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Every Pilgrim Should Return as an Ambassador for J&K: LG Manoj Sinha

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said every devotee undertaking the annual Amarnath pilgrimage should return as an ambassador for Jammu and Kashmir, urging authorities and residents alike to ensure pilgrims experience the highest standards of safety, dignity, comfort and hospitality during the revered annual journey.

The Lieutenant Governor made the remarks after inaugurating the Tawi River Ceremony and a Light and Sound Show organised to welcome pilgrims ahead of the commencement of the Amarnath pilgrimage. He described the pilgrimage as a timeless symbol of faith.

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LG Sinha for enhanced manpower to manage devotee rush

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 01: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday visited the Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu and reviewed

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Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre comes alive

HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA/SAMBA, JULY 01: The Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre Wednesday witnessed the arrival of the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatis, marking the beginning of the pilgrimage movement

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Div Com Reviews SANJY-2026 Arrangements

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday inspected the arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

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IGP Kashmir conducts high-level security audit at Pahalgam

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JULY 1: With the annual Shri

Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 set to commence shortly, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V. K. Birdi on Wednesday carried out a comprehensive security assessment in Pahalgam and directed all security agencies to maintain the highest level of vigilance, ensure foolproof security arrangements, and strengthen coordination for the smooth and safe conduct of the pilgrimage.

According to details the IGP undertook an extensive review of the security infrastructure

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Digital India Has Given India A New Global Identity: PM Modi

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUL 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the Digital India initiative has given India a new global identity, describing the programme as a transformative force that has reshaped governance, empowered citizens and accelerated inclusive development over the past eleven years.

Commemorating the anniversary of the flagship initiative, the Prime Minister said Digital India has fundamentally changed the way public services are delivered by making governance more transparent, efficient and accessible. He said technology has become a powerful tool for improving the quality of life through seamless digital payments, direct benefit transfers and the expansion of digital public infrastructure.

Highlighting the programme's broad reach, Modi

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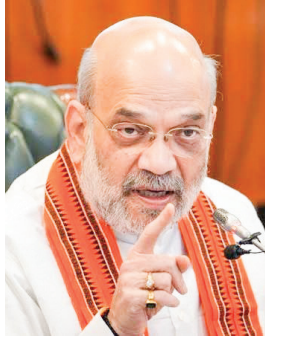
Submit Recommendations At The Earliest : Amit Shah To Demographic Panel

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUL 1: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday directed the High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes to expedite its work and submit its recommendations at the earliest, while assuring the panel of full government support for carrying out its mandate.

During a meeting with the committee, chaired by retired Justice

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All Arrangements Have Been Put in Place' for Amarnath Yatra: Railways

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JULY 1: The Jammu Railway Division has completed extensive security and passenger facilitation arrangements at Jammu Railway Station ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, with officials stating that every measure has been taken to ensure the safe and orderly movement of pilgrims.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said the Railways has adopted a comprehensive approach to preparations, placing equal emphasis on security, crowd management and passenger

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Jammu Railway Station Upgrade on Fast Track

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 1: The redevelopment of Jammu railway station is progressing at a fast pace, with major track and platform works nearing completion and the overall project targeted for completion by December 2027, a senior railway

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Machail, Mindhal Pilgrimages Suspended Due to Adverse Weather

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JUL 1: The Kishtwar district administration on Wednesday suspended the Machail and Mindhal pilgrimages after persistent monsoon rain created unsafe travel conditions, with officials citing slippery roads and the danger of falling rocks as key reasons for the decision.

The administration said the temporary suspension was imposed as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of pilgrims travelling to the two revered shrines.

"In view of the adverse weather conditions

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Safer, Faster All-Weather Connectivity To Kashmir Now Ensured : Nitin Gadkari

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUL 1: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday announced the completion of two major infrastructure projects on National Highway-44 in Jammu and Kashmir, describing them as a major milestone in improving connectivity and road safety for the Kashmir Valley.

Announcing the completion of the viaduct and tunnel on the

Ramban-Banihal section of NH-44, Gadkari said the projects bypass one of the highway's most landslide-prone stretches, ensuring safer, faster and all-weather connectivity to the Valley.

He said the newly completed infrastructure would significantly reduce travel time, improve road safety and facilitate the uninterrupted movement of tourists, local commuters, defence vehicles, freight and essential supplies throughout the year.

The Ramban-Banihal stretch of NH-44 is the only surface link connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country and has historically been vulnerable to landslides and severe weather, often disrupting traffic and the transportation of passengers and goods.

With the completion of the new viaduct and tunnel, the Centre expects to improve the reliability of the highway, minimise weather-related disruptions and strengthen

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Flash floods, cloudbursts mark monsoon's arrival in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: The south-west monsoon became active across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, bringing widespread rain that triggered flash floods, cloudbursts and a sharp rise in water levels in several districts, while forecasters warned that more intense showers over the next few days could lead to localised flash



floods, landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Guridraman village in the Larnoo area of Anantnag district witnessed flash floods following intense rainfall during the afternoon. The sudden surge of water created panic among residents as several students were inside a local school when

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Army Chief Unveils 'VIJAY' Roadmap

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUL 1: The Indian Army is a combat-ready, battle hardened force and the aim is to build a technology-enabled, future-ready army capable of operating in multiple domains, Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth said on Wednesday, as he coined the acronym 'VIJAY' to achieve that goal.

The letters in the acronym stand for - 'V' for vigilance, 'I' for innovation, 'J' for jointness and integration, 'A' for Aatmanirbharta and 'Y' for 'Yodha first'.

Gen Seth, an accomplished military officer with the rare distinction of heading two operational Army commands along the western front, took charge as the Army chief on Tuesday, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi, who retired on June 30 after an illustrious career spanning



over 40 years.

Speaking to reporters after receiving a guard of honour on the lawns of the South Block on Wednesday, Gen Seth said the Indian Army is a combat-ready and battle hardened force, which is "always ready to face all challenges in a battlefield".

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Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri Gets One-Year Extension In Service

HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUL 1: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was given a one-year extension on Wednesday, till July 14 next year.

Widely regarded as an expert on China, Mr. Misri was appointed to the post in June 2024.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension for a period of one year beyond July 14, 2026, that is, up to July 14, 2027, under the provisions of Fundamental Rule 56(d).

The rule has a provision for extension in service for the Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary, Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing, and a few others beyond the age of retirement of 60 years.

Career diplomat Mr. Misri, a 1989-batch Indian

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Every Pilgrim.....

discipline, spiritual awakening and national unity that has inspired generations and brought together people from diverse regions, cultures and traditions.

Extending his greetings to pilgrims from across the country, Sinha said the evening river ceremony would be held throughout the pilgrimage period, with every lamp symbolising hope, purity, renewal and faith while reinforcing the values of harmony, cooperation and mutual respect.

Highlighting the transformation of the Tawi riverfront, the Lieutenant Governor said the restored public space has evolved into a vibrant centre for culture, heritage and community life. He praised the efforts made to revive the riverfront and appealed to citizens to actively participate in keeping Jammu clean and welcoming.

Expressing his long-term vision, Sinha said Jammu should emerge as a global destination for spiritual tourism, cultural learning and human values. He also envisioned the Tawi riverfront becoming a model for environmental conservation, sustainable development and modern urban planning where heritage and contemporary infrastructure coexist.

Stressing the significance of the Amarnath pilgrimage, he said it is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure every pilgrim receives the highest standards of care and leaves with lasting memories of the warmth, hospitality and spirit of service displayed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also launched the Raahi Hop Jammu electric bus service, an initiative aimed at providing residents and visitors with convenient and environmentally friendly transport to major religious, cultural and recreational destinations across the city through four dedicated routes.

Earlier, he inaugurated an exhibition on the Amarnath pilgrimage and presented cleanliness-themed souvenirs to pilgrims. The event was attended by Members of Parliament, legislators, senior civil and police officials, religious leaders and prominent citizens.

LG Sinha for....

arrangements in place for the pilgrims ahead of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of logistics, lodging, security arrangements, health facilities, help desks, sanitation, power and water supply, emergency and other essential services and facilities, ensuring a seamless and hassle-free experience for the devotees.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials to enhance manpower management to seamlessly cater to the heavy influx of devotees. He also emphasized regular public announcements at Bhagwati Nagar and Tawi Riverfront to ensure yatris receive essential information on time.

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the devotees of Baba Barfani and wished them a safe, peaceful and blessed pilgrimage.

The 57-day long Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will commence on 3rd July from the base camp on both the routes and it will culminate on 28th August 2026. The first-batch of the Yatra will be flagged off by the Lieutenant Governor on July 02 from Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Nalin Prabbhat, DGP; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Anil V Homkar, IGP CRPF Jammu Sector; M. Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and senior officials from civil administration, police and security forces.

Lakhanpur.....

through Kathua. The district administration gave the devotees a warm reception and ensured seamless facilitation, reflecting the district's preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

Amidst devotional chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and "Jai Baba Barfani", the pilgrims were received at Lakhanpur, the traditional gateway to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, by Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma, ADC Mahima Madan and other senior officers from the district administration.

The Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre has been fully operationalised with dedicated facilities for the pilgrims. Six RFID counters and 12 eKYC counters have been established for verification and issuance of RFID cards to registered pilgrims, and the arrangements are being closely monitored to ensure timely processing.

A cultural welcome programme was also organised at Lakhanpur by the District Information Centre Kathua, wherein cultural troupes presented devotional performances including Shiv Tandav Stotra and bhajans, adding to the festive atmosphere of the reception.

Interacting with the yatris, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma extended his greetings and assured a smooth passage for pilgrims. Dedicated help desks, medical aid, sanitation arrangements and other essential services have been put in place through coordinated efforts of various departments, with the Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre developed as a comprehensive support hub combining efficient service delivery with the traditional hospitality of Kathua.

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, scheduled from 3 July to 28 August, will see devotees from across the country undertake the pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine in Anantnag district of South Kashmir.

Later, the district administration formally flagged off the first batch of yatris from Lakhanpur amid devotional chants and warm wishes. The pilgrims, accompanied by security arrangements, proceeded

towards Jammu Base Camp, from where the Yatra is scheduled to commence in the early hours of 2 July.

Meanwhile, the district administration Samba accorded a warm and traditional welcome to the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 pilgrims at Tapyal, marking the commencement of the annual pilgrimage through the district.

Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Anuj Kumar, received the devotees and extended their greetings. Local residents also joined in welcoming the pilgrims, reflecting the district's tradition of hospitality.

Interacting with the pilgrims, the Deputy Commissioner conveyed her best wishes for a safe and comfortable pilgrimage. The District Administration, in coordination with the Police, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Religious Langar Organisations and other stakeholder departments, has made comprehensive arrangements for boarding, lodging, healthcare, sanitation, security and other essential services for the Yatra.

The pilgrims appreciated the arrangements and expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the District Administration Samba and the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board for the facilities provided.

Among those present were Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur, SDM Ghagwal KJS Bali, senior officers of the civil and police administration, security forces, representatives of Religious Langar Organisations, religious leaders and prominent citizens.

Following the welcome and interaction, the pilgrims resumed their onward journey towards Jammu under security arrangements.

Div Com.....

(SANJY)- 2026 during an extensive visit of the Yatra Facilitation Centre at Nowgam Railway Station and the Yatra Transit Camp and Yatri Niwas at Pantha Chowk.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir, and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, during the visit to the respective yatra facilities.

During the visit, Garg inspected accommodation arrangements, separate sanitation facilities for men and women, drinking water supply, and the functioning of RFID and eKYC counters. On the occasion, he directed officials to install adequate signages to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims to various service and facilitation centres.

Addressing the media, the Divisional Commissioner said that the district administrations of Budgam and Srinagar have put in place comprehensive arrangements to welcome pilgrims and ensure the safe and comfortable stay of pilgrims. He informed that nearly four lakh pilgrims have registered online for this year's Yatra, registering an increase over the previous year.

He said the pilgrimage will be conducted from July 3 to August 28 and expressed optimism that the number of yatris would increase further in view of the significant tourist footfall witnessed in the Valley this year. To cater to the expected rush, he added that additional RFID and eKYC counters have been established at Nowgam Yatra Station and Srinagar Airport.

Garg said the Yatra will continue under the convoy system from Jammu with strict security protocols in place. He added that the cut-off timings for the convoys have already been publicised to ensure better awareness among pilgrims.

The Div Com further stated that priority in issuing RFID cards will be accorded to pilgrims who have completed online registration. However, on-the-spot registration counters have also been established at Pantha Chowk and at base camps along both pilgrimage routes. RFID cards for such pilgrims will be issued subject to the availability of the prescribed quota and accommodation capacity at the Yatra camps, he added.

Highlighting the challenging terrain along the pilgrimage routes, the Divisional Commissioner said that weather advisories issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) will be displayed on digital screens at Pantha Chowk and base camps to keep pilgrims informed.

He also informed that mountain rescue teams, along with personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and other security agencies, have been deployed to respond to emergencies and provide timely assistance to pilgrims.

During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner emphasised the importance of close coordination among all departments and agencies to ensure the smooth, safe, and successful conduct of the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

IGP Kashmir....

along the Pahalgam axis of the Yatra and evaluated the operational preparedness of police and other security agencies deployed for the annual pilgrimage.

During the inspection, Birdi visited the X-ray Screening Point, where he reviewed the passenger and baggage screening system and assessed the functioning of security checkpoints established for pilgrims. He instructed officials to ensure thorough screening of every pilgrim and baggage item, while maintaining strict compliance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and ensuring smooth movement without inconvenience to devotees.

The IGP later inspected the Nunwan Base Camp, where he reviewed the overall security arrangements, deployment strategy, surveillance systems, access control mechanisms, emergency response plans, and other logistical preparations put in place for the Yatra.

Interacting with officers and personnel deployed on the ground, Birdi appreciated their dedication, professionalism, and commitment towards ensuring

a secure environment for pilgrims. He urged them to remain vigilant at all times and perform their duties with utmost sincerity and coordination.

Reviewing the multi-tier security framework, the IGP directed officers to maintain heightened alertness, reinforce inter-agency coordination, and ensure the effective implementation of all security protocols across the Yatra route. He emphasized proactive policing, continuous surveillance, intelligence-based monitoring, and prompt response to any emerging situation to ensure the pilgrimage is conducted peacefully and without any untoward incident.

Officials said the inspection is part of a series of security reviews being undertaken by senior police officers across Kashmir to assess preparedness and further strengthen the security grid ahead of the commencement of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The IGP was accompanied by Javid Iqbal Matoo, Sameer Sharma, Amod Ashok Nagpure, besides other senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police. (KNC)

Digital India.....

said Digital India has extended the benefits of innovation to villages as well as smaller towns and cities, creating opportunities for entrepreneurs, startups and innovators to develop solutions to national and global challenges.

He said the initiative has strengthened key sectors, including education, healthcare, agriculture, commerce and public service delivery, while laying the foundation for India's leadership in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors and quantum computing.

The Prime Minister said the government would continue to focus on ensuring that technology serves humanity, empowers every citizen and drives sustainable development, adding that Digital India remains a strong pillar of a developed and self-reliant nation.

Officials said the initiative has bridged the digital divide by expanding internet connectivity, promoting affordable digital access and bringing a wide range of government services online. They noted that Digital India has become the backbone of the country's digital economy and digital public infrastructure.

According to officials, India has emerged as the global leader in real-time digital payments, with the Unified Payments Interface accounting for nearly half of the world's real-time digital transaction volume, reflecting the programme's growing international impact.

Submit.....

Prakash Prabhakar Navlekar, members informed the Home Minister that they would soon begin visits to states and Union Territories to gather first-hand information on demographic changes. They also said a detailed questionnaire had been prepared to seek relevant information in advance, making the consultations more meaningful and interactive.

Appreciating the committee's strategy, Shah asked Home Secretary Govind Mohan to provide all possible assistance to the panel in its day-to-day functioning as well as during its visits across the country.

The committee has been tasked with conducting a scientific assessment of demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other abnormal factors. It will analyse the causes behind such changes and recommend suitable policy, legislative and administrative measures to address the issue.

The panel was constituted by the Government of India following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of the High-Powered Demography Mission on August 15, 2025.

Apart from Justice Navlekar, the committee comprises Census Commissioner Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, retired IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra, retired IPS officer Balaji Srivastava, and Shamika Ravi, a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

According to the government, the committee will undertake extensive field visits across states and Union Territories before finalising its recommendations for submission to the Centre.

All Arrangements....

convenience. "All arrangements have been put in place," Singhal said, describing the pilgrimage as an event of immense religious importance and a significant occasion for Jammu and Kashmir.

Security has been reinforced through close coordination among the Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police and ticket-checking staff to regulate passenger movement and maintain vigilance across the station.

To assist the expected influx of pilgrims, the Railways has deployed volunteers to guide passengers through the station, particularly in view of ongoing redevelopment work, with efforts focused on minimising inconvenience.

Passengers will also receive timely updates through public announcements and bulk text messages regarding train delays, rescheduling and other operational changes, enabling better travel planning.

In addition, the Railways has strengthened essential passenger services, including the availability of drinking water and food, to ensure pilgrims have access to basic facilities throughout their journey.

The 57-day Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to begin on July 3 from the two designated routes through Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district. The first group of pilgrims will depart from Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu on July 2 under comprehensive security arrangements.

Jammu Railway....

official said. The railway station is undergoing a Rs 450-crore modernisation project by Northern Railway aimed at enhancing passenger amenities, operational efficiency and connectivity for Jammu and Kashmir.

"The work on the Jammu railway station redevelopment is progressing at a fast pace. The entire station redevelopment project is scheduled to be completed by December 2027," Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal said in an interview here.

He said the project aims to transform the station into a modern transport hub with improved platforms, foot overbridges, an air concourse, lifts, escalators, enhanced passenger amenities and better city connectivity.

The official said the project has two major components - construction of new platforms and washing lines, and redevelopment of the station building, including a new entrance on the Narwal side (B-entry), a revamped main station building and an elevated air concourse connecting both sides of the station.

Under the project, the number of platforms will increase from three to seven, with four new platforms featuring ballastless track technology and washable aprons to improve operational efficiency, cleanliness and passenger convenience.

"The track and platform component is almost complete. New platforms have already been brought into operation, with the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express currently operating at one of the newly developed platforms. More trains will soon be shifted to the new platforms," Singhal said.

He said the B-entry on the Narwal side is almost complete and is expected to open for the public shortly. (Agencies)

Machail, Mindhal....

prevailing across Kishtwar, including continuous rainfall, slippery road conditions and the risk of falling rocks, both the Machail and Mindhal pilgrimages shall remain suspended on Wednesday," an official said.

Pilgrims have been advised not to begin the journey and to remain at their homes or other safe locations until fresh advisories are issued by the authorities.

The Machail pilgrimage commenced on April 14 after the reopening of the shrine following the winter closure and has attracted nearly 90,000 devotees so far this year. The annual Mindhal pilgrimage began on June 1 with the ceremonial departure marking the start of the religious journey to the shrine in Pangi, Himachal Pradesh.

The suspension comes amid heightened caution during the monsoon season, when heavy rainfall often leads to hazardous road conditions, landslides and falling rocks in the mountainous region. Authorities said the situation is being monitored closely and further decisions will depend on improvements in weather and road conditions.

Safer, Faster....

transport connectivity, supporting economic activity, tourism and strategic mobility across the region.

Flash floods....

the flooding occurred.

Villagers rescued the children before police, SDRF and civil administration teams reached the area to launch rescue operations. There were no immediate reports of casualties, while the extent of damage was being assessed.

In the Chenab Valley, two cloudbursts were reported in Kalalgisar village of the Bhalessa region in Doda district after heavy rain lashed the area. Authorities were monitoring the situation amid continuing unstable weather.

Heavy overnight rainfall also pushed up water levels in rivers and seasonal streams across Rajouri district. The district administration kept vulnerable locations under close watch and advised people living near rivers, nallahs and low-lying areas to remain alert and shift to safer places if water levels rose further.

In Kashmir, widespread rainfall was recorded in Pahalgam, Ashmuqam and adjoining areas, bringing relief from the prolonged heatwave. Cloudy skies and showers led to a noticeable fall in temperatures, improving weather conditions across many parts of the Valley.

Earlier in the day, weather monitoring centres had indicated rain and thundershowers over many parts of Ganderbal, Bandipora, Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam, Poonch, Baramulla, Uri, Gulmarg, the Banihal-Ramban axis, and parts of Doda and Kishtwar. They had also warned that brief but intense showers over Poonch, Budgam, the Ganderbal-Kangan-Sonamarg-Zojila axis, Pahalgam, Shopian, Kulgam and the Banihal-Ramban corridor could trigger localized flash floods, mudslides and landslides. Several of these areas subsequently witnessed intense rainfall.

The active weather coincided with the southwest monsoon advancing across the entire Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh meteorological subdivision on July 1, a day later than the normal onset date. Rainfall during the past 24 hours was highest in Samba at 62.5 mm, followed by Jammu with 35.8 mm, Kathua 23.8 mm and Rajouri 19.6 mm, while light rainfall was recorded at several other stations.

Forecasts indicate generally cloudy conditions with light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places between July 2 and July 4. Heavy rainfall, brief intense showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds are expected at a few locations, particularly across the Jammu division, the Pir Panjal range, Chenab Valley and adjoining parts of south Kashmir.

Between July 5 and July 8, weather is expected to turn hot and humid again, although

scattered rain and thunderstorms are likely to continue, especially over parts of Jammu division.

Weather experts said the current spell is being driven by the interaction between active monsoon winds and a series of weak western disturbances expected to affect the region through the week. While prolonged widespread flooding is not anticipated, short-duration intense rainfall and isolated cloudbursts remain possible, increasing the risk of localized flash floods, rising water levels in streams, waterlogging and landslides.

Authorities have advised residents, tourists and trekkers to stay away from rivers, nallahs and landslide-prone areas, monitor official advisories and plan travel carefully over the next few days.

Meanwhile in view of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) nowcast warning forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall across Poonch district, the Health Department has placed all government health institutions on high alert and ordered the immediate cancellation of all staff leave to ensure uninterrupted emergency healthcare services.

According to an official order issued by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Poonch, all health institutions, including District Hospital Poonch, Sub-District Hospitals at Mendhar, Surankote and Mandi, as well as all Primary Health Centres (PHCs), New Type Primary Health Centres (NTPHCs) and Sub-Centres, have been directed to remain fully prepared to deal with any emergency arising from adverse weather conditions.

The directive follows the IMD's warning predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall, with the possibility of flash floods, landslides, road blockages and other rain-related emergencies in the district.

As part of the emergency preparedness measures, the CMO has instructed the Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Poonch and Block Medical Officers of Mendhar, Surankote and Mandi to immediately cancel all kinds of leave, except maternity leave, for medical officers, paramedical staff and other employees working under their control. They have also been directed not to sanction any fresh leave until further orders.

The order stresses that all health institutions must ensure full attendance of doctors, nurses, paramedics and support staff so that medical services remain available round the clock during any emergency situation.

The CMO has further directed all hospitals and healthcare facilities to maintain adequate stocks of emergency medicines, oxygen cylinders, dressings, consumables and life-saving equipment to meet any sudden increase in patient load resulting from weather-related incidents.

Authorities have also been instructed to ensure the 24x7 operational readiness of ambulances and emergency response systems, enabling rapid transport and treatment of injured or affected persons. (KNO)

Army Chief....

"To assume charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) is a moment of pride and humility for me. I accept this responsibility with deep commitment to the ideals of duty, honour and nation first," he said.

He also offered tribute to the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. "Their courage, commitment to duty and selfless dedication will continue to inspire generations to come," he said.

Gen Seth is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla. He was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.

Prior to becoming the 31st COAS, he served as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

"To meet the challenges of a changing security environment, we must take forward the modernisation of the army with new vigour and firm determination.

"Our aim is to forge a technology-enabled, future-ready army which is powerful in all forms, and capable of operating in multiple domains," the general officer asserted.

In keeping with this vision, Gen Seth said he has identified some "focus areas" inspired by the "Decade of Transformation" (2023-2032), a modernisation and restructuring roadmap envisaged by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for the Indian Army. "I have put them together in an acronym - 'VIJAY'. 'V' stands for vigilance, 'I' for innovation, 'J' for jointness and integration, 'A' for Aatmanirbharta and 'Y' for 'Yodha first,'" Gen Seth said. (Agencies)

Foreign Secretary....

Foreign Service officer, was working as the Deputy National Security Adviser (Dy NSA) before his appointment as the Foreign Secretary.

He has the rare distinction of serving as Private Secretary to three Prime Ministers - Inder Kumar Gujral, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi. Before he was appointed as the deputy NSA, Mr. Misri served as India's Ambassador to China from 2019-2021.

Mr. Misri is believed to have played a key role in talks between India and China after tensions flared significantly following the Galwan Valley clashes in June, 2020.

He has also served as India's Ambassador to Spain (2014-2016) and Myanmar (2016-2018) besides having stints in many Indian missions including Pakistan, the U.S., Germany, Belgium and Sri Lanka.



Sakeena Itoo reviews development issues of five constituencies of Kashmir

Calls for holding intense awareness camp regarding welfare schemes

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 1: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and School Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess developmental issues and public service delivery in the Khanshab, Hazratbal, Pampore, Sopore and Zainpora Assembly constituencies.

The meeting was attended by the MLAs including Hasnain Masoodi, Salman Ali Sagar, Showkat Hussain, Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Irshad Rasool Kar, who highlighted key issues and development priorities pertaining to their respective areas.

Senior officers from the concerned departments were also present. During the meeting, the Minister conducted a detailed review of issues related to health infrastructure, school education, social welfare and ongoing developmental works. She directed the concerned departments to ensure



prompt redressal of public grievances and timely implementation of all approved projects.

Reviewing the Health and Medical Education sector, the Minister stressed the need for strengthening healthcare facilities across the constituencies. She directed officials to expedite the operationalisation of identified Primary Health Centres as 24x7 facilities, complete pending infrastructure works, improve ambulance services, undertake mapping of medical blocks and ensure accountability in project execution.

The Minister also called for enhanced diagnostic facilities, including CT scan services at the Trauma Centre, besides taking up the reconstruction of unsafe health buildings on priority.

The Minister also directed that necessary action be initiated against any officer found responsible for unauthorized changes in Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). She emphasized transparency in tendering processes and instructed officials to discourage below-estimate tendering while ensuring contractors adhere to quality

standards and timelines.

Reviewing the School Education sector, Sakeena Itoo directed officials to accelerate the upgradation of schools, address infrastructure gaps and ensure equitable distribution of resources across institutions.

In the Social Welfare sector, the Minister stressed the need to expand outreach under various Central and UT-sponsored schemes. She directed officials to organize awareness camps to maximize public awareness and ensure that benefits reach all

eligible beneficiaries. She also called for intensified ICDS outreach in uncovered and left-out areas.

The Minister also reviewed constituency-specific development issues, including the completion of Government Degree Colleges, Schools and hospitals buildings and regulation of unauthorized constructions and identification of unsafe buildings for appropriate action.

Interacting with the MLAs, Sakeena Itoo assured them that all genuine issues raised during the meeting would be examined on priority. She directed the concerned departments to maintain close coordination with the elected representatives to ensure timely resolution of public issues and effective implementation of developmental initiatives.

The Minister emphasized that strengthening public services and accelerating development across all constituencies remain the top priorities of the government.

UEED Kashmir Reviews Major Sewerage Projects, Pushes for Faster Completion

SE Samiullah Beigh inspects four flagship environmental projects, directs agencies to meet NGT timelines with enhanced manpower

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 1: Superintending Engineer, Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), Kashmir, Er. Samiullah Beigh, on Wednesday conducted an extensive inspection of four major flagship sewerage and environmental infrastructure projects being executed under Government of India initiatives across the Kashmir Valley.

According to officials, the Superintending Engineer



reviewed the progress of the Dhoodganga Phase-I Sewerage Project comprising a 14 MLD Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP), Dhoodganga Phase-II Sewerage Project with a 6 MLD STP and 11-km sewerage network, Chubtikul-Jhelum Sewerage Project featuring an 8 MLD STP and 23-km sewerage network, and the Dal Sewerage Treatment Project comprising a 30 MLD STP with a 210-km sewerage network.

During the inspection, Er. Beigh directed engineers and executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work while ensuring strict adherence to quality and environmental standards.

He emphasised the need for deploying additional manpower and resources at all project sites to ensure timely completion of the works within the deadlines prescribed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The Superintending Engineer said the successful completion of these projects would play a significant role in pollution abatement, protection of water bodies, strengthening sanitation infrastructure and promoting environmental sustainability across Kashmir.

Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers and other departmental officers accompanied the Superintending Engineer during the inspection and briefed him on the progress of the projects.

Slathia chairs PAC meeting, examine C&AG's audit paras pertaining to Jal Shakti Department

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts, Surjeet Singh Slathia, today chaired a meeting of the Committee at the Assembly Secretariat here to examine the C&AG's audit paras pertaining to the Jal Shakti Department including PHE and I&FC.

The meeting was attended by the Legislators



Mubarik Gul, Shamim Firdous, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo), Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi), Ranbir Singh Pathania, Ch Mohammad Akram, Vikram Randhawa along with Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Jal Shakti Department Shaleen Kabra, Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit and senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department, including the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control wings.

During the meeting, the Committee held detailed deliberations on the audit observations and examined the issues raised in the audit paras.

After detailed discussions, the Committee, upon the assurance of the Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, directed the concerned officers to furnish a comprehensive report on the audit paras discussed during the meeting within the 15 days for further examination by the Committee.

The members of the Committee actively participated in the deliberations and offered valuable suggestions and constructive inputs aimed at improving the functioning, transparency and accountability of the department.

Speaker reviews PWD works in Charar-i-Sharief, Stresses timely completion, quality execution

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress of development works being executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department in district Budgam, with special focus in his constituency, Charar-i-Sharief.

During the meeting, the department made a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the works completed during the previous financial year under various components, including Roads & Buildings (R&B), Connectivity, pothole repairs and the UT Capex Budget. The meeting also reviewed the new works proposed and approved for execution during

the current financial year.

The Speaker took stock of the physical and financial progress of the ongoing projects and emphasized the need for their timely completion to ensure that the benefits of development reach the people without delay.

He stressed that the benefits of developmental works must reach the people at the grassroots level and that every project should translate into improved public infrastructure and better civic amenities.

Drawing the attention of the engineers to several critical issues pertaining to his constituency, Charar-i-Sharief, the Speaker directed them to address and resolve these issues at the earliest in the larger interest of public welfare.

The Speaker directed the depart-

ment to expedite the pace of execution of all ongoing works and ensure that they are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Abdul Rahim Rather underscored that there should be no compromise on the quality of works and instructed the officers to maintain the highest standards in execution.

He emphasized that all developmental initiatives should translate into tangible benefits and improved public facilities for the people of Charar-i-Sharief.

CE R&B Central Kashmir, SE R&B Circle Budgam, Director Finance (PWD), Joint Director Planning (PWD), CPO Budgam, XENs Chadoora, Charar-i-Sharief, Budgam division besides other senior officers of the Public Works (R&B) Department were present during the meeting.

Div Com Kashmir reviews progress of 60 MLD STP Noorbagh

Directs completion of pending works by July 31

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress of allied works pertaining to the 60 MLD Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) at Noorbagh.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb; Chief Engineer, KPDC; Superintending Engineer, UEED; Executive Engineer, NBCC; and officers from the R&B, PHE, and other concerned departments. Reviewing the sta-



tus of the project, the Divisional Commissioner directed NBCC to complete all pending works at the STP by July 31. He also

instructed the agency to share details of households connected to the STP with the Urban Environmental Engineering Depart-

ment (UEED) to facilitate effective monitoring and coordination.

To ensure the accuracy of household connectivity data, the

Divisional Commissioner directed that a joint team comprising officials from UEED and NBCC undertake verification and consolidation of all connections. He further directed the concerned departments to install power transformers at both the inlet and outlet points of the STP to ensure uninterrupted power supply and smooth operation of the facility.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized the importance of timely completion of the remaining works and called upon all concerned departments to maintain close coordination for the successful commissioning and efficient functioning of the project.

DC Kulgam Reviews 100-Day Anti-Drug Drive

80 FIRs Registered, 34 Driving Licences and 22 Vehicle RCs Suspended During 100-Day Campaign

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, JULY 1: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam (IAS), on Tuesday chaired a District Level NCORD (Narco-Coordination Centre) Committee meeting to review the progress of the ongoing 100-Day Campaign against Drug Abuse and directed all stakeholder departments to intensify enforcement and

rehabilitation efforts to eliminate the drug menace from the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of enforcement, awareness, and rehabilitation initiatives undertaken under the campaign. Officials informed the meeting that during the campaign period, 80 FIRs had been registered against 89 persons involved

in drug-related offences.

As part of the intensified crackdown on drug trafficking, authorities also suspended 34 driving licences and 22 vehicle Registration Certificates (RCs) used for transporting contraband.

Reviewing the achievements, Shahzad Alam (IAS) instructed the concerned departments to further strengthen action against drug peddlers and ensure

strict enforcement of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. He stressed the need for sustained and coordinated efforts by all departments to eradicate drug abuse from its roots.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized that equal importance must be given to the rehabilitation of drug abuse victims and their reintegration into society

through livelihood opportunities. He directed officers to strengthen de-addiction services, counselling facilities, and skill-based livelihood support so that affected individuals and families can rebuild their lives with dignity and self-reliance.

Reaffirming the district administration's commitment to making Kulgam a drug-free district, Shahzad Alam (IAS) appealed to civil society

members, religious scholars, educational institutions, and the general public to actively support the campaign against drug abuse.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also released an Impact Report highlighting the achievements of the anti-drug campaign in the areas of Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction, and Rehabilitation. The meeting was attended

by Additional Deputy Commissioner Viqar Ahmed Giri (JKAS), District Panchayat Officer Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi (JKAS), Sub-Divisional Magistrate DH Pora Bashir-ul-Hassan (JKAS), Assistant Commissioner Revenue Riyaz Ahmad Shah (JKAS), Assistant Commissioner Development Bilal Ahmad Kamgar (JKAS), Tehsildars, and other members of the District NCORD Committee.

DC Pulwama chairs NCORD meeting, reviews Anti-Drug Campaign

Stresses intensified awareness, strict enforcement and coordinated action against drug abuse

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JULY 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the implementation of the ongoing anti-drug campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the status of NDPS cases and various enforcement and preventive measures being undertaken across the district.

At the outset, the concerned officers presented detailed progress reports on the activities being carried out under the 100-day intensive Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan. The presentations highlighted awareness programmes organised across Panchayats, educational institutions and urban local bodies, besides initiatives aimed at prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and community participation.

Reviewing the awareness activities being conducted in Panchayats, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat to further intensify Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and organise multiple awareness programmes at different locations within Panchayats to ensure maximum outreach and community participation.

participation.

The Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Pulwama, briefed the meeting on the awareness programmes being organised in urban areas under the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner directed that awareness initiatives be conducted regularly in markets, public spaces and educational institutions to ensure wider public outreach.

The Chair was also apprised of the awareness programmes being organised in schools across the district. Stressing the importance of preventive education, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Education Department to organise regular awareness sessions, debates, seminars, counselling programmes and sports activities in educational institutions to raise awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse.

Furthermore, the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), Pulwama, and the Drug De-Addiction Centre, Tral, was reviewed in detail. Dr. Qayoom sought details from the concerned officers regarding treatment facilities, patient admissions, counselling services and rehabilitation measures, and directed them to ensure effective counselling, timely treatment, proper follow-up of recovered individuals and their integration with skill development and livelihood opportunities.

Reviewing the measures



taken against illicit poppy cultivation and wild cannabis, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue presented the action taken report

on destruction drives being conducted across the district. The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to

maintain strict surveillance, intensify field inspections and ensure the complete eradication of illicit cultivation and wild cannabis across the district.

Later, the meeting also reviewed the status of NDPS cases registered across the district. The Deputy Director Prosecution presented a detailed overview of cases under investigation, prosecution and trial.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for close coordination among the Police, Prosecution and other concerned agencies to ensure expeditious investigation and effective prosecution, with a view to improving conviction rates and strengthening deterrence.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner called for intensifying the campaign and stressed inter-departmental coordination, community participation and sustained enforcement to effectively combat the menace of drug abuse and narcotics trafficking in the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by SSP Pulwama, Tanushree; Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Awantipora and Tral; Assistant Commissioner Revenue; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat; Additional SP Awantipora, Deputy Director Prosecution; besides other members of the committee and other district and sectoral officers.

J&K to host National Coaching Camp for Indian Soft Tennis Teams ahead of 20th Asian Games

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: In a landmark development for sports in Jammu & Kashmir, the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association, under the aegis of the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India (ASTFI) and in active collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, will host the first-ever National Coaching Camp for the Indian Soft Tennis Teams in preparation for the 20th Asian Games, Japan 2026. The camp will be held at the Gindun Sports Stadium, Rajbagh, Srinagar, from 10th July to 13th August, 2026.

The National Coaching Camp represents an unprecedented recognition of Jammu & Kashmir's sporting infrastructure and administrative capability at the national level. For the first time in the history of the Union Territory, an Indian national-level training camp ahead of the Asian Games will be conducted on J&K soil, a testament to the confidence reposed by the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India and the Government of India in the region's growing sporting ecosystem.

The J&K Sports Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to providing world-class facilities and logistical support to ensure the successful conduct of the camp. About Soft Tennis in India and J&K Soft Tennis is a recognized sport under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, and is also sanctioned by the School Games Federation of India and the Association of Indian Universities.

The sport is affiliated with the Asian Soft Tennis Federation and the International Soft Tennis Federation and holds the distinction of being featured in both the National Games of India and the Asian Games In Jammu & Kashmir, the sport has witnessed exceptional growth under the stewardship of the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association.

Pertinently, the Association has built an impressive medal tally at national and international competitions, having won 5 Gold, 13 Silver, and 10 Bronze medals. It has also established a robust grassroots network comprising 18 affiliated district units spread across Jammu & Kashmir and has successfully hosted five National Championships across various categories. Plans are already in place to host additional prestigious national and international Soft Tennis events in the current calendar year.

A senior official of the J&K Sports Council stated that hosting the National Coaching Camp for the Indian Soft Tennis Teams ahead of the Asian Games is a proud moment for every resident of Jammu & Kashmir.

"This is not merely an event, it is a signal to the nation that J&K is ready and capable of hosting elite-level sporting programmes. Our local players will have the invaluable opportunity to train alongside the country's finest athletes, absorb the guidance of top national coaches, and benchmark themselves against the highest standards", the official said.

The J&K Sports Council has appealed sports lovers, youth, and citizens across Jammu & Kashmir to celebrate this historic achievement and to extend their full support to the athletes and officials participating in the camp and join in celebrating this historic milestone for sports in the Union Territory.

DLSA Ganderbal convenes meeting of LSUM to review implementation of NALSA Scheme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JULY 01: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal convened a meeting of the Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM), under the guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, to review and strengthen the effective implementation of the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024, in compliance with the directions issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority. The meeting was attended by Mehrab Din, Senior Prosecution Officer, representing the Department of Police, Ganderbal; Mohd. Amin, Sub-Inspector, representing Subsidiary Jail, Dignibal; Shabana Hamid, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, representing the Department of Social Welfare; Members of the LSUM Unit; Panel Lawyers; and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Ganderbal. During the meeting, the Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme and directed all concerned departments to strengthen institutional coordination, facilitate timely identification and referral of beneficiaries, ensure access to free legal aid, undertake regular awareness and outreach programmes, and strictly comply with the guidelines issued by NALSA and J&K Legal Services Authority. The stakeholders were further instructed to work in close coordination for safeguarding the legal rights of persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities, ensuring that legal services remain accessible, inclusive, and responsive in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment by all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme through coordinated action and sustained institutional support.

SKUAST-K hosts Workshop on Workplace Harassment Prevention, releases Policy Paper

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) today concluded a two-day workshop on Harassment Prevention at the Workplace, organized by the Women at Workplace Central Committee of the university.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai presided over the inaugural session and reaffirmed the university's commitment to ensuring a safe, inclusive and equitable workplace. He said preventing harassment is not only a legal obligation but also essential for building a culture of dignity, trust and professionalism.

The workshop was organized under the leadership of Dr. Shaheen

Gul, Chairperson of the Women at Workplace Central Committee. The workshop aimed to sensitize officers, administrators, faculty, staff, and students about their legal and ethical responsibilities under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act and strengthen institutional grievance redressal mechanisms.

A plenary discussion chaired by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director, Extension, SKUAST-K, with Prof. Muzaaffar Ahmad Malik, Head, Division of Soil Science, as Co-Chairman, deliberated on recommendations to strengthen workplace safety and promote a more conducive institutional environment. Dr. Faheema Mushtaq and Dr. Mudassir M. Kirmani served as rapporteurs.

The program featured expert

sessions by prominent legal and administrative professionals. Adv. Raies Ul Haq Sikander, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, delivered the keynote lecture on employer obligations and responsibilities under the POSH Act.

Mohd. Saleem Wani, Deputy Director, Prosecution, Bandipora, spoke on grievance redressal mechanisms under the POSH Act, while Dr. Masooda Jan delivered a session on the POSH Act and its legal framework.

On the second day, Mahmood Anwar Al-Nasir, Sub Judge, Senior Division, Uri, shared case studies and practical insights on workplace sexual harassment, while Aftab Alam, former SSP CID, highlighted the role of police in addressing sexual harassment cases.

MD KPDCL VISITS KERAN TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENT WORKS UNDER VIBRANT VILLAGES PROGRAMME-II

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JULY 01: Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mahmood Ahmad Shah, today visited the border village of Keran to review the implementation and progress of developmental works being undertaken under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II).

The visit was aimed at assessing the pace of development, reviewing the implementation of key government schemes, and interacting with local residents

to understand their developmental aspirations and concerns.

During the visit, the Managing Director chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Keran, which was attended by officers from the district administration and various line departments. He reviewed the overall developmental profile of the village, with a special focus on infrastructure development, public service delivery, connectivity, livelihood generation, and the status of projects sanctioned under VVP-II.

Reviewing the progress of

ongoing works, the Managing Director directed all concerned departments to ensure the timely completion of approved projects and stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination for their effective implementation. He observed that the Vibrant Villages Programme is aimed at transforming border villages into vibrant, self-reliant, and sustainable communities by strengthening infrastructure, improving essential services, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Emphasizing accountability,

he called for regular monitoring of all projects to ensure quality execution, transparency, and adherence to prescribed timelines. He also instructed officers to proactively identify developmental gaps and address them in a coordinated manner so that the benefits of various government welfare schemes reach every eligible household.

Earlier, the Managing Director chaired a Public Darbar at the Mini Secretariat, Keran, where he interacted with local residents and listened to their grievances and suggestions. The participants raised issues related to road connectivity, drinking water supply, education, healthcare, civic amenities, and other developmental needs.

Giving a patient hearing to the public, the Managing Director assured them that all genuine issues would be examined and taken up with the concerned departments for prompt redressal. He reiterated the Government's commitment to the holistic development of border villages and emphasized that active community participation is vital for the successful implementation of developmental initiatives.

DC Anantnag visits Yatra Transit Camps, emphasises readiness for smooth, enriching pilgrimage

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JULY 01: In a bid to give final touch to the necessary arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, commencing on July 03, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat today made an extensive tour to Yatra Transit Camps, FCI Godown Mir Bazaar and Walnut Factory, Qazigund.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Dooru, SEs PWD and KPDCL, ACR, CMO, CAO, AD Fisheries, Exens of various engineering wings, CEO MCA, officers from Police and other concerned departments.

During the visit, the DC took first hand stock of arrangements and facilities that have been made for ensuing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, assessing the need for any

reinforcements or modifications.

At both Transit Camps, the concerned officers informed the DC that adequate arrangements for amenities including toilets, health care, drinking water, power supply, langars, toilets, hygiene, sanitation and bedding have been put in place and the same will be fully functional during Yatra. He interacted with the deputied staff and inquired about their



operational readiness for the Yatra. He directed that every facility

committed be provided to the devotees in a seamless manner

so they have a pleasant and enriching Yatra experience.

Reviewing the facilities, the DC directed for seamless readiness of all departments for the Yatra, ensuring a smooth and successful conduct of the pilgrimage. He inspected the entry and exits points, parking area and other critical locations and asked the concerned officials to ensure their proper utilisation and monitoring. He further called for efficient

maintenance of the drainage system as well the footpaths and langar spaces.

Traffic and crowd management besides contingency plans to accommodate Yatris during adverse weather were discussed and finalised during the visit.

Concluding the visit, the DC reiterated the district administration's commitment to ensuring a safe, secure and fulfilling pilgrimage for the devotees.

JKAACL Organises Grand Book Release Function for "Miyani Wachik Kotar" by Bashir Arif

■ JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, JULY 1: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organised a grand literary function at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, to release the Kashmiri book *Miyane Wachik Kotar*, authored by noted writer Bashir Arif. The event witnessed the participation of eminent scholars, writers, poets, critics, academicians, students and lovers of Kashmiri literature, reflecting the Academy's continued commitment to the promotion and preservation of the region's rich literary heritage.

The function was presided over by Prof. M. Zaman Azurdah, while eminent Kashmiri scholar, literary critic and former Head of the Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir, Prof. Shafi Shouq, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

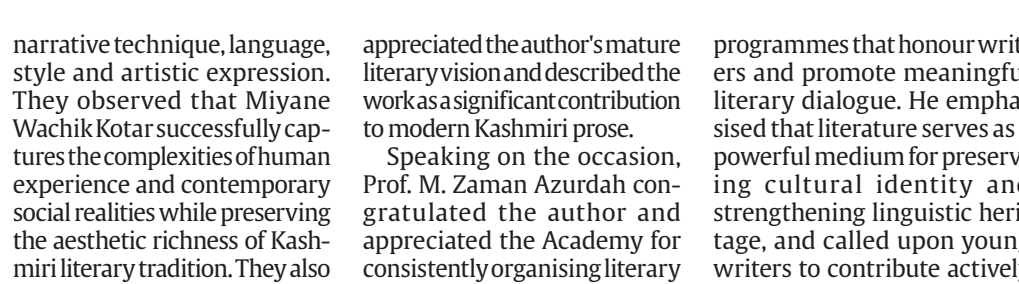
The distinguished personalities who adorned the podium included the author Bashir Arif, Shahzadi Saiman, Prof. Majrooh Rashid, Bashir Budgami, Rafiq Masoodi, Shafaq Sopori, and Rukhsana Jabeen.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Shri Ideel Saleem, JKAS, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, who welcomed the distinguished guests, writers, scholars and participants. In his address, he highlighted the Academy's sustained efforts to promote Kashmiri language and literature through publications, seminars, book release functions, literary interactions and cultural programmes. He remarked that JKAACL remains committed to providing a vibrant platform for writers and intellectuals to engage in meaningful literary discourse and to encourage creative expression across generations.

The book *Miyane Wachik Kotar* was formally released by the President, Chief Guest and other dignitaries amid applause from the audience. The publication was appreciated as a valuable addition to contemporary Kashmiri literature, reflecting the author's literary insight, creative imagination and profound command over the Kashmiri language.

The critical appraisal of the book formed an important segment of the programme. Eminent scholars Prof. Shad Ramzan and Shamshad Kralwari presented detailed papers examining various dimensions of the work. The speakers analysed the book's thematic concerns, narrative technique, language, style and artistic expression. They observed that *Miyane Wachik Kotar* successfully captures the complexities of human experience and contemporary social realities while preserving the aesthetic richness of Kashmiri literary tradition. They also appreciated the author's mature literary vision and described the work as a significant contribution to modern Kashmiri prose.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. M. Zaman Azurdah congratulated the author and appreciated the Academy for consistently organising literary programmes that honour writers and promote meaningful literary dialogue. He emphasised that literature serves as a powerful medium for preserving cultural identity and strengthening linguistic heritage, and called upon young writers to contribute actively towards enriching Kashmiri literature.



Prof. Shafi Shouq congratulated the author on the publication of the book and commended JKAACL for its sustained efforts in encouraging literary creativity and scholarship. He observed that quality literary works such as *Miyane Wachik Kotar* not only enrich Kashmiri literature but also document the intellectual and cultural experiences of society for future generations. He stressed the need to encourage original writing and literary criticism to ensure the continued growth of Kashmiri language and literature.

Expressing his gratitude, author Bashir Arif thanked JKAACL for publishing and releasing his book. He also expressed his sincere appreciation to the scholars who critically examined the work and shared valuable insights. He described the occasion as one of the most memorable milestones of his literary journey.

Several writers, poets and scholars present in the audience also shared their views on the book and appreciated the Academy's initiatives in fostering literary culture through regular publication of books and organisation of literary events across Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Jawaid Iqbal Khan, Editor (Kashmiri), JKAACL, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to the President, Chief Guest, distinguished dignitaries, paper presenters, members of the literary fraternity, media representatives and all participants for making the event a grand success. He reiterated the Academy's commitment to continue organising literary programmes that celebrate creativity, promote scholarly engagement and preserve the rich linguistic and literary traditions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The function concluded on a note of appreciation for the Academy's continued efforts in promoting Kashmiri language and literature through meaningful literary initiatives and providing a common platform for writers, scholars and readers to engage in constructive intellectual exchange. The proceedings of the programme were ably conducted by renowned broadcaster Zahoor Zahid and Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather, Assistant Editor, JKAACL, who ensured the smooth and engaging conduct of the event.

Grand Farewell Ceremony Held in Honour of Khawaja Mohammad Shafi at Middle School Shatgund Payeen

Students Pay Tribute to Their Beloved Teacher Through Speeches and Cultural Performances

■ KHURSHID RESHI

KUPWARA, JULY 01: A grand, dignified, and memorable farewell ceremony was organized at Middle School Shatgund Payeen in Zone Mawar under the leadership of Headmaster Shakeel Ahmad Mir by the teaching staff and students to honour senior teacher Khawaja Mohammad Shafi, who retired from the Education Department after rendering 38 years of dedicated service.

The ceremony was attended by students, teachers, education officials, relatives, and friends of Mr. Shafi. The function was presided over by former Zonal Education Officer, Rajwar, Alhaj Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar, while the Zonal Education Officer, Mawar, Ms. Naseema Ji, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

On the occasion, students presented speeches, poems, and colorful cultural performances to pay heartfelt tribute to their beloved teacher. The speakers congratulated Mr. Shafi on his honorable retirement and highly appreciated his remarkable educational, moral, and social contributions during his distinguished career.

Among those who addressed the gathering were Nazir Ahmad Reshi, Faiq Maqbool, Abdul Rahman Mir, Mr. Shafi's beloved daughter Qurat-ul-Ain, Ms. Rubina, and Mohammad Ishaq Mir (Head Assistant). The speakers highlighted Mr. Shafi's noble character, professional excellence, teaching abilities, and his affectionate relationship with students.

In his address, Khawaja Mohammad Shafi shared the memorable experiences of his 38-year teaching career and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the teachers, students, and organizers of Middle School Shatgund Payeen for arranging such a graceful farewell in his honour. He also announced a cash award of Rs 5,000 for the encouragement of the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Education Officer Mawar, Ms. Naseema Ji congratulated Mr. Shafi successfully completed his teaching career. She praised the students' performances and the efforts of the school staff, emphasizing that the responsibility of a teacher extends far beyond classroom instruction and includes shaping the character and future of society.

In his presidential address, Alhaj Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar remarked that teachers occupy a highly respected position in society. He stated that teachers shape future generations, instill moral values, and remain teachers even after retirement. He also congratulated the teachers and students of Middle School Shatgund Payeen for organizing such a successful, dignified, and memorable event.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Headmaster Shakeel Ahmad Mir, along with teachers Abdul Majeed Bhat, Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh, Mohammad Shafi Malla, Abdul Latief Naikoo, Ms. Rubina, and Faiq Maqbool, presented mementos and gifts to their esteemed colleague Khawaja Mohammad Shafi as a token of their affection, respect, and best wishes.

The proceedings of the program were conducted gracefully by Khurshid Reshi.

YYC Stage Play "The Last Tape" Receives Enthusiastic Response at Tagore Hall Sg



■ GULFAM BARI

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Under the Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, Yamberzal Youth Club "YYC" Brein Nishat, Srinagar successfully staged the Kashmiri theatre production "The Last Tape" at Tagore Hall, Srinagar. The performance was warmly appreciated by the audience who applauded the cast for their outstanding acting and presentation. The play was written by young playwright Shahid Malik and directed by Khurshheed Ahmad Mir while lighting and music were designed by Sushil Kanth Mishra of the National School of Drama (NSD). Aadil Saleem, Additional Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages attended the event as the Chief Guest while Wajahat Durrani President of EJAC graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Speaking on the occasion, director Khurshheed Mir said that the programme aimed to promote the rich cultural traditions, folk arts and heritage of J&K while encouraging the younger generation to stay connected with their language, culture and traditions. He added that such initiatives play an important role in nurturing artistic talent and strengthening cultural awareness among youth. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the organisers, who expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests, artists, students, theatre lovers, cultural personalities and media representatives for their support. They also reaffirmed their commitment to organising more such meaningful cultural events in the future.

J&K pilgrims received with grand welcome in Gujarat under Shri Somnath Swabhiman Parv-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SOMNATH (GUJARAT), JULY 1: Pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir, participating in the six-day Somnath Swabhiman Yatra-2026, continued their pilgrimage in Gujarat, visiting several historic, religious and culturally significant sites.

The pilgrimage, organised under the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," saw arrangements made by the Government of Gujarat for the pilgrims' safety, security and comfort. A contingent of pilgrims arriving at Sabarmati Railway Station by special train was received with a traditional welcome and cultural performances.

The pilgrims were transported to Somnath in air-conditioned deluxe buses, accompanied by an ambulance and an escort team. Accommodation, boarding facilities, medical assistance and transportation for visits to historical, religious and spiritual sites were provided.

During the day's itinerary, the pilgrims visited the historic Ram Mandir at Triveni Sangam, where they offered prayers for peace, prosperity, unity and the well-being of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Gujarat. They also visited Gokuldham, Geeta Mandir, Balram Mandir, Laxminarayan Mandir and Deh Tayag Mandir. At the Triveni Ghat, they took a holy dip, performed religious rituals and fed fishes.

The pilgrims paid obeisance at the Shri Somnath Temple, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, participated in Darshan, attended the evening Aarti and witnessed the Light and Sound Show depicting the temple's history.

The pilgrims expressed gratitude to the Government of India, the Government of Gujarat, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the Shree Somnath Trust for the arrangements and hospitality extended throughout the pilgrimage.



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.

<p>COMPETITION CATEGORIES</p> <p>A) SLOGAN WRITING</p> <p>B) AUDIO-VISUAL CONTENT</p> <p>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</p>	<p>THEMES FOR CONTENT CREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<p>IMPORTANT GUIDELINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. All generated entries shall be rejected. Only Original and Creative ideas welcome. 	<p>SUBMISSION</p> <p>Submit entries through:</p> <p>e-mail: sec-jkaacl@jk.gov.in</p> <p>Cut-off Date for receiving entries 07 July, 2026 upto 5:00 PM</p>	<p>SELECTION PROCESS</p> <p>A Committee constituted by JKAACL shall evaluate all entries in a fair and transparent manner.</p>
<p>AWARDS & RECOGNITION</p> <p>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.</p>		

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

A Safer Road, A Stronger Future

With the completion of the 810-metre viaduct near Ramsoo and the 3.5-kilometre AT-03 tunnel on National Highway-44 is far more than the commissioning of two infrastructure projects. It is the fulfilment of a long-standing aspiration to make Jammu and Kashmir's only all-weather road link safer, more dependable and better equipped to withstand the challenges posed by one of the world's most difficult mountain terrains.

For the Kashmir Valley, National Highway-44 is not just another road. It is the region's lifeline. Every truck carrying food, fuel, medicines, construction material and other essential supplies must pass through this corridor. It is the route that connects farmers to markets, students to educational institutions, patients to specialised healthcare, tourists to destinations and pilgrims to places of faith. It is equally indispensable for the movement of defence personnel and emergency services. Whenever this highway is blocked, the consequences ripple across every sphere of life in the Valley.

For decades, however, the Ramban-Banihal stretch has remained the weakest link in this vital corridor. Landslides, shooting stones, sinking road surfaces, flash floods and unstable mountain slopes have repeatedly brought traffic to a standstill. Entire convoys have remained stranded for hours and, at times, even days. Economic losses have mounted, tourism has suffered and uncertainty has become an accepted part of travelling on this stretch.

It is this long-standing challenge that the newly completed viaduct and tunnel seek to overcome. Built at a cost of 680 crore, these engineering marvels bypass one of the most landslide-prone sections of the highway, offering a safer, faster and more reliable route. By reducing exposure to vulnerable mountain slopes, they significantly improve road safety while ensuring smoother movement throughout the year. The significance of these projects extends beyond their impressive dimensions. Building tunnels and viaducts through the fragile Himalayan geology is among the most demanding engineering tasks anywhere in the world. Every metre excavated and every pillar erected represents years of planning, technical expertise, relentless effort and perseverance in extremely challenging conditions. Such achievements deserve recognition not merely for their scale but for the lasting value they create.

There is no denying that these projects took longer than originally envisaged. Delays naturally invite criticism, particularly when the public eagerly awaits infrastructure that directly affects daily life. Yet, mountain engineering rarely follows predictable timelines. Unforeseen geological conditions, harsh weather, safety requirements and the complexities of construction in the Himalayas often demand patience. What matters in the long run is that these projects have now reached completion and promise to deliver benefits that will endure for generations. Their opening ahead of the annual Shri Amarnath pilgrimage is especially timely. Every year, thousands of pilgrims undertake the sacred journey through this highway, and safer infrastructure will make their travel more secure and comfortable. But the real beneficiaries are the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who depend on this corridor every day of the year for their livelihoods, businesses and essential services.

Reliable highways are among the strongest drivers of economic development. Improved connectivity lowers transportation costs, facilitates trade, strengthens horticulture and agriculture, encourages tourism, attracts investment and improves access to education and healthcare. In a geographically challenging region like Jammu and Kashmir, every reduction in travel time translates into increased economic opportunity and improved quality of life.

More importantly, these projects represent a larger shift in infrastructure development. The objective is no longer simply to construct roads but to build resilient transport networks capable of withstanding natural disasters and ensuring uninterrupted connectivity. Every tunnel, viaduct and bridge completed on National Highway-44 brings the region closer to the vision of dependable all-weather access that has remained a national priority for decades.

The completion of these works is, therefore, not merely a construction milestone. It is a reaffirmation that sustained investment in modern infrastructure can overcome geographical barriers that once appeared insurmountable. It reflects a commitment to making travel safer, strengthening economic resilience and securing uninterrupted connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country. For the people of Jammu and Kashmir, National Highway-44 will always be much more than a transport corridor. It is the artery through which the region breathes. Every improvement to this highway strengthens the Valley's economy, enhances public safety and reinforces its connection with the wider nation. The Ramsoo viaduct and the AT-03 tunnel stand today as enduring symbols of engineering excellence and a reminder that while progress may sometimes be delayed, its impact can transform the future for generations to come.

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Village Rich in natural beauty



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

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

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

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

An Endowed and Peaceful Hamlet in District Budgam

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

The district is renowned for its natural beauty and spiritual significance. The revered shrine of Sheikh-



ul-Alam (RA) at Charar-e-Shareef is among its most cherished landmarks. Budgam is also home to famous tourist destinations such as Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan, Sotchal Pathri, Sukhnag, and many other unexplored treasures waiting to be discovered.

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

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

Why Raiyar-Ich Attracts Tourists

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

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

Sources of Livelihood

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

Demands of the Local Population

Higher Secondary School
As Raiyar-Ich has emerged as a central hub for surrounding villages, residents demand the upgradation of the existing high school to a higher secondary school. Many families struggle to afford daily transportation costs to Khansahib for their children's education.

Sports Stadium

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

Children's Park

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

Grazing Areas

For centuries, local families have

depended on livestock rearing. The preservation of traditional grazing areas is essential for sustaining their livelihoods.

Computer Skill Centres

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

Housing Support Schemes

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

Road Connectivity

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

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

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The Death Fort



RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

Went to fort with his "To be wife" but never returned back. A 25 years old Ketan Agarwal who went to Pune's Lohagad Fort with his Fiancee Siya Goyal. Ketan and Siya were going to get married six months from now but Siya had planned something else. As per Siya she was forced into marriage with Ketan. Siya was already in love with Chetan Chaudhary who along with Siya planned the murder. The incident took place on 18th of June. At first the incident was treated as accident. But it was only after ketan's sister found Siya's statements contradictory she became suspicious which made the reality behind the incident come out. When Siya told ketan's sister that he fell down while clicking her picture she became suspicious because katen is a professional tracker and he can't make such a mistake. When she confronted Siya with this statement, Siya started making excuses and this is where things started to change.

It's not that ketan belonged to a poor family or he was not a successful person. He at the age of 25 was already serving as a Director in the family's success group. A very lavish wedding scheduled for November was being planned which was going to be held at the Ananta Resort in Udaipur. Siya's mother told Hindustan times that venue booking alone costed 3 crore rupees, with 5 crore rupees estimated budget for wedding. The expenses don't stop here. As per the Police sources the total celebrations could have costed around 14 crore rupees. There were two private aircraft arranged to ferry guests to the venue. A full lavish wedding was awaiting her but Siya choose to stay in jail. When ketan was pushed to death the preparations were under way. Ketan's family never knew that they will have to prepare for his last rituals instead of his wedding. And Siya's family never knew that they'll now have to meet her in the jail, instead of meeting here at her husband's place. Both the families are in shock, they were never expecting that their happiness shall turn into sorrow. Siya was forced into marriage but how does

it justify killing keta? Siya told police that she spoke to ketan about she not being interested in the marriage but even after her objection he remind committed and continued with the preparation despite her objection. Here we have a lesson to learn. Had Siya not been forced to marry Ketan for whatever reason. Two families could have been saved from the grief and sorrow they are witnessing. It's still considered as a matter of pride by a girl's father that he got his daughter married where he wanted and didn't let his daughter express her choice. Some daughters turn Siya while as some decide to live a life a compromise. Neither is the Siya's way justified nor of those who live on compromise. The investigators of the case are of the opinion that Siya who was engaged to ketan feared social consequences of breaking the engagement. This murder case must serve as an eye opener for those people who are always ready to poke their nose in the affairs of others. Had the society understood that it's completely normal to break off an engagement or even have a divorce. We wouldn't have had come across the heart breaking incident. Social stigma is root cause to many things, it's just that we have normalized it instead of speaking about it.

Chetan who's one of the accused of the murder case for whom Siya allegedly killed ketan. His family has a different version to narrate. According to his family Chetan is being falsely implicated into the case. Chetan stood far away and has nothing to do with the murder, claims his family. According to Chetan's father, Chetan told him that he stood far away and has nothing to do with the murder. He's being implicated into murder just because both Siya and ketan belong to a wealthy family. His father claims that they have never seen the girl in question. Chetan's father has accused media of unnecessarily hyping the issue. But the calls records of Siya and Chetan narrate a complete different story. As per the call records available, Siya and Chetan spoke 2004 times between January 1 to June 18, spending around 238 hours on call during nearly six month period. But before you come to conclusion that having call records means being involved in crime. Let me clear it as a law student that this is in no way proof that chaten has a roll to play in this murder. This is a proof of they being in relationship but this is in no way a proof against him. There are many judgments where the Hon'ble courts have said that, call records doesn't show involvement. The CCTV visuals of the fort clearly show that he was there in the fort what did he play a role in the murder the proof of that is yet

to come out. According to police Chetan switched off his mobile internet at around 7 am on June 18th and remained offline till 5:40 pm. As per the investigators he left his phone deliberately at his shop and carried phone of his employee. Just to prevent police from tracking his location. Police has to prove the claims in the court and each claim has to be supported by the evidence. As per police the framework drawn by the chaten raised suspicion by itself. All the phone calls made to chaten's number were answered not by him but the people working at his shop. Police seems to have very carefully till now tried to connect dots to ensure the chain of events doesn't break. For those who are law students, Advocates or aware about law must knowing chain of events also play a very important role in proving a crime.

Ketan's murder case is not the first case that we are coming across. There have been many such incidents before, where a boyfriend got killed by his Girlfriend or Husband by his wife. The shocking Raja Raghuvanshi murder case. Wife killed her husband on honeymoon along with her boyfriend. They had hired contract killers. Sonam was already in relationship with his boyfriend and didn't wanted to continue the marriage. The blue drum horror of meerut, the Saurabh Rajput murder case. The husband was killed and then put in drum. Wife planned the murder along with his lover. The suicide that sparked a debate nationwide The Autil Subhash case. Autil made various videos where he accused of being mentally harassed, false allegation put on him, Extortion and financial harassment by his wife's family. Bengaluru burning case where love turned into fire. Kiran was tied up by his wife and then set him on fire, he sustained various injuries and passed away. Another blue Drum case. The Alwar case, no different story wife had an affair and wanted to get rid of her husband after veeru was murdered his body was cut into pieces and then put into drum. These are the few cases that have been reported. Most of the cases don't get media attention. According to the NCB data, men also face domestic violence and also harassment. But there are no laws that punish for harassing a man. Law doesn't recognize a man getting harassed or facing domestic violence. It's high time that laws are farmed to prevent men from being harassed and put to domestic violence.

The author is a law student and a human rights activist

Abdul Rahman Azad:

The Voice That Refused to Fade



■ SHAHNAWAZ NAZIR

There are certain names in the cultural memory of a people that do not merely belong to history; they become part of the moral and intellectual landscape of a society. Their words continue to travel through generations long after their voices have fallen silent, illuminating minds and inspiring reflection. Among the architects of modern Kashmiri thought, Abdul Rahman Azad stands as one such enduring presence—a man whose life became inseparable from the story of Kashmir's literary awakening and journalistic evolution.

At a time when Kashmir was passing through profound political, social, and cultural transformations, Azad emerged as a figure who understood the immense responsibility carried by language. He believed that words were not ornaments for display but instruments capable of preserving memory, questioning injustice, and nurturing collective consciousness. Whether through poetry, prose, or journalism, he remained steadfast in his commitment to the intellectual and cultural enrichment of his people.

Born in the historic village of Koil in Pulwama, he inherited a tradition of public engagement and resistance against oppression. The political currents that shaped his youth instilled in him a lifelong sensitivity to questions of freedom, dignity, and social responsibility.

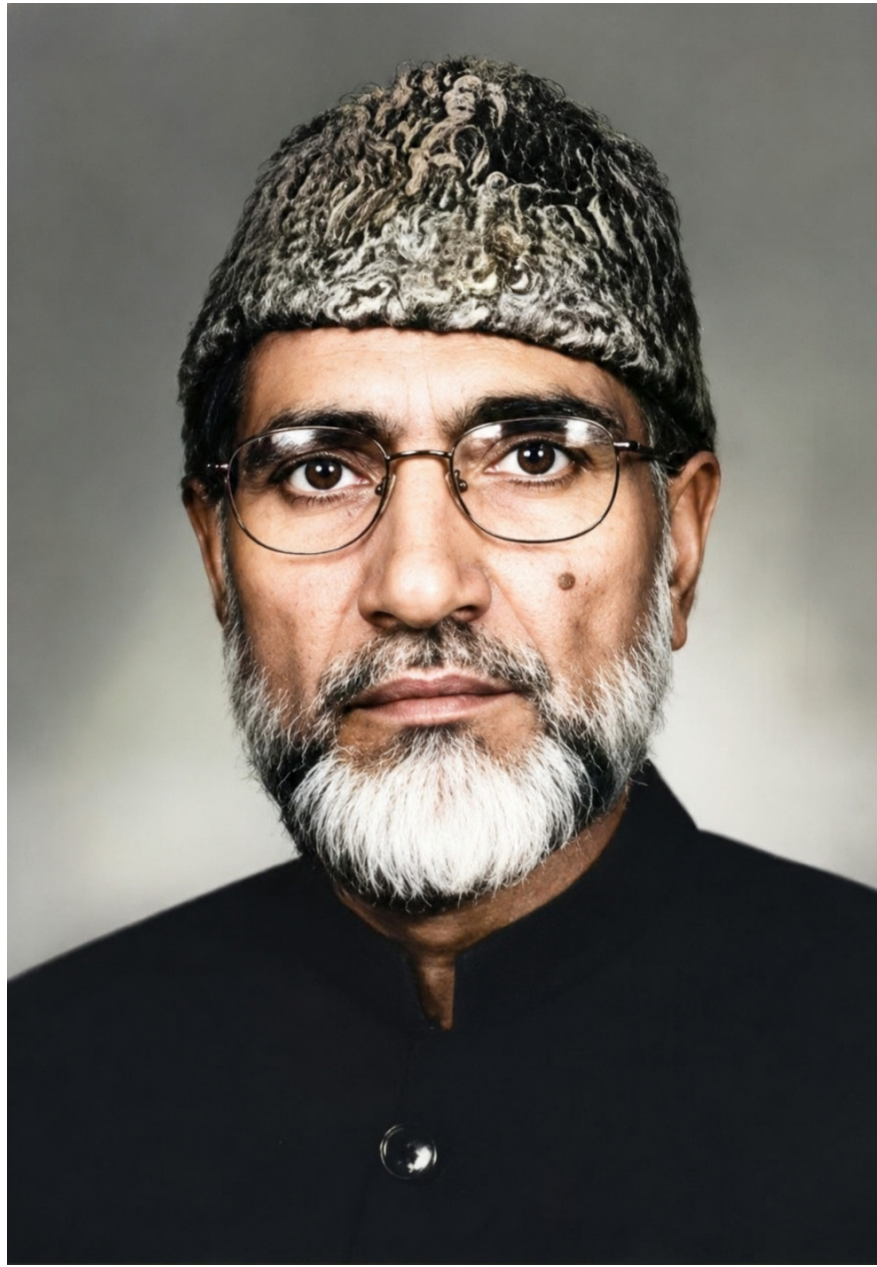
Yet while many are remembered for the movements they joined, Abdul Rahman Azad is remembered for the ideas he cultivated and the literary legacy he bequeathed to Kashmir.

His poetic voice possessed a rare ability to unite artistic elegance with social insight. He wrote not from a distance but from within the realities of his age. The rhythms of everyday life, the anxieties of ordinary people, and the aspirations of a society seeking meaning and justice found profound expression in his verses. His celebrated collection *Anhaar* remains a testament to a mind deeply rooted in Kashmiri culture while remaining open to universal human concerns.

What distinguished Azad further was his remarkable contribution to Kashmiri prose. He explored forms of writing that had received little attention in the language and transformed them into vehicles of literary expression. His work demonstrated that Kashmiri was capable not only of lyrical beauty but also of subtle reflection, intellectual discourse, and sophisticated narrative expression. Through such efforts, he expanded the horizons of modern Kashmiri literature and encouraged future generations to explore its untapped possibilities.

His influence extended with equal force into journalism. In an era when public discourse often demanded courage, Azad chose independence over convenience and principle over popularity. His newspaper became more than a publication; it evolved into a forum where ideas could be examined critically and public concerns articulated with honesty. He viewed journalism as a public trust—an undertaking that required integrity, intellectual rigor, and a deep sense of accountability to society.

What makes Abdul Rahman Azad



especially significant today is the consistency with which he upheld his values. He neither sought privilege through his writings nor surrendered his convictions to changing political winds. His work reflected a steadfast faith in reason, cultural self-respect, and the transformative power of knowledge. In this respect, he belonged to that increasingly rare tradition of public intellectuals whose credibility arose not from influence or position but from character.

Even in the face of prolonged illness, his devotion to literature and public discourse remained unshaken. The physical limitations he endured never succeeded in diminishing the vitality of his creative spirit. Until his final years, he continued to write, reflect, and contribute, leaving behind a body of work that continues to resonate with readers and scholars alike.

Three decades after his passing, Abdul Rahman Azad remains an indispensable chapter in the story of modern Kashmir. His writings continue to remind us that language is more than a means of communication—it is a repository of identity, memory, and aspiration. Through the power of his pen, he strengthened the foundations of Kashmiri literature, enriched its intellectual tradition, and demonstrated the enduring relevance of principled journalism.

His legacy survives not only in books and archives but in the continuing pursuit of truth, creativity, and cultural dignity. For this reason, Abdul Rahman Azad is remembered not simply as a poet, writer, or journalist, but as one of the defining voices of Kashmir's modern intellectual heritage.

The author from Zagitpora Chararsharif

DEGRADATION OF MANASBAL LAKE



■ MOOL RAJ

Manasbal lake is considered as deepest Lake in Kashmir Valley. The lake is located in Safapora town of district Ganderbal about 32 kilometers away towards North West of Srinagar city in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Lake is encircled by three villages viz, Jarokbal, Kondabal (also called Kiln place) and Ganderbal. Manasbal lake, the urban valley lake has its own unique identity due to its natural view which attracts the tourists. The large growth of lotus at the periphery of the lake adds to the beauty of the clear water of the lake. The Mughal garden, called the Jaroka built by Nur Jahan overlooks the lake. The beauty of lake has attracted many royals to the lake bed. However, it is quite upsetting to see the state of the Manasbal lake now.

Untreated sewage and solid garbage from surrounding population, encroachments, fertilizers containing Nitrates and Phosphates and silt load are the main causes for degradation of water quality of the lake. Over the years as a result of human pressure the lake has become eutrophic. The water body is virtually choked with submerged weeds particularly during summer which is the high tourist season. The mining and quarrying in this area have changed the demographic features of the lake.

The deterioration of water quality and other associated problems have reduced the recreational and

aesthetic value of the lake. Some of the possible causes of deterioration of water quality of the lake include agricultural run-off and human settlements disposing sewage, besides anthropogenic stresses in the catchment. In the lake, the problem of pollution is mainly due to addition of major plant nutrients particularly Nitrogen and Phosphorus, derived from human wastes, detergents, fertilizers, agricultural activities etc. an accelerated rate. The nutrients have been chiefly responsible for an increase in organic production particularly in the form of dense macrophytic growth and the overall deterioration of water quality. The lake is plagued by several factors such as pollution, littering of non-biodegradables as well as eutrophication of its coastal periphery. The main sources of pollution are the waste water runoff from the catchment population. The Kondabal village situated on the Kondabal hill on the banks of Manasbal Lake is the place of kilns, quarries and mines. The most common occupation of the people in the Kondabal is working in the limestone quarries/kilns of the region. This area contains huge proportion of limestone and the runoff from this hill directly pours huge quantities of calcium into the Manasbal Lake.

Various anthropogenic activities in the catchment of Manasbal have tremendous ecological and socio-economic importance, and it depicts the way people are treating the lake ecosystem. During recent years the rapid increase in population has resulted in establishment of new settlements in the catchment area of the lake. Also, the vast areas of forest were converted into agriculture and farmlands that resulted in opening up the terrestrial ecosystem,

with heavy loads of nutrients leaching into the lake from the fertile top soil of the catchment area. In addition to sewage and domestic effluents from the new and expanding human settlements the runoff from fertilized agricultural land and the residual insecticides and pesticides from the arable lands and orchards fields also drain into the lake. Thus, the undesirable human activities are responsible for accelerated flow of materials from the terrestrial to aquatic portion of the watershed. These human activities not only deteriorate the water quality but also affects the aquatic life in the lake. High sediment and nutrient loads have a direct bearing on the distribution of flora and fauna. Pollution is threatening the life of aquatic flora and fauna, particularly a large variety of fish and Nadru is already endangered.

The deteriorating water quality and changes in the distribution of flora and fauna have been very significantly affecting the trophic status of the lake. This has caused extinction of a fish species and an aquatic plant (*Eurayle ferox*) from the lake waters. The deep-water layers have become anoxic. If people are not made aware of the situation and steps are not taken to overcome the pollution levels, then sooner or later the lake will be completely lost. A remarkable source of water and biodiversity would be lost. Hence periodic monitoring of Manasbal lake is necessary for assessing the quality of water. A well-planned strategy and action plan must be developed for the conservation and restoration of this important lake in Kashmir Himalayas.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

Why Hope Is Essential For Human Progress?



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

In every era of human civilization, optimism has served as one of the greatest driving forces behind progress, resilience and innovation. It includes overcoming personal hardships to rebuilding societies after wars, pandemics and natural disasters, hope has consistently inspired humanity to move forward. Optimism is far more than simply expecting good things to happen; it is the enduring belief that challenges can be overcome through perseverance, thoughtful action and determination. It is this constructive mindset that enables individuals to transform obstacles into opportunities and setbacks into stepping stones for growth.

For centuries, philosophers, religious scholars and psychologists have regarded optimism as a fundamental human virtue. From the teachings of the ancient Stoics to the principles of modern positive psychology, optimism has been recognized as a powerful force that strengthens the human spirit and promotes personal development. Over the past few decades, scientific research has reinforced this understanding by demonstrating that optimism is not merely a philosophical concept or an emotional preference but a measurable psychological trait with profound effects on physical health, mental well-being and social functioning.

Modern neuroscience has provided compelling evidence supporting the biological foundations of optimism. Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) studies have shown that optimistic thinking activates regions of the brain such as the prefrontal cortex and the striatum, areas responsible for decision-making, motivation and reward processing. At the same time, optimistic individuals tend to exhibit lower levels of cortisol, the body's primary stress hormone, while maintaining healthier levels of neurotransmitters such as serotonin and dopamine that regulate mood and emotional balance. These findings suggest that optimism is deeply rooted in human biology and contributes significantly to overall psychological resilience.

The benefits of optimism extend far beyond emo-

tional well-being. Numerous long-term studies conducted across the world have consistently shown that optimistic individuals enjoy better cardiovascular health, stronger immune function and greater life expectancy. They are less likely to experience chronic stress, anxiety and depression, while reporting higher levels of life satisfaction and emotional stability. Rather than becoming overwhelmed by adversity, optimistic people are more likely to approach difficulties with confidence, persistence, and a solution-oriented mindset.

One of optimism's greatest strengths lies in its ability to foster resilience. Life inevitably presents disappointments, failures and unexpected challenges. Optimistic individuals do not deny these realities; instead, they interpret setbacks as temporary and manageable rather than permanent and devastating. They view failure not as the end of their journey but as an opportunity to learn, adapt and improve. This mindset enables them to recover more quickly from adversity and maintain motivation even under difficult circumstances.

Optimism also plays a vital role in academic achievement, professional success and leadership. Positive expectations encourage individuals to set ambitious yet achievable goals, persevere through obstacles and continuously seek innovative solutions.

Employers are increasingly recognising that optimism contributes to productivity, effective teamwork, creativity and sound decision-making. In educational settings, optimistic students demonstrate greater perseverance, improved problem-solving abilities and stronger academic performance because they believe that effort ultimately leads to success.

Beyond personal success, optimism strengthens human relationships and social harmony. Optimistic individuals generally build stronger friendships, healthier family relationships and more productive professional partnerships. Their hopeful outlook inspires trust, cooperation, empathy and mutual support, creating stronger communities capable of overcoming collective challenges. In this sense, optimism becomes not only a personal asset but also a valuable social resource.

Contrary to popular belief, optimism is not simply an inherited personality trait. While genetics may influence an individual's natural disposition, psychologists agree that optimism can be consciously cultivated through consistent practice.

THE AUTHOR IS A FACULTY IN SCIENCE DEPARTMENT SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB, PUNJAB.

When tables turn: Doctors narrate their experiences of being the patient

It is often said doctors make the worst patients. What happens when a doctor becomes a patient? In 2008, Columbia University Medical Center psychiatrist Dr. Robert Klitzman explored the question 'if becoming a patient made someone a better doctor,' in his book, 'When Doctors Become Patients.'

In the book, he speaks about his own illness; how depression impacted him after his sister, who worked on the 105th floor of the World Trade Center died on September 11, 2001. Despite being a psychiatrist, he could not bring himself to admit that he was depressed. But once he acknowledged it, he realised what the challenges on the other side looked like as he gained new insight into his own patients' suffering from depression. Klitzman was able to get the physicians to talk bluntly about their experiences, how those experiences changed them, and how they tried to doctor differently as a result.

While doctors spoke about their feelings of kindness and empathy, they also spoke about their frustrations, selfishness, resentment, and anger.

According to a paper published in PubMed by students Mariko Morishita and Hiroshi Nishigori from Kyoto University, a doctor's experiences with his/her illnesses can deeply influence not only their perceptions of illness and roles but also their medical practice.

THE WEEK asked three doctors from different specialties to narrate their own experiences of what it is like to be sitting on the other side of the fence. What is it like to observe the changing dynamics between one's peers and oneself, how difficult is it for one to accept that one has indeed become a patient, what does time on the bed inside the hospital teach doctors about life as a patient and how does the experience of having an illness change how doctors treat patients going forward.

Dr Dhiraj Bhattad, Consultant Internal Medicine,

Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital

An ancient Chinese proverb goes: "No one can be a good doctor without first having been ill themselves." True. But like anybody else, even a doctor would dread falling sick. Unfortunately, if the healer himself or herself needs medical care, things are bound to be different. You are treated as a VIP. You can just call up your colleagues and enter their OPD chambers without any formal appointment. You can later on call or message too without turning up physically, unlike other patients when follow-up is needed.

What happens if a doctor needs to be admitted for any illness? On the professional front, if it is an unexpected illness, your whole appointment schedule goes for a toss. If a surgery is needed, you get priority again. With the help of hospital staff who you already know, the admission process is brisk and easy. You may still grouse that so much paperwork and formalities are there!

All your colleagues, residents, nurses and management staff, attend you with love and affection, and sometimes out of fear too. If your illness is not bad, you may enjoy the little break you have got from your hectic schedule and the princely treatment you receive. Even the morning sponging then seems like a spa treatment! Nurses are your 'messiah' in this arduous journey. One gets awed by their dedication, much more than that of doctors, with sadly monetary compensation in peanuts.

You also realise the harsh reality of how the resident doctor is 'just doing his or her job' and clocking the fixed duty hours without any empathy. If you are a physician like me and know most of the pharmacology, you will start fretting if some medicine is unnecessary or doses are not appropriate. If you repeatedly point out the same, the team may get piqued and hence you end up keeping quiet.

Also, as a doctor, you will experience 'defensive medicine'. You may have extra investigations to be



According to a paper published in PubMed by students Mariko Morishita and Hiroshi Nishigori from Kyoto University, a doctor's experiences with his/her illnesses can deeply influence not only their perceptions of illness and roles but also their medical practice.

absolutely sure of your diagnosis. It is like doing DNA test just to make sure that the animal which you are seeing is surely an elephant and nothing else. Extra opinions (or references) are taken just to make sure nothing is going wrong.

You understand what the patients may be undergoing in their illnesses, making you more humane and empathetic.

As a doctor, there are other advantages too, like visit charges not billed by your doctor colleagues, discounts on medicines or the final bill and easy discharge formalities. To summarize, the perk of being a doctor is definitely an advantage when one turns up being a patient. Even research has proven

that doctors have better outcomes of their illnesses. **Dr. Balkishan Gupta, Director, Minimal Invasive Bariatric GI and HPB Surgery, Marengo QRG Hospital Faridabad**

Last year, I had undergone a critical neck operation in Jaipur. In December 2020, I felt a shoulder pain due to performing excessive laparoscopic surgeries daily a basis. Sometimes the patient load would so severe that I had to forego my lunch and keep on performing surgeries without giving ample rest to my body. I got an MRI done to detect this health issue. Next day, my friend radiologist told me that Parapharyngeal tumor-skull base tumor (3 centimetre in size) had been detected in my neck. I went to Jaipur to consult Dr. Satish Jain, a renowned skull base surgeon. As advised by Dr. Jain, I decided to undergo the surgery there. I was rushed to the OT at 12 Noon and my surgery took place at 3 PM. Dr. Satish operated quickly owing to his expertise in this field. I was discharged the very next day. I had to face a lot of pain while recuperating from the surgery. I had even lost my voice temporarily. I stayed positive and returned to my home. Upon reaching Faridabad where I work, I went to perform an emergency operation in the hospital for 7-8 hours.

On day-4 of my surgery, I underwent frequent speech therapy sessions. I responded well and I obtained my lost voice back. I believe that we should keep ourselves motivated and physically active post surgery. The SOPs mentioned in our medical books say if the patient has a positive attitude and is physically active, positive hormones are secreted, boosting immunity, and I was doing that.

It is advisable to avoid prolonged bed rest as the patient would feel bored. Follow the precautions recommended by the doctor and keep doing their daily routine with a positive attitude. Patients usually tend to delay the diagnosis, which could lead to worsening of the disease. **Courtesy Healthline**

Can't go back to sleep after waking up in the middle of the night? Follow these tips



Do you have those annoying episodes where you wake up at night and then just can't go back to sleep? The most common causes of waking up in the middle of the night include an urgent need to pass urine, which can be a result of diabetes in middle-aged and elderly people and prostate in males. Sleep apnea, which involves the repetitive interruption of breathing, can also be a major reason for people jerking awake at night, says Dr Prashant Chhajed, head of department of respiratory medicine, Fortis Hiranandani Hospital.

To avoid such moments, where you drift awake from sleep, Dr Chhajed advises getting diabetes under control and sleep apnea treated. Preventive measures aside, what is the cure if one does wakes up in the middle of the night and can't

ease back into sleep again?

Turn out the bright lights
Bright and loud lights reduce the melatonin levels, which controls the sleep cycle, in the body. Keeping dim lights can make you drowsy, says Dr Rajesh Chawla, senior consultant, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals.
Night time is not snack time
Activities like reading, eating a snack or cooking if you get up in the middle of the night are discouraged. Eating late into the night increases your blood sugar and while you're sleeping, the body goes into a light fast that can lead to a crash in the sugar levels. When this happens, the cortisol levels rise and the melatonin levels diminish.
Keep away from cell phones

Most people tend to get on social media or entertain themselves with some TV time if they can't fall asleep. Dr Chhajed strictly advises against it. The cell phones emit out blue light, which is known to reduce the melatonin levels in the body that in turn, make it harder to fall asleep.
Meditation

Dr Chhajed says that medication and relaxation exercises can calm you down to go back to sleep. According to a study by Harvard, mindfulness meditation can help you sleep better as it involves focusing on your breathing and then bringing your mind's attention to the present without drifting into concerns about the past or future. **Courtesy Healthline**

One in ten Indian females affected by TB related ailment

NEW DELHI: With over 20 lakh cases of Tuberculosis worldwide, India is the second leading country to contribute to the related mortality rate.

Usually the TB bacteria affects the lungs, and if left unnoticed, it can also spread throughout the body and cause secondary infection affecting the kidneys, abdomen, brain, uterus and even the fallopian tubes. Genital TB can be a great cause of concern for both the partners if they are trying to conceive.

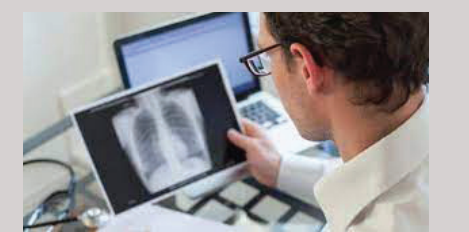
"Though the symptoms may not be so evident enough but the effects can be seen if timely diagnosis is not done. The infections can spread to the uterus and cause thinning of the endometrium, thereby creating a barrier in development of the fetus. TB in females is a chronic disease with low grade symptoms. Tubal factor infertility along with the involvement of the endometrium is the major cause of infertility. Women are more often affected than males that cause irregular menses, vaginal discharge with blood stains or excessive pain during intercourse and sudden pelvic pain. The condition can even mimic other gynecological conditions like ovarian cysts, PID, ectopic pregnancy or even genital cancer," said Dr Arifa Adil, IVF expert, Indira IVF Hospital, New Delhi.

As per the latest study done by the ICMR, over 50% of female patients coming for IVF procedure have been reported to have genital TB. In over 95% of the cases, the infection was found to affect the fallopian tube, 50% endometrium and 30% ovaries.

Though it can occur in any age group (15-45 years) the average age was found to be 31 years. In most of the cases the disease was asymptomatic or present with very few symptoms. Incidents reported in the Delhi NCR region shows that one in every five women with TB were unable to conceive naturally which accounted for 40%. **Courtesy EMJ**

"Even though it's difficult to diagnose the presence of TB in genital tract, there are certain ways to detect them, like a sample of tissue taken from a woman suffering from TB of fallopian tubes, endometrial tissue is collected from uterus and sent to lab, where the bacteria are grown and later used for testing. The most trustworthy method of diagnosis is making a histological diagnosis of tubercles, which helps doctors on laparoscopy to confirm whether these suspicious lesions are due to tuberculosis or not. Hysterosalpingography (HSG) is also a very useful tool in visualizing the abnormalities in the uterus and the endometrium. And chronic infections can even lead to narrowing of the uterine cavity," said Dr Arvind Vaid, city based gynecologist. The effects can also be seen in post menopausal women where the condition may be prominent with symptoms of endometrial malignancy, post menopausal bleeding and persistent vaginal fluid discharge. This is also similar in case of affected males where reduction in sperm quality, concentration and motility are few traits.

Treating TB with medications can help women to conceive through ART, either IVF or IUI, where intervention can be done to repair the after effects. One can prevent themselves against TB by staying away from crowded areas, where you could come into regular contact with people who are infected, have access to a proper healthcare system and undergo physical exams on a regular basis, get vaccinated against the condition, if possible.



How to Cut Your Odds of a Stroke?

Stroke is not something that just pops up any day without any reason. There are 'n' numbers of factors that contribute in elevating the risk of stroke. While some of the factors like age, genes and family history of stroke are not under your control, there are many lifestyle choices you can make to reduce the risk of stroke.

To help you beat the high chances, we have listed out some of the ways that can assist you in cutting your odds of a stroke. So, read ahead and adopt them from today onwards!

Apples and Tomatoes: Take the healthy red hue of both apples and tomatoes to enrich your body with their goodness. While tomatoes will give you lycopene which is known to reduce the risk of ischemic stroke, apples are loaded with fiber and quercetin, an inflammation-fighting antioxidant which also cuts the risk of stroke. So, don't think much and have a healthy

diet rich in such fruits and veggies.

Lower the Blood Pressure: One of the best ways to cut your odds of a stroke is by keeping the blood pressure level in check. Normal blood pressure is usually more than 120 over 80 and less than 140 over 90. It is seen that people with high blood pressure are more likely to experience stroke. So, drop a few kilos, eat healthy and keep your blood pressure level in the normal range.

Sweat it Out: Stop being a couch potato and start working out. Regular exercising is known to cut your odds of a stroke. Dr. Manoj Khanal, Max Healthcare - best neurology hospital in Delhi, says exercising leads to weight loss and normalizes the blood pressure. Thus, it can stand as an effective way to reduce the risk of stroke.

Away from Anxiety and Depression: Maintain a distance from

anxiety and depression and you are likely to have less chances of getting a stroke. Various studies have shown that people who are depressed usually have bad lifestyle habits including alcohol abuse and less physical activity. All these significantly raise the risk of stroke.

Seek Peace of Mind: Anger is the greatest enemy of your brain. So, give some peaceful time to your body and it will heal itself. Internal healing will help in managing anger which eventually normalizes blood pressure and reduces your chances of getting a stroke. You can take up some meditation classes and start the spiritual journey towards a healthy body and mind.

Say "No" to Smoking: Drop that cigarette if you want to cut your chances of stroke. People who smoke are at a significantly higher risk of having an ischemic stroke. Smoking reduces

the oxygen in the blood which makes the formation of blood clots easier, thus leading to stroke. Moreover, the smoke affects the arteries and allows the formation of plaque that can choke the arteries and reduce the blood flow. To avoid such health complications, it is time that you say no to smoking. You should also try to avoid passive smoking as it is also quite harmful for your body.

Though you cannot predict a stroke, you can, in fact, prevent it by choosing such healthy habits. So, make the above-listed changes in your lifestyle and you may be able to avoid a stroke that could have affected you if you kept on going the same way. However, if you have already faced a mini-stroke, it is advisable that you must consult a neurologist from the best neurology hospital in India to get the proper treatment and advice. **Courtesy EMJ**

DDC Poonch holds Block Diwas at Buzliaz, assures time-bound redressal of public grievances

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, JULY 1: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, today presided over a Block Diwas programme at the Block Headquarters, Buzliaz, providing a platform for residents to interact directly with the district administration and raise grievances, developmental concerns and public welfare issues. The proceedings were conducted by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Surankote Farooq Khan, who spoke on the initiative's role in promoting transparent and accountable governance.

During the interactive session, residents, public representatives and members of civil society raised various issues. Major demands included improvement of road connectivity leading to the Health Centre at Buzliaz, upgradation of infrastructure at the Panchayat Ghar and enhancement of educational facilities through upgradation of Middle and High Schools in the area.

Residents also raised issues concerning ration cards and requested inclusion of all eligible families under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category as per norms. They sought strengthening of healthcare facilities at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Buzliaz through posting of adequate medical officers, availability of paramedical staff and provision of a dedicated ambulance service.

The youth of the area appealed for establishment of a sports stadium and development of sports infrastructure. Several other issues pertaining to rural infrastructure, public utilities and socio-economic development of the area were also raised.

Government departments set up information stalls at the venue, where officials disseminated details of ongoing schemes and beneficiary-oriented programmes.

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

Subject: Application of MOHD ISMAIL GOJER DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal) in favour of self ,JABEENA BANO ,FAYAZ AHMAD GOJER DEADER , MOHAMMAD RIZWAN GOJER ,ASMAT BANO

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and GOJER DEADER community, having annual income is 150000 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...MOHD ISMAIL DEADER self 50 years Govt employee
- 2... JABEENA BANO Daughter 27 years student
- 3...FAYAZ AHMAD GOJER DEADER son 22 years student
- 4...ASMAT BANO Daughter 18 years student
- 5...MOHAMMAD RIZWAN DEADER son 14 years student
- 6...NASEEMA BEGUM wife 50 years H/W

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

Public Notice

It is here by notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned on my Aadhaar card as SHANAZ KHURSHED bearing aadhar no 725759322973 while my correct name is SHAHNAZA BEGUM W/O ASHIQ IQBAL MALIK which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in the office concerned Aadhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name...SHAHNAZA BEGUM
W/O ... ASHIQ IQBAL MALIK
R/O...HARNOW KAWACHECK**

Public Notice

My daughters name has been wrongly written as SALEEMA BANO in her Bank account while her correct name is SALEEMA QADIR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of J&K BANK DELINA BARAMULLA within seven days from the Publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

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

Public Notice

I am applying for fertilizer License under the title of MALIK FERTILIZERS & related items. situated at TILAGAM KREERI Baramulla. In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla a within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Name...SAJAD AHMAD MALIK
S/o.ALI MOHD MALIK
R/o.TILAGAM KREERI
Distt...BARAMULLA**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my father's name HABIBULLAH KHAN S/O AB JABAR KHAN R/O PUTHAR Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005079 wants to be registered on my name GH HASSAN KHAN S/O HABIBULLAH KHAN R/O PUTHAR .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

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

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I am intending to applying for the registration of a Tour And Travel license under the name MOUNTAIN JOURNEY TOUR & TRAVEL located at CHANDOOSA District Baramulla, at the office of Assistant Director Tourism Gulmarg. If anyone has any objections regarding in this regard, they may file their objection at the Department of Tourism office of the Assistant Director Tourism Gulmarg, within 15 days from the date of publication, of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

**OWNERS NAME ...TANZILA NAAZ
W/O SHAMEEMA ANWAR BAIGH
R/O MASJID ANGAN KACHWAMUQAM Baramulla.
contact number.. 9622414653**

Public Notice

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

**Name... SHOIB MOHAMMAD BHAT
S/O Gh MOHAMMAD BHAT
R/O TILAGAM TANGMARG
ACCOUNT NO..0139040100011913**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name FAROOQ AHMAD PARRAY

Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040010425 wants to be registered on my name TAHIR MANZOOR S/O Late Manzoor Ahmad Zargar... .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name.TAHIR MANZOOR
S/O LATE MANZOOR AHMAD ZARGAR R/O KREERI**



JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE HAJ COMMITTEE

Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Haj Committee of India

HAJ 2027 (1448 H)

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

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

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR HAJ – 2027 (1448 H)

- The Haj Committee of India invites applications from eligible intending pilgrims for Haj – 2027 through the online Haj Application Form available at <https://www.hajcommittee.gov.in> or HAJ SUVIDHA mobile app.
- The application window shall remain open from **22.06.2026 to 20.07.2026** (up to 11:59 PM). After Qurbah (Digital Random Selection) process to be conducted in the last week of July, each provisionally selected pilgrim shall be required to deposit an advance amount of **₹1,52,300/-** on or before **10.08.2026**. No relaxation or extension in these timelines shall be feasible.
- Applicants must carefully read the Guidelines and Undertakings to ensure their eligibility and upload scanned copies (not photographs) of the following:
 - Front and back pages of machine-readable Indian Passport (1200 × 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.

JOIN OUR OFFICIAL WHATSAPP GROUP

For Haj 2027 Updates

JOIN VIA WHATSAPP LINK
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Lxp9Sdes7r0AAdRmRdcAfm?sz=qt&p=a&mlu=1>

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

Aapki Tayyari – Aapka Aaram – Hamari Zimmedari

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UT)

Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Shopian

Subject: Provisional Merit List/ Short List for the engagement of Krishi Udyamis (Agricultural Entrepreneurs) in District Shopian advertised vide no. DDCS/25/3060-63 dated: 07-03-2025.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Program approved establishment of Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKGs) vide letter No. E-7358056/Plan-2/2/2023 dated: 07.02.2024 and engagement of Krishi Udyamis (KU) (Agriculture Entrepreneurs) to operate the KKGs through District Development Commissioner of respective District; and

Whereas, under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner Shopian, an engagement committee was constituted vide chief agriculture Officer Shopian's No. CAO/SPN/Dev-160/2024-25/1919-25 dated: 27-07-2024 for engagement of Krishi Udyamis (KU) Agricultural entrepreneurs in District Shopian (phase second); and

Whereas, an advertisement notice for engagement of "Krishi Udyami" (KU's) for one location "Check Sidiq Khan" was issued by District Development Commissioner Shopian's no. DDS/25/3060-63 dated: 07-03-2025 for engagement of Krishi Udyami on temporary bases initially for a period of two years; and

Whereas, the application forms were submitted to the Chief Agriculture Officer, Shopian (Member Secretary of the Engagement Committee) as mentioned in the advertisement Notice. As per the direction from the Chairman of the Engagement Committee, the Chief Agriculture Officer, Shopian was entitled to scrutinize the applications as per laid down criteria of weightage, on pro-rata basis, to the academic qualification and experience in relevant domain/field, and prepare the list of all applications received for the location for the establishment of Kisan Khidmat Ghar; and

Whereas, as per the advertisement Notice, the selection criteria are based solely on merit and there is no interview or written test for the selection. The provisional merit list/ short list as per the selection criteria of the advertisement notice is prepared and placed before the Engagement Committee meeting held on 30-06-2026 under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, which, after deliberations and consideration of the matter, approved (Annexure "A") and its notification in public domain via. print and electronic media.

Now, therefore, the provisional merit list/ short list for the engagement of Krishi Udyamis in district Shopian is hereby notified. It is further notified that: "In case any candidate(s) is/are aggrieved with this provisional merit list/ short list Intend(s) to furnish any document/clarification regarding his/her candidature, he/she may represent through the email address caoshopian123@gmail.com or in person in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Shopian within four (04) days from the date of publication of this Notification, beyond which no representations whatsoever shall be entertained."

By Order.
Annexure A to CAO/SPN/HADP-2/2023-27/1365-68 | Dated: 01-07-2026
Short List of candidates who have applied for KKG-Check e Sidiq Khan

S.No.	Farm No.	Name	Parentage	Residence	Cell No.	Applied for KKG location	Gender	Domicile (Yes/No)	B.Sc (%age)	B.Sc Agri/ Allied (%age)	M.Sc/ M.Sc Agriculture allied (%age)	Computer (%age)	Specialized Qual. BAT (%age)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11
1	1	Showkat Ahmad Bhat	Mohd Ramzan Bhat	Pratabpora	9055626258	C-Sidiq Khan	Male	No	0	0.00	0.00	83.93	75.00
2	2	Aadil Hussain Malik	Mohammad Ashraf Malik	Hardu Nagisharan	7006244317	C-Sidiq Khan	Male	Yes	0	76.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	3	Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat	Gul Mohd Malik	Tachloo	7006780616	C-Sidiq Khan	Male	No	0	70.70	74.51	77.71	0.00
4	4	Kashifa Hamid	Abdul Hamid Bhat	Ganowpora Arshi	8491091013	C-Sidiq Khan	Female	No	70	0.00	76.60	0.00	0.00

Gender (05-points Female) Col-8	Domicile (25 Points) Col 09	B.Sc (25 Points) Col 10	B.Sc Agri/ Allied (45 Points) Col 11	M.Sc/ M.Sc Agriculture Allied (10-points) Col 12	Computer diploma (15 Points) Col 13	Specialized Course (BAT) Col 14	Total Points (Out of 100)	Hierarchy as per Points	Remarks
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	25	26
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.59	11.25	23.84	4	
0.00	25.00	1.00	34.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	59.25	1	
0.00	0.00	2.00	31.81	7.45	11.65	0.00	50.91	2	
5.00	0.00	17.50	0.00	7.66	0.00	0.00	30.16	3	

No: CAO/SPN/HADP-20/2026-27/1365-68 | Date: 01/07/2026

DIPK: 2745/26 | Dated: 01-07-206

**Sd/- Addl. District Development Commissioner, Shopian.
(District Nodal Officer, HADP/JKICP)**

Sakeena Itoo visits Children Hospital Bemina on Doctors' Day

Calls Doctors the Pride of Society

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: On the occasion of Doctors' Day, Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Minister Sakeena Itoo visited Children Hospital Bemina to extend her greetings and appreciation to the medical fraternity for their unwavering commitment to patient care and public health.

Interacting with doctors, healthcare professionals and hospital staff, the Minister lauded their dedication, compassion and tireless service, particularly in providing quality healthcare to children. She described doctors as the 'pride of society' and acknowledged their invaluable contribution to safeguarding lives and strengthening the healthcare system.

"Doctors serve humanity with unmatched commitment and compassion. Their selfless service, professionalism and resilience make them the pride of our society. On this Doctors' Day, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to every member of the medical fraternity," the Minister said.

Sakeena Itoo said that doctors play a very responsible role in the society and their contribution cannot



be measured in words. She highlighted apart from doctors, public also has very responsive role in the society.

During her visit, Sakeena Itoo also interacted with patients and their attendants, enquiring about the healthcare services being provided at the hospital. She directed the hospital administration to ensure the highest standards

of patient care, timely medical attention and a patient-friendly environment.

The Minister emphasized that the government remains committed to strengthening healthcare infrastructure, improving medical facilities and supporting healthcare professionals in delivering efficient and accessible services across Jammu and Kashmir.

SKUAST-K hosts DHR-ICMR National Workshop on Regenerative Medicine, focuses on Next-Generation Stem Cell Therapeutics

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JULY 01: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Tuesday inaugurated a 10-day DHR-ICMR-sponsored national workshop on "Next-Generation Biomaterial Scaffolds for Stem Cell Therapeutics in Regenerative Medicine" at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (FVSc & AH), Shuhama, Ganderbal.

The national-level workshop aims to strengthen capacity building in regenerative medicine by integrating fundamental science, translational research, biomaterial technologies, and clinical applications.

The inaugural session was presided over by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Dean, School of Life Sciences, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. Abid Hamid; Head, CD Hospital, Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah; Scientist and Consultant (Cell & Gene Therapy), ICMR, New Delhi, Dr. Sangram K. Samal. Senior university officials, faculty members, scientists, clinicians, researchers, and students were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai described the workshop as a significant initiative bringing together academia, medicine, industry, and government on a common platform. He commended the faculty for organizing a program of national importance and

emphasized the need for institutional collaboration, innovation-driven research, and affordable therapeutic solutions. He also stressed the importance of launching short skill-based programs to expand certification opportunities and support continuous professional development.

Prof. Riaz Ahmad Shah, Dean, FVSc & AH, highlighted the transformative potential of regenerative medicine in both human and veterinary health care.

Prof. Abid Hamid termed the workshop a timely intervention for developing skilled human resources in the emerging field of regenerative medicine. Building on this, Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah underscored the importance of translational research in bridging laboratory discoveries with clinical applications and stressed the need for stronger multidisciplinary collaborations.

Dr. Sangram K. Samal highlighted the importance of One Health approaches, interdisciplinary research, and structured capacity-building initiatives to accelerate progress in regenerative medicine.

The inaugural session also witnessed the release of a documentary showcasing SKUAST-K's milestones, infrastructure, academic excellence, research achievements, and future vision. A book on evidence-based research and practical guidance in stem cell therapeutics was also released, along with a compendium documenting the university's

academic, research, and outreach achievements.

Organizing secretary, Dr. Mudassar Bashir Gugjoo reported an overwhelming response to the workshop, with 120 applications received for just 20 seats, including participation from an international candidate from Grenada.

Over the next 10 days, participants will undergo intensive expert lectures and hands-on training in stem cell and exosome isolation, biomaterial fabrication through 3D printing and electrospinning, preclinical evaluation, regulatory frameworks, and clinical applications.

A major highlight of the workshop will be an industry-academia-policy dialogue focusing on opportunities, challenges, and the regulatory roadmap for veterinary stem cell therapeutics in India.

The workshop features an impressive lineup of international experts from the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), University of Michigan, and Queen Mary University of London, as well as leading Indian institutions, including IITs, AIIMS, IVRI, ICMR, SKIMS, and NIT Srinagar.

Concluding the inaugural session, Prof. Amatul Muhee, Head, Division of Veterinary Clinical Complex, FVSc & AH, reaffirmed the university's commitment to strengthening regenerative medicine through research excellence, innovation, and strategic collaborations.

DC Kulgam chairs Monthly District Level NCORD Committee Meeting

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JULY 01: A District Level NCORD (Narco-Coordination Centre) Committee meeting was held here, today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam to review the progress of the 100-Day Campaign against Drug Abuse being run across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the enforcement, awareness, and rehabilitation initiatives undertaken as part of the campaign. It was informed that during the campaign period, 80 FIRs have been registered against 89 individuals involved in drug-related offences. Additionally, 34 driving licenses and 22 registration certificates (RCs) of vehicles used in the transportation of contraband have been suspended as part of the crackdown on the drug trade network in the district.

Reviewing the achievements, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to further intensify enforcement action against drug peddlers and to ensure strict implementation of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. He stressed upon erasing the menace of drug abuse from its roots through sustained and coordinated action by all stakeholder departments. The Deputy Commissioner further emphasized the need to focus on the rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse and their reintegration with livelihood opportunities, so that affected individuals and families can return to a life of dignity and self-reliance. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that de-addiction, counselling, and skill-based livelihood support mechanisms are strengthened and made accessible at the grassroots level. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's firm commitment towards making Kulgam a drug-free district and appealed to civil society, religious scholars, and the general public to actively participate in the campaign to eradicate this social menace.

An impact report of 80-Day against Drug Abuse was also released by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, highlighting the activities carried out in Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction and Rehabilitation.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmed Giri; DPO, Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi; SDM DH Pora, Bashir-ul-Hassan; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; Tehsildars and other members of the NCORD Committee.

Commissioner SMC inspects Tattoo Ground Yard; Reviews operational readiness of Water Tankers, Sprinkler Fleet

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Corporation's Tattoo Ground Yard, Batamloo, to review the operational readiness, maintenance standards, and deployment of the water tanker fleet and sprinkler units for ensuring efficient delivery of essential civic services across Srinagar.

During the inspection, the Commissioner thoroughly reviewed the condition, functionality, maintenance, and serviceability of the water tanker fleet to ensure its adequate availability for supplying potable water to water-scarce areas on demand, maintaining public fountains, and meeting the operational requirements of the forthcoming SANJY-2026. He also assessed the operational efficiency and

deployment of sprinkler units engaged in the irrigation and maintenance of parks, gardens, medians, roadside plantations, and other green spaces developed across the city.

Emphasizing the importance of a fully functional fleet, Faz Lul Haseeb directed the concerned officers to ensure that all water tankers and sprinkler units remain in optimum operational condition through regular maintenance, preventive servicing, timely repairs, and continuous monitoring. He stressed the need for scientific fleet management, optimum utilization of available resources, and systematic deployment to ensure prompt, reliable, and uninterrupted delivery of civic services across the city.

The Commissioner observed that a well-maintained and operationally efficient fleet is essential for meeting both routine civic requirements and emer-



gency situations. He noted that the water tanker fleet plays a crucial role in providing timely

water supply to areas facing shortages, supporting the maintenance of public fountains, and

ensuring adequate logistical support during SANJY-2026. Likewise, the sprinkler units are instrumental in sustaining Srinagar's green infrastructure through regular irrigation and upkeep of plantations, thereby contributing to environmental conservation and urban beautification.

Reaffirming the Srinagar Municipal Corporation's commitment to responsive, efficient, and citizen-centric urban governance, the Commissioner stated that SMC will continue to strengthen its operational capabilities, modernize its municipal infrastructure, and maintain the highest standards of public service delivery to meet the growing needs and expectations of the citizens of Srinagar.

Senior officers and officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

DC B'pora holds mega Block Diwas at Balhama Reviews developmental issues, listens to Public Grievances

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JULY 01: In a continued effort to strengthen public outreach and ensure responsive governance, the District Administration Bandipora today organised a Mega Block Diwas at Balhama Arin.

The programme was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib and brought together senior officers from various government departments, including Revenue, Rural Development, Health, Education, Public Health Engineering, Power Development, Agriculture,

and other line departments, providing residents with a common platform to directly interact with the administration.

A large number of people from Balhama and nearby villages participated in the programme and raised issues concerning road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare facilities, education, and other issues pertaining to welfare of the general public.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to every representation and directed the concerned officers to resolve genuine griev-

ances in a time-bound manner.

She stressed the need for greater coordination among departments to ensure timely completion of projects and improved delivery of essential services. She reiterated that public welfare, transparent and accountable governance remain the administration's top priorities.

Indu Kanwal Chib, said District Administration is committed to address issues of general public promptly and ensuring inclusive and sustainable development across the district.

DC Kupwara Chairs Block Diwas at Budnambal, Reviews Public Grievances and Development Works

Reviews developmental issues and Public Service Delivery

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JULY 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today chaired a Block Diwas programme at the far-flung village of Budnambal in Block Chowkibal to take a first-hand appraisal of public issues, review the developmental needs of the area, and strengthen public service delivery.

The programme was attended by district and sectoral

officers, besides a large gathering of local residents.

During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the grievances and demands projected by the people. The issues raised included improvement of road and mobile connectivity, augmentation of electricity supply, provision of safe drinking water, improvement of healthcare facilities, filling of staff vacancies in educational institutions, completion of pending works



under the Rural Development Department (RDD) and the Public Works Department (PWD), and assessment of crop losses caused by the recent spell of heavy rainfall.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the public that all gen-

uine grievances would be examined on merit and addressed in a time-bound manner. He directed the concerned officers to take immediate cognizance of the issues pertaining to their respective departments and ensure their prompt redressal through coordinated action. He reiterated that the District Administration remains committed to ensuring equitable development in the remote and border areas of the district.

Later, the Deputy Commis-

sioner visited the Health Centre at Budnambal to review its functioning and assess the availability of healthcare facilities. He inspected the stock of essential medicines and reviewed the overall healthcare delivery mechanism. He directed the Block Medical Officer, Kralpora, to ensure punctuality and regular attendance of staff, maintain adequate stocks of essential medicines, and provide efficient, accessible, and quality healthcare services to the people.

DC Reasi chairs Mission YUVA review meeting; 267 entrepreneur cases approved

HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, JULY 01: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA to review the scheme's implementation and approve fresh loan applications of aspiring entrepreneurs.

The committee scrutinised 267 cases verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and approved all of them for financial assistance, capacity building and handholding support under Mission YUVA.

Reviewing progress of training batches under Mission YUVA, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers concerned to initiate fresh training batches at the earliest to facilitate skill development among aspiring entrepreneurs. He also directed officers to intensify awareness campaigns in all blocks and panchayats on Mission YUVA and its subsidy benefits.

The Deputy Commissioner directed bank officials to maintain close coordination with Business Help Desks (BHDs) for smooth processing of applications, to consult the BHDs on deficiencies before rejecting any case and to properly inform beneficiaries about required documents to avoid delays. The meeting also reviewed the status of the Udyam Jagriti Scheme. The Deputy Commissioner directed departments concerned to finalise incomplete documentation promptly so pending cases can be processed without delay.

Among those present were ADDC Krishan Lal, GMDIC, AD Employment, District Manager NRLM, LDM and other senior officers.

Royal Enfield's Himalayan Basecamp Packs In Three Days Of Action For Adventure Aficionados At 11,480 Feet

HT BUSINESS DESK

NEW DELHI, JUL 1: This September, Royal Enfield is presenting India's first immersive adventure intersection for those who seek altitude, distance and the unknown. The inaugural Himalayan Basecamp (HBC) - Ladakh Edition: Set at 11,480 feet, in the heart of Ladakh, Royal Enfield's spiritual home, HBC will bring together riders, climbers, overlanders, kayakers and explorers.

Curated as a sanctuary for the adventure mindset, participants can dive into guided explorations, competitive challenges, expert-led masterclasses and immersive cultural experiences, all against one of the world's most dramatic landscapes.

Details:
What: Himalayan Basecamp - Ladakh Edition
When: September 4-6, 2026
Where: Leh, Ladakh
How: Tickets now live on royalfield.com/himalayan

basecamp
Things to watch out for in Himalayan Basecamp - Ladakh Edition:

1. Maneuver Through Some of Ladakh's Toughest Terrain
Adventure seekers can test themselves in a series of challenges designed to push skill, endurance and decision-making to the limit.

Navigation Challenge: Ladakh's most punishing terrain, one roadbook, nothing but instinct. Time-Speed-Distance format, open to all bike categories.

Himalayan Spirit: A multi-discipline off-road test of skill, endurance, and judgment across Ladakh's raw terrain, running all three days.

Hill Climb: One hill, one shot, one clock. Simple, brutal, unforgettable experience.

2. Explore and Experience with People Who've Done It the Hard Way

Across the three days, HBC will host masterclasses led by experienced adventurers, overlanders and outdoor specialists. Sessions include:

Bush Mechanics and Off-Road Recovery: Field-ready know-how for breakdowns and getting unstuck where help isn't coming.

Motorcycle Overlanding 101 and Off-Road Basics: Long-distance journey planning on two wheels, from gear selection to riding unpaired terrain.

4WD and SUV Overland Essentials: Skills, gear, and mindset for serious overland terrain on four wheels.

Overland Cooking: Live fire, local ingredients, and altitude kitchen for the intenders.

3. Adventure Sports: Different disciplines, same spirit
The spirit of adventure doesn't stop at two wheels. Participants can sign up for experiences across multiple disciplines, including:

Rafting and Kayaking: Glacier water and Class II rapids on the Zaskar, and kayaking the Indus and Zaskar with no prior experience needed.

Rock Climbing and Scrambling: Progressive climbing at



They from basics to lead, and scrambling with certified instructors across all three days.
Hiking and Mountain Biking: Hidden valleys, monasteries,

and high-altitude passes on foot, and technical descents through Disko Valley on two wheels.
Paragliding: The view from

above everything everyone else is riding, climbing, and rafting through.

4. Explore Ladakh Through Curated Expeditions

One of the biggest highlights is the lineup of seven specially designed rides that go beyond conventional tourist routes.

Art, Culture and Photography: Pottery villages, ancient petroglyphs, monastery courtyards, and above the clouds at Khardung La.

Ladakh Uncharted and Riverside Heritage Rides: Roads less ridden curated by local riders, and village Ladakh well beyond the tourist trail.

The Sacred Rides and Himalayan Coffee Trails: Monastery circuits and blessings at altitude paired with riverside roads, hot springs, and wild brews.

The Triple Pass Expedition: Khardung La at 17,582 ft, Wari La, and Tanglang La at 17,480 ft. Three passes, three days, one Basecamp.

5. Recover, Recharge and Swap Stories Around the Fire

Adventure isn't only about pushing harder. It's also about slowing down. Basecamp will feature wellness-focused experiences including:

Endurance and Recovery Collective and Moto Yoga: Rider-focused wellness built around what high-altitude riding does to the body and mind.

Fireside Conversations and Explorers Tent: No agenda, same fire, riders and climbers sharing stories from the other side of the mountain.

Ladakhi Food, Culture and Acoustic Music: Live cooking with local chefs under open sky and singer-songwriter sessions as the Himalayan night settles in.

While the Basecamp may be in Ladakh, the adventure starts much earlier. With guided rides by Royal Enfield departing from 24 cities across India, riders can make the journey as much a part of the story as the destination itself.

Ride in, fly in or carve your own path using GPS routes - the choice is yours.

Godrej Properties acquires 47 acre land parcel in Chennai

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, JULY 01: Real estate developers Godrej Properties Limited today announced acquisition of a 47 acre land parcel in Chennai.

The acquisition was through an outright purchase of the land which is located off Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR), one of the fast-growing micro markets in South Chennai.

The proposed development on this land will comprise primarily plotted residential units and is expected to offer a developable potential of 1.2 mn.sqft with an estimated revenue potential of Rs 500 crore.

The site is well connected via OMR, providing access to key employment hubs across the Siruseri-Kelambakkam corridor, including SIPCOT as well as emerging nodes such as Vandalur, Guduvanchery, and the wider Mahabalipuram region.



The location is supported by a steadily evolving social infrastructure, with access to healthcare facilities, educational institutions, retail, and entertainment options, contributing to its growing appeal as a residential destination, a company statement said.

Company MD and CEO Gaurav Pandey said, "South Chennai is seeing a clear evolution in residential demand, with homebuyers increasingly gravitating towards well planned, future-ready communities that offer quality of living and long-term value.

This belt has emerged as one of the most promising residential micro markets in the region, supported by improving infrastructure and growing end user interest. Our focus is on creating thoughtfully designed developments that align with these changing expectations and deliver enduring value over time, as we continue to strengthen our presence in Chennai." UNI

EBG Group Signs Licensing Pact with POSCO Intl to Expand Daewoo Home Appliances in India

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JULY 01: EBG Group, a multi-sector Indian conglomerate, has signed a strategic brand licensing agreement with South Korea's POSCO International to manufacture, market and distribute Daewoo-branded major domestic appliances in India, the company announced on Monday.

Under the agreement, EBG Group will develop, manufacture and distribute Daewoo products across the country, covering categories that account for nearly 70 per cent of the home and kitchen appliances market.

As part of its expansion plans, the company will invest 100 crore over the next three years in product development, retail

expansion, distribution, localisation and the launch of new product categories.

The company said it would initially focus on refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners and dishwashers before expanding its portfolio in phases.

EBG Group also plans to establish around 100 Daewoo retail stores across India by 2027. Its first flagship experience store in Delhi is nearing completion, while three more outlets are in the pipeline.

POSCO International Director James Lee said India was one of the world's fastest-growing consumer appliance markets and expressed confidence that the partnership with EBG Group would strengthen Daewoo's presence in the country.



EBG Group Founder Dr. Irfan Khansaid said the collaboration would help establish Daewoo as a preferred consumer appliances brand in India through investments in localisation, distribution and customer-centric growth. He said the products would

initially be assembled in India using imported components, with localisation levels planned to increase from 20 per cent to 80 per cent over time in line with the Government's 'Make in India' initiative.

The company said the project

is expected to generate employment opportunities across manufacturing, retail, distribution and after-sales services.

Daewoo products will be sold through company-owned stores, e-commerce platforms, direct-to-consumer channels, quick-commerce platforms, general trade outlets and electronics retail chains.

The company also announced plans to introduce DAEWOO One, an integrated smart home ecosystem connecting multiple appliances through AI and IoT-enabled technologies.

Daewoo, whose global trademark portfolio is managed by POSCO International, has a presence in around 160 countries with more than 3,500 trademark registrations and applications worldwide. UNI

Mardamed launches mall-based Healthcare Experience Centre

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, JULY 01: Mardamed has launched its flagship Healthcare Experience Centre (HeX) at Mantri Square Mall in Bengaluru, introducing what it describes as the country's first mall-based integrated healthcare facility aimed at making advanced medical services more accessible in an everyday setting.

The 15,000 sq ft centre, inaugurated by CN Manjunath, is located on the second floor of the mall in Malleshwaram and combines specialist consultations, advanced diagnostics, pharmacy, dentistry, physiotherapy, mental health services, preventive care and selected day procedures under one roof.

The facility houses MRI, CT scan, X-ray, ultrasound, mammography and pathology services alongside outpatient departments covering internal medicine, women's health, paediatric

ENT, ophthalmology and sports medicine. A health-focused café and digital healthcare platform for appointments, consultations, medical records and follow-up care are also part of the integrated model.

Speaking at the launch, Mardamed Founder Deepak Marda said the initiative seeks to make healthcare a routine part of people's lives rather than something accessed only during emergencies.

"We want advanced healthcare to move closer to people. Our vision is to integrate healthcare into everyday lifestyles, making quality medical care approachable, continuous and patient-friendly," he said.

According to the company, the concept aims to reduce the need for patients to visit multiple locations by enabling consultations, diagnostic tests, imaging, pharmacy services and follow-up care at a single destination.

The centre has also introduced "Mardamed Pulse", a rewards programme that encourages preventive healthcare and healthy lifestyle choices.

Highlighting the engineering effort behind the project, the company said installing MRI and CT equipment inside an operational shopping mall required coordination with engineers, safety teams and equipment specialists. Large wall openings, including one measuring about 10 ft by 10 ft, were created to move the machines into the building using a 50-ton crane during overnight operations before the walls were restored.

Mardamed said the facility is designed to cater to working professionals, families, senior citizens, women and individuals managing chronic health conditions, while promoting preventive healthcare through easy access to specialist services.

Incuspaze raises Rs150 cr to fuel expansion, Targets IPO in FY29

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JULY 01: Managed workspace provider Incuspaze has raised Rs150 crore in a funding round led by Bharat Value Fund and other financial institutions to accelerate expansion, strengthen technology capabilities, pursue acquisitions and prepare for its proposed initial public offering (IPO).

The fresh capital would be utilised to expand its footprint across key commercial markets, invest in technology, strengthen its presence in strategic locations and support future acquisitions, the company said in a release on Monday.

The fundraising comes shortly after Incuspaze acquired man-

aged workspace operator iKeva, which has a strong presence in Hyderabad.

The acquisition has expanded the company's enterprise-grade workspace portfolio and strengthened its position in the southern market.

Incuspaze said it plans to scale its managed office portfolio in Hyderabad to more than one million square feet by FY27.

Commenting on the development, Founder and Chief Executive Officer Sanjay Choudhary said the investment marked an important milestone in the company's growth journey and would help accelerate expansion, deepen its presence in key markets, particularly Hyderabad, and support investments in



technology.

Co-founder and Managing Partner Sanjay Chatrath said the managed workspace sector was entering its next phase of growth, driven by enterprise demand, hybrid work models and the rapid expansion of Global Capa-

bility Centres (GCCs).

He said the acquisition of iKeva demonstrated the benefits of strategic consolidation and that the fresh funding would enable the company to scale operations and enhance customer experience.

Bharat Value Fund Chief Investment Officer Madhu Lunawat said Incuspaze had demonstrated strong execution capabilities, an enterprise-focused business model and was well-positioned to benefit from the structural growth of India's flexible workspace sector.

The latest fundraising forms part of its long-term growth strategy as it prepares for institutional scale-up and a planned public listing.

Over the years, Incuspaze has expanded through acquisitions, including Pune-based coworking firm TRIOS and real estate technology platform VSKOUT, strengthening its operational footprint, technology capabilities and market intelligence. UNI

AP: DACL Fine Chem to invest Rs 500 cr in specialty chemicals plant at Kakinada SEZ

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

KAKINADA, JULY 01: Gujarat-based DACL Fine Chem will invest Rs 500 crore to set up a specialty chemicals manufacturing facility at Kakinada Special Economic Zone (KSEZ), following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two companies on Monday.

The proposed project will come up on 50 acres within Kakinada SEZ and manufacture high-value specialty chemicals for domestic and international markets, the company said in a release here.

The investment is expected to generate substantial direct and indirect employment while strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem in coastal Andhra Pradesh.

The MoU was signed by Kakinada SEZ Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Ram Reddy Ojili and DACL Fine Chem Chairman Amit Mehta in the presence of senior officials of both organisations. Speaking on the occasion, Ojili said the investment reflected the growing confidence of leading manufacturing companies in Kakinada SEZ's world-class infrastructure, strategic location and integrated industrial ecosystem.

He expressed confidence that the project would further establish Kakinada as a preferred destination for specialty chemicals and advanced manufacturing industries.

Kakinada SEZ, promoted as Auro Industrial City, is spread over 5,600 acres and is among India's largest port-integrated industrial parks.

The industrial park offers multimodal connectivity and proximity to the upcoming Kakinada Gateway Port, with infrastructure supporting sectors such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, food processing, engineering and clean energy.

DACL Fine Chem, a subsidiary of Diamines and Chemicals Limited, manufactures specialty chemicals, chemical intermediates and performance chemicals used in the pharmaceutical, agrochemical, polymer, plastics, paints and coatings industries. The company also has expertise in ethyleneamines and related specialty chemical products for domestic and overseas markets.

The proposed investment is expected to further strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position as a preferred destination for specialty chemicals manufacturing and export-oriented industries, the release added. UNI



Brendon McCullum on coaching future: 'Commitment to England has never wavered'

■ 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.

India drop Yastika Bhatia and pick G Kamalini for Asian Games

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: India have dropped Yastika Bhatia and picked G Kamalini as their backup wicketkeeper for the Asian Games women's cricket competition, which will be played in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in September. This is the only major change from the squad that exited the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup in the group stage. Offspin-bowling allrounder Shreyanka Patil has been picked in the squad pending fitness clearance. Patil was ruled out of the T20 World Cup after suffering an ankle ligament injury during India's match against Netherlands. Legspinner Prema Rawat, who replaced Patil and played one match in the World Cup, has not been picked in the Asian Games squad.

No time to analyse for India, England as T20I series awaits

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BELFAST: England are still processing their Test series loss to New Zealand and the sudden retirement of Ben Stokes. Half of them are wondering if the rest of the leadership should go with him. The other half is hoping they do. India have too often veered between the spectacular and the insipid under their leadership. At the Champions Trophy and T20 World Cup, they lost only one match, but they had their 12-year winning streak in home Test series broken with two white-washes, and their T20I unbeaten series has just been stopped by a 2-0 blanking from Ireland.

Neither of these teams has the time to sit back and analyse. While India will get just one training session, England will have to squeeze theirs in the afternoon on a day they travel from Nottingham to Durham. Then they turn up on July 1 to start the five-match T20I series, which ironically gets the biggest viewership but least attention from those involved. Whether you take it seriously or not, this series is likely to be the most-watched event of the English summer.

England's last two encounters against India in this format have been two World Cup semi-final defeats and a 4-1 series defeat in India, who, despite the series



defeat in Ireland, remain a formidable T20 team even when missing Jasprit Bumrah, who was

crucial to their semi-final defence of 253, which got too close for comfort in Mumbai.

What remains true of these two sides is that there is plenty of firepower in their ranks to take us back to high-scoring times on more standardised T20 pitches. If not, it will be a big test of both sides' big hitters' adaptability.

Both leaders for the future, both with their own detractors. Shreyas Iyer's return into the international side straight as a captain was not universally liked. It was a bold move that involved a World Cup-winning captain for the first time in international cricket. A series defeat to Ireland in his first assignment has

left the spotlight firmly on him.

England's T20I captain Harry Brook was also being groomed as the next Test captain when they overlooked him while Ben Stokes was suspended during the series against New Zealand. He is back as the captain, a vacancy for a full-time Test captain has also opened up, and a series win here will go a long way in removing doubts around him.

All of a sudden England are looking more settled than the world champions. Although he is in the squad, it is highly unlikely Jofra Archer will feature in the first match two days after a Test. Sonny Baker or Luke Wood could get the first game.

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