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International Film Festival Must Restore J&K as a Global Cinema Destination: Omar Abdullah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday outlined an ambitious vision for the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK)-2026, declaring that the event should restore the Union Territory's status as a globally recognised destination for filmmaking while serving as a catalyst for cultural revival and economic development.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on preparations for the inaugural festival, the Chief Minister said the event should evolve into a world-class cinematic platform that celebrates storytelling and showcases Jammu and Kashmir's natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and emerging creative talent. He stressed that the festival must be organised to international standards to attract leading film-



makers, producers, actors and cinema enthusiasts from across the world.

Abdullah said the International Film Festival should not be viewed merely as a film event but as a major cultural and economic initiative capable of generating opportunities in tourism, investment, employment and the creative economy. He said the festival should reaffirm Jam-

mu and Kashmir's historic position as one of India's most sought-after destinations for film production and cinematic tourism.

Emphasising the importance of strengthening the local creative ecosystem, the Chief Minister directed officials to ensure meaningful participation of

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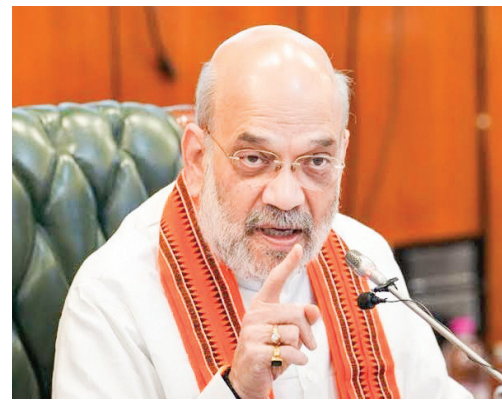
FCRA 2.0 Will Simplify Compliance and Strengthen Oversight: Amit Shah

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched the FCRA 2.0 portal and the e-OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) system, describing the initiatives as major steps towards simplifying compliance, strengthening oversight and delivering faster, fully digital public services.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said the FCRA 2.0 portal has been developed to modernise the administration of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act by digitising all major services, including registration, renewals, annual returns and other regulatory processes. The upgraded platform is expected to reduce paperwork, improve efficiency and enable quicker verification through integrated digital systems.

Hosted on the National Government Cloud (Meghraj), the portal incorporates Aadhaar-based authentication, electronic signatures, optical character recognition-based document analysis, process restructuring and an integrated dashboard. The government said these features will strengthen monitoring of foreign contributions



while ensuring greater transparency and accountability.

India currently has around 14,500 organisations with active FCRA registration, with authorities processing between 15,000 and 20,000 applications and nearly 17,000 annual returns every year. Officials said the new platform will significantly improve the speed and accuracy of compliance verification through integration

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Future-Ready Army Key to Meeting Emerging Security Challenges: Gen Dhiraj Seth

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30: General Dhiraj Seth on Tuesday assumed charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), taking command of the 1.3 million-strong Indian Army at a critical juncture as it advances its transformation into a modern, self-reliant and technology-driven force capable of addressing evolving security challenges.

General Seth succeeds General Upendra Dwivedi, who retired after an illustrious military career spanning more than four decades.

An officer of the Armoured Corps commissioned in December 1986, General Seth brings with him nearly 40 years of operational, strategic and leadership experience. Before taking over as Army Chief, he served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff and played a central role in shaping the Army's long-term modernisation and capability development plans.

His appointment comes at a time when the security environment is becoming increasingly complex, with

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Strong Economy, Technology and National Security Are the Three Pillars of a Great Nation: Rajnath Singh

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

VADODARA, JUNE 30: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said that a strong economy, technological advancement and national security are the three fundamental

pillars of a great nation, asserting that India's future global standing will depend on its ability to strengthen all three simultaneously.

Addressing the valedictory session of the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference in Vadodara, Singh said sustained eco-

nommic growth, technological innovation and a robust national security framework are closely interconnected and together provide the foundation for long-term national development.

"Great nations stand on three strong foundations—economic

strength, technological strength and national security. These three are deeply interconnected. Where there is economic prosperity and technological advancement, security becomes stronger, and where national security is strong, industries

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Shri Rajnath Singh

Amarnath Yatra set to commence from July 3 amidst unprecedented multi-layer security arrangements

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 30: The annual Amarnath Yatra is all set to commence on July 3 amidst unprecedented multi-layer security arrangements.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) authorities are conducting mock drills, deploying specialised rescue teams, regulating traffic and railway operations, and centralising official communication to ensure the smooth conduct of the 57-day pil-

grimage.

The first batch of pilgrims will leave the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on July 2 for the twin routes of Baltal in Ganderbal district and Pahalgam in Anantnag district. The pilgrimage will conclude on August 28 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Ahead of the Yatra, Srinagar Police on Tuesday conducted a multi-agency mock drill at the Transit Yatri Camp in Pantha Chowk to test preparedness for emergencies, including a fideyeen

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IGP Traffic Reviews SANJY-2026 Traffic Plan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Traffic J&K, M. Suleman Choudhary, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess and finalize traffic management arrangements for the smooth, safe and seamless movement of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026

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No Eligible Rural Worker Will Be Left Without Work : Centre on Launch of VB-G RAM G

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30: The Centre on Tuesday announced that all preparations have been completed for the implementation of the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Mission (Rural) Act, 2025, which comes into force on July 1, providing a statutory guarantee of up to 125 days of wage employment to eligible rural households.

The Ministry of Rural Development said an interim allocation of Rs 95,692.31 crore has been released to States and Union Territories to ensure a smooth

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Embrace AI with Responsibility: Sakeena

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today urged the academic leaders to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) with responsibility and ethical values, adding that AI is reshaping education, governance and virtually every sphere of human activity.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the valedictory session of two-day Digital Readiness Workshop for Academic Leaders on the theme "Building AI-Ready Institutions" at Kashmir University here today.

The workshop was organised by University of Kashmir (KU) in collaboration with Intel, bringing together academic leaders, administrators and faculty members to



deliberate on leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) for academic excellence, institutional transformation and effective governance.

The workshop was organised as part of the University's continued efforts to promote digital readiness and innovation in higher education, the workshop was designed to equip academic leaders with the knowledge, practical insights

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Wars Will Be More Integrated, Theatre-Oriented In Future: Gen Dwivedi

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30: In future, wars will be more joint, integrated and theatre-oriented, therefore the armed forces' direction is clear "to see together, take decisions together and take actions together", outgoing Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said on Tuesday.

Gen Dwivedi, an accomplished military leader with over 40 years of service who retires on Tuesday, was accorded a guard of honour as part of a ceremonial farewell held on the lawns of the South Block.

In his remarks to the media on the sidelines of the event, Gen Dwivedi said, "Today, as I complete my tenure as the Chief of the Army Staff, I feel a



sense of deep gratitude, pride and satisfaction." Gen Dwivedi took over as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff in June 2024.

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Srinagar Sizzles at 35.2°C, Rain Relief Ahead

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 30: Kashmir sweltered under continuing heatwave conditions on Tuesday with Srinagar recording the season's second-highest maximum temperature at 35.2 degrees Celsius, even as the Meteorological Department forecast relief from Wednesday with the arrival of monsoon winds and the influence of a western disturbance.

Officials at the Meteorological Centre here told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the Valley will witness a gradual change in weather over the next few days, with rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds expected across several parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The weather office said heatwave or heatwave-like

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Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026

Div Com Kashmir reviews facilities for Yatris at Srinagar Airport

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: In preparation for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements put in place at Srinagar International Airport to ensure a safe, seamless, and hassle-free travel experience for pilgrims.

During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner assessed the facilities established for Yatris, including dedicated eKYC counters, Yatra Facilitation Centre, passenger reception areas, and other essential facilities available at the airport.

On the occasion, senior officials from the Civil Administration, Airport Authority, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)



briefed the Divisional Commissioner on the preparedness and coordination measures undertaken by their respective departments to facilitate the smooth

movement of pilgrims at the Airport.

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com stressed the need for coordination and robust com-

munication mechanisms to ensure the timely resolution of issues and uninterrupted services for the pilgrims.

Pertinently, in a major step

towards facilitating the seamless and pilgrim-friendly Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, the local Administration have substantially augmented the registration infrastructure across Kashmir.

The total number of pilgrim facilitation counters has been increased from 54 in 2025 to 131 in 2026, which includes a significant increase in E-KYC counters from 21 to 59, RFID counters from 20 to 32, and on-spot registration counters from 13 to 40.

The additional registration facilities have been established at key locations including Pantha Chowk, Srinagar International Airport and Railway Station Nowgam.

During the visit, the Div Com was accompanied by DC Budgam Athar Aamir, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Budgam, and other officers from the concerned departments.

DC Ganderbal reviews Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 arrangements at Baltal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting at JPCR Baltal to review departmental preparedness and ensure coordinated arrangements for the smooth, safe and hassle-free conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 along the Baltal axis.

Reviewing the preparedness of each department, the DC stressed the importance of close inter-departmental coordination to ensure uninterrupted services and prompt response to any eventuality during the Yatra.

Reviewing arrangements related to essential commodities, the DC instructed the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department to ensure adequate availability of ration and other essential supplies throughout the Yatra period without any interruption.

The Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) was directed to ensure proper transport management, including smooth movement of vehicles, parking arrangements and regulation of traffic to facilitate hassle-free movement of pilgrims and service providers.

The DC also reviewed telecommunication arrangements and directed BSNL, Airtel and Jio to deploy dedicated technical teams along the Baltal axis throughout the Yatra. He instructed the telecom service providers to share list of designated nodal officers and contact numbers with the District Administration to enable immediate coordination in case of any communication-related issues.

Emphasising the importance of timely execution of responsibilities, the DC directed all concerned departments to remain in close coordination, ensure round-the-clock readiness and address any emerging issue promptly to facilitate a safe, smooth and well-managed Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The meeting was attended by officers from Civil Administration, Police, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB), Beacon, Health, Jal Shakti, PWD, Irrigation & Flood Control, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Fire & Emergency Services, Forest, Sonamarg Development Authority, Rural Development, Animal Husbandry, Information Department, Transport, Traffic Police, BSNL, Airtel, Jio and other concerned departments.

Later, the DC visited the On-Spot Registration Centre and RFID Card Distribution Counters at Baltal to inspect the arrangements put in place for registration and issuance of RFID cards to pilgrims. He reviewed the functioning of the counters and directed the concerned officers to ensure smooth crowd management, adequate manpower, proper queue regulation and hassle-free registration so that pilgrims do not face any inconvenience. He also emphasized that RFID cards should be issued in a systematic and time-bound manner.

The DC also inspected the Pony Stand at Baltal and reviewed the arrangements made for pony service providers and pilgrims. He instructed the concerned departments to ensure orderly management of the stand and strict adherence to safety protocols. He further directed that all stakeholders associated with pony operations must possess valid RFID cards and other requisite permissions before being allowed to operate during the Yatra. The DC also visited Domail to assess the preparedness of various departments on the ground. During the inspection, he reviewed the availability of essential services, including medical facilities, emergency response arrangements, power and water supply, sanitation and communication facilities.

He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers to maintain round-the-clock readiness, ensure swift response to any exigency and work in close coordination to provide pilgrims with a safe, seamless and comfortable Yatra experience. He stressed that all arrangements should remain fully functional throughout the Yatra period and that any shortcomings noticed during inspections must be addressed without delay.

NITI Aayog Conducts TARA Capacity-Building Programme in Kulgam to Boost Grassroots Development

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, JUNE 30: The District Administration Kulgam, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, on Tuesday organised a capacity-building training programme under the TARA (Transformation and Advanced Rural Analytics) initiative to strengthen development planning and improve governance outcomes at the grassroots level. The programme was chaired by District Development Commissioner Kulgam, Shazad Aalam (IAS), and attended by a NITI Aayog team comprising Amrit Kaur, Public Policy Specialist; Utkarsh Srivastava, Assistant Section Officer; Misba Shah, Young Professional; and three other members of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). During the training, the NITI Aayog team highlighted the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modern governance and development, besides introducing participants to AI-based tools and digital solutions developed by the policy think tank to support evidence-based



planning and decision-making.

The programme was attended by district officers, representatives of various line departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and other key stakeholders. It aimed to enhance institutional capacity, promote data-driven governance, and ensure effective implementation of development programmes under the Aspirational District and Aspirational Block initiatives.

Experts from NITI Aayog emphasised the need for greater inter-departmental convergence, outcome-based planning, continuous monitoring of key development indicators, and the adoption of innovative strategies to achieve sustainable and

inclusive growth. The sessions also focused on Kulgam's developmental priorities, challenges, and emerging opportunities.

Participants were sensitised on strengthening local governance, improving public service delivery, and accelerating progress in critical sectors, including healthcare, education, agriculture, basic infrastructure, sanitation, and livelihood generation.

The officials reaffirmed their commitment to applying the knowledge and best practices gained during the programme to enhance implementation strategies and achieve measurable improvements in the district's development indicators.

One-Day Job Fair Held in Kupwara

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JUNE 30: District Administration Kupwara today organised a One-Day Job Fair at the District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) to enhance employment opportunities for the youth in the district.

Deputy Commissioner

Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, inaugurated the Job Fair and interacted with the youth. He appreciated the initiative of the District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC), which provides a single platform for aspiring youth as well as employers. He emphasized the importance of skill development,

adaptability, and entrepreneurship in today's competitive job market while reiterating the District Administration's commitment to fostering employment and sustainable livelihoods. Following preliminary screening and interviews conducted by the participating employers, 212

candidates were shortlisted for the next stage of the recruitment process.

Dedicated Mission YUVA Facilitation Centre provided on-the-spot counselling and registration support, with 32 aspiring entrepreneurs receiving guidance and two candidates registering under the Nano Enterprise Scheme.

PSA Elects New Baramulla District Body; Chosen President, every child deserves quality education: Dr. G. N. War

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 30: The Jammu and Kashmir Private Schools' Association (PSA) on Tuesday elected its new Baramulla district body through a peaceful and transparent democratic process, with Mir Aadil Mohi-ud-Din emerging as the new District President. The elections were held at Kashmir Public Vidyalaya, Pattan, under the supervision of the PSA Election Commission. School heads and representatives from various educational zones across Baramulla participated in the polling, which was conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner.

The election process was chaired by Election Commissioner Nazir Ahmad Dar, assisted by North Kashmir Election Observer and Coordinator Mushtaq Shaheen and the Election Commission team. PSA Election Liaison Officer and Public Relations Officer B.A. Shah coordinated the proceedings.

Mir Aadil Mohi-ud-Din, Chairman of Cambridge Foundation School, Kunzer, defeated Firdous Mustafa of Ahmad Memorial Educational Institute, Rafiabab, in the contest for the post of District President. Following the declaration of results, a felicitation ceremony was held to honour the newly elected office-bearers.

The newly elected district body comprises Mir Aadil Mohi-ud-Din as President, Firdous Mustafa as Vice President, Abdul Rashid Dar as Secretary and Mohammad Altaf Wani as Organiser.

Addressing the gathering, PSA Chief Patron Dr. G.N. War congratulated the newly elected team and said democratic participation strengthens the Association and promotes unity among private schools. He emphasized that every school deserves collective support, every child deserves quality education and every teacher deserves respect. Dr. War said schools are centres of learning and character-building and called upon the new leadership

to work collectively for the welfare of educational institutions, teachers, students and parents.

PSA State President Bilal Ahmad Bhat congratulated the newly elected office-bearers and appreciated the Election Commission for conducting a transparent election. He urged the new district body to safeguard the interests of private schools and work with dedication for the improvement of education.

PSA General Secretary (Organisation) Mohammad Syed Wani stressed the need for unity, transparency and equal representation, saying a strong association is essential to address the challenges faced

by private schools.

Speaking after his election, Mir Aadil Mohi-ud-Din thanked the members for their trust and assured that he would work for strengthening academic standards, protecting the interests of member schools and ensuring quality education for students across the district. The election proceedings were attended by senior PSA office-bearers, advisors, educationists and school representatives from Pattan, Tangmarg, Kunzer, Sopore, Rafiabab, Dangi-wacha, Singhpora and other educational zones of Baramulla, reflecting broad participation in the Association's democratic process.

Div Com Kashmir inspects functioning of ICCC Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: With just couple of days remaining for the commencement of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg today visited Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC), Srinagar to assess the functioning of the surveillance & monitoring centre for ensuring smooth conduct of annual religious pilgrimage.

During the visit, the Div Com watched glitch-free streaming of visuals of Yatra camps and routes. On the occasion, he also interacted with the deployed staff and assessed data compilation during the day besides availability of department-wise information regarding on ground services, logistics and essential commodities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com high-



lighted the importance of the ICCC for inter-departmental coordination and synchronization of collective efforts of agencies for successful conduct of yatra.

He said that the camera network helps administration in prompt dissemination of messages and undertake appropriate actions during vagaries of weather.

While terming ICCC as a nerve centre of Yatra monitoring, the Div Com said that teams of various departments are deployed at the centre to monitor cameras round-the-clock for foolproof arrangements and ensuring best facilities to the pilgrims.

He informed that weather related updates will also be shared by IMD through display screens installed enroute and camps for real-time information.

The Div Com informed that Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor has already taken comprehensive review of arrangements during his visit to Baltal and Nunwan base camps.

Leveraging on the previous record influx of Yatris, the Div Com asked devotees to come with much fervor for the pilgrimage and requested them to share their feedback with the administration on 01942740003 for improvement in facilities. He said ICCC is a one point solution for yatris to get any yatra related information or assistance instantly.

Div Com, IGP Jammu interact with civil society members

Brief media fraternity about comprehensive arrangements for SANJY-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 30: In order to ensure a safe, smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Inspector General of Police Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti, today interacted with the Civil Society members, heads of religious, social and other prominent organisations.

The Div Com said that the administration has made comprehensive arrangements for the pilgrims in all five districts of Jammu Division where the Yatra route falls with regard to on-spot registration, RFID card, KYC centres, accommodation, langer facility, medical room, sanitation, power and water supply and security arrangements.

Highlighting the significance of the annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji, the Div Com emphasised the role of civil society members, social & religious organisation and the people of Jammu as the host to the national event in which people from all over the country and world participate with immense devotion and spirituality.

During the meeting, members of the Civil Society shared their views and suggestions for providing the best and

memorable experience to the pilgrims. The Div Com said that their valuable suggestions shall be incorporated and expressed gratitude for the support and assistance from their end for welfare of the Pilgrims.

IGP Traffic, Managing Director, JPDC, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, SSP Jammu, senior officials from Civil and Police administration and representatives of religious, social organizations, transporters, Taxi Union, Traders, Bazaar associations, hoteliers, and other prominent citizens attended the meeting.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner and the IGP Jammu also addressed a press conference outlining the comprehensive security, logistical and administrative arrangements put in place for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

He urged the pilgrims for strictly following the cut-off timings and guidelines issued by Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and the District Administrations to ensure a spiritually enriching and convenient experience of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The Div Com said that proper arrangements have been made for the reception of pilgrims at Lakhanpur entry point,



where the Kathua district administration and police have implemented full security and welcome protocols. The pilgrims are required to enter Lakhanpur from 6 AM to 8 PM for proceeding towards Jammu in mini convoys. After 8 PM they can spend for the night at Lakhanpur in the Government accommodations especially set up for the pilgrims.

People who have registered online can receive their RFID cards at Lakhanpur, Chichi Mata Temple, Samba, Jammu Railway

Station, Tawi Riverfront or Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas. Pilgrims must complete their e-KYC and collect their RFID tags from these centres before entering the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas by 10 PM a day before departing for Pahalgam or Baltal Base camps in the Yatra convoy under proper security protocol, he said.

The Divisional Commissioner further said that pilgrims who are travelling in personnel vehicles towards Srinagar must strictly adhere to cut-off tim-

ings set by the traffic department, with vehicles required to cross the Nagrota TCP between 6 AM to 12:00 PM, Jakhani by 1:00 PM, Chanderkote by 2:00 PM and Banihal by 3:00 PM in order to enter Kashmir in day light. Pilgrims who are reaching by train, can also receive RFID card at Udhampur railway station. Pilgrims can also receive the RFID cards at Chanderkote and Banihal in Ramban.

In Jammu, the main registration centre is established at

Tawi Riverfront with proper facilities. On-spot registration shall begin from Wednesday morning at the Tawi River Front, with a token system already initiated today to manage daily quotas for pilgrims seeking registration. Registration centres are also set up at Mahajan Sabha for general public and at Geeta Bhawan and Purani Mandi for Sadhus.

The Divisional Commissioner further said that accommodation for approximately 55,000 pilgrims has been made across the Jammu division, comprising government centres, temporary facilities and shelters set up with the cooperation of civil society organisations. Adequate arrangements for food through langars, drinking water, power supply, sanitation, security and medical support have been ensured across all these locations. A total of 2100 toilets have been set up for pilgrims at accommodation centre, yatri niwas, halt points and along the National Highway-44.

The Tourism Department has introduced dedicated AC buses operating on four routes with guides and refreshments to facilitate visits to regional destinations including the Suchetgarh Border, Garhana Wetland, Akhnour Fort, Raghunath Bazaar, Bahu Fort, and

Mahamaya Temple.

Further, it was informed that Transport Department has issued fixed rate lists for autos, e-rickshaws, and taxis to prevent overcharging.

Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti said that Yatra shall be conducted in regulated manner for which meticulous planning, resources and arrangements have been put in place. He stressed on adherence to the cut off timings publicised by Traffic department for smooth movement of yatra vehicles.

The IGP informed that proper security arrangements have been made across the entire 260-kilometre route, transit camps and langar sites.

Pilgrims must travel strictly via National Highway 44 (NH-44). Alternative routes such as Dhar Road or Mughal Road are strictly out of bounds for Yatra vehicles. Drivers must ensure full fuel tanks before joining convoys and strictly avoid driving under the influence, he said.

He further cautioned the pilgrims to beware of fraudulent websites and unauthorised WhatsApp groups offering fake registrations. He urged the pilgrims to rely solely on the official Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board platform for all registration-related matters.

DC Baramulla visits Uri Border

Villages, reviews progress under Vibrant Villages Programme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 30: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, today undertook a field visit to several Vibrant Villages, including Tulawari, in the border Sub-Division Uri to assess the progress of developmental works and review implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP).

During the visit, the DC inspected various development works and assessed the availability of essential public services across the Vibrant Villages. He interacted with local residents, heard their grievances, and directed the concerned officers to redress their concerns on priority.

S.F. Hamid directed all officers to maintain close coordination with local communities, regularly monitor the progress of works, and ensure that all developmental interventions are executed in a transparent, efficient, and time-bound manner.



ner. Earlier, the DC chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Officers Club, Uri, attended by SDM Uri, CPO Baramulla, and nodal officers for the Vibrant Villages Programme.

The meeting focused on the saturation of VVP indicators across all identified Vibrant Villages of Uri Sub-Division to ensure holistic development of border villages through improved infrastructure, enhanced public services, livelihood generation, and better connectivity.

In a significant decision taken during the meeting, it was resolved that senior district-level officers shall undertake night stays in the Vibrant Villages for on-ground assessment and close monitoring of developmental works and public service delivery.

The nominated officers will interact with local residents and Panchayat representatives, review the status of infrastructure, connectivity, health, education, drinking water and electrification, and submit detailed visit reports for time-bound follow-up.

The DC reviewed the status of ongoing and proposed projects under VVP and directed the concerned departments to ensure their timely completion while upholding quality standards.

KVK Bandipora-1 organizes Awareness Programme on Apple Leaf Blotch Miner and its Management

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 30: Kri-shi Vigyan Kendra, Bandipora-1, Sher e Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, in collaboration with the Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, Shalimar, today organized a one day awareness programme on "Apple Leaf Blotch Miner and its Management."

The programme aimed to create awareness among apple growers regarding the identification, surveillance, damage symptoms, and scientific management of the emerging invasive pest.

A large number of apple growers from different villages of Bandipora district participated in the programme along with scientists from SKUAST-Kashmir, officials of the Department of Horticulture, Bandipora, and KVK Bandipora 1. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Tariq Sultan, Head, KVK Bandipora-1, emphasized the importance of timely awareness programmes for protecting apple orchards from emerging insect pests. He urged growers to remain vigilant, monitor their orchards regu-

larly, and adopt scientific recommendations for effective pest management.

Dr. Barkat Hussain, Professor, Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, highlighted the importance of early detection, regular surveillance, and coordinated efforts among scientists, extension agencies, and farmers to contain the spread of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner.

Dr. Zewar Hussain, Associate Professor, Division of Entomology, explained the methods of field surveillance, pest identification, and monitoring techniques. He advised farmers to inspect their orchards regularly and seek timely technical guidance whenever infestations are observed.

Dr. Sajad Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, delivered the keynote technical lecture on the biology, life cycle, damage symptoms, and integrated management of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner.

He emphasized orchard sanitation, destruction of fallen leaves and infested debris, scraping of loose bark, installation of pheromone and sticky traps, conservation of natural enemies,



and timely application of recommended insecticides for effective management of the pest.

Dr. Tahir Saleem, Subject Matter Specialist, Vegetable Science, KVK Bandipora-1, highlighted the importance of scientific orchard management practices, balanced nutrition, and timely advisory services for maintain-

ing healthy orchards and improving apple productivity. He encouraged farmers to remain in regular contact with KVK Bandipora-1 for need based technical guidance.

Shabnum Mumtaz, Subject Matter Specialist, Entomology, KVK Bandipora-1, emphasized the importance of early pest

surveillance, orchard sanitation, and adoption of integrated pest management practices for effective control of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner. She advised farmers to regularly monitor their orchards and report any unusual pest incidence for timely scientific intervention.

During the interactive session, farmers raised several queries regarding the identification and management of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner, which were satisfactorily addressed by the experts.

The programme concluded with the commitment of KVK Bandipora-1, the Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, and the Department of Horticulture, Bandipora, to strengthen farmer awareness and promote sustainable management of emerging pests in apple orchards.

The programme was also attended by Mohd Abbas, Horticulture Development Officer (HDO), Bandipora, officials of the Department of Horticulture, Bandipora, scientists from SKUAST-Kashmir, officials of KVK Bandipora-1, and a large number of progressive apple growers from different villages of the district.

JKRLM Women SHGs gain global spotlight at JKTPO Buyer-Seller Meet

MD says direct buyer linkages are opening new avenues for rural women entrepreneurs

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs) supported by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) showcased their products at the J&K International Buyer-Seller Meet organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Held under the "Know Your Artisan" initiative, the event connected SHGs directly with national and international buyers, helping eliminate intermediaries and create new market opportunities.

JKRLM SHGs displayed a diverse range of products, including Pampore saffron, RS Pura Basmati rice, Udhampur Kalari, Kupwara walnuts, Doda essential oils, Rajouri's chirpine needle woodcraft, handloom products, handicrafts and other value-added rural products.

Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, said the participation



reflects the growing strength of rural women entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our Self Help Groups are transforming traditional skills into quality, market-ready products with strong national and global potential. Such platforms enable women entrepreneurs to connect directly with

buyers, expand their businesses and secure better incomes," she said.

She added that JKRLM remains committed to strengthening women-led enterprises through capacity building, branding, market linkages and enterprise promotion to ensure sustainable livelihoods for rural women.

GDC Bandipora organises series of Awareness Activities under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 30: HKM Govt Degree College Bandipora on Tuesday organised a series of awareness activities under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to reinforce the message of a drug-free society and promote awareness among students about the ill effects of substance abuse.

The NSS Units of the college organised an Anti-Drug Pledge Ceremony under the leadership of Principal, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, and the guidance of Programme Officer, Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay.

Students participated enthusiastically and took a solemn pledge to abstain from drug abuse and spread awareness about its harmful effects. The programme highlighted the collective responsibility of youth in combating the drug menace and promoting a healthy, addiction-free lifestyle.

On the occasion, the College Literary Club also organised an interactive session on substance abuse under the convenership of Prof. Sadaf Shafi. The session educated students about the adverse effects of substance abuse on individuals and society and stressed the importance of adopting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Day-long Seminar Highlights Literary and Journalistic Contributions of Abdul Rehman Azad

JKAACL, A. R. Azad Memorial Foundation Celebrate the Literary Legacy

■ **JAMEEL ANSARI**

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with the A. R. Azad Memorial Foundation, today organised a day-long seminar at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Koil, Pulwama, to commemorate the life, literary legacy and journalistic contributions of the eminent Kashmiri writer and journalist Abdul Rehman Azad.

The seminar witnessed the participation of eminent scholars, writers, academicians, students and literary enthusiasts, who paid rich tributes to the veteran litterateur and recalled his invaluable services to the promotion of Kashmiri language, literature and journalism.

The inaugural session was presided over by noted writer and scholar Rafiq Raaz, while Shri Ayaz Rasool Nazki graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Smt. Rukhsana Jabeen attended the function as the Guest of Honour. The dignitaries observed that Abdul Rehman Azad devoted his entire life to the promotion of Kashmiri language and literature and remained an influential voice in Kashmiri journalism through his writings, literary criticism and cultural activism. They described him as a visionary intellectual whose literary and jour-



nalistic contributions continue to inspire generations of writers and readers alike.

Delivering the welcome address, Prof. Nazir Azad warmly welcomed the distinguished guests, scholars and participants. He highlighted the significance of organising such literary programmes to preserve Kashmir's rich literary heritage and to acquaint the younger generation with the lives and works of eminent literary personalities like Abdul Rehman Azad.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Shad Ramzan, who

presented a comprehensive appraisal of Abdul Rehman Azad's literary and journalistic achievements. He described Azad as a committed intellectual whose writings reflected social consciousness, cultural values and an unwavering dedication to the Kashmiri language. He further emphasised that Azad's literary legacy continues to inspire writers, researchers, journalists and students of literature.

The vote of thanks was presented by Jawaid Iqbal Khan, Editor (Kashmiri), JKAACL, who expressed gratitude to the chair,

distinguished guests, scholars, participants, the management of GHSS Koil, the A. R. Azad Memorial Foundation and all those who contributed to the successful conduct of the seminar. He reiterated the Academy's commitment to organising literary programmes that honour eminent writers and promote the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The second technical session was presided over by Prof. Majrooh Rashid, with Shri Ali Shaيدا as the Chief Guest and Shri Ghulam Mohammad Gamgeen

as the Guest of Honour. The session featured scholarly presentations by eminent writers, researchers and academicians, who presented research papers and critical articles highlighting various aspects of Abdul Rehman Azad's life, literary career, journalistic vision and enduring contribution to Kashmiri language and literature.

The speakers deliberated upon Azad's literary philosophy, his remarkable contribution to Kashmiri journalism, his role in enriching Kashmiri prose and literary criticism, and his steadfast commitment to preserving the cultural identity of Kashmir through language and literature. The scholarly presentations generated meaningful discussions among participants and offered fresh insights into the life and works of the distinguished writer.

The seminar concluded with a unanimous resolve to continue documenting, preserving and promoting the works of eminent Kashmiri writers and to inspire future generations to carry forward the rich literary traditions of the region. The programme reaffirmed the Academy's sustained commitment to the promotion of Kashmiri language, literature and culture through scholarly dialogue, literary engagement and meaningful collaborations with literary organisations.

KPC Stages Folk Play "Batte Paather" at NaidKhai, Bandipora

■ **GULFAM BARJI**

BANDIPORA JUNE 30: The Kashmir Performers Collective (KPC) Pattan staged the acclaimed Kashmiri folk play Batte Paather at NaidKhai Bandipora under the Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India New Delhi. Directed by noted theatre personality Manzoor Ahmad Mir the performance was attended by students, teachers, local residents and theatre enthusiasts. The play highlighted Kashmir's rich folk theatre tradition, cultural heritage and social values receiving an enthusiastic response from the audience. Speaking on the occasion, Manzoor Ahmad Mir said that the Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme plays a vital role in preserving traditional art forms through



training and live performances. He emphasized that staging folk theatre in educational institutions and rural areas helps promote cultural awareness among the younger generation. The audience appreciated the Ministry of Culture for supporting such initiatives, while the Kashmir Performers Collective thanked the school authorities, staff, students and the people of NaidKha for their warm hospitality and support. The programme is part of KPC's continued efforts to preserve and promote Kashmiri folk theatre.

Renowned Gojri Poet Taj Din Taj Honoured at Farewell Ceremony on His Retirement

■ **REYAZ BADHANA**

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Renowned Gojri poet Taj Din Taj retired today after rendering long and dedicated services at the Gujjar Bakarwal Boys Hostel, Srinagar. To mark the occasion, a dignified farewell ceremony was organised in his honour, attended by prominent personalities from different walks of life, teachers, staff members and students.

During the event, speakers paid rich tributes to Taj Din Taj for his literary, educational and social contri-



butions. They appreciated his sincerity, dedication and

commitment throughout his years of service and

highlighted his significant role in promoting Gojri language and literature.

Students also presented various cultural and literary programmes, including speeches, poetry recitations and expressions of gratitude. They shared memorable experiences with Taj Din Taj and conveyed their best wishes for his healthy, happy and successful life after retirement.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Taj Din Taj was presented with mementos and a commemorative shield in recognition of his services. In his address, he

thanked the organisers, colleagues and students and said that he would

always cherish his association with the institution and its students.

KU hosts book release ceremony of 'Durr-e-Naayaab'

Sakeena Itoo calls 'Durr-e-Naayaab' her most meaningful contribution to society

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Department of Urdu, University of Kashmir (KU) organised the release of Durr-e-Naayaab (The Rare Pearl), a biography authored by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, at Main Campus here today. The event brought together eminent academicians, literary personalities, students, scholars and writers to celebrate a work that chronicles the life, public service and enduring legacy of veteran political leader late Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo. The book release function was presided over by Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, while Sakeena Itoo attended the programme as the Chief Guest and author of the book.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo expressed her gratitude to the Department of Urdu and the University of Kashmir for organising the release of Durr-e-Naayaab at the UT's premier institution.

Describing the occasion as deeply meaningful, the Minister said that she considered it a tribute to the enduring legacy of her late father and appreciated the University's initiative in bringing the work before the academic community. "I thank the Department of Urdu and the University of Kashmir for honouring the rich legacy of my late father by releasing this book at this premier institution and highest seat of learning," she said.

Calling Durr-e-Naayaab perhaps the most meaningful contribution she could make to society, the Minister said the biography represented years of

painstaking research, reflection and emotional commitment. She remarked that if she was ever asked to identify her greatest contribution beyond public life, she would point to this book, which documents the values, struggles and unwavering commitment of a leader whose life was devoted to public service. She added that the work was compiled after years of sustained effort and drew extensively upon family archives, personal memories and historical records.

Reflecting on the emotional journey behind the book, Sakeena Itoo said that writing the biography of a person with whom one shares a deep emotional bond was one of the most difficult literary exercises. She recalled that many forgotten anecdotes were revived through her mother's recollections, which helped reconstruct significant episodes of her father's life.

The Minister also shared that several personal letters written by her father while he was away from home for studies became invaluable source material, offering intimate insights into his ideals, thoughts and unwavering commitment to the people. She observed that he worked tirelessly to expand educational opportunities, improve healthcare facilities and promote inclusive development across the region. Expressing concern over the declining culture of reading, the Minister urged the younger generation to rediscover the habit of reading books, particularly biographies that preserve the lives and contributions of selfless leaders. She said young readers would discover valuable lessons in courage, sacrifice, public service and ethical

leadership through such works.

In her presidential address, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan congratulated Sakina Itoo on producing a work of lasting literary and historical value despite her demanding responsibilities as Minister. She described the biography as an extraordinary accomplishment. She observed that documenting the life of a distinguished public figure while simultaneously discharging multiple public responsibilities was a remarkable achievement worthy of appreciation.

Prof. Khan also highlighted the rich academic and literary legacy of the Department of Urdu, observing that generations of its faculty members had made immense contributions to the intellectual and cultural landscape of Kashmir and the country.

Referring to Durr-e-Naayaab, she said the biography presents a compelling account of late Wali Mohammad Itoo's public life, grassroots engagement and commitment to the welfare of the people. She added that the work provides readers with a deeper understanding of the region's social ethos, cultural values and traditions of public service.

The Vice-Chancellor further remarked that while reading the biography, she realised how profoundly the author's own personality had been shaped by the ideals and values of her late father. She said the book vividly captures the qualities of humility, dedication and compassion that defined his life and expressed confidence that it would inspire young readers to embrace integrity, selfless leadership and service to society.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

CONTENT CREATION COMPETITION

Under

NASHA MUKT J&K ABHIYAN

"Choose the stage of life, not the trap of drugs"
Create • Inspire • Influence •

Substance abuse among youth has emerged as a serious social and public health concern in J&K. To strengthen awareness and encourage youth participation in the nationwide **"NASHA MUKT J&K ABHIYAN"**, the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages invites Higher Secondary and College Students to participate in the **Content Creation Competition**.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES	THEMES FOR CONTENT CREATION	ELIGIBILITY
A) SLOGAN WRITING B) AUDIO-VISUAL CONTENT i) Song (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) ii) Animation Film (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) iii) Short Film (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) iv) Short Documentary (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) v) Cartoon vi) Logo Design on the Theme	- Say No to Drugs - Youth Against Substance Abuse - Healthy Lifestyle & Mental Wellness - Impact of Drugs on Family and Society - Role of Youth in Building Drug-Free India - Rehabilitation and Hope - Drug-Free Campus Movement	- Open to students of recognized Higher Secondary Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Professional Institutions. - Age Group: 17 – 23 Years. - Individual Participation: Slogan Writing & all AV Content Categories. - Group Participation: Only for Animation Film, Short Film & Short Documentary Categories (Max. 3 members). - Valid College/Institution ID Card or Bonafide Certificate from institute is mandatory.
IMPORTANT GUIDELINES ✓ All entries must be original and unpublished. ✓ Copyright violations will lead to disqualification. ✓ Entries may be submitted in English, Hindi or any official Languages of J&K. ✓ Only one entry per participant per category. ✓ AI generated entries shall be rejected. ✓ Only Original and Creative ideas welcome.	SUBMISSION Submit entries through: e-mail: sec-jkaacl@jk.gov.in Cut-off Date for receiving entries 07 July, 2026 upto 5:00 PM	SELECTION PROCESS A Committee constituted by JKAACL shall evaluate all entries in a fair and transparent manner.
AWARDS & RECOGNITION 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in each competition categories. Winning entries shall be showcased during District, Divisional, and UT-level events and future official campaigns.		

NASHA MUKT J&K ABHIYAN Organised by  **JAMMU & KASHMIR Academy of Art, Culture and Languages**

Space Devoted by Headlines Today, Purely in Public Interest

HT EDITORIAL

Clean Governance Requires Constant Vigilance

Corruption remains one of the greatest obstacles to good governance. It weakens public institutions, delays development, diverts scarce public resources, and erodes citizens' faith in the administration. Every instance of bribery or misuse of authority, however small it may appear, imposes a heavy cost on society by undermining the principles of fairness, transparency, and equal access to public services. A government can succeed in formulating ambitious policies, but unless those policies are implemented with honesty and accountability, public confidence will inevitably suffer.

The fight against corruption cannot be viewed merely through the prism of arrests and prosecutions. While strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws is essential to deter wrongdoing, it addresses only the symptoms of a deeper problem. The real challenge lies in creating a governance system where opportunities for corruption are minimised, institutions are strengthened, and integrity becomes an integral part of public administration.

Administrative reforms must therefore remain a continuous process rather than a one-time exercise. Greater transparency in decision-making, simplified procedures, digitisation of public services, time-bound delivery mechanisms, and regular institutional audits can significantly reduce discretionary powers that often give rise to corrupt practices. Technology has already demonstrated its ability to enhance accountability by limiting unnecessary human interface and creating transparent records of official transactions. Expanding such initiatives across all departments should remain a priority.

Equally important is the cultivation of an ethical work culture within government institutions. Public service is founded on trust, and every government employee carries the responsibility of upholding that trust. Regular training on ethics, stronger internal vigilance, periodic rotation of officials in sensitive positions, and effective performance evaluation can help reinforce professional integrity throughout the administrative system.

Citizens, too, have an important role to play. Accessible complaint mechanisms, effective protection for whistle-blowers, and prompt action on genuine grievances encourage greater public participation in combating corruption. A transparent system thrives when people have confidence that their complaints will be heard impartially and acted upon without fear or favour.

The justice delivery system also has a crucial responsibility. Investigations must be thorough, prosecutions timely, and disciplinary proceedings concluded without unnecessary delay. Justice that is excessively delayed weakens deterrence and diminishes public faith in accountability. Equally, officials who consistently demonstrate honesty and exemplary public service deserve recognition, for promoting integrity is as important as punishing misconduct.

Encouragingly, the emphasis on transparent and accountable governance has become increasingly visible in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years. Administrative reforms, greater use of digital platforms, stronger vigilance mechanisms, and a consistent focus on improving public service delivery reflect a growing commitment to clean governance. The resolve shown by both the Union Territory administration and the elected government to strengthen accountability has created an environment where integrity is receiving greater institutional attention than ever before.

The journey, however, is far from complete. Corruption cannot be eliminated overnight, nor can it be defeated through enforcement alone. It requires sustained political commitment, institutional reforms, technological innovation, an independent accountability framework, and active cooperation from citizens. Progress will be measured not only by the exposure of wrongdoing but by the creation of systems where corruption finds little room to exist.

The government's continued emphasis on transparency, administrative efficiency, and institutional accountability offers a strong foundation for this transformation. If these efforts are pursued with consistency and determination, Jammu and Kashmir can steadily move towards a governance model where honesty is the norm, public trust is strengthened, and clean administration becomes a lasting hallmark of governance rather than an aspirational goal.

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Environmental Hazards and the Fight for a Sustainable Future



■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Biodiversity is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems. Pollination, nutrient cycling, water purifica-

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

tion, and soil fertility are among the many ecosystem services supported by diverse biological communities. The loss of biodiversity weakens ecosystem resilience and reduces the ability of natural systems to recover from disturbances. Ultimately, biodiversity loss threatens food security, economic stability, and environmental sustainability.

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

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

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

activities contribute to pollution. Managing sustainable urban growth remains a major challenge for policymakers worldwide.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Digital Distractions Are Changing the Way Students Think, Survey Reveals



■ **UMAIS MUDASIR**



■ **MUSTAFA TAHIR**

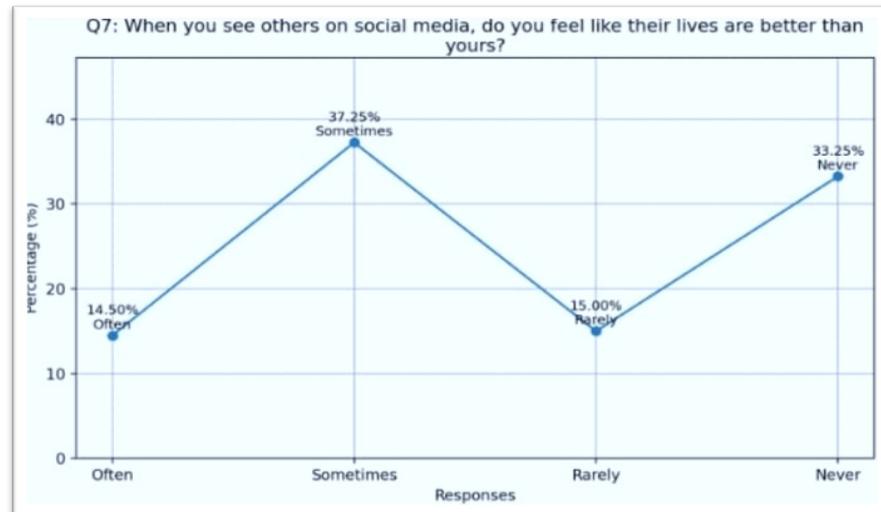
Social media has completely took over the control of our lives into its hands and have thus become integral part of our lives without which expecting our lives has become quite impossible. This is so far very true practically that digital platforms has provided us new learning opportunities and we are also able to communicate easily but our group did a survey work across various districts of Kashmir regarding the impact of screen time on the attention span of students and the loosing intellectuality of students due to this, and has affected students to a lot extent.

Our research project namely "Digital Distractions and Developing Minds," surveyed 400 students of Classes 7th to 10th from schools in Srinagar, Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian. The study explores how social media impacts students academic performance, attention span, stress levels, online safety, sleep, and mental health and affect student in many other ways too.

According to our findings what we came to know was that many students admitted that social media has become a regular part of their regular routine. Although many students enjoy the benefits of digital technology, the survey also find signs that more screen time is creating new challenges in both classrooms and daily life.

One of the survey questions ask students if they hesitate to post or express their real opinions online because of fear of negative comments. The our study showed that 35.75% said they rarely hesitate, while 28% said they sometimes do. Another 16.75% reported hesitating often, and 9.75% said they always feel this fear. Only 9.75% said they never hesitate. These findings suggest that many students experience at least some level of anxiety while expressing themselves online, mainly because of fear of criticism, bullying or negative comments.

The study also see how safe students feel telling their thoughts online comparing to real life. The results showed that 39.2% of students feel much less safe expressing themselves on social media, while 27.3% feel slightly less safe. Only 13.8% believes that online platforms are much safer than real life interactions. These responses shoes that despite spending considerable time online, many students still lack confidence in express-



ing themselves freely on digital platforms.

Stress emerged as another major issue. When students were asked how stress affects their decision-making ability, 42% said they become highly confused, while 38.75% reported becoming slightly confused. Only 5.5% said stress actually helps them think more clearly. These findings suggest that emotional pressure significantly reduces students' ability to make sound decisions during stressful situations. The our survey also explores if students compare their lives with those of others on social media. Around 37.25% said yes to that they sometimes feel others have better lives, while 14.5% said they feel this often. On the positive side, 33.25% says that they never compare themselves with others online. We Researchers believe that constant exposure to carefully edited posts and pictures can create unrealistic expectations and lower self-confidence among adolescents.

Beyond the survey graphs, the report highlights several other concerns. We Researchers observed that very much screen time is linked with less concentration,

declining classroom attention, poor study habits, sleep disturbances, emotional stress and lower involvement in physical activities. Many students also reports staying awake late at night using their phones, which often effects their energy levels and classroom performance the next day.

Our study further notes that students are very exposed to online risks like as cyberbullying, phishing, privacy threats, identity theft and mis-information. Although students are comfortable using smartphones and social media many have not received formal education about online safety or responsible digital behaviour. The researchers believe that this lack of awareness makes adolescents more vulnerable to cyber threats.

According to the our report, digital technology itself is not the problem. Social media can support learning, creativity and communication when used responsibly. The real concern arose when students spend long hours online without maintaining a healthy balance between digital activities, studies, sleep



and physical exercise.

The researchers recommend that schools introduce digital literacy and cyber-safety programmes while parents should encourage healthy screentime limits and spend more quality time with their children. Teachers can also help students develop better study habits by promoting offline learning activities and classroom interactive activities.

The report concludes that technology should serve as a tool for education and personal growth rather than becoming a source of distractions. By developing responsible digital habits and increasing awareness about online safety, students can enjoy the advantage of technologies without allowing it to interfere with their academic success, mental health and overall well-being. The researchers hope that these findings will encourage students, parents, teachers and policymakers to work together in creating a healthier and more balanced digital environment for young learners. Followings are the cracks of our findings in this picture:

Special Note of Thanks

We sincerely thank all the members of our survey group for their hard work, cooperation, and valuable contributions in successfully completing this project. We are especially grateful to our Group Leader, Shahid Ahmad Thoker (2520063), for his guidance and leadership throughout the survey.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the team members:

- Shahid Ahmad Thoker (2520063) - Group Leader
- Umais Mudasir (2522001)
- Shunaida Mubeen (2522003)
- Shakira Javid (2522047)
- Safia Aashiq (2522039)
- Mustafa Tahir (2520074)
- Farhan Rafiq (2520153)
- Uzair Hussain Reshie (2525013)
- Labeeb Bin Zaffar Wani (2520129)

Their teamwork, dedication, and support made this survey a success. We sincerely appreciate everyone's efforts and cooperation.

My Beloved Kashmir

■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Kashmir is truly one of the most astonishing places in the world. Every year, people travel from far and wide to experience its beauty for recreation, research, trekking, winter sports, trade, and many other purposes. The Kashmir Valley is not merely a place on the globe; it is a priceless treasure blessed with breathtaking landscapes, magnificent mountains, crystal-clear rivers, and world-famous Mughal gardens such as Nishat Garden, Shalimar Garden, Pari Mahal, and Verinag.

Every corner of Kashmir offers a unique fragrance of nature. The cool breeze touching our cheeks, the lush vegetation, and the peaceful surroundings create an atmosphere that is both captivating and unforgettable. Anyone visiting Kashmir for the first time is likely to feel as though they have stepped into a dream.

The valley remains beautiful throughout

the year. Its pleasant climate, majestic mountains of the Peer Panjal Range, sparkling streams, and scenic meadows make it one of the world's most attractive tourist destinations. Kashmir's warm hospitality has earned admiration from visitors across the globe. Tourists leave with unforgettable memories, photographs, and stories to share with their loved ones. Every season—spring, summer, autumn, and winter—adds a unique charm to the valley and contributes greatly to the tourism sector.

Despite this natural paradise, I am deeply concerned about the way we are harming our own homeland. Pollution has become one of the greatest threats to the sustainable future of Kashmir. Unfortunately, many people believe that development means constructing more roads, large buildings, and hotels. While infrastructure is important, true development should never come at the cost of our environment. Development should improve the quality of life while

protecting nature for future generations.

As a resident of Raiyar-Ich, Doodhpathri, I have witnessed these changes over the past fifteen years. Our village has increasingly suffered from air, water, noise, and soil pollution. There is no proper solid waste management system, and many people dispose of waste into nearby canals. This pollutes our water bodies and increases the risk of diseases such as hepatitis and other water-borne illnesses.

Before it is too late, we must educate and encourage local communities, especially those living near tourist destinations, to adopt proper waste disposal practices. We must keep our beautiful destinations clean, green, and free from environmental hazards. Protecting our environment is a shared responsibility.

Development is meaningful only when it benefits society without destroying nature. It should be sustainable and continue serving generations to come. Develop-

ment should not be measured solely by economic gains but by how well we preserve our natural heritage. Let us educate the younger generation, inspire them to care for nature, and work together to keep Kashmir clean and beautiful.

I conclude with a poem dedicated to my beloved homeland.
My Charming Kashmir
Oh, my Kashmir, oh my crown,
Why in the pleasant month of June
Do you still look so brown?
I love the summer, I long for heat,
Yet your valleys remain incomplete.
You are my pride, you are my crown,
Then why, dear Kashmir, do you look so brown?

My lofty mountains still feel cool,
My meadows remain beneath winter's rule.

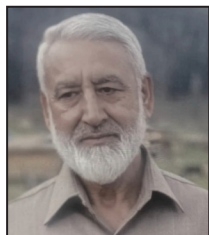
I yearn for greenery, fresh and fair,

And gentle breezes in the air.
Oh, my Kashmir, oh my crown,
Why do you still look so brown?
This is truth and not a myth,
You are unique, with beauty rich.
You are charming, you are alluring,
Your timeless grace is so enduring.
I seek your charm, I seek your beauty,
Your splendour is my heart's duty.
Oh, my Kashmir, oh my crown,
Why do you still look so brown?
People travel thousands of miles,
To find your peace and wear your smiles.
They come to ease their weary minds,
Leaving anxiety and fatigue behind.
Yet I worry when summer turns white,
As pollen fills the air in sight.
I fear the dust that may surround
The beauty for which you are renowned.
Oh, my Kashmir, oh my crown,
Why do you still look so brown?

sahilmanzoor9419@gmail.com

Healing on Sale?

The Growing Trust Deficit in Kashmir's Public Healthcare



■ SGM ANDRABI

As private healthcare flourishes across the Valley, patients are increasingly turning away from government hospitals, raising difficult questions about accountability, affordability and the future of equitable healthcare.

For generations, doctors in Kashmir occupied a place of exceptional respect in society. They were seen not merely as medical professionals but as healers—individuals whose knowledge, compassion and commitment brought hope to families in moments of despair. The white coat symbolised trust, integrity and selfless service.

That reputation has not diminished. Across India and around the world, Kashmiri doctors continue to distinguish themselves in some of the most prestigious hospitals, research institutions and universities. Their contributions to modern medicine are recognised globally, and they remain a source of immense pride for the Valley.

Yet, despite this remarkable success story, an uncomfortable reality confronts the people of Kashmir. Public confidence in the government's healthcare system is steadily eroding, even as Kashmiri doctors continue to earn accolades elsewhere.

The question is both simple and unsettling: if Kashmir has no shortage of medical talent, why are so many patients losing faith in government hospitals?

Over the past decade, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed significant public investment in healthcare. New hospitals have been built, existing institutions upgraded, sophisticated diagnostic equipment installed and large sums spent on medicines, infrastructure and salaries. On paper, the region's healthcare system has expanded considerably.

However, for many patients, the experience inside government hospitals often tells a different story.

Complaints about overcrowded wards, long waiting hours, delayed investigations, poor sanitation, inadequate maintenance and administrative inefficiency



remain common. In several hospitals, expensive medical equipment is either underutilised or unavailable due to operational shortcomings, forcing patients to seek treatment elsewhere.

As confidence in public healthcare has weakened, private healthcare has expanded rapidly.

Private hospitals, nursing homes, maternity centres, speciality clinics and diagnostic laboratories have multiplied across Srinagar and almost every district of Kashmir. This growth has undoubtedly improved access to specialised services, created employment opportunities and introduced advanced technologies. But it has also transformed healthcare into a costly service that many families can barely afford.

Today, thousands of patients bypass nearby government hospitals even for routine consultations, investigations or minor surgical procedures. Their decision is often driven less by preference than by perception—that private institutions provide faster, cleaner and more reliable care.

For middle-class and economically weaker families, this shift has imposed

a significant financial burden.

The Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme has offered much-needed relief by providing financial protection for eligible families requiring hospitalisation. It has enabled many patients to undergo treatments that would otherwise have remained beyond their means.

Yet the expansion of insurance-based healthcare also demands greater vigilance.

Health experts have increasingly emphasised the need for regular audits to ensure that investigations, procedures and surgeries are recommended strictly on medical grounds. Any unnecessary intervention not only strains public finances but also risks weakening the ethical relationship between doctors and patients.

Perhaps the most serious concern facing healthcare today is not merely the condition of hospital buildings but the gradual erosion of trust.

There was a time when patients rarely questioned a doctor's advice. Today, many seek second and third opinions before agreeing to investigations or surgery. Whether these doubts are always

justified is secondary. Once public confidence begins to decline, rebuilding it becomes an enormous challenge.

Healthcare professionals point out that the overwhelming majority of doctors continue to practise with honesty and dedication despite working under difficult conditions. However, isolated instances of unethical practices, combined with systemic shortcomings, often shape public perception far more than countless examples of sincere service.

Another noticeable trend is the growing medicalisation of everyday life.

Across Kashmir, pharmacies have become increasingly common, even in remote villages. Minor illnesses that were once managed with rest, hydration and time are now frequently treated with multiple medicines. While modern medicine has dramatically improved life expectancy and quality of care, experts caution that unnecessary dependence on medication may create new health challenges rather than solve existing ones.

At the institutional level, secondary hospitals continue to face significant challenges.

District and sub-district hospitals frequently refer patients to tertiary care institutions, even for conditions that could potentially be managed locally with better planning, staffing and administrative support. Consequently, major referral hospitals face enormous patient loads, longer waiting periods and mounting pressure on already stretched resources.

Many healthcare administrators believe that the solution lies not only in increasing budgets but also in improving governance.

Modern hospitals require professional management alongside clinical excellence. Efficient administration, transparent procurement systems, preventive maintenance of equipment, cleanliness, inventory control and responsive patient services are essential components of quality healthcare. Doctors should be able to focus on treating patients while trained hospital administrators ensure that institutions function efficiently.

Experts also advocate developing one model district hospital in every district, where standards of cleanliness, patient care, transparency and accountability can serve as benchmarks for the rest of the healthcare system.

Regular independent audits of referrals, investigations, surgeries and insurance claims could strengthen public confidence while ensuring responsible use of public resources. Ethical medical practice must remain the foundation of both public and private healthcare.

Kashmir possesses what many regions aspire to have—a highly skilled medical community, expanding healthcare infrastructure and sustained public investment. What remains missing is a system that consistently translates these strengths into quality patient care.

Ultimately, healthcare is measured not by the number of buildings constructed or machines installed but by the confidence patients place in the institutions that serve them.

A society is judged not by the size of its private healthcare industry but by the strength, accessibility and credibility of its public health system.

Kashmir's doctors have already demonstrated their excellence before the world. The challenge now is to build a public healthcare system that reflects that excellence at home—one where trust is restored, accountability is strengthened and healing never becomes a commodity reserved only for those who can afford it.

Unmasking The Fatty Liver

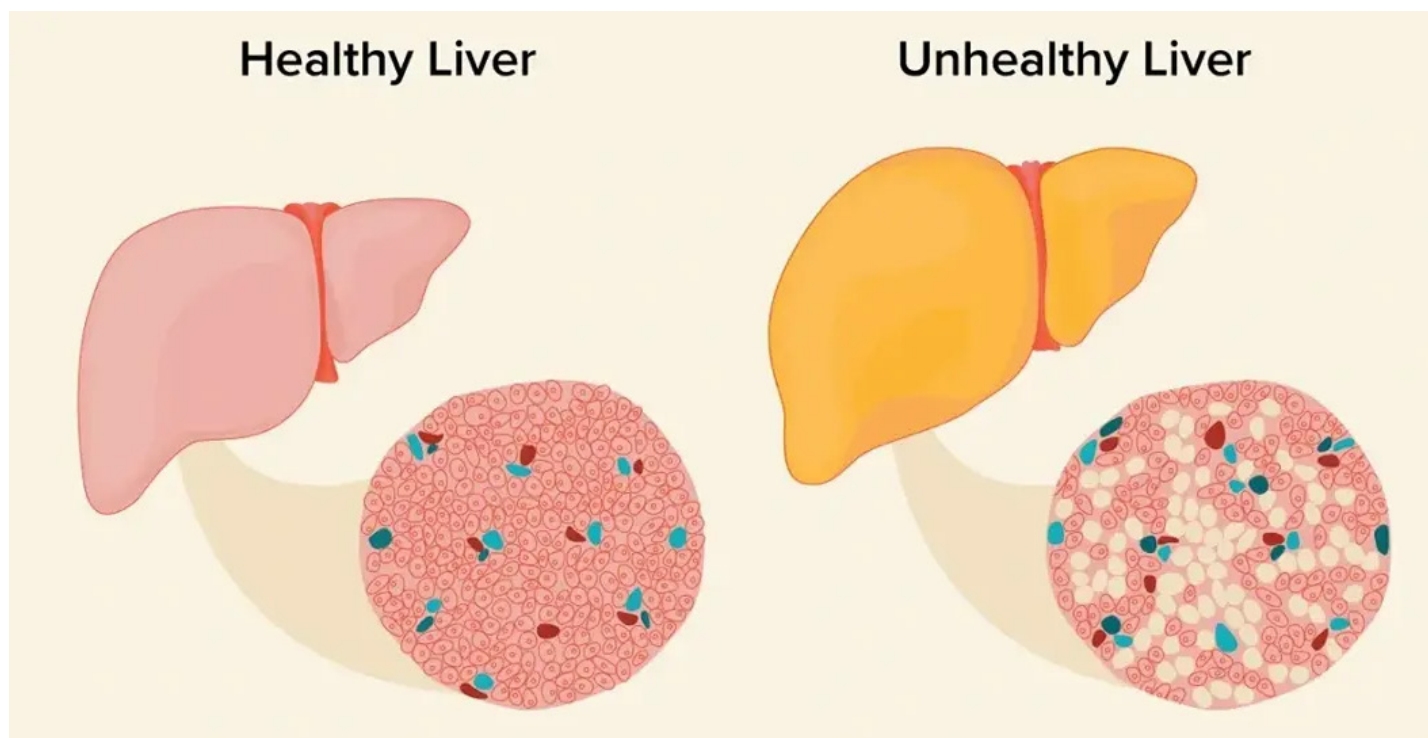


■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

In an era where lifestyle-related diseases are rapidly increasing, fatty liver disease has quietly emerged as one of the most common yet overlooked health concerns for the humanity. It often starts developing without warning signs, this condition affects millions of people worldwide and is increasingly being diagnosed among young adults, adolescents and even children are being effected. Despite its growing prevalence, public awareness about fatty liver remains surprisingly low.

The liver is one of the body's most hard-working organs. It helps digest food, stores nutrients, regulates metabolism and removes toxins from the bloodstream. However, when excessive fat accumulates within liver cells, the organ's ability to function efficiently begins to decline. This condition, commonly known as fatty liver disease, may seem harmless in its early stages, but its long-term consequences can be serious.

One of the primary reasons behind the rise of fatty liver disease is the modern lifestyle. Unhealthy eating habits, excessive consumption of processed foods, sugary drinks and high-calorie diets have become increasingly common. Coupled with reduced physical activity, prolonged sitting hours and rising obesity rates, these factors create a perfect environment for fat to accumulate in the liver.



Medical experts also point to diabetes, high cholesterol levels, obesity and metabolic disorders as significant risk factors. Individuals carrying excess weight around the abdomen are particularly vulnerable. In addition, excessive alcohol consumption remains a major cause of liver damage and fat accumulation in many populations.

What makes fatty liver especially dangerous is its silent nature. Most people experience no symptoms during the initial stages. Many discover the condition only during routine health check-ups or abdominal ultrasound examinations. As the disease progresses, some individuals may develop fatigue, weakness, discomfort in

the upper abdomen, or unexplained weight loss. Unfortunately, by the time noticeable symptoms appear, significant liver damage may already have occurred.

The consequences of untreated fatty liver can be severe. Persistent fat accumulation may trigger inflammation within the liver, causing injury to liver cells. Over time, this damage can lead to fibrosis, a condition characterized by the formation of scar tissue. If the process continues unchecked, fibrosis may progress to cirrhosis, an advanced stage of liver scarring that permanently impairs liver function. In severe cases, fatty liver disease can increase the risk of liver failure and liver cancer.

The impact of fatty liver extends beyond the liver itself. Researches across the globe has shown strong links between fatty liver disease and cardiovascular disorders, including heart attacks and strokes. It is also associated with an increased risk of chronic kidney disease and other metabolic complications. Thus, fatty liver should not be viewed as an isolated condition but as an indicator of broader health concerns.

Fortunately, fatty liver disease is largely preventable. Small but consistent lifestyle changes can significantly reduce the risk and, in many cases, reverse early-stage disease. A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins

plays a crucial role in maintaining liver health. Limiting processed foods, sugary beverages and excessive fats can help prevent fat accumulation in the liver.

Regular physical activity is equally important. Health experts recommend at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise each week. Activities such as brisk walking, cycling, swimming, or yoga can help maintain a healthy weight and improve metabolic health. Individuals with diabetes, obesity, or high cholesterol should also monitor their health regularly and undergo periodic medical evaluations.

Public health authorities, educational institutions and healthcare providers must work together to raise awareness about fatty liver disease. Early detection through routine screening and timely lifestyle modifications can prevent many of its serious complications. Awareness campaigns should emphasize that liver health is not only a concern for those who consume alcohol but for anyone exposed to unhealthy lifestyle habits.

Fatty liver disease is a reminder that modern conveniences often come with hidden costs. While advances in technology have made life easier, they have also encouraged sedentary behaviour and unhealthy dietary patterns. Addressing this silent epidemic requires individual responsibility, community awareness and a renewed commitment to healthy living.

The message is clear: protecting the liver means protecting overall health. By making informed choices today, we can prevent a silent condition from becoming a major public health crisis tomorrow.

The author is a FACULTY IN SCIENCE DEPARTMENT SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB PUNJAB.

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The meeting was also attended by SSP Arun Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, SDM Banihal Mohammed Naseeb Bajraan, SDM Ramsoo Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah, ACD Sheraz Ahmed and other senior officers.

Mobile No: 9596305005

Irfan Ahmad Dar
S/o: Mohammad Maqbool Dar
R/o: Allahpura, Wagoora

Name..GH HASSAN KHAN
S/O ...HABIBULLAH KHAN
R/O .. PUTHAR

Name...GH QADIR DAR
F/ O.. SALEEMA QADIR
R/O...MAHALLA BATPORA DELINA
Distt ..BARAMULLA

S.No	Item	Specification	Rate to be Quoted
1	Channa	Brown-A Grade	Per Kgs
2	Moongi	Green-A Grade	Per Kgs
3	Green Peas (Matar)	Green-A Grade	Per Kgs
4	E.OIL	Superior quality, FSSAI approved, Fortified	Per Litres
5	Haldi	Superior quality, FSSAI approved, Fortified	Per Kgs
6	Salt	Superior quality, FSSAI approved, Iodised.	Per Kgs
7	Biscuits	Superior quality, FSSAI approved, Glucose based. Reputed brand. 60 gram (Approximately 100 K.cal)	Per Pack

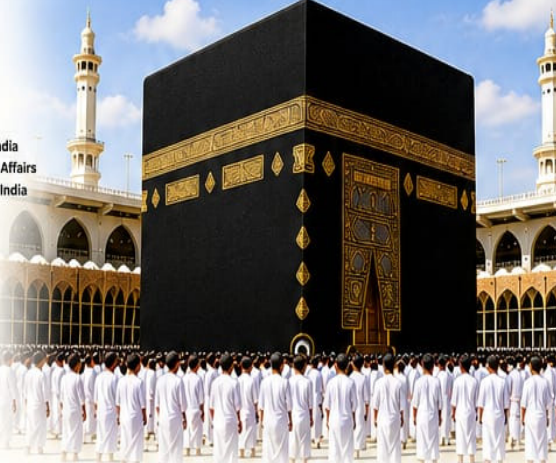
DIPK: 2679/26 | Dated: 30-06-2026



JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE HAJ COMMITTEE



Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Haj Committee of India



HAJ 2027 (1448 H)

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

1



PASSPORT VALIDITY

- Passport must be valid till **31 December 2027**.
- Passport must be valid on the date of application.



31
DECEMBER
2027

2



COVER / GROUP

- A group can have maximum **5 members**.
- Minimum age – **18 years** on the date of application.



GROUP
HEAD

3



COVER HEAD

- Cover Head must be a **male member**.
- Minimum age – **18 years** on the date of application.



COVER
HEAD

4



MOBILE NUMBER & WHATSAPP

- Cover Head must use his own mobile number.
- WhatsApp must be active on the same number.



5



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.



6



NOMINEE

- Nominee: Son / Daughter / Parents / Spouse (**Legal heir preferred**)
- Add only one nominee who will perform Hajj in your place.



NOMINEE



PHOTOGRAPH

7



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 × 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 × 640 px, JPG/JPEG, 5–20 KB);
 - Bank passbook or cancelled cheque (590 × 750 px, JPG/JPEG, 80–250 KB); and
 - Address proof (590 × 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.



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For Haj 2027 Updates

JOIN VIA WHATSAPP LINK

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

SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN





Timely Updates



Guidance & Support



Important Information



Deadlines & Reminders


Bait-ul-Hujaj (Haj House), Bemina, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, India - 190017


+91 194 249 5365


<https://www.jkshc.org/>

→ YA

Apki Tayyari – Apka Aaram – Hamari Zimmedari



Space Devoted by Headlines Today, Purely in Public Interest

VC SKUAST-K reviews KVK Srinagar, Budgam progress at SAC Meetings

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Vice Chancellor Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, on Monday chaired the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) Srinagar and Budgam, to review progress, achievements, and future strategies aimed at strengthening agricultural extension, innovation, and sustainable farming across Kashmir.

The meetings were attended by Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth; Registrar Prof. Azmat Alam Khan; Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam Vivek Agarwal; Chief Planning Officer Budgam Javid Ahmad; heads of KVKs; statutory members; scientists from the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH) and Dryland Agricultural Research Station (DARS) Budgam; officers from agriculture and allied departments; progressive farmers; agri-entrepreneurs; representatives of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and civil society organisations; and other distinguished stakeholders.

Detailed presentations were



delivered by Dr. Shamim Ahmad Simnani, Head, KVK Srinagar, at the 22nd Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting and by Prof. Bilal Ahmad Lone, Head, KVK Budgam, at the 13th SAC. They reviewed the action-taken reports and key achievements of 2025-26 while outlining priorities and action plans for 2026-27.

The deliberations focused on technology assessment and refinement, frontline demonstrations, capacity building, entrepreneurship development, and the wider dissemination

of climate-resilient agricultural technologies. Discussions also highlighted district-specific opportunities such as urban agriculture, Dal vegetable cultivation, niche crop promotion, and natural farming to improve productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance farmers' incomes.

Addressing the meetings, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai stressed the need to promote innovation-driven agriculture, strengthen entrepreneurship, and encourage value addition, processing,

and market-oriented farming practices to improve rural livelihoods. He appreciated the efforts of both KVK Srinagar and KVK Budgam in expanding doorstep extension services, promoting improved agricultural technologies, and creating meaningful impact through skill development and farmer-centric capacity-building initiatives.

Prof. Ganai also emphasized the critical role of KVKs in making the university's flagship Students Rural Exposure Programme a success, stating that

the programme offers students invaluable field-level understanding of rural agricultural realities. He expressed confidence in continued support and cooperation from the KVKs in further strengthening this important initiative.

The Director Extension lauded the significant contribution of both KVKs in technology dissemination and strengthening sustainable agricultural practices. She emphasized the need to transform traditional farming into a commercially viable enterprise through targeted skill development, champion farmer models, low-cost organic solutions, and focused capacity-building programmes.

Earlier, several facilities at KVK Budgam including a high-density cherry orchard, custom hiring centre, two hi-tech polyhouses, insulated mushroom unit, and bio-resource centre for natural farming were inaugurated. On the occasion, publications from both KVKs were also released.

The meetings concluded with interactive sessions in which stakeholders discussed key challenges, emerging opportunities, and collaborative strategies to accelerate agricultural transformation and improve farm livelihoods across Kashmir

DIPR accords warm farewell to Ashok Kumar on superannuation after four decades of distinguished service

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, today accorded a warm and heartfelt farewell to Information Officer Ashok Kumar Sharma, who superannuated from government service after rendering more than 40 years of dedicated and exemplary service to the department.

A farewell function was organised to honour Sharma's remarkable professional journey and acknowledge his invaluable contributions to the growth and functioning of the Department over more than four decades.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Information, Shreya Singhal, lauded Ashok Sharma's unwavering commitment, professionalism and sincerity throughout his career.

She described him as a dedicated officer whose work ethic, humility and sense of responsibility earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues across the department. She wished him a healthy, happy and fulfilling retired life.



The officers and officials present on the occasion also recalled Sharma's long and distinguished association with the Department, highlighting his contribution to public communication and the discharge of official responsibilities with diligence and integrity. They extended their best wishes for his future endeavours and prayed for his continued good health and happiness.

Expressing his gratitude, Ashok Kumar Sharma thanked the Department, his colleagues and staff members for their unwavering support and cooperation during his long tenure. He fondly reminisced about his journey in the Department and described his years in service as enriching and memorable.

The farewell ceremony was attended by Joint Director Information (Headquarters), Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Raina, Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari, Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmed Rather, officers and officials of the Department, members of Sharma's family and staff, who joined in felicitating him on the successful completion of his illustrious career.

DC calls for mission-mode action to achieve TB-free Rajouri, reviews PM TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, JUNE 30: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess progress under the PM TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in the district and called for coordinated efforts to accelerate the fight against tuberculosis.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed key components of the programme, including TB case detection, differentiated TB care, contact tracing, TB Preventive Treatment, Nikshay Poshan Yojana, Direct Benefit Transfer, the Nikshay Mitra initiative and community participation (Jan Bhagidari) for supporting TB patients. He directed officers to adopt a mission-mode approach for early identification of cases, prompt treatment initiation and effective patient monitoring and stressed strengthening surveillance, improving contact tracing and intensifying awareness campaigns to encourage timely diagnosis and treatment.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Health Department to enhance community participation under the Nikshay Mitra initiative for nutritional and social support to TB patients and instructed officers to ensure timely delivery of benefits under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana alongside uninterrupted treatment, counselling and follow-up services. He urged all stakeholders to coordinate towards a TB-free Rajouri and the national goal of TB Mukht Bharat.

J&K Government appoints 49 dependents under Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 30: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has granted compassionate appointments to 49 eligible dependents of deceased employees through Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC) under the Rehabilitation

Assistance Scheme, 2022.

The appointments cover eligible cases from 2022 to 2025 and were made as per the scheme notified vide SO 429 of 2022 dated October 6, 2022, subsequently amended through SO 397 of 2024 dated August 16, 2024. JPDC adopted the scheme in 2025 and undertook a process to

clear pending cases, with each application scrutinised for transparency, fairness and adherence to eligibility conditions. One eligible dependent in each family was extended a job.

The Managing Director, JPDC, said every appointment was made with complete transparency.

Maha Yagya at Arde Nareshwar Temple Nadimarg concludes amidst Devotion and Harmony

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 30: The two-day sacred Maha Yagya at the historic Arde Nareshwar Temple, Nadimarg, concluded on June 29 amidst profound spiritual fervour, religious devotion, and enthusiastic participation by devotees and Yatis from various parts of the Union Territory and beyond.

The event witnessed large-scale participation in the sacred rituals and prayers, reflecting the deep faith and reverence associated with the occasion. Beyond its religious significance, the Maha Yagya served as a reaffirmation of the region's

rich cultural heritage and its enduring traditions of communal harmony, mutual respect, brotherhood, and peaceful co-existence.

A notable feature of the event was the warm hospitality and wholehearted support extended by the residents of Nadimarg and adjoining areas to the visiting Yatis.

The active cooperation of the local community and participation of people from different sections of society exemplified the spirit of harmony and inclusiveness that continues to characterize the region.

During their visit, devotees and guests also paid homage at



the Nadimarg Memorial, constructed by the District Administration, Shopian, in memory

of the innocent civilians who lost their lives in the tragic Nadimarg massacre of 2003. The memorial stands as a solemn tribute to the victims and serves as a lasting symbol of remembrance, resilience, and the collective resolve to uphold peace, human dignity, and communal harmony.

To ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event, extensive arrangements were made through close coordination between the District Administrations of Shopian and Kulgam. Comprehensive measures relating to security, traffic regulation, sanitation, drinking water supply, power supply,

healthcare services, accommodation, and other public amenities were put in place well in advance.

Officers and field functionaries of all concerned departments remained deployed throughout the event to facilitate devotees and ensure the seamless conduct of all religious activities.

The District Administration expressed its gratitude to the local community, religious leaders, volunteers, security agencies, and all line departments whose dedicated efforts, cooperation, and coordination contributed significantly to the peaceful and successful culmination of the Maha Yagya.

LAKHANPUR YATRI FACILITATION CENTRE READY TO WELCOME SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRIS

Centre offers eKYC, RFID issuance, medical services, information desk, stay and security arrangements

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, JUNE 30: The Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre is ready to welcome Shri Amarnath Ji yatis with six RFID issuance counters and 12 eKYC counters for speedy processing, along with 1,000-capacity waterproof hangers offering dedicated space for stay, rest and recreational activities.

The centre is equipped with cold potable drinking water, bathing facilities, toilet complexes and other amenities, along with round-the-clock langar facilities at Lakhanpur and en route towards Jammu. Bhajan Sandhya and devotional performances will also be held at the centre.

A seven-bedded hospital with AYUSH OPD services and medicines is available for immediate medical assistance and the AYUSH team



will conduct yoga sessions to help prepare yatis for the pilgrimage. A multi-tier security arrangement, including X-ray baggage screening machines and frisking points, has also been put in place.

A 24x7 Information Helpdesk with a wide colour display screen has been set up, where teams from

the Information, Tourism and Traffic departments will assist yatis with travel advisories, yatra updates and route information. Additionally, 35 lodgement centres have been kept operational to accommodate around 10,000 yatis in case of any exigency.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh

Sharma said the district administration is fully prepared to facilitate the onward journey of yatis and that the centre has been developed as a multi-facility point offering essential services under one roof.

He said eKYC and RFID card issuance will be available at the centre, but fresh registration is not available at Lakhanpur — yatis must arrive with valid registration. Those who have already completed eKYC need only collect their RFID cards before proceeding.

The Kathua administration will receive and dispatch yatis from Lakhanpur on July 1, 2026 for their onward journey to the base camp at Jammu. The first batch is scheduled to be dispatched from Jammu on July 2, 2026 and will perform darshan at the Shri Amarnath Ji shrine on July 3, 2026.

DC Poonch flags off farmers' tour under ATMA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, JUNE 30: A five-day farmers' tour and exposure visit under the SAME scheme (Sub Mission of Agriculture Extension) of ATMA was flagged off today by Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma.

The tour includes 50 farmers from different areas of Poonch district, who will undergo technical training at SKAUST Jammu, observe farm demonstrations, improved crop variety trials and on-field experiments and interact with extension staff on organic farming, eco-friendly pest control, water-efficient techniques and climate-resilient cropping practices suited to hill and mountainous regions.

The DC said exposure visits to institutions like SKAUST Jammu give farmers an opportunity to learn advanced technologies, improved crop management, climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable farming methods. He urged participants to engage actively during the training, interact with scientists and experts and share the knowledge gained with fellow farmers in their villages to help raise agricultural productivity and farmers' income across the district.



Chief Agriculture Officer Jograj Singh Sathia told farmers that the tour would help participants and other farmers in the district adopt scientific methods to enhance productivity and promote modern farm practices, organic farming and increased cropping intensity.

Among those present at the flag-off were District Agriculture Officer (Extension) Rajan Kumar, district-level subject matter specialists, the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer, sub-divisional subject matter specialists and other field functionaries.



Banking sector set for profit revival in FY27 as credit growth, stable margins boost outlook: Report

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30: India's banking sector is poised for a sharp rebound in profitability in FY27, supported by stable net interest margins (NIMs), healthy credit growth and contained asset quality risks, according to a sector report by YES Securities released here on Monday.

After a subdued FY26, the brokerage expects profit after tax (PAT) growth for its banking coverage universe to recover strongly in FY27, aided by an improvement in net interest income (NII) and sustained loan demand across corporate, MSME and retail segments.

The report forecasts NII growth to accelerate to 16.1 per cent in FY27, up from 5.3 per cent in FY26, while PAT growth is expected to improve from 6.4 per cent in FY26 to 14.2 per cent in FY27. Profit growth is projected to remain robust in the following two years as well.

According to the report, net interest margins are likely to remain broadly stable despite multiple moving parts, including deposit repricing, liquidity conditions and changes in benchmark lending rates.

The brokerage noted that the



Reserve Bank of India's recent push to attract Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] deposits has helped improve liquidity conditions and ease wholesale deposit costs. Certificate of Deposit (CD) rates have already begun softening following the RBI's move, reducing funding pressure on banks.

The report also said the central bank's rate-cut cycle has effectively ended since December 2025 amid rising inflation expectations. While mild policy rate hikes cannot be ruled out, any increase is expected to be limited and unlikely to derail credit demand or banking sector margins.

Credit growth has strengthened to around 17 per cent, driven by

improved corporate lending alongside sustained momentum in MSME and retail loans. While system-wide credit growth could moderate somewhat during the year, YES Securities expects it to remain in the low-to-mid teens, supported by stronger corporate borrowing from banks.

The brokerage observed that direct bank lending has become increasingly attractive relative to debt capital markets as the gap between banks' Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) and AA-rated corporate bond yields has nearly disappeared.

On asset quality, the report expects credit costs to remain broadly stable in FY27 and does not foresee any significant de-

terioration despite external risks such as geopolitical tensions, weather-related disruptions and global trade uncertainties.

It said stress in unsecured lending has eased compared with earlier periods, although some pressure may persist due to slower nominal GDP growth and potential weather-related impacts on microfinance and agricultural lending. However, no major build-up in bad loans is anticipated.

The report added that FY27 would be the final year before the implementation of the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) provisioning framework and does not expect the transition to trigger any material one-time shock.

Reflecting its preference for stronger lenders, YES Securities has shifted its focus over the past year towards private sector banks while continuing to favour select public sector banks.

Its preferred banking stocks, in order of investment preference, are Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India, with Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank identified as its highest-conviction large-cap picks. UNI

India moved over 12 LPG vessels out of Strait of Hormuz without paying tolls: Hardeep Singh Puri

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30: India has moved over 12 LPG vessels out of the Strait of Hormuz without paying any tolls and rapidly reconfigured refineries to boost cooking gas production, union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

The minister said these measures helped the country navigate what he described as the "largest energy disruption in modern history".

The centre, he said, shielded consumers from supply disruptions during the closure of the Strait of Hormuz by diversifying crude import sources, expanding energy infrastructure and taking a series of emergency measures to secure LPG supplies.

"India endured the closure of Hormuz and supplied itself through it without any shortages anywhere in the country. Today the stocks are full, the pumps are open, and the Indian consumer has paid less for energy through this crisis than any consumer in the world," Puri wrote in a post on X.

The petroleum minister highlighted the measures that were taken by the Indian government during India's energy crisis.

He said India's ability to withstand the disruption stemmed from years of preparation, including expanding its crude sourcing basket from 27 countries to 41, doubling import terminals, and building pipeline and storage infrastructure.

"The largest energy shock in living



memory reached our shores, and 150 crore Indian citizens were shielded," Puri wrote.

Among the measures highlighted by the minister were a Rs 10-per-litre cut in central excise duty on fuel in March, protection of domestic LPG supplies, mandatory digital authentication to curb diversion and black marketing, limits on cylinder purchases to prevent hoarding, and an order directing refineries to maximise LPG production.

Puri said refineries that had never produced cooking gas were reconfigured within days, raising LPG output from 35 TMT per day to 54 TMT per day.

He added that fresh supply lines were opened with countries including Algeria, Japan and Canada, while LPG cargoes were also secured from the US.

"A crisis of this magnitude shows a country its real mettle. India endured the closure of Hormuz and supplied itself through it without any shortages anywhere in the country.

Today the stocks are full, the pumps are open, and the Indian consumer has paid less for energy through this crisis than any consumer in the world," he said. UNI

Cabinet okays Rs 30,000-Cr fresh commitment to NIIF to boost infrastructure development

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 30: The union Cabinet has approved an additional Rs 30,000 crore investment commitment to the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), doubling the Centre's total commitment to Rs 60,000 crore, in a major push to accelerate infrastructure development and attract more domestic and global institutional capital into India.

The decision, taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is aimed at expanding investments in key sectors such as transportation, energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure and electric mobility while supporting the country's long-term vision of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

As per the Finance Ministry statement released here on Monday, this fresh capital infusion will primarily support the launch of NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, the successor to NIIF's flagship infrastructure fund.

The new fund is expected to have a target corpus of nearly Rs 30,000 crore and will invest



in roads, airports, ports and logistics, renewable energy, digital infrastructure, urban infrastructure and emerging sectors such as e-mobility.

The government said the additional commitment is expected to catalyse significantly larger private investments by leveraging NIIF's strong track record of attracting institutional investors from across the world.

Established as India's sovereign-anchored investment platform, NIIF is professionally managed by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd. (NIIFL), with the Government of India holding a 49 per cent stake.

The platform currently manages capital commitments of around Rs 40,000 crore across multiple funds and investment strategies and has returned nearly Rs 12,000 crore to investors through successful portfolio exits.

Over the years, NIIF has attracted investments from several leading global sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, multilateral financial institutions and domestic financial institutions.

Its investors include Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Australian Super, CPP Investments, Ontario Teachers' Pension

Plan, PSP Investments, Temasek, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), New Development Bank (NDB), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), along with major Indian institutions such as Axis Bank, HDFC Group, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance and State Bank of India.

The government said the diverse investor base reflects growing international confidence in India's economic prospects and NIIF's governance and investment capabilities.

NIIF currently operates four investment platforms covering infrastructure, private markets, strategic growth opportunities and climate investments through the India-Japan Fund.

Its investments span transportation, renewable energy, power transmission, smart metering, healthcare, affordable housing, manufacturing, digital infrastructure, venture capital, technology and electric mobility.

Apart from investing capital,

NIIF also advises central and state governments on public-private partnership (PPP) projects, infrastructure monetisation and new investment frameworks. It has contributed to initiatives such as the Maritime Development Fund and the Research Development and Innovation Fund while supporting policy development across several sectors. According to the government, the additional investment will have a multiplier effect on the economy by mobilising larger volumes of private capital for nationally important projects.

Besides strengthening infrastructure creation, the investments are expected to generate direct and indirect employment, improve connectivity, support India's clean energy transition and reinforce flagship programmes such as Gati Shakti, Digital India, Make in India, FAME and PM E-DRIVE.

The Cabinet's decision is expected to further cement NIIF's role as India's flagship infrastructure investment platform while deepening long-term institutional participation in the country's growth story. UNI

Pricol's demerger of DICVS business get Board's nod

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

COIMBATORE, JUNE 30: Pricol Limited, one of India's leading automotive technology and precision engineering products and solutions company, on Monday announced that its Board of Directors has approved a scheme of arrangement to demerge its Driver Information and Connected Vehicle Solutions ('DICVS') business undertaking into Pricol Autotech Limited.

Post the demerger, Pricol will continue to focus on its Actuation, Control and Fluid Management Systems ('ACFMS') and Precision Products ('P3L') businesses.

The proposed restructuring will create two distinct listed companies - an automotive technology entity and an automotive and industrial precision engineering entity - simplifying the group's corporate structure while enabling each business to sharpen its strategic focus, accelerate innovation, and respond more effectively to evolving customer requirements, dynamic market realities and fast-changing technology trends through dedicated management teams and independent capital allocation frameworks, a company statement said.

The proposed scheme is expected to enhance operational and financial efficiency by reducing complexity, enabling faster decision-making, while allowing each entity to align its processes, systems, and governance frameworks. The demerger is also expected to improve visibility of each business' value proposition and growth prospects, strengthen strategic and financial flexibility for each entity

to pursue investment decisions aligned with their respective business portfolios and support the effective execution of its long-term strategic objectives, besides unlocking shareholder value.

Pricol CMD Vikram Mohan said "the proposed demerger marks an important milestone in the company's growth journey. Over the years, our businesses have evolved into strong and differentiated platforms with distinct customer needs, technology priorities, capital requirements and growth opportunities. We believe this is the right time for each business to operate independently with dedicated leadership, sharper strategic focus and greater operational agility. This new structure will enable both companies to pursue focused growth strategies, accelerate innovation and respond more effectively to evolving market opportunities."

"We are confident that the proposed demerger will strengthen our competitive position and create sustainable long-term value for all our stakeholders", he said. UNI

Housing sales decline 6pc across top 7 cities despite rise in new launches

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30: Housing sales across India's seven major cities declined 6 per cent year-on-year to 90,715 units during the April-June quarter of FY27, reflecting subdued buyer demand amid economic uncertainties and rising residential property prices, according to data released by real estate consultant Anarock.

The top seven housing markets included Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Delhi-NCR, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata that recorded sales of 96,285 units in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The report noted that average residential prices across these cities increased by 7 per cent during the April-June quarter compared with the same period last year, adding to affordability pressures for homebuyers.

Interestingly, Anarock's assessment differs sharply from a recent report by listed real estate data analytics firm PropEquity, which estimated a 19 per cent year-on-year increase in housing sales to 1,12,458 units during the same quarter.

Among the major markets, Delhi-NCR recorded a 6 per cent decline in sales to 13,365 units from 14,255 a year ago.

Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), the country's largest housing market, witnessed an 8 per cent fall in sales to 28,710 units during the quarter from 31,275 units in the corresponding period last year. UNI

Adani Green commissions 150 MW solar power project at Khavda

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JUN 30: Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has informed the stock exchanges that it has operationalised a 150 MW solar power project at Khavda, in Gujarat, through its wholly owned step-down subsidiary, Adani Renewable Energy Eight Limited (ARE8L).

According to the regulatory communication to the exchanges which was signed by AGEL Company Secretary Pragnesh Darji, commercial power generation began from Sunday, June 28, after which AGEL's total operational renewable energy generation capacity has increased to 19,985.8 MW, which is only 15 MW short of its 20 GW milestone. AGEL has targeted an operational capacity of 30 GW by 2029.

In April 2026, Adani Green Energy Twenty Six A, which is a wholly-owned step-down subsidiary of AGEL, operationalised a 292 MW solar project in Khavda, Gujarat.

Last October 2025, Adani Green Energy Twenty Six A had operationalised a 50 MW solar project in Khavda.

In September 2025, the subsidiary operationalised a 125-MW solar power project in Khavda.

In the same month, AGEL also operationalised 87.5 MW of solar capacity at the 30 GW renewable energy project in Khavda, Gujarat.

The newly-commissioned project expands AGEL's renewable energy footprint in Khavda, which is one of India's largest renewable energy hubs. The addition further strengthens the company's utility-

scale solar portfolio while enhancing its renewable energy generation capacity in Gujarat.

The company stated that the expansion forms part of its ongoing renewable energy capacity addition strategy, with battery storage continuing to complement its renewable power assets to support grid stability and dispatch reliability.

The latest commissioning has also increased the company's total Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity to 3,366 MWh, further strengthening its integrated renewable energy and energy storage portfolio.

AGEL has expanded its portfolio beyond solar, wind, and hybrid renewable energy projects by venturing into pumped storage projects (PSP). UNI

FTG opens its first India manufacturing facility at GMR Aerospace Park in Hyderabad

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 30: Firan Technology Group Corporation (FTG) on Monday inaugurated its first India Manufacturing facility at GMR Hyderabad Aviation SEZ Limited (GHASL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL).

The new facility marks FTG's

expansion into its fourth global manufacturing destination after Canada, the United States and China. It will manufacture advanced avionics and cockpit interface electronics for global aerospace and defence programmes, further strengthening India's position in the global aerospace manufacturing value chain.

Developed as a customised

Built-to-Suit (BTS) facility within the 277-acre GMR Aerospace & Industrial Park, the unit is designed to meet stringent global OEM standards and will benefit from the integrated airport-led industrial ecosystem.

Speaking on the occasion, Aman Kapoor, CEO, GMR Airport Land Development, said FTG's investment reflects growing

global confidence in India's aerospace sector and GMR's ability to deliver world-class industrial infrastructure. He said the facility would strengthen domestic and export supply chains, promote indigenisation and reinforce Hyderabad's position as a leading aerospace and industrial innovation hub.

Brad Bourne, President and CEO of FTG Corporation, said

India's engineering talent, rapidly growing aerospace and defence sector and strong manufacturing ecosystem made it a natural choice for the company's global expansion.

He said the facility would support the 'Make in India' initiative by producing high-reliability avionics and cockpit interface electronics for global OEM customers. UNI



Sooryavanshi must 'bide his time and wait,' says ten Doeschate

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, the 15-year-old prodigy, will have to "go through the same process as everyone else and bide his time and wait" for a debut, India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said on Sunday.

Sooryavanshi was fast-tracked into the national T20I side after a spectacular IPL 2026 season, where he finished with the Player-of-the-Tournament honours for his 776 runs in 16 innings, scored at 237.30. The national selectors said he had forced their hand with his outrageous talent and performances, but the team management has not been as quick to put him into the first XI during their shock series defeat to Ireland.

Sanju Samson, one of the incumbent openers, might have scored golden ducks in both these matches, but the team management is not in any hurry to show him or any of the two other top-three players the door.

"He's absolutely ready to play international cricket, there's no doubt about that," ten Doeschate said when asked how far Sooryavanshi was from making his international debut. "But also, I think it's not a question to say you can leave Sanju Samson out. A guy who went a long way to winning India the World Cup three months ago. A guy who's had a fairly good IPL [Samson scored two hundreds for Chennai Super Kings].

"It's important in terms of giving players confidence, and the message we're sending to players. We want to give guys a long run in the team. So, you know, as ready as Vaibhav is and as excited as we are and you are to see him play, he's going to have to go through the same process as everyone else and, you know, bide his time and wait. But certainly no questions about how good he is and how ready he is."

From all indications from the team management, it seems Sooryavanshi's debut depends on the incumbent top order's performance more than how good he is. Even in the absence of a seam-bowling allrounder for the first match, with Hardik Pandya injured and Suryansh Shedge not yet in Ireland, India didn't consider making an exception and pushing everyone one spot down. In the first match, the spin-bowling all-rounder Washington Sundar played. Shedge made his debut in the second.

As of now, Sooryavanshi is only part of India's T20I side and not the ODIs. He has been named for the five-match series in England, which begins on Wednesday, and then the Asian Games.

Gardner: West Indies 'pose a different threat'

AGENCIES

DUBAI: Australia are wary of leaning too heavily on their flawless recent record against Women's T20 World Cup semi-final opponents, West Indies, believing that they "pose a different threat". Australia enter the first semi-final, at The Oval on Tuesday, as firm favourites after reaching this stage undefeated when they saw off the challenge of India at Lord's.

While India winning wouldn't have stopped Australia's progress to the next phase of the tournament, they were the first side to truly challenge them before being knocked out themselves. That was largely due to a century partnership between Ellyse Perry and Ash Gardner which allowed the Australians to post a record run chase.

Sports Association Pattan Calls on Worthy Secretary J&K Sports Council, Mrs. Nuzhat Gul

HT SPORT DESK

PATTAN: Today, a delegation of Sports Association Pattan had the privilege of meeting the Worthy Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Mrs. Nuzhat Gul, to discuss several pressing issues concerning the sports infrastructure of Pattan town, including the need for improved sports facilities, better maintenance of existing infrastructure, and enhanced support for local athletes.

The meeting was highly



encouraging and productive. Mrs. Nuzhat Gul patiently listened to every concern raised by the Association and responded with remarkable positivity, commitment, and vision. Her deep understanding of grass-roots sports and her unwavering dedication towards the welfare of players left the delegation truly inspired.

The Association is confident that under her dynamic leadership, the long-pending issues related to sports infrastructure in Pattan will receive the atten-

tion they deserve. Her assurance of extending every possible support reflects her genuine commitment to strengthening sports at the grassroots level across Jammu & Kashmir.

Sports Association Pattan expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Nuzhat Gul for her valuable time, warm reception, and encouraging response. We firmly believe that her leadership will continue to usher in a new era of sporting excellence and infrastructure development throughout the Union Territory.

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