmir in the late 19th century. The region had endured prolonged periods of Afghan and Sikh rule, both of which extracted economic resources and weakened social institutions. The result was widespread poverty, erosion of artisanal excellence, and intellectual stagnation. Kashmiri craftsmen, once globally renowned, had lost refinement in their work. Cultural life had dimmed, and education remained neglected. Muslim society, despite its demographic strength, showed limited institutional engagement with education. Learning survived primarily through informal networks, mosques, homes, and small study circles. There was no structured system capable of producing a large-scale intellectual revival. This environment of decline was not merely a backdrop; it shaped Kashmiri's mission. His pursuit of knowledge became intertwined with a broader objective: the restoration of intellectual dignity within a weakened society.

Hazara to Deoband Recognising his son's exceptional abilities, his father sent him to Hazara, then a significant centre

of Islamic learning. Though Kashmiri spent three years there, his intellectual appetite remained unsatisfied. This dissatisfaction was not due to a lack of quality but due to his extraordinary capacity. He required a larger intellectual environment, which he found at Darul Uloom Deoband. Arriving in Deoband under difficult circumstances, he initially lived in a mosque, sustaining himself through service. This period illustrates a recurring pattern in his life: hardship did not deter him; it refined him. At Deoband, he studied under some of the most influential scholars of the time. Mawlana Mahmud-ul-Hasan provided intellectual direction, while Rashid Ahmad Gangohi shaped his spiritual development. Other teachers contributed to his mastery of Hadith, jurisprudence, and theology. By the mid-1890s, he had completed advanced studies and established himself as an exceptional student. His training combined textual mastery with analytical reasoning, setting him apart from his contemporaries.

Spiritual Formation Following the classical model of Islamic scholarship, Kashmiri pursued spiritual refinement after completing formal education. Under Rashid Ahmad Gangohi, he underwent rigorous training aimed at purifying intention and disciplining the self. This phase was critical. It ensured that his scholarship remained anchored in humility rather than ego. He internalised the principle that knowledge must serve truth, not personal recognition. He eventually received permission to guide others in the Chishti Sufi order, indicating his spiritual maturity. His later life reflected this training; he remained detached from worldly ambition and deeply committed to ethical conduct.

Expansion and Influence Kashmiri's teaching career began at Madrasa Aminia in Delhi, where he helped establish the institution despite minimal resources. His dedication transformed it into a recognised centre of learning. He later returned to Kashmir, establishing a madrasa and attempting to address educational deficiencies. However, his



Gateway to Lolab, the famous Kupwara belt that is home to Kalaros

intellectual trajectory soon led him back to Deoband. At Darul Uloom Deoband, his influence reached its peak. He taught major Hadith collections and introduced a method that emphasised critical engagement. Students were encouraged not merely to memorise but to analyse, compare, and interpret. His classes were intellectually demanding. He would raise complex questions, explore multiple interpretations, and connect textual knowledge with broader theological and legal frameworks. Over eighteen years, he trained approximately 2,000 students. Many became leading scholars, extending his influence across the subcontinent.

His Scholarship Allama Kashmiri's scholarship was characterised by extraordinary breadth. He was not confined to Hadith alone; he engaged deeply with jurisprudence, theology, philosophy, and literature. His lectures were known for their density and originality. Contemporaries observed that each lecture contained enough material for extensive written works. He possessed a rare ability to synthesise vast bodies of knowledge and present them coherently. His intellectual method combined tradition with inquiry. He remained firmly rooted in classical frameworks but did not hesitate to explore complex questions. This balance allowed him to contribute to both preservation and renewal.

Departure from Deoband The 1920s brought significant challenges. Darul Uloom Deoband faced internal disputes over administration, curriculum, and student welfare. Kashmiri aligned with those advocating reform. The conflict gradually intensified. Despite attempts at resolution, it reached a point where reconciliation became impossible. In 1927, Kashmiri resigned along with several prominent scholars. This departure was not merely administrative; it was deeply emotional. Deoband had been central to his intellectual life. Leaving it marked a rupture that affected him profoundly. Yet, the episode also reflected his principles. He chose integrity over position, demonstrating that scholarship, in his view, could not be separated from

ethical responsibility. Renewal in Exile After leaving Deoband, Kashmiri moved to Dabhel in Gujarat. Though relatively obscure, the institution there quickly gained prominence under his leadership. Students from various regions began to gather, drawn by his reputation. He continued teaching Hadith and other sciences with the same intensity. In addition to teaching, he engaged in religious reform, addressing practices he considered inconsistent with Islamic teachings. Even in declining health, his intellectual output and public engagement remained significant.

Unfulfilled Aspirations In his final years, Kashmiri suffered from a severe illness that gradually weakened him. Despite medical treatment, his condition deteriorated. He expressed a strong desire to return to Kashmir, particularly to address theological challenges. He even began writing a Persian work for this purpose, but could not complete it. This unfulfilled aspiration reflects a recurring theme in his life; his connection to Kashmir remained strong, even when circumstances kept him away.

Moral Authority Kashmiri's personality combined intellectual brilliance with humility. He lived simply, avoided luxury, and treated all individuals equally. He showed deep respect for teachers and emphasised ethical conduct. His accessibility made him widely respected; anyone could approach him without barriers. His life demonstrated that true scholarship is inseparable from character. His influence extended beyond texts and classrooms into the moral formation of those around him. Allama Anwar Shah Kashmiri's legacy lies in the intellectual tradition he strengthened and transmitted. His students carried forward his methods, ensuring continuity. He remains a central figure in Hadith studies in South Asia. His life reflects a broader historical pattern, the preservation and renewal of knowledge in times of decline.

The author can be reached at: [nasrullahrashid9906@gmail.com](mailto:nasrullahrashid9906@gmail.com)

■ MOOL RAJ

## Building Houses Not Homes

My father lived without internet, less tension, and a simple life. Families spent more time together. Guests stayed for weeks – and nobody complained. Today, I sometimes say, 'Papa, himmat hi nahi hai.' That is the difference. Old is gold. We cannot go back. But we can share meals, spend time, say sorry, and rebuild. Let us start. When we look back 20 or 25 years, our fathers and grandfathers lived in joint families, where uncles, aunts, fathers, sons, daughters, and their children lived together in a peaceful bond, with true love, care, and respect.

My father often talks about the life of the 80s and 90s; he tells us how they lived, without the internet, less tension, and a simple life. Families spend more time together.

They shared meals on a single Dastarkhaan (dining sheet), where everyone sat together. Even if the meal was simple, with Dal or Saag, it was tasty because it was made with hard work, fewer spices, and full of natural taste.

Homes were full of family members. Rooms were shared. When I used to visit my maternal uncle, I remember those days – the fun we enjoyed, the games we played with cousins, and how beautiful those days were. My cousin always used to say during cricket, "You didn't tell me that catch-out is legal in cricket."

My father also used to say that when they visited relatives, they would spend weeks or even months there. Nobody ever complained, nor did anyone show a change in mood because guests had stayed too long. Guests were treated as a blessing, and relationships were valued more than comfort.

But with time, people changed. We changed. I changed.

These were days of great warmth. People stayed together for days, sometimes months, on occasions such as marriages and engagements. Everyone felt close to each other at these gatherings.

Life was also full of strength and determination. People worked hard and faced difficulties with courage. Today, when my father asks me to do something, I sometimes reply, "Papa, himmat hi nahi hai." That itself shows the difference between their generation and ours. They faced challenges with resilience, while we often feel exhausted by much smaller struggles.

Today, I recall those days. I want to go back to my childhood days – the days of innocence, reality, and fun.

Today's children do not know the real fun of playing in the mud and making little toys. They spend

most of their time on screens.

There is a saying, "Old is gold." It is true when we remember the past and realise how much we miss those days of innocence, reality, and fun.

So, we need to spend time with elders and grandparents, listen to them, and think and act positively. When we sit with them and listen to their stories and experiences, we learn lessons that no book or screen can teach us.

Whenever I spend time with elders, I cannot explain how much relief and comfort I find in their company. We begin to realise how genuine, simple, and innocent they are. Their words come from experience, not from trends. Their advice is often free from selfish interests and full of wisdom gained through years of struggle and patience.

I feel at ease when conversing with them. Spend time and share my ideas freely. When around them, I have the sense that they understand me. Through them, we learn that happiness is not necessarily brought by riches, technology, or even status but rather by good relations.

I remember the poem "Once Upon a Time" by

Gabriel Okara. The poem is written from the perspective of a father talking to his son. In the poem, the father laments the loss of innocence, genuine emotions, and cultural authenticity in modern society.

He remembers a time when people smiled with their hearts, but now they smile only with their faces. They shake hands warmly, yet their feelings are often not sincere. The poet feels that society has become artificial, where people wear different faces for different situations and hide their true emotions.

This poem perfectly reflects many aspects of today's world. We have more ways to connect than ever before, yet many relationships have become weaker. We have larger houses, but smaller families. We have more followers on social media, but fewer meaningful conversations. We often greet people with smiles, yet rarely take time to understand their struggles. The simplicity and honesty that once defined human relationships are gradually fading away.

The father in the poem wants to unlearn all that he has learned and be as innocent as his child. This is similar to what most of us desire: to go back and retain our innocence in the past. We may not be able to go back, but we can surely learn from the past. So, the question is: Can we go back to those innocent days?

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

# Heatwave Makeup Guide



■ SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

It may be the last leg of summer, but that hasn't stopped the climate from hurling us into the throes of a deadly heatwave.

No matter what your skin type, in the heat, makeup tends to run due to sweat and increased sebum production.

While wall-to-wall sunshine may sound like paradise to many, the heat can cause low hydration levels, profuse sweating, body odour, and overall dullness.

Anyway, it's a good idea to know how to heat-proof your makeup, so it works that little bit harder and goes the extra mile.

When a heatwave is not letting up, you can still limit heat damage by including waterproof products in your make-up kit.

You can use waterproof eyeliner and

mascara to make your eyes pop all day long, and waterproof concealer to cover up dark undereye circles. You can also line your lips with a lip pencil. No more touch-ups—your makeup will last from morning to night without fading.

■ **Use cream or liquid instead of powder**

The goal during extreme heat should be maintaining skin balance and barrier comfort rather than achieving excessive coverage.

Swap your powder products in favour of creams, liquids and gels that blend more seamlessly into the skin. Opt for products with a buildable creamy formula that glides onto the cheeks and lips for fool-proof application.

For summer, liquid makeup is generally better as it is lightweight, sweat-resistant, and blends seamlessly into a breathable finish.

Cream makeup is ideal if you have dry skin or prefer a dewy, glowing finish, though it may require setting powder to prevent melting in high humidity.

Lean on gel moisturisers, such as those that are oil-free and contain lightweight humectants to hold vast amounts of water and plump up the skin without blocking pores.

Waterproof eye makeup formulas efficiently combat sweat, humidity, and last all day long without budging.

So, swap all your eye makeup products like eyeliner, kajal, mascara with water-proof ones and achieve flawless, sweat-proof makeup for hot weather like a pro

■ **Make-up application technique**

When temperatures are high, make-up application technique comes to the forefront.

Focus on a "skin-first" approach that enhances your natural glow while controlling excess sweat.

Prioritise lightweight formulas, thin layers, and strategic powdering.

Thick layers, quick smearing and touching up without prior preparation are the most common routes to makeup that melts before the end of the workday.

Heavy foundations tend to melt and settle into fine lines. Choose a lightweight yet durable formula that provides breathable coverage. Hydrates skin without making it greasy and stays intact even in humid conditions

Use a beauty blender dampened with cold water instead of a brush, because this creates a thinner layer that the skin

holds better. All products should be applied in thinner layers.

■ **How to touch up makeup during the day**

Even if we do everything right, there is a strong chance that we will have to make a few corrections during the day. "One of the most common mistakes is adding new layers over a base that has already melted.

Creating a make-up touch-up kit that fits in your bag and doesn't add too much weight is a great way to ensure you're always ready for any event. A small pack of tissues or oil blotting papers is a good starting point to have in your kit to blot away any excess oil or shine.

Before any correction, remove excess shine with blotting paper, because that way the makeup looks fresher and neater.

Opt for blotting papers instead of extra powder to remove excess sebum. A mini setting spray in your bag, with one or two spritzes in the afternoon, will make the makeup look fresher again.

■ **Lip stains over lipstick**

Lip stains are a must-have for heatwave make-up as it is a lightweight formula that stains your lips for long-

lasting colour, without the heaviness of traditional lipsticks.

Lip stains are known for their long-wearing magic, meaning you won't have to worry about constant touch-ups. Lip stains absorb into the lips, offering very long-lasting, lightweight colour with minimal touch-ups, ideal for busy professionals. It can last up to 12 hours with minimal fading. Survives eating and drinking. You can set it and forget it. No need for quick touch-ups or mirror checks. Lip stains are easy to layer under balm or gloss if you want more comfort or shine. These unique lippies literally stain the lips—almost like ink—giving you a weightless wash of colour that stays put all day long. Removing a lip stain will take micellar water or an oil-based remover. Olive oil can also work in a pinch.

The main advantages of lip stains are that they absorb into the lips and are less likely to smudge like lipstick. They are lightweight and are perfect for those who prefer comfortable, fuss-free wear. Lip stains offer buildable coverage, allowing you to tailor your look to your liking.

**The author is international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India**

# When Healing Becomes Costly

■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

Healthcare has long been regarded as one of the noblest professions in society. Hospitals are places where people seek relief from pain, hope during illness, and protection in times of emergency. Doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers dedicate their lives to saving lives and improving human well-being. Yet, amid the remarkable progress of modern medicine, concerns have emerged about unethical practices and medical scams in certain healthcare institutions. Such practices not only impose financial burdens on patients but also erode the trust that forms the very foundation of the doctor-patient relationship.

Medical scams in hospitals refer to deceptive, unnecessary, or unethical medical practices carried out primarily for financial gain rather than patient welfare. While the vast majority of healthcare professionals work with honesty and integrity, isolated instances of medical fraud have become a growing concern in many parts of the world. These scams occur when patients are persuaded to pay for treatments, tests, procedures, or medications that are unnecessary, overpriced, or falsely represented. Patients often find themselves in a vulnerable state when they seek medical care. Fear, anxiety, and urgency can make them heavily dependent on professional advice, creating opportunities for exploitation when ethical standards are compromised.

One of the most common forms of medical exploitation involves unnecessary diagnostic tests. Patients may be advised to undergo multiple blood investigations, CT scans, MRIs, ultrasounds, or other diagnostic procedures that contribute little to diagnosis or treatment. While some tests may be ordered out of caution, unethical practices arise when such recommendations are driven primarily by revenue generation rather than medical necessity.

Another area of concern is the performance of unnecessary surgeries and medical procedures. Some patients are advised to undergo operations that may not be immediately required or for which less invasive alternatives are available. Certain spinal surgeries, cesarean deliveries, cardiac interventions, and orthopedic procedures have occasionally faced scrutiny for being performed without sufficient medical justification. Beyond the financial burden, unnecessary procedures expose patients to avoidable risks such as infections, complications, emotional distress, and prolonged recovery periods.

The overprescription of medicines is another challenge. Patients may be prescribed expensive branded drugs when equally effective generic alternatives are available. In some cases, multiple medications are recommended despite offering little additional benefit. Such practices increase treatment costs and may expose patients to side effects, drug interactions, and unneces-



sary health risks.

Inflated hospital bills are also a major source of patient dissatisfaction. Families are sometimes confronted with unexpected charges, duplicate billing, excessive room fees, inflated consumable costs, and hidden expenses. Medical bills often contain complex terminology that makes it difficult for patients to fully understand what they are paying for, leading to confusion and financial stress.

Commission-based referrals represent another ethical concern. In certain cases, healthcare professionals may receive financial incentives for directing patients to specific laboratories, imaging centers, pharma-

cies, or specialists. Such arrangements can compromise objective medical judgment and result in increased expenses for patients.

Medical emergencies can further increase the risk of exploitation. During critical situations, patients and their families often lack the time or emotional capacity to seek second opinions or evaluate alternatives. Unscrupulous institutions may take advantage of this urgency by recommending expensive treatments without fully explaining available options.

Several factors contribute to the persistence of these practices. Modern healthcare relies on advanced technology, sophisticated infrastructure, and substantial

operational costs. While financial sustainability is essential, excessive emphasis on profitability can sometimes overshadow patient welfare. Additionally, the information imbalance between healthcare providers and patients creates vulnerability. Doctors possess specialized knowledge, while patients often lack the expertise needed to assess treatment recommendations independently.

Fear and anxiety also play a significant role. Illness naturally creates uncertainty, and many patients are willing to accept any recommended intervention when concerned about their health or survival. Lack of transparency further compounds the problem. Medical terminology and complex treatment plans can be difficult for ordinary individuals to understand, making it challenging to determine whether a recommended procedure is genuinely necessary. Weak regulatory oversight and inadequate enforcement mechanisms may allow unethical practices to continue unchecked.

The consequences of medical scams extend far beyond financial losses. Patients who discover they have been misled often experience a profound loss of trust in healthcare professionals and institutions. Feelings of betrayal, helplessness, anxiety, and even depression may follow.

**The author is a Faculty, Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib, Punjab**

# Div Com, IGP Jammu review SANJY 2026 arrangements at Bhagwati Nagar, Tawi Riverfront



## HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JUNE 24:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti today reviewed arrangements for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026 at Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas and the Tawi Riverfront Token and Registration Centre.

Inspector General of Police, CRPF Jammu, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua, DIG Traffic, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu (Nodal Officer Jammu SANJY 2026), Director Tourism, SSP Jammu, SSP Security, Director Health Services, Chief Engineers of executive agencies, Joint Director Information (Jammu), RTO, officers from Fire and Emergency Services and line departments were present.

Reviewing arrangements at Bhagwati Nagar, the Divisional Commissioner was apprised that all essential preparations and works at the Yatri Niwas camp have been put in place. Facilities for accommodation, drinking water, power supply, locker rooms, washrooms, illumination and other amenities have been set up at the Yatri Niwas, along with a health facility with doctors, paramedics and medical stock, and a round-the-clock control room with dedicated teams from line departments to ensure the best services for pilgrims.

A traffic plan with cut-off timings has been prepared, and a rate list for public vehicles including e-rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and taxi services has been circulated. The Divisional Commissioner and IGP Jammu emphasised adherence to cut-off timings for departure of Yatra convoys.

The Divisional Commissioner and IGP Jammu also visited the Token and Registration Centre at Tawi Riverfront, where they took a comprehensive on-the-spot review of arrangements for security, frisking points, multiple token and registration counters, drinking water, German hangars and barricading for smooth on-the-spot registration of pilgrims.

This year, the Token Centre for on-the-spot registration of pilgrims has been shifted to Tawi Riverfront with spacious, augmented facilities for a convenient and comfortable experience.

## Sad Demise



With profound grief and sorrow we, inform the sad demise of Haji Gul Mohammad Kawoosa S/o Late Haji Habibullah Kawoosa, R/o Nowhatta, Presently at Khawaja Pora, Nowshera (Near Kashmir Law College). He left for heavenly abode on Wednesday, 24th June 2026. May Allah grant him highest place in heaven. Also all are requested to please pray for the departed soul. Rasmi Chaharum will be held on Saturday, 27th June 2026, at 10.30 am, at their Ancestral Graveyard Murr Kathi Road, Malkha, Srinagar.

May Allah (SWT) bestow mercy to the departed soul and give forbearance to the Family members and Friends to bear the loss.

### In grief:

**Bilal Ahmad Kawoosa (Son)**  
**Khurshid Ahmad Tramboob (Son in law)**  
**Rouf Ahmad Kawoosa (Son in law)**  
**Muzafar Jan Pattoo (Son in law)**  
And Entire Kawoosa Family.  
Ph.no: 7889737104, 8493001665

## Traffic Police Headquarters J&K Jammu / Srinagar

### ORDER

**Subject: Traffic Advisory-Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 (Cut-off Timing)**

Whereas, initial cut-off timing for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 received from both the IGP Kashmir Zone & IGP Jammu Zone vide their communication Nos. ZPHQ/KZ/GB/SANJY-2026/26946-86 dated 19-06-2026 and ZPHQ/CC/SANJY-26/S-36/14574-619 dated 22-06-2025 respectively have been examined and duly consolidated at Traffic Headquarters J&K;

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the enclosed cut-off timing be adhered to in letter and spirit by all concerned for smooth regulation and safe movement of Yatra convoys.

All field officers are directed to disseminate the advisory to personnel on ground and ensure strict implementation of the prescribed timings.

**Enclosure: Consolidated Cut-off Timings (03 Leaves)**

**Issued in the interest of public safety and effective traffic management.**

TRAFFIC ADVISORY FOR SHRI AMAR NATH JI YATRA-2026 (Valid between 2nd July 2026 and 28th August 2026)

In context to the above subject, the cut off timings for Yatra Convoys/Yatris for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 (SANJY-2026) is hereby issued as under: -

#### A. Yatra convoy cut off timings for movement between Jammu Zone and Kashmir Valley:-

##### UP Baltal Convoy

S. No	Location	Distt.	timing
1	Departure from Jammu towards Kashmir for Baltal	Jammu	0400 hrs
2	Departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Baltal	Ramban	1000 hrs
3	Departure from Manigam Ganderbal towards Baltal	Ganderbal	1700 hrs

##### DOWN Baltal Convoy

S. No	Location	Distt.	timing
1	Departure from Baltal towards Jammu	Ganderbal	0600 hrs
2	Departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Jammu	Ramban	1130 hrs

##### UP Pahalgam Convoy

S. No	Location	Distt.	timing
1	Departure from Jammu towards Pahalgam	Jammu	0415 hrs
2	Departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Pahalgam	Ramban	1045 hrs

##### DOWN Pahalgam Convoy

S. No	Location	Distt.	timing
1	Departure from Pahalgam towards Jammu	Anantnag	0600 hrs
2	Departure from Nunwan, Pahalgam towards Jammu	Anantnag	0630 hrs
3	Departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Jammu	Ramban	0800 hrs

#### B. Cut off timings for Non-Convoy/Yatris/Tourists from NAVYUG Tunnel to Valley & vice versa

##### From Jammu to Pahalgam (other than Main Convoy arriving from Jammu)

S. No	Location	Distt.	Cut off timing
1	Last vehicle to cross NAVYUG Tunnel towards Valley	Kulgam	1500 hrs
2	Last vehicle to cross Mir Bazar towards Anantnag	Kulgam	1600 hrs

##### From Pantha Chowk to Manigam, (other than Main Convoy arriving from Jammu)

S. No	Location	Distt.	Cut off timing
1	Last vehicle to cross Peaks Crossing, Lassjan towards Manigam	Srinagar	1500 hrs
2	Last vehicle to cross Shadipora/Sumbal towards Manigam	Bandipora	1530 hrs
3	Last vehicle to cross Manigam Transit Camp towards Baltal	Ganderbal	1700 hrs

##### From Baltal to NAVYUG Tunnel (Jammu bound other than Main Convoy leaving at 0600 hrs from Baltal)

S. No	Location	Distt.	Cut off timing
1	Last vehicle to leave Baltal Base Camp towards Manigam	Ganderbal	0900 hrs
2	Last vehicle to cross Sonamarg P/S towards Manigam	Ganderbal	1000 hrs
3	Last vehicle to cross Manigam Transit Camp towards Shadipora/Sumbal	Ganderbal	1200 hrs
4	Last vehicle to cross Shadipora/ Shadipora crossing towards Peaks Automobile	Bandipora	1300 hrs
5	Last vehicle to cross Pantha Chowk towards Anantnag	Srinagar	1500 hrs

##### From Nunwan, Pahalgam to NAVYUG Tunnel (other than Main Convoy leaving at 0630 hrs from Nunwan)

S. No	Location	Distt.	Cut off timing
1	Last vehicle to cross Nunwan towards Jammu	Anantnag	1000 hrs

##### From Mir Bazar to NAVYUG Tunnel (other than Main Convoy leaving at 0600 hrs from Pahalgam and at 0630 hrs from Nunwan)

S. No	Location	Distt.	Cut off timing
1	Last vehicle to cross Mir Bazar towards NAVYUG Tunnel	Kulgam	1700 hrs
2	Last vehicle to cross Walnut Factory Qazigund towards NAVYUG Tunnel	Kulgam	1730 hrs

##### UP Yatra/Tourist vehicles (other than convoy) from Jammu towards Kashmir Valley

S. No	Location	Distt.	timing
1	Cut of timing at Nagrota (Jammu)	Jammu	1200 hrs
2	Cut of timing at Jakheni (Udhampur)	Udhampur	1300 hrs
3	Cut of timing at Chanderkote	Ramban	1400 hrs
4	Cut of timing at Lamber, Banihal	Ramban	1500 hrs

#### C. General cut off timings

S. No	Movement	Distt.	After
1	No Yatri/tourist vehicle shall be allowed to cross NAVYUG Tunnel towards Kashmir	Kulgam	1500 hrs
2	No Yatri/tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Pahalgam towards Jammu/Srinagar	Anantnag	1530 hrs
3	No Yatri/tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Sonamarg towards Srinagar	Ganderbal	1600 hrs
4	No tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Gulmarg towards Srinagar	Baramulla	1700 hrs
5	No tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Srinagar towards Gulmarg	Srinagar	1700 hrs
6	Yatris/tourists are advised to travel in Kashmir Valley only between 0700 hrs to 1800 hrs and should plan their travel accordingly, so that they reach their destination within this time period. After withdrawal of ROP, i.e 1800 hrs, no vehicle of Yatri/tourist shall be allowed further movement. Concerned Police/Traffic/SFs shall bring such vehicles to nearest Yatri/SFs camp.		

Note:- This advisory is valid only for Yatris/Yatra Convoy/Tourists. For other HMVs/LMVs/SFs Convoys, please refer to the Daily Traffic Advisory issued by Traffic Police.

For any clarification/assistance, following numbers be contacted.

1. TCU Jammu: 0191-2459048, 0191- 2740550, 9419147732, 103
2. TCU Srinagar: 0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091, 103
3. TCU NHW Ramban: 9419993745, 1800-180-7043
4. TCU Udhampur: 8491928625

No:THQ/Advisory-01 No: TH/CS/SANJY-26/Order/2697-2733  
Dated: 24-06-2026 Dated: 24-06-2026

DIPK: 2505/26

Dated: 24-06-2026

Sd/-  
(M. Suleman Choudhary)-IPS  
Inspector General of Police,  
Traffic J&K Jammu/Srinagar

**JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE HAJ COMMITTEE**

Government of India  
Ministry of Minority Affairs  
Haj Committee of India

## HAJ 2027 (1448 H)

### IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

- PASSPORT VALIDITY**  
Passport must be valid till **31 December 2027**.  
Passport must be valid on the date of application.
- COVER / GROUP**  
A group can have maximum **5 members**.  
Minimum age - **18 years** on the date of application.
- COVER HEAD**  
Cover Head must be a **male member**.  
Minimum age - **18 years** on the date of application.
- MOBILE NUMBER & WHATSAPP**  
Cover Head must use his own mobile number.  
WhatsApp must be active on the same number.
- FORM SUBMISSION**  
Fill the form yourself.  
Do not let anyone else fill the form using your mobile number.  
Do not share your OTP with anyone.
- NOMINEE**  
Nominee: Son / Daughter / Parents / Spouse (Legal heir preferred)  
Add only one nominee who will perform Haj in your place.
- BANK DETAILS (ACCOUNT HOLDER MUST BE COVER HEAD)**  
Account must be in the name of the Cover Head.  
Provide correct & active bank account details.  
Account must be active.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR HAJ - 2027 (1448 H)

- The Haj Committee of India invites applications from eligible intending pilgrims for Haj - 2027 through the online Haj Application Form available at <https://www.hajcommittee.gov.in> or HAJ SUVIDHA mobile app.
- The application window shall remain open from **22.06.2026 to 20.07.2026** (up to 11:59 PM). After Qurbah (Digital Random Selection) process to be conducted in the last week of July, each provisionally selected pilgrim shall be required to deposit an advance amount of **₹1,52,300/-** on or before **10.08.2026**. No relaxation or extension in these timelines shall be feasible.
- Applicants must carefully read the Guidelines and Undertakings to ensure their eligibility and upload scanned copies (not photographs) of the following:
  - Front and back pages of machine-readable Indian Passport (1200 x 800 px, JPG/JPEG, 100-500 KB), issued on or before the application closing date and valid up to at least 31.12.2027;
  - Passport-size photo with white background (480 x 640 px, JPG/JPEG, 5-20 KB);
  - Bank passbook or cancelled cheque (590 x 750 px, JPG/JPEG, 80-250 KB); and
  - Address proof (590 x 750 px, JPG/JPEG, 80-250 KB).
- Cancellation of a Haj seat is strongly discouraged, as it causes operational difficulties. Accordingly, cancellation shall attract substantial penalties in accordance with the Guidelines for Haj 2027. Intending pilgrims are advised to apply only after careful consideration of their preparedness and firm commitment to undertake the pilgrimage.

Timely Updates | Guidance & Support | Important Information | Deadlines & Reminders

JOIN VIA WHATSAPP LINK  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Lxp9Sdes7r0Ad0RmRdcAfm?sz=qt&p=a&mlu=1>

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JOIN OUR OFFICIAL WHATSAPP GROUP  
For Haj 2027 Updates

Bait-ul-Hujaj (Haj House), Bemina, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, India - 190017  
+91 194 249 5365  
<https://www.jkshc.org/>

Aapki Tayyari - Aapka Aaram - Hamari Zimmedari

## Javid Dar reviews fruit fall incidents; sets up Horticulture panel to fix causes, suggest corrective measures

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a meeting to review the impact of recent fruit fall incidents across horticultural zones of Shopian and Anantnag districts.

The Minister took stock of the damage reported from various orchard belts and reviewed the ongoing measures for assessment and mitigation. He directed the officials to undertake a comprehensive ground-level survey to accurately quantify losses and ensure timely submission of reports.

The Minister emphasized the need for a broader response and called for an immediate assessment of fruit drop across major apple-growing districts, with specific focus on identifying vulnerable varieties and high-risk locations.

Stressing on quality control, he instructed the Enforcement Wing to intensify field inspections



and take appropriate action against the sale of substandard or unauthorized pesticides and plant protection chemicals.

The Minister also directed for constitution of a committee headed by the Director Horticulture, Kashmir, to carry out a detailed assessment of the situation. The committee has been tasked with identifying the underlying causes of the incidents and submitting its report in a time bound manner.

He further instructed the officers to ensure wide dissemination of scientific recommendations on balanced nutrient management. He asked for providing necessary handholding support to the farmers regarding scientific orchard management practices to mitigate risk of recurrence of such incidents.

Senior officers including Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Enforcement J&K, Director HPMC and Director Horticulture (P&M) J&K besides other stakeholders attended the meeting.

## DE&CC Shopian hosts Mega Job Fair

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, JUNE 24:** District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC), Shopian, today organized a one-day Job Fair at its premises under the theme "One Platform for Employment and Entrepreneurship", aimed at connecting unemployed youth with prospective employers and expanding employment opportunities across the district.

The event was inaugurated by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, in the presence of ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone and officers from various departments, representatives of participating companies, and a large number of aspiring job seekers.

The Job Fair witnessed an overwhelming response, with more than 500 unemployed youth from across the district participating in the recruitment drive cum awareness event.

Around 20 reputed companies and institutions representing diverse sectors took part in the event, including Idigi Academy Pvt. Ltd., Pitman Institute Shopian, WEPS Soft Skill Centre, IQU Info Tech Pvt. Ltd., Al Fatima Tour & Travel, Umeed Nursing College, Umeed International Group, Think and Win Technologies, NIIT Foundation, and several other organizations.

In addition to recruitment activities, stalls established by various line departments showcased a range of government schemes aimed at supporting unemployed youth.

The initiative helped create awareness about livelihood opportunities, skill development programmes, self-employment initiatives, and socio-economic empowerment schemes available to eligible beneficiaries.

Addressing the participants, the DDC underscored the importance of such initiatives in bridging the gap between job seekers and employers. He encouraged youth to actively explore emerging career opportunities and make full use of platforms being created for their professional growth.

He urged young people to take advantage of employment and self-employ-



ment schemes and emphasized the need to broaden their horizons, adapt to evolving job market demands, and align their skills with emerging opportunities to enhance their employability and long-term career prospects.

Assistant Director, Employment, Dr. Nida Yousuf, also addressed the gathering and encouraged youth to register on the J&K Employment Portal, which has been integrated with the National Career Service Portal.

She informed the participants that the platform offers a range of free services, including online career counselling, video resume creation, skill training programmes, job matching services, and notifications regarding vacancies in both the public and private sectors across the country.

Under Mission YUVA, the DDC also handed over keys of commercial vehicles among beneficiaries and distributed sanction letters among 10 aspiring entrepreneurs approved under the scheme.

The programme further featured counselling sessions conducted by the SBDU/BHD/Motivators of Mission YUVA, who guided unemployed youth on establishing income-generating enterprises and encouraged them to pursue entrepreneurship and self-reliance through the Mission YUVA Scheme.

## Official Race T-Shirt, Finisher Medal unveiled for Zoon Run Festival Baramulla 2026; Website also launched

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA, JUNE 24:** In a step towards the successful organization of the much-anticipated Zoon Run Festival, Baramulla 2026, the official race T-shirt, finisher medal for the event were unveiled and the website was launched during a ceremony held at Dak Bungalow Baramulla today.

The unveiling was carried out by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Pranjal J. Hazarika, in the presence of District Information Officer Baramulla, Iftakhar Naseem along with officers from various departments, representatives of sponsoring organizations, members of the organizing committee, and sports enthusiasts.

The unveiling ceremony marked an important milestone in the preparations for the Zoon Run Festival, which is scheduled to be held on 28th June 2026.

The event is being organized with the objective of promoting fitness, healthy living, youth participation, tourism, and showcasing the rich cultural and natural heritage of Baramulla.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC Baramulla appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee and associated stakeholders for conceptualizing and planning a unique sporting event that combines athletic excellence with cultural celebration.

He emphasized that such initiatives play a vital role in encouraging a healthy lifestyle among youth while also highlighting the district's immense tourism potential.

Addressing the gathering, District Information Officer, Iftakhar Naseem highlighted the importance of community participation and public awareness in ensuring the success of the festival.

Pertinently, the Zoon Run Festival 2026 has received an enthusiastic response, with over 800 participants registered so far, including more than 250 runners from outside Kashmir, highlighting the event's growing national appeal.

## DC Kathua inspects Lakhapur Corridor ahead of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KATHUA, JUNE 24:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today visited Lakhapur Corridor to oversee final-stage works for the facilitation of pilgrims during the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The DC inspected installation of the multi-facility Yatri Hanger and reviewed overall preparedness at Lakhapur Yatri Facilitation Centre. He also reviewed security arrangements with SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma, who briefed him on the deployment plan, surveillance mea-

asures and coordinated security mechanisms being implemented along the corridor.

Bituminous work on the corridor has been completed. Infrastructure for eKYC and RFID counters and the dedicated healthcare facility are being set up at the Facilitation Centre.

Toilets, sanitary units and drinking water points have already been established at designated locations.

The DC directed executing agencies to complete all remaining works, including finishing touches, within one to two days. UNI

## KCFL becomes a sporting destination, draws national attention, enthusiastic crowd as League resumes tomorrow

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** Kashmir Champions Football League (KCFL), being organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, continues to generate tremendous enthusiasm among football lovers while steadily emerging as a major sporting attraction for visitors and sports personalities from across the country.

The fixtures scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, were postponed and will now be played

on Thursday, June 25, at TRC Synthetic Ground in Srinagar. The revised schedule includes Match No. 15 between Baramulla Strikers and Shopian Legends, followed by Match No. 16 featuring Srinagar United against Budgam Royals.

Since its inception, the KCFL has witnessed an encouraging response from local football enthusiasts, with spectators turning up in significant numbers to cheer their favourite teams. The league has also attracted visitors from outside

Jammu & Kashmir, many of whom have taken time out of their travel itineraries to experience the electrifying atmosphere and competitive football on display.

The growing stature of the tournament was further reflected by the presence of renowned sports personalities among the spectators. The notable visitors were Dr. Amit Samarth, Director of Tiger Man Sports and Race Director of Race Across India. Also present was Anshu Sharma, founder of High-

land Sports India, a platform dedicated to documenting athlete stories, inspiring sporting journeys and endurance sports across the country. Their presence reflects the growing recognition that the Kashmir Champions Football League is receiving beyond the Union Territory and highlights the role of sport in showcasing Kashmir's sporting potential to a wider audience.

The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council remains committed to promoting football and creating

competitive opportunities for young athletes through structured tournaments such as the KCFL. The league continues to provide a vibrant platform for local talent, community engagement and strengthening the football culture across the region.

With several exciting fixtures still to come, the KCFL is expected to continue attracting passionate crowds and sports enthusiasts as teams battle for supremacy in one of Kashmir's most eagerly followed football competitions.

## CONDOLENCE MEETING HELD AT DISTRICT COURT SRINAGAR TO MOURN DEMISE OF MOTHER OF JUSTICE SANJEEV KUMAR

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 24:** A condolence meeting was convened in the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, Srinagar, under the guidance of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chair-

man DLSA), Srinagar on the sad demise of Smt.

Shakti Devi, revered mother of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, who left for her heavenly abode on 20th

June, 2026.

All the learned Judicial Officers along with their respective staff posted at District Court Srinagar attended the meeting and expressed profound grief and sorrow over the irreparable loss suffered by the bereaved family.

## DLSA Ganderbal organizes Legal, Welfare Awareness Camp at Mela Kheer Bhawani Tullmulla

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL, JUNE 24:** Under the aegis of the J&K Legal Services Authority and under the overall guidance of Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, in collaboration with the Kashmir Jurists Bar Association, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and State Bank of India (SBI), Ganderbal, organized a Legal and Welfare Awareness Camp on the occasion of the annual Mela Kheer Bhawani at Tullmulla, Ganderbal.

The initiative was conducted under the guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District &

Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, who personally monitored the arrangements and functioning of the Legal Aid Help Desk established for the benefit of devotees.

A dedicated Legal Aid Help Desk was set up by DLSA Ganderbal and remained operational throughout the mela period to provide legal guidance, welfare assistance, and information regarding various legal aid schemes and services.

The Help Desk was manned by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Ganderbal, who worked with remarkable dedication and commitment to ensure

that devotees received timely assistance and support.

The Para Legal Volunteers emerged as the backbone of the initiative, rendering selfless service for several days and assisting thousands of devotees visiting the holy shrine.

Their tireless efforts were particularly commendable in facilitating and assisting senior citizens, persons with disabilities, women, and other pilgrims. Wheelchairs were provided by District Social Welfare Department, Ganderbal and provided to elderly and specially abled devotees, enabling them to participate in the pilgrimage with ease and dignity.

The volunteers were seen actively guiding devotees,

responding to their queries, assisting them in facilitation across the mela premises, and extending every possible support wherever required.

As part of the welfare measures undertaken during the mela, the Kashmir Jurists Bar Association, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh State Bank of India, Ganderbal extended their full support for the smooth functioning of Help Desk.

The initiative received an overwhelming response and appreciation from devotees, who lauded the efforts of the Legal Services Authority and the volunteers for their accessibility, dedication, and humanitarian approach.

The camp served as an effective platform for

spreading awareness regarding free legal aid and welfare services while simultaneously providing on-ground assistance to the public.

The District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, expressed its gratitude to the Kashmir Jurists Bar Association, SBI Ganderbal, and especially the dedicated Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Ganderbal, whose unwavering commitment, compassion, and spirit of public service played a pivotal role in the success of the programme.

The initiative reflected the collective commitment of all stakeholders towards ensuring access to justice, public welfare, and meaningful assistance to the people.

## DDC Samba chairs Block Diwas at Glard

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SAMBA, JUNE 24:** District Development Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a Block Diwas at Panchayat Ghar Glard to hear public grievances and developmental concerns and ensure their prompt redressal.

The DDC heard issues projected by the public relating to drinking water supply, power, road connectivity and other civic amenities, and assured residents that all genuine grievances would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

Departments and executing agencies concerned were directed to take immediate action for early resolution.

Several grievances were resolved on the spot, while officers concerned were instructed to prepare an action plan for disposal of pending issues, particularly those related to water and power supply.

Departmental stalls were established to disseminate information on welfare schemes and public services.

The DDC visited the stalls and directed officials to enhance public outreach and ensure effective implementation of government schemes at the grassroots level.

Among those present were Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ajay Bharti, Assistant Commissioner (Development), General Manager DIC, Executive Engineers of various departments, BSF officials, Block Development Officer, district and sectoral officers, PRI members, public representatives and a large number of locals.

# Private sector growth slows as demand softens, hiring weakens

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 24:** The Private sector activity in India continued to expand, albeit at a slower pace, amid softening demand for goods and services. Companies also added fewer jobs during the period.

The HSBC Flash India Composite PMI Output Index fell to a preliminary reading of 57.4 in June from 59.3 in May. While the reading continued to signal a sharp expansion in overall output, it was the weakest since March.

Growth moderated across both manufacturing and services. The manufacturing output index eased to 57.4 from 58.0 in May, while the services business activity index declined to 57.3 from 59.8. The headline manufacturing PMI slipped to a three-month low of 54.5 in June from 55.0 in May, according to the HSBC Flash India Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



survey.

According to the survey, new orders continued to rise strongly in June, but the pace of expansion was the weakest in three months. The slowdown was evident across both manufacturing and services firms, with some companies reporting difficulties in securing new business.

Competitive pressures, rising fuel prices and shortages of gas

were cited as factors weighing on business activity. S&P Global said cost pressures and softer demand conditions curbed the latest upturn in output.

Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC, said, "Private sector activity eased a bit in June. Growth of manufacturing output softened a tad as inventory-building lost steam after a few hectic months. New export orders re-

mained resilient and the order-to-inventory ratio ticked up, pointing at resilient manufacturing activity down the line. Input costs across the private sector rose, but at the slowest pace in five months."

Survey further showed that hiring at both goods producers and service providers was the least marked since December 2025. The survey also indicated that outstanding business volumes were broadly unchanged across manufacturing and services firms, suggesting that staffing levels were sufficient for current requirements.

Further, the export trends were mixed during the month. Services firms reported faster growth in international business, while manufacturers recorded the weakest increase in new export orders since March 2023. At the composite level, international sales expanded at a solid pace, though the rate of growth was the slowest in 21 months. UNI

## Piyush Goyal welcomes visit of USTR Ambassador, looks forward to productive discussions

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JUN 24:** Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday welcomed the visit of US Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Jamieson Greer. Goyal said he looked forward to productive discussions on the bilateral trade agreement between India and the US. In a post on social media platform X, Minister Goyal said, "Warm welcome to @USTRTradeRep Amb Jamieson Greer, @USAmbIndia Amb Sergio Gor and their delegation to @DoC\_Gol. Looking forward to productive discussions on the bilateral trade agreement between India and US." US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, is also present in India. Minister Goyal welcomed Gor and the adjoining US delegation for being a part of the ongoing discussions.

"Warm welcome to @USTRTradeRep Amb Jamieson Greer, @USAmbIndia Amb Sergio Gor, and their delegation to @DoC\_Gol. Looking forward to productive discussions on the bilateral trade agreement between India and the US," he said in a post on X.

Ambassador Gor had also highlighted his meeting with Piyush Goyal and USTR Ambassador Greer and said that the ongoing discussions will pave the path



towards finalisation of the trade deal between the US and India.

"Great to be with Minister @Piyush-Goyal and @USTRTradeRep Ambassador Greer today in New Delhi. Ongoing discussions on finalizing the trade deal between the US and India," he said.

Gor further welcomed the visit of USTR Ambassador, saying that the finalisation of the bilateral trade agreement will unlock new economic opportunities for both countries and significantly deepen the US-India economic partnership.

Earlier, Goyal had said the trade deal with the US is taking a little longer to sign due to the 50 per cent tariff that was imposed on goods from the country.

Speaking at a media conclave, Goyal said, "India aims to gain preferential access through the trade pact with the US." UNI

## EV makers Vinfast inks MoU with SFL for financing solutions

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**CHENNAI, JUNE 24:** VinFast India, the Indian subsidiary of global electric vehicle manufacturer VinFast, on Tuesday signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shriram Finance Limited (SFL) to enhance consumers' access to financing solutions and support the wider adoption of electric mobility in the country.

Through this partnership, prospective VinFast customers will benefit from SFL's tailored financing solutions, including up to 100%

on-road funding, attractive interest rates, and flexible repayment options across VinFast's product portfolio, designed to simplify EV ownership



and accelerate adoption.

The collaboration will also enable VinFast to leverage SFL's extensive pan-India presence, deep expertise in vehicle financing, and strong customer reach across urban, rural, and semi-urban markets. Through its green finance initiatives, SFL shares VinFast's vision of accelerating the transition towards cleaner and more sustainable mobility solutions across India.

The MoU was signed by Tapan Ghosh, CEO, VinFast India and Nandagopal R., President and National Business Head - Shriram Green Finance.

Tapan Ghosh said "India's transition to electric mobility will be shaped not just by strong products, but by the strength of the ecosystem that supports them. Our partnership with SFL reflects VinFast's continued focus on removing barriers to EV adoption by improving financing accessibility and enabling a smoother ownership experience for our customers across markets." Commenting on the partnership, Nandagopal said, "We are pleased to collaborate with VinFast through this strategic MOU, which marks an important step towards strengthening sustainable mobility solutions in India.

This association reflects our shared vision to accelerate EV adoption and support the development of a stronger green mobility ecosystem across the country." UNI

## Agriculture must become more attractive to draw youth back: Ex-Nestle CMD

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**BENGALURU, JUNE 24:** India's food security will remain anchored in its villages and cannot be sustained by urban centres alone, former Nestlé India Chairman and Managing Director Suresh Narayanan has said, stressing the urgent need to make agriculture a "viable, attractive and technology-driven" vocation to draw younger generations back to farming.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Reimagining Agro-Food Processing Conference organised by the Bengaluru Chamber of Industry and Commerce on Tuesday, Narayanan said the transformation of agriculture must go beyond government intervention and involve a broader ecosystem of institutions and industry.

He said India's rural economy continues to be the foundation of food security, even as rapid urbanisation and expansion of the services sector pull youth

away from farming, creating a growing age imbalance in agriculture.

"The average age of farmers is rising, and that is a structural challenge," he noted.

In a reference to dairy cooperative revolution, Narayanan said the model pioneered by Dr. Verghese Kurien remains highly relevant even today.

He said the system demonstrated how science, technology, and structured procurement can transform rural livelihoods through fair pricing and transparent processes.

"The Dr. Verghese Kurien model is extremely relevant even in the digital age," he said, adding that digital integration can further improve efficiency and transparency in procurement and payments.

He cited the success of the Amul cooperative system as proof of its scalability and continuing relevance in meeting India's growing protein demand.

Narayanan pointed out that



agriculture continues to suffer from uncertainty related to weather, price volatility, and weak market linkages.

He said strengthening price discovery mechanisms, improving storage and logistics infrastructure, and ensuring farm-gate procurement systems are essential to reduce risk and improve farmer incomes.

He noted that cooperative success has been most visible in the dairy sector due to structured systems that eliminate middlemen and ensure fair returns.

On whether farmers can become entrepreneurs, Narayanan said agriculture must become more structured and professionally supported if it is to attract youth.

He warned that food production will continue to depend on rural India, even as urban centres expand economically.

"Food production cannot shift to cities like Bengaluru, Delhi or Mumbai," he observed.

On cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), he said outcomes vary widely depending on governance, infrastructure, and market access.

While successful models benefit from strong logistics and price transparency, weaker ecosystems often lead to failure.

In his concluding remarks, Narayanan emphasised that the future of Indian agriculture depends on the integration of technology, transparent pricing systems, and robust infrastructure.

"If these elements are aligned, agriculture can become more sustainable, attractive, and rewarding for farmers while ensuring stable food supply for consumers," he said. UNI

## STOCK MARKETS END SHARPLY LOWER, SENSEX DOWN NEARLY 900 POINTS

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JUN 24:** Indian Stock Markets on Tuesday ended sharply lower with Nifty closing below 23,850. Markets took cues from weak global markets and uncertainty surrounding US-Iran peace talks.

Markets had a volatile session in the first half and slipped in the second half. At close, the Sensex was down 893.39 points or 1.16 percent at 76,200.68, and the Nifty was down 278.80 points or 1.16 per cent at 23,824.10.

The overall market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms to Rs 475 lakh crore from Rs 480.6 lakh crore in the previous session, making investors poorer by nearly Rs 6 lakh crore in a single day.

Among the sectors, Nifty Pharma was up by 0.92 pc and Healthcare was up by 0.54 pc. All other sectoral



indices ended lower, with Metal down by 3.22 pc, IT down by 2.23 pc, and PSU Bank down by 1.97pc. Nifty Bank also suffered loss of 1.30 pc, and the Financial Services index dropped 0.96pc.

Further, on the lows were Consumer Durables (1.50pc), Media (1.47pc), and Realty (1.12pc).

On Nifty, the gainers were Cipla, Power Grid, and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, while on the losing end were Infosys, Wipro, and TCS.

Around 200 stocks touched their

52-week high on the BSE. These included Kirloskar Oil Engines, Syrma SGS Technology,

Sai Life Sciences, Schneider Electric Infrastructure, AIA Engineering, Laurus Labs, Emcure Pharmaceuticals, GE Vernova T&D India, Apar Industries, Bharat Forge, Welspun Corp, Pidilite Industries, FSN E-Commerce Ventures (Nykaa), Cement India Projects, KEI Industries, Adani Enterprises, Navin Fluorine International, Aditya Birla Capital, Radico Khaitan, and Adani Green Energy, among others.

Thirteen of the banking indices were trading lower during the session. Canara Bank emerged as the top loser, falling more than 3 percent.

Bank of Baroda and IDFC First Bank declined 2.5 percent and 2.11 percent, respectively, while HDFC Bank, Yes Bank, State Bank of India, and ICICI Bank were down by up to 1 per cent. UNI

## Adani Group to invest Rs 1 Lakh Crore in airports

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**MUMBAI, JUN 24:** The Adani Group plans to invest around Rs 1 lakh crore across its airport portfolio over the next five years, Adani Airport Holdings Director Jeet Adani stated during the launch of scheduled commercial flight operations at Adani Mundra Airport in Gujarat on Tuesday.

The announcement coincided with the inauguration of the airport's new terminal and the commencement of Star Air's commercial services connecting the region to key domestic destinations.

"Our five-year investment plan across all airports is about Rs 90,000 crore to Rs 1 lakh crore, and that continues to be the case," Jeet Adani told media persons.

He stated that the conglomerate also plans to expand its aviation footprint further by participating in the government's forthcoming airport privatisation programme.

Jeet Adani told media persons that the Adani Group intends to participate aggressively after the government invites bids for 11 new airports.

Regional carrier Star Air, will connect Mundra with Mumbai and Goa, while additional routes have been launched to Hindon, Surat, Belagavi, Bengaluru, Kolhapur and Nanded.

According to Adani Airport Holdings, the airport's new terminal was completed in record time and will initially focus on regional connectivity, with Ahmedabad expected to be added to the network soon.

Jeet Adani also stated that the new services would significantly improve connectivity for residents, businesses and tourists in the Kutch region.

Travelling from Mundra to major cities such as Mumbai often involved multiple stops, making journeys time-consuming and inconvenient.

Direct air connectivity is expected to simplify travel while supporting business activity linked to Mundra Port and the surrounding industrial ecosystem, he stated.

## ED conducts searches at Rajesh Exports amid Sebi probe over alleged financial irregularities

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JUN 24:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at premises linked to Bengaluru-based jewellery exporter Rajesh Exports amid a regulatory probe into alleged financial irregularities.

The searches are being carried out under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), with locations in Bengaluru and Mumbai reportedly covered as part of the investigation.

The action comes after the Securities and Exchange Board

of India (Sebi) raised concerns over the company's financial disclosures and alleged that Rajesh Exports inflated its consolidated revenues by more than 15 lakh crore over a five-year period.

In an interim order, Sebi alleged that the company attributed unusually large revenues to its overseas subsidiaries, particularly Switzerland-based Valcambi SA, despite the subsidiary's audited standalone financial statements showing significantly lower figures.

The market regulator termed the matter a prima facie mis-



representation of the company's financial position and noted that a substantial portion of reported revenues was linked to overseas subsidiaries whose detailed financial information was not publicly available.

Following the order, Sebi restrained Rajesh Exports Chairman and Managing Director Rajesh Mehta from buying, selling, or dealing in the company's securities, directly or indirectly, until further directions.

Rajesh Exports has denied any wrongdoing, stating that its reported revenues were accurate and suggesting that there

may have been a misunderstanding between the company and the regulator.

Rajesh Mehta said the regulator's conclusion was based on an interpretation issue, claiming that Sebi had considered Valcambi's EBITDA as revenue, which led to the alleged discrepancy.

"SEBI has taken the EBITDA of Valcambi and considered it as revenue. That is the entire confusion," Mehta said.

The ED's latest action adds another layer to the scrutiny facing the company as investigations into the matter continue. UNI

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**Big pay cut for Pant as LSG, DC complete high-profile trade with Kuldeep**



**NEW DELHI:** Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and Delhi Capitals (DC) have formally completed the high-profile trade of Rishabh Pant and Kuldeep Yadav.

As reported by Cricinfo on June 19, Pant will return to DC, where he played nine seasons of IPL cricket from 2016 to 2024. He had been signed by LSG at the auction prior to IPL 2025 for INR 27 crore - still an IPL auction record - but will now go to DC for a revised fee of INR 15 crore. Kuldeep, meanwhile, will move to LSG for his current fee INR 13.50 crore.

The difference between Pant's previous fee and Kuldeep's fee will leave LSG with an extra INR 13.50 crore (INR 27 crore minus INR 13.50 crore) in their purse for the next auction, while DC will have INR 1.50 crore deducted from their purse.

Pant has become the second big name after Ravindra Jadeja to take a pay cut as part of a trade in recent times. Ahead of IPL 2026, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) made one of the biggest trades in IPL history when they swapped Jadeja and Sam Curran for Sanju Samson with Rajasthan Royals (RR). In 2022, CSK had retained Jadeja for INR 18 crore but RR signed him after offering a salary of INR 14 crore. Both Kuldeep and Pant had a difficult time during IPL 2026.

Pant, who led LSG, scored 312 runs with a best of 68 not out in 13 innings, scoring at a strike rate of 138.05 as his team finished bottom of the table with just four wins from 14 games.

Two days prior to the IPL 2026 final, Pant told LSG that he was going to step down as captain. The development followed LSG team director Tom Moody suggesting immediately after the team's last match of the season that the franchise was looking to "reset" the leadership in the wake of finishing seventh in 2024 and 2025 and then last in 2026.

DC finished in sixth place in IPL 2026, and Kuldeep, who returned one three-for, had just ten wickets from 11 bowling innings in which he sent down 37 overs. He was expensive too, going at 10.29.

Overall, though, Kuldeep had been an important performer for DC, picking up 72 wickets in 65 games at an economy rate of 8.24 since joining them in 2022.

**Shedje replaces injured Reddy for T20Is in Ireland and England**

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**DAMBULLA:** Uncapped allrounder Suryansh Shedje has been called up to India's T20I squad for the series in Ireland and England as replacement for the injured Nitish Kumar Reddy. Shedje, 23, was part of the India A squad that won the recent 50-over tri-series against Sri Lanka A and Afghanistan A in Sri Lanka. Batting in the lower-middle order, he scored 147 runs at a strike rate of 120.49, and also bowled 23 overs across five innings, taking two wickets with his medium pace at an economy of 6.04. Playing for Punjab Kings in IPL 2026, Shedje scored 158 runs in seven innings at an average of 39.50 and strike rate of 175.55. Reddy was ruled out of the tour with a left quadriceps injury that he aggravated during last week's third ODI against Afghanistan in Chennai. He will undergo his rehab at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru for at least a month, with a view to being ready for the two-Test tour of Sri Lanka in August.

**James Coles wins maiden England call-up for India T20Is**

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NOTTINGHAM:** Harry Brook will captain England in a T20I against India less than 48 hours after finishing a Test match, if their series decider against New Zealand goes the distance.

England's third and final Test against New Zealand starts on Thursday, meaning that a fifth day could run until Monday evening. Brook, as England's white-ball captain, would then travel around 150 miles from Nottingham to Chester-le-Street on Tuesday before leading England in their first T20I against world champions India on Wednesday evening.

England have named an enlarged 17-man squad for the five-match T20I series, which features the uncapped Sussex allrounder James Coles but is otherwise very



similar to the side that lost to India in the T20 World Cup semi-finals in March. Jos Buttler retains his spot after a quiet World Cup,

while Liam Dawson is another notable retention at 36.

Brook is one of six players named in the squads for both

the third Test and the T20I series, along with Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Jacob Bethell, Jordan Cox and Josh Tongue. England are

highly unlikely to ask any fast bowlers involved at Trent Bridge to play in the first T20I but Bethell looks set to join Brook in playing both matches. "We have selected a larger squad to accommodate for the fact that this series will begin shortly after the Test series against New Zealand is due to conclude which allows us to be flexible," Marcus North, England's new national selector, said in a statement. It is not the last time that England players will face tight turnarounds this summer. Several players, including Brook, are likely to be involved in both the third and final ODI against India on July 19 and the opening game of the Hundred on July 21, while the Hundred's final is on August 16, with England's first Test against Pakistan starting three days later.

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