



A JOURNEY OF DEVOTION TO THE SACRED AMARNATH CAVE



Do's for the Yatris

- It is mandatory for every yatri to get registered and to carry valid RFID card before starting the journey from Baltal/ Chandanwari.
- Yatris are required to collect their RFID card from designated locations in Jammu/Srinagar before embarking on the Yatra.
- Carry your aadhar details for collecting your RFID card.
- Wear the RFID card around your neck at all times during Yatra for safety & security.
- Do carry sufficient woollen clothing, umbrella, wind cheater, raincoat and waterproof shoes. Weather remains unpredictable and temperature may abruptly fall to below 5 degree Celsius.
- Walk slowly and steadily — don't rush on steep paths.
- Take regular breaks to avoid fatigue.

Don'ts for the Yatris

- No yatri shall be allowed to embark on the Yatra without mandatory registration and valid RFID card.
- Don't ignore the symptoms of high altitude illness.
- Don't drink alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or smoke.
- Don't stop at places with warning signs.
- Don't take shortcuts on the route—it's risky.
- Don't pollute or disturb the Yatra environment.
- Don't separate from your group — always stay with your companions.

May your journey be happy and auspicious!



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Omaxe announces dedicated hospitality vertical with Rs 6,200 Cr investment

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

LUCKNOW, JUL 2: Omaxe, one of India's leading real estate developers, has announced its dedicated hospitality business vertical with plans to develop 19 hotels spread over nearly 5 million sq. ft. across five states in the next 4-5 years.

The company proposes to invest approximately Rs 6,200 crore over the next 4-5 years, subject to project-specific, regulatory and other necessary approvals, as well as market conditions, to develop hospitality assets across high-growth urban centres, pilgrimage destinations, and transit corridors.

The hospitality developments will be integrated with Omaxe's existing ecosystem of townships, mixed-use developments, commercial destinations and urban infrastructure projects.

Of the 19 hotels, a maximum 12 will be developed in Uttar Pradesh, including two in Ayodhya, three in Lucknow, one each in Prayagraj, Ghaziabad and Gorakhpur, two in Kaushambi and two in Vrindavan.

Omaxe will also develop one hotel each in New Delhi, Faridabad



and Ujjain, along with four hotels across Chandigarh, Amritsar and Ludhiana, including two properties in Chandigarh.

In total, Omaxe will have a presence across 13 cities in five states over the next 4-5 years.

Among the key projects is a 158-key Gateway Hotel by IHCL at The Omaxe State, the company's 50.4-acre integrated destination in Dwarka, New Delhi, which is being developed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

Omaxe will also develop transit-oriented hospitality infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh

through its PPP projects with the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC). This expansion will strengthen Omaxe's recurring revenue portfolio by creating hospitality destinations that complement its existing developments.

Mohit Goel, Managing Director, Omaxe Ltd. said here on Wednesday in a statement that, "Hospitality is a natural extension of our integrated development strategy. With improving connectivity, growing religious tourism and increasing travel across emerging markets, there is a clear need for quality hospitality infrastructure in these locations.

Through this expansion, we aim to create well-located hospitality destinations that complement our existing developments, strengthen our recurring revenue base and contribute to the economic activity of the cities where we operate."

He said the hospitality portfolio will comprise midscale and upscale branded hotels, luxury and premium flagship properties, high-capacity pilgrimage hotels, and branded serviced apartments and extended-stay studios.

Each asset will be developed in line with the tourism profile and demand dynamics of its respective market.

The investment is proposed to be deployed in phases over the next 4-5 years. Based on the current business assumptions and subject to project execution, occupancy levels, market conditions, regulatory approvals and other relevant factors, the hospitality business has the potential to generate approximately Rs 1,000 crore in annual revenue upon stabilization.

Omaxe is currently in advanced discussions with leading domestic and international hospitality operators for branding and management partnerships. UNI

Stalwart People Services Limited files DRHP to raise Rs 152 cr fresh capital

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, JULY 2: The Tamil Nadu headquartered Stalwart People Services Limited, (SPSL) a Security, Facilities Management, and Staffing Services company has filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

According to the DRHP, the proposed IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs.150 crores and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 52,64,151 equity shares by the Promoter Selling Shareholders - Christopher Arvinth and Caroline Mendez.

Stalwart People Services Limited proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds of the Fresh Issue towards funding its working capital requirement of Rs.65 crores, prepayment or re-payment, in full or in part, of certain outstanding borrowings worth Rs.40 crores and general corporate purposes.

Incorporated in 2003, Stalwart is a business services provider offering Security Services, Facilities Management Services and Staffing Solutions under a single umbrella.

As on April 30, 2026, it had a staff strength of 25,070 personnel and serviced 1,099 clients across 23 states, three union territories and two middle east countries. Some of Stalwart's marquee clients are Yes Bank, Zepto, PVR Inox, Century Panels and GNITS (G. Narayanamma Institute of Technology and Science)



The company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may consider a Pre-IPO Placement of Equity Shares aggregating up to 22.5 crores, prior to filing of the Red Herring Prospectus with the RoC. If the Pre-IPO Placement is completed, the amount raised will be reduced from the Fresh Issue.

In nine-month period ended December 31, 2025 (9MFY26), the company reported revenue from operations at Rs.474 crores, recording

a 47% CAGR from FY23. The profit after tax (PAT) for the same period stood at Rs.22.8 crores.

As per the F&S Report, in the period Fiscal 2026 to Fiscal 2031, the Security Services market in India is expected to grow at a CAGR of 11.6% to reach Rs.3,067.6 billion, while the Facility Management Services market in India is expected to grow at a CAGR of 12.7% to reach Rs.942.3 billion and the Staffing Services market in India is projected to grow at a CAGR of 19.9% to reach Rs.2,877 billion.UNI

Renfra Energy files DRHP with SEBI to raise Rs 430 cr via IPO

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, JULY 2: The Tamil Nadu headquartered Renfra Energy India Limited, an integrated solar and wind energy solutions provider, catering primarily to C&I (Commercial and Industrial) clients has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise funds through an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

According to the DRHP, the proposed IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 430 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 47,94,800 equity shares by the Selling Shareholders.

The Promoters of Renfra Energy - Muthuraj Periyasamy, Chairman and Managing Director and Jayendran, Executive Director are not participating in the OFS

Renfra Energy proposes to utilize the net proceeds of the fresh issue towards redemption of Non-Convertible Debentures issued by the company (Rs 160 crore), funding its working capital requirement (Rs 175 crore), and general corporate purposes.

Incorporated in 2017, ReNfra EnerGy India Limited operates in the turnkey EPC and renewable project execution segment, catering to utility-scale and commercial & industrial (C&I) customers across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Its service offerings span three business lines of renewable energy solutions - Solar Energy Solutions, Wind Energy Solutions and Operation & Maintenance Services.

The company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may consider a Pre-IPO placement of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 50 crore, prior to filing of the Red Herring Prospectus with the RoC. If the Pre-IPO Placement is completed, the amount raised will be reduced from the Fresh Issue.

Renfra Energy's FY26 revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,013 crore, recording a 54.38% CAGR from FY23. The profit after tax (PAT) for the same period stood at Rs 156.8 crore.

As of May 15, 2026, Renfra Energy has executed Completed Projects with an aggregate installed capacity of 462.35 MW, comprising 412.85 MW of solar projects and 49.50 MW of wind projects, and have Ongoing Projects with an aggregate capacity of 139.10 MW, comprising 83.00 MW of solar power projects and 56.10 MW of wind power projects under various stages of execution.UNI

Growing penetration of EVs drives Wheels India's air suspension business

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI JULY 2: The strong double-digit growth in its air suspension business in FY26 was driven by higher content per vehicle, growing intercity transport, AC sleeper coaches, upgradation of fleet by STUs (state transport undertakings) and growing penetration of EVs, Wheels India Chairman and Managing Director Srivats Ram said on Wednesday.

"We continue to invest in the alloy wheels segment and will strive for higher volumes in the coming years", he said on the prospects in the alloy wheels segment, while addressing the shareholders at the company's 67th Annual General Meeting via video conferencing.

Srivats was positive of growth in the component businesses

catering to the wind mill industry this year. He said that business grew by 14% last year driven by new businesses from the offshore segment. "We are likely to see growth both in India and overseas markets. In addition, we continue to invest in and grow the business of machining of large castings for this sector", he said.

The company's subsidiary WIL Car Wheels Ltd saw decent growth and improved its profitability on the basis of increased volumes, higher capacity utilization and operational cost improvements and that this is likely to continue this year.

He struck a note of caution citing inflation concerns on commodity prices due to the West Asia crisis but was hopeful of the prices stabilizing as the year progressed.

Answering shareholder que-



ries, Srivats said that the company is planning a CapEx of around Rs.300 crores this year that will go towards Tractor, Wind Mill, Hydraulic Cylinders and Air Suspension segments.

He said that the company would like to grow its construction equipment and agri tractor

businesses globally. "The company has a leadership position in construction equipment segment and we would like to achieve that in the agri tractor segment as well globally", he said.

Answering another shareholder's question on the growth strategy, Srivats said, "We are

Manufacturing PMI falls to 54.2 as export demand weakens

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUL 2: India's manufacturing sector growth slowed to a three-month low in June as softer international demand weighed on new orders, output, hiring and purchasing activity, even though the sector remained firmly in expansion territory, a private survey showed on Wednesday.

The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, eased to 54.2 in June from 55.0 in May. The reading was also below the flash estimate of 54.5 released last month.

A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a print below that level signals contraction. June marked the 56th consecutive month of ex-

pansion in India's manufacturing activity.

The survey indicated that growth in both output and new orders remained positive but weakened considerably during the month.

"With the exception of March, rates of increase in both output and new orders were the weakest seen in four years. Several firms reported an improvement in demand conditions, but others noted subdued client appetite for their products and fierce market competition," the survey said.

International demand also lost momentum, with export orders growing at the slowest pace in 39 months, reflecting softer sales to European markets.

Manufacturers continued to expand employment and purchasing

activity in June, but the pace of growth moderated alongside the slowdown in output and new business.

Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC said, "The moderation suggests demand has cooled slightly after the earlier surge linked to the Middle East conflict. Growth slowed across output, new orders, export orders and employment, with international sales recording their weakest increase since March 2023."

On the cost front, input price pressures eased, with manufacturers reporting the slowest increase in input costs since February. However, companies continued to face higher prices for chemicals, electronic components, gas, metals, petroleum products, plastics, rubber and wood.UNI

Commercial LPG price slashed by Rs 183.50, first cut of 2026; domestic cylinder rates unchanged

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 2: Commercial LPG cylinder prices were reduced by Rs 183.50 across major cities on Wednesday, offering significant relief to hotels, restaurants, caterers and other businesses that depend on the fuel for daily operations.

The reduction, effective from July 1, is the first cut in commercial LPG prices this year.

Following the latest revision by oil marketing companies, the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi has come down to Rs 2,930 from Rs 3,113.50 in June.

Similar reductions have been announced in other cities, with

the price falling to around Rs 2,885.50 in Mumbai, Rs 3,072 in Kolkata and Rs 3,100 in Chennai.

However, there is no relief for domestic consumers, as the price of the standard 14.2-kg household LPG cylinder remains unchanged. The domestic cylinder continues to cost Rs 942 in Delhi, Rs 941.50 in Mumbai, Rs 968 in Kolkata and Rs 957.50 in Chennai.

The reduction comes after several months of steep increases in commercial LPG prices driven by geopolitical tensions in West Asia, particularly the conflict involving Iran, which had pushed up global crude oil prices and disrupted energy supply routes.



Commercial LPG rates had witnessed multiple hikes since the beginning of the year, increasing operating costs for eateries, hotels and small businesses.

The latest cut follows a sharp decline in global crude oil prices after tensions in West Asia eased.

The extension of the ceasefire between the United States and

Iran has helped stabilise international energy markets, while improved movement of oil and gas shipments through the Strait of Hormuz has reduced supply concerns and eased pressure on fuel prices.

Industry experts believe the reduction will lower input costs for restaurants, hotels, catering services and other commercial establishments that consume large quantities of LPG. While it may help businesses improve margins or moderate menu prices, households will continue to pay the same price for cooking gas as domestic LPG rates have been kept unchanged in the monthly revision.UNI

Rane Madras to acquire Friction Business of Hindustan Composites

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, JULY 2: Rane (Madras) Limited (RML) has entered into an agreement with Hindustan Composites Limited (HCL) to acquire the Friction Business, as going concern, on slump sale basis for an enterprise value of Rs 370 crore subject to the terms of the agreement. HCL's Friction Business is a leading supplier of friction materials, with over six decades of experience across the automotive, railway, farm tractor, and industrial sectors. Its product portfolio includes brake linings, brake pads, brake blocks, clutch facings, and industrial friction products, backed by in-house R&D and a pan-India distribution network. It operates two manufacturing facilities in Paithan and Bhandara, Maharashtra. Based on the latest audited financial results, Friction Business reported revenue of Rs 315.04 crore and PBT of Rs 40.29 crore in FY26. As part of the acquisition, RML also acquires the brand "COMPO", which reinforces Rane's leadership position by expanding its reach across segments, distributors, fleet operators and aftermarket channels. Building on RML's established leadership in the friction business—spanning passenger vehicles, two-wheelers, aftermarket and railways, alongside an export business aggregating revenue of over Rs 700 crore—this transaction marks a transformative milestone. Upon completion, the acquisition will create a Rs 1,000 crore friction materials business, establishing RML as the market leader across all major segments.

The transaction is expected to unlock substantial operational synergies through manufacturing scale, an expanded distribution network and enhanced R&D capabilities. The expanded footprint is expected to serve as critical launchpad for future business expansion. Commenting on the acquisition, Mr. Harish Lakshman, Chairman, Rane Group said: "This acquisition leverages Rane's ability to create a market-leading friction solutions platform. By integrating these complementary businesses, we are uniquely positioned to address the evolving needs of India's transportation needs while driving operational excellence.UNI

Srinagar

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May This Pilgrimage Bring Divine Peace to All: LG Manoj Sinha

LG flags Off first batch of over 4,800 pilgrims, says extensive arrangements are in place to ensure a safe and spiritually fulfilling Journey



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 2: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday flagged off the first batch of more than 4,800 pilgrims for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu, formally marking the beginning of the 2026 journey to the revered cave

shrine.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor described the pilgrimage as "a sacred path where devotion meets spiritual awakening" and expressed hope that it would bring peace and spiritual fulfilment to every devotee.

"May this pilgrimage bring immense joy and divine peace

to all," he said, while wishing pilgrims a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching journey.

The first convoy, comprising more than 4,800 pilgrims travelling in 259 light and heavy vehicles, departed amid elaborate security and logistical arrangements. The Lieutenant Governor said the Jammu and Kashmir

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Maintain Maximum Vigilance, Ensure Seamless Pilgrim Movement : DGP

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JULY 2: Director General of Police (DGP) Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhat, on Thursday directed security personnel to maintain the highest standards of vigilance while ensuring the

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LG pays obeisance at ancient Shri Ram Mandir at Purani Mandi Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 02: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today paid obeisance at the ancient Shri Ram Mandir at Purani Mandi Jammu. He prayed for the happiness, well-being and prosperity of all.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor also

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India, Japan Strengthen Strategic Partnership with Focus on Economic Security and AI: PM Modi

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JULY 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held summit talks with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, reaffirming the commitment of India and Japan to deepen their strategic partnership through closer cooperation in economic security, critical technologies and resilient supply chains.

The leaders held extensive discussions on expanding bilateral economic ties, strengthening semiconductor supply chains and enhancing collaboration in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence. The two sides are also expected to unveil a joint declaration on economic security cooperation along with a separate joint statement outlining a framework

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LG Attends School Education Capacity Building Programme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 02: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today attended 'One Day Capacity Building Programme' organised by Bharti Airtel Foundation, State Council of Educational Research and Training, J&K and School Education Department. The event served as a formal platform for the launch of instructional resources jointly developed by the three institutions aimed at strengthening the professional capacities of teachers and enriching the overall quality of school education across the Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said the initiative is a collective pledge and rooted in a fundamental truth that when we empower teachers, we inspire confidence in our students. "When teachers are empowered, students

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Cabinet Reshuffle and Expansion to Be Carried Out Soon : Omar Abdullah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 2: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has announced that his government will soon undertake a cabinet reshuffle and expansion, signalling the first major reorganisation of the Council of Ministers since assuming office.

The Chief Minister said the exercise would be carried out around the National Conference's protest in New Delhi seeking the restoration of statehood, setting off widespread political speculation over possible changes in ministerial portfolios and the induction of new faces into the government.

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Union Territory can have a maximum of nine ministers, including the Chief Minister, as the Council of Ministers is capped at 10 per cent of the 95-member Legislative Assembly. With six ministers currently in office, three positions remain vacant and are expected to be filled during the expansion.

The proposed reshuffle follows an internal review meeting of the ruling National Conference held last month, where legislators are understood to have raised concerns over the functioning of certain ministers and the allocation of development funds.

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No Injustice to Shopian Despite Financial Constraints: CM Omar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JULY 2: Declaring that financial limitations will not come in the way of the district's growth, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said there would be "no injustice to Shopian" as he dedicated and launched development projects worth Rs. 76.45 crore while conducting a comprehensive review of the district's developmental progress.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister assessed the implementation of major government schemes, infrastructure projects and public ser-



vice delivery, reaffirming his government's commitment to balanced and equitable development across the district.

"Despite our financial limitations, there will be no injustice to Shopian or any Assembly constituency in the district," Omar Abdullah said, assuring elected representatives that all genuine demands raised during the meeting had been noted and would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

He directed officials to immediately address shortcomings in project implementation and expedite pending developmental

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AI To Be Defining Force For 'Viksit Bharat@2047': Jitendra Singh

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAIPUR, JULY 2 : Calling for a governance model where technology is guided by human wisdom, ethics and accountability, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jiten-



dra Singh said that human-led Artificial Intelligence Governance model for India will be the defining force behind the nation's journey towards 2047.

Addressing the Awards Session of the 29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) in Jaipur, the Minister said Artificial Intelligence has ceased to be a matter of choice and has become an essential component of governance. The real

challenge, he said, is not Artificial Intelligence itself, but whether governments possess the vision and maturity to deploy it responsibly with citizens remaining at the centre of every technological intervention.

The Minister said India's digital transformation is not driven by the objective of replacing human decision-making with machines, but

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Rain brings relief from heatwave in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 02: Rainfall across several parts of Jammu and Kashmir brought relief from the recent heatwave on Thursday, with maximum temperatures settling at or below normal in most places.

According to data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 29.1 degrees Celsius, 0.5 degrees below normal, while Jammu registered 34.5 degrees Celsius, 1.5 degrees below normal.

Other major stations in Kashmir recorded 28.5 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, 28.7 degrees in Kupwara, 27.6 degrees in Kokernag, 22.1 degrees in Pahalgam and 21.6 degrees in Gulmarg.

In the Jammu region, Banihal recorded 28 degrees Celsius, Batote 25.1 degrees, Bhaderwah



26.5 degrees and Katra 32 degrees Celsius, all remaining below normal for this time of the year.

The improvement in weather followed rainfall in several districts over the past 24 hours. Kathua received the highest rainfall in the Union Territory at 85.8 mm, followed by Katra with 39

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J&K to Receive 275 AI-Enabled X-Ray Machines Under Prime Minister's Fund

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUL 02: Jammu and Kashmir is set to witness a major expansion of its public healthcare infrastructure after the Government of India approved the allocation of 275 AI-enabled portable handheld X-ray machines, nine MRI units and four digital mammography units under the Prime Minister's Fund.

The initiative is aimed at significantly enhancing diagnostic capabilities in government health institutions, improving early disease detection, strengthening breast cancer screening and supporting artificial intelligence-based tuberculosis screening across the Union Territory.

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DC Srinagar reviews progress of Phase-3 heritage conservation projects across district

Directs executing agencies to initiate work on all projects expeditiously in time bound manner

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today reviewed the progress of heritage conservation projects being executed across the District at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B North, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer R&B South, Tatheer Manzoor, Executive Engineers of R&B Divisions of Dalgate, Rajbagh, Karannagar and Core besides other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed on the status of ongoing conservation and restoration works being carried out for the preservation,



revival, restoration and maintenance of several heritage and religious sites, including Ziyarat Makdood Sahib, Narian Temple, Sharika Devi Temple, Shrine of Syed Yaqoob Sahib, heritage structure of "Kalai Wall" at Shahr-e-Khaas, Shiv temple, Khankahi Moula, Imambara Hasanabad, Hazratbal Shrine, Hari Parbat fort, Vasanta School, Mian Shah Sahib shrine, Heritage of Kashapabuilding, Raghunath Mandir, Siraj u din shrine, Gopi Nath Terath, Shri Anandishwar Bhairav Asthapan, Shrine of Noor Shah and various other projects.

During the review, the DC emphasized the need for close coordination and collaborative efforts among all line Departments, executing agencies, stakeholders and the District Administration to ensure that restoration and preservation works are carried out in accordance with established heritage conservation practices.

He stressed that the architectural integrity and historical significance of the sites must be preserved while undertaking restoration and maintenance works. The DC directed the concerned officers to expedite the works and ensure timely initiation and consequential completion of all approved Phase-3 projects. On the occasion, the DC also reviewed new heritage conservation projects identified for the current financial year. He instructed the concerned departments to complete all requisite formalities and initiate the projects at the earliest.

During the meeting, the DC further took stock of the progress of fencing works being executed on Budshah Bridge over the Jhelum River in the City centre and directed the concerned agency to maintain quality standards and complete the work expeditiously within the stipulated time frame.

VC LCMA reviews progress of Land Records Digitization in Pulwama

HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JULY 02: Vice Chairman, Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, who has been nominated as District Mentor for Pulwama to monitor the digitization of revenue records, today chaired a review meeting at the Circuit House, Pulwama, to assess the progress achieved under the Digitization of Land Records Programme.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildars and other concerned Revenue officers of the district.

During the meeting, the Vice Chairman conducted a detailed review of the progress made in digitization of revenue records and emphasized the need for timely completion of the process while ensuring accuracy, transparency and strict adherence to the prescribed standards.



He directed the concerned officers to complete all pending digitization work within the stipulated timelines and instructed them to follow the prescribed standards, formats and protocols while digitizing revenue records.

Stressing the importance of quality assurance, Khurshid Ahmad Shah called for regular verification and quality checks of digitized records to eliminate discrepancies. He also directed the officers to resolve field-level issues on priority and immediately report unresolved matters to the Revenue Department for timely intervention.

The Vice Chairman underscored the need for close coordination among all Revenue officers to ensure seamless implementation of the programme. He also emphasized regular monitoring at the tehsil level and accountability at every stage to achieve the objectives of the Digitization of Land Records Programme in an efficient and time-bound manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Khurshid Ahmad Shah said that the digitization of land records is a key governance initiative aimed at enhancing transparency, ensuring easy access to land records, minimizing disputes and improving public service delivery.

ACR Kulgam Flags off 84 Women for Exposure Tour to Centre of Excellence Zawoor

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JULY 02: Promoting women empowerment and enhancing awareness among women farmers, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Kulgam, Reyaz Ahmad Shah today flagged off an exposure tour of 84 women to the Centre of Excellence for Horticulture at Zawoor, Srinagar.

The one-day exposure visit was organised by the Department of Horticulture under J&K Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) as part of the Fruit Tree Management programme.

Women empowerment is one of the key pillars of the scheme, with a special focus on enhancing their knowledge, skills, and participation in the horticulture sector.

The tour, the first of its kind in District Kulgam exclusively for women, aims to provide participants with firsthand exposure to modern horticulture practices, advanced fruit cultivation techniques, high-density plantation methods, nursery management, and innovative orchard management technologies being adopted at the Centre of Excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, ACR Kulgam appreciated the Department of Horticulture for organising the exposure visit and said such initiatives would help women farmers gain practical knowledge, improve productivity, and encourage greater participation of women in the horticulture sector. He urged the participants to make the best use of the opportunity and share the knowledge gained with other women in their respective villages.

Chief Horticulture Officer, M. R. War said the programme has been organised under the JKCIP initiative with the objective of building the capacity of women farmers through practical exposure to scientific horticulture practices.

He said the department is committed to promoting women-led development by providing training, awareness, and exposure visits that enable women to adopt modern technologies and improve their livelihoods.

Bandipora welcomes Amarnath Yatris with warmth as they embark on Holy Journey

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JULY 02: The first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026 pilgrims received a warm, traditional welcome at the Shadipora Transit Camp on Thursday, as Deputy Inspector General of Police, North Kashmir Range, Dr. Vinod Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib; and Senior Superintendent of Police, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, greeted the yatris with flowers and good wishes for a safe and spiritually fulfilling journey.

The officers interacted with pilgrims, enquired about their well-being, and reaffirmed the District Administration's commitment to a comfortable, hassle-free pilgrimage.

Ahead of the reception, the DC



and the SSP carried out a detailed inspection of camp arrangements, reviewing accommodation, sanitation, drinking water, healthcare, electricity, traffic management, and security deployment. Expressing satisfaction with the preparations made by the District Administration, Police, and line departments, they directed all stakeholders to maintain close coordination, respond promptly

to requirements, and ensure uninterrupted services through the Yatra period, upholding the highest standards of hospitality and security.

Pilgrims spoke positively of the facilities and thanked the administration and police for their efforts. The DC reiterated the district's resolve to ensure the safety, comfort and well-being of yatris through efficient service delivery and inter-departmental coordination.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Zaffar Husson Shawl, SDM Sumbal Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, and senior officers from the civil administration, security establishment and various line departments were present, actively overseeing the reception and overall Yatra arrangements.

DG Libraries reviews progress of revenue records digitization under DILRMP in Kupwara

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JULY 02: Director General, Libraries, Mohammad Rafi, who is also the District Mentor for digitization of revenue records, today chaired a review meeting of concerned officers at the DC Office Complex, Kupwara, to assess the progress of digitization of land records being carried out under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

During the meeting, the Director General reviewed the status of digitization of land records, scanning of revenue

documents, data verification and update of cadastral maps across the district. He took a detailed appraisal of the progress achieved under the programme and sought updates from the concerned officers regarding the completion of various components of the digitization process.

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining accuracy and transparency, Mohammad Rafi directed the concerned officers to expedite the digitization process while ensuring strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines and quality standards. He stressed that timely completion of the



exercise is essential for strengthening land governance and improving the delivery of public services through a modern,

transparent and efficient land records management system.

ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad briefed the chair about

the progress made so far, the issues being faced in implementation and the measures being taken to achieve the stipulated targets within the prescribed timeline. The Director General urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination and ensure the successful implementation of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme in the district, enabling hassle-free and transparent access to land records for the public. The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan, ACR Kupwara, SDM Karnah, Tehsildars, and other concerned officers.

Power Shutdown by KPDCL

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 02: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV GIS Khanyar-BAMK line will be observed due to which power supply to Industries, Raja Colony, Firdous Cinema, Zadibal, Zoonimar, BSNL Exchange and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 05 July 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Khanyar-Rainawari line will be observed due to which power supply to Miskeen Bagh, Rozabal, Makhdoomsahab, Hazaribagh, Jogilanker, JLNH Hospital, Kondabal, Hasanabad and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 04 July 2026. Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Khanyar line and 33 kV Bagh-i-Ali Mardan Khan-Takanwari line will be observed due to which power supply to Miskeenbagh, Rosebal, Hazaribagh, Kondabal, Hasanabad, Jogi Lanker, Palpora, Sangam and JLNH Hospital will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 08 & 11 July 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 kV Kawdara-Mughal Masjid line and 33 kV SH Pora

line will be observed due to which power supply to Jamallatta, Nawabazar, Zainakadal, Firdous Colony, Zaldagar, Nowhatta, Nawa Kadal, MR Gunj, Zadibal, Kaksarai and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 13 & 15 July 2026. Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Bemina-Bemina-I/II line and 33 kV Bemina-Karanagar line will be observed due to which power supply to Hamdania Colony, HIG/MIG Colony, Nundresh Colony, Gousia, Colony, Hamza Colony, Sir Syedabad, Qamarwari, Chattabal, SK Colony, Tawheedabad, Iqbalabad, PDD Complex, Medical Hostel, Pinchi Mandi, Chattabal, Zaldagar, Baggarden, Police lines, Civil Secretariat, Gole Market, Guru Bazar, Tankipora, Shaheed Gunj and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 04 July 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Bemina-JVC/PC Depot line, 33 kV Bemina-Exhibition line, 33 kV Bemina-Fatehkadal line and 33 kV Bemina-KP Bagh line and 33 kV Bemina-Barbarshah line will be observed due to which power supply to Boatman Colony, Bemina, JVC Hospital, Children Hospital, State Motor Garage, Hajji House, Forensic lab, Qamarwari.

MP Mian Altaf chairs DISHA review meeting at Kulgam

Calls for enhanced awareness of Government Schemes, distributes sanction letters among Beneficiaries

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JULY 02: Member of Parliament, Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, Mian Altaf Ahmad today visited Kulgam district and chaired a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

Prior to the meeting, the MP visited the Drug De-addiction Centre, Kulgam, where he reviewed the facilities and services being provided to patients.

He also visited the Mission YUVA Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) and assessed the initiatives aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth.

During the DISHA meeting, the MP took a detailed review of the implementation and progress of various centrally sponsored schemes and developmental pro-

grammes in the district.

The Meeting was attended by MLA, Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, ADDC, ADC, JDP, SE, KPDCL, SDM, ACR, ASP, Executive Engineers, CEO, CMO and other officers, besides former District Development Council Chairperson, Mohd Afzal parrey.

The MP reviewed the progress under PMAY-G, PMAY-U, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), PMGSY and other flagship schemes.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the chair about the progress and implementation status of schemes and programmes, through a detailed presentation.

The MP stressed the need for effective coordination among departments, timely execution of projects and en-



sure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries.

He also took stock of the staff position in the Health and Education departments and reviewed the status of vacant posts, emphasizing the need to address manpower gaps to improve service delivery.

The MP also called for enhanced awareness of Government Schemes to ensure maximum public benefit.

During the meeting, MLA

Devsar also raised various public issues and developmental requirements of the Devsar constituency and sought their timely redressal and consideration under different schemes and programmes.

During the programme, the MP distributed sanction letters among beneficiaries under different schemes and interacted with the public during a public interaction-cum-grievance redressal session.

He also listened to issues and suggestions raised by the people and assured them that their genuine concerns would be taken up for appropriate redressal.

During his visit, the MP also inspected departmental exhibition stalls and visited the Digital Centre of Excellence and the UMEED SHG Canteen, appreciating the efforts being made towards digital empowerment and women-led self-help initiatives.

JKAACL Organises 'An Interaction' Programme with Eminent Writer G.R. Hasrat Gadda

Speakers Stress Continuity of Programmes for the Preservation and Promotion of Kashmiri Language, Literature and Cultural Heritage

■ JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, JULY 2: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Wednesday organised an interactive programme titled "An Interaction" with eminent writer, cultural scholar and literary figure G.R. Hasrat Gadda at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi Bagh, Srinagar.

The programme was presided over by Prof. Gulshan Majeed, while Dr. Abdul Ahad attended as the Chief Guest. Prof. Farooq

Fayaz graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

At the outset, Ideel Saleem, Additional Secretary (Kashmir), JKAACL, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the Academy's continued commitment to honouring distinguished literary personalities and promoting the rich literary and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Sameena Wani, Principal of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi Bagh. She warmly welcomed the guests and appreciated the Academy for providing students and literature enthusiasts with an opportunity to interact closely with eminent writers through such meaningful programmes.

On the occasion, noted scholar Gulshan Badrani presented a comprehensive paper on the life and literary contributions of G.R. Hasrat Gadda. The paper offered an in-depth account of his creative journey, literary achievements, and



invaluable services to the promotion and enrichment of the Kashmiri language and literature.

The presentation was followed by an engaging interaction session in which participants appre-

ciated Hasrat Gadda's remarkable literary legacy and exchanged views on various aspects of his writings and contributions.

Speaking on the occasion, the distinguished speakers paid rich

tributes to G.R. Hasrat Gadda for his outstanding contribution to Kashmiri literature. They underscored the importance of sustaining literary and cultural initiatives to preserve, promote and strengthen the region's rich literary traditions and cultural heritage for future generations.

During the programme, the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages honoured G.R. Hasrat Gadda with a traditional shawl and a commemorative memento in recognition of his lifelong literary services. He was also felicitated with shawls and gifts by the Gulshan Cultural Forum and Meezan Publishers.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather, while Javid Iqbal Khan, Editor (Kashmiri), JKAACL, presented the vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to the distinguished guests, participants, the host institution and everyone who contributed to the successful organisation of the event.

DIPR's Cultural Unit Kashmir organises NMJKA Awareness Programmes in educational institutions

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 02: The Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) organised awareness programmes under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA) at Government High School (Brane) and Government High School



Dalgate on Thursday.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who took part in speech competitions highlighting the devastating effects of drug abuse on individuals, families, and society. The speakers stressed the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle and staying away from substance abuse.

Speaking on the occasion, Cultural Officer, Abdul Raqib Bhat and AECO, Syed Shakeel Shan emphasised the crucial role of parents in preventing drug abuse. They urged parents to maintain close supervision over their children, keep a vigilant watch on their activities, and remain particularly alert in vulnerable areas to protect them from the menace of drugs.

The headmasters of both schools also addressed the students, advising them to stay away from drug abuse and focus on their education and overall development. They appreciated the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising the awareness programmes and thanked the department for its sustained efforts to spread awareness against the growing menace of drug addiction among the youth.

The programmes concluded with a renewed pledge by students and teachers to work collectively towards building a drug-free society.

JKAACL hosts inspiring 'Meet the Eminent Writer' Programme with renowned Kashmiri Writer G.R. Hasrat Gadda

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 02: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today organized an enriching literary interaction under its flagship "Meet the Eminent Writer" series, featuring eminent Kashmiri writer and literary personality G.R. Hasrat Gadda at the Conference Hall of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi Bagh, Srinagar.

The programme brought together an impressive gathering of eminent writers, scholars, academicians, students, literary enthusiasts and members of civil society, reflecting the growing interest in literary and cultural pursuits across Jammu and Kashmir.

The event commenced with an introduction to the life and literary achievements of G.R. Hasrat Gadda,



whose contributions to Kashmiri literature have earned him widespread recognition for their depth, humanism and artistic excellence. His literary journey, spanning several decades, was highlighted as an inspiration for aspiring writers and readers alike.

In his address, G.R. Hasrat Gadda shared his experiences as a writer, reflecting on the changing landscape of literature, the enduring relevance of the Kashmiri language, and the pivotal role of writers in preserving the cultural ethos of society. He stressed the need to encourage reading habits among the younger generation and urged budding writers to remain rooted in their language, culture and values while embracing contemporary literary trends. The interactive session witnessed lively participation from students, scholars and members of the literary fraternity, who engaged the distinguished writer on a wide range of subjects, including his creative process, literary influences, contemporary challenges facing regional languages, and the future of Kashmiri literature. Gadda responded to the queries with thought-provoking insights, making the session both informative and inspiring.

Speaking on the occasion, the speakers underscored the significance of initiatives such as the "Meet the Eminent Writer" series in fostering meaningful interaction between established literary figures and emerging talent. They observed that such programmes not only celebrate the achievements of distinguished authors but also create an environment conducive to intellectual exchange, literary appreciation and cultural continuity. The participants appreciated the Academy's sustained efforts to promote Kashmiri literature and languages through regular literary interactions, seminars, book discussions and cultural programmes, describing these initiatives as vital for nurturing creative expression and preserving the rich literary heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was held under the guidance of Secretary, JKAACL, Adeel Salim, and was coordinated by the Academy's Editorial Wing. It reaffirmed the Academy's commitment to providing vibrant platforms for literary dialogue, promoting linguistic diversity, and inspiring the younger generation to actively engage with literature and the arts.

Educational and Cultural Workshop Organised at GMS Thera Budgam



■ GULFAM BARI

BUDGAM, JULY 2: As part of the Guru-Shishya Parampara Repertory Grant Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, Valley Folk Theatre, Hanjigund Wathoor, Chadoora, Budgam, successfully organised a one-day Educational and Cultural Workshop at Govt. Middle School "GMS" Thera, Zone Nagam, Budgam. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and school staff. It aimed to introduce students to the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir through folk theatre and folk music, while fostering creativity, self-confidence

and interactive learning. The programme was attended by Chairman of the "AKFAA" Shahjahan Ahmad Bhagat and Headmaster of GMS Thera, Ghulam Rasool Sheikh, as chief guests. They appreciated the efforts of Valley Folk Theatre and emphasised that such initiatives play a significant role in connecting the younger generation with Kashmir's traditional arts, culture and heritage. During the workshop, the artists of Valley Folk Theatre introduced students to various aspects of Kashmiri folk theatre, Bhand Pather, and folk music through practical demonstrations and interactive sessions. The participants showed keen interest and

actively engaged in the activities. The programme also featured a special lecture on the educational importance of theatre and music, live demonstrations of traditional folk theatre, Bhand Pather-based activities, and an interactive question-and-answer session. Speaking on the occasion, Fayaz Ahmad Rather, Director and Secretary of

Valley Folk Theatre, thanked the school administration, teachers and students for their cooperation. He stressed that preserving traditional performing arts and passing them on to the younger generation is the need of the hour, and that educational institutions provide an ideal platform for promoting cultural awareness and appreciation.

Satish Sharma welcomes SANJY-2026 Pilgrims at Baltal, reviews arrangements

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BALTAL, JULY 2: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Science & Technology, and Transport, Satish Sharma, today warmly received the pilgrims of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY-2026) at the Baltal Base Camp and extended his heartfelt greetings to the devotees embarking on the revered annual pilgrimage.

Interacting with the pilgrims, the Minister enquired about their travel experience and wished them a safe, peaceful and spiritually enriching journey to the holy cave shrine of Shri Amarnath Ji. He expressed hope that the pilgrimage would bring peace, prosperity and well-being to the devotees and the entire nation.

During his visit, Satish Sharma undertook a comprehensive review of the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the Yatra. He inspected facilities related to transportation, accommodation, healthcare, sanitation, drinking water, food supplies, security and emergency response, while taking stock of the preparedness of the concerned departments.

The Minister appreciated the dedicated efforts of the Civil Administration, Security Forces, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Health Department, Transport Department and other line departments for working in close coordination to ensure the safety, comfort and convenience of the pilgrims. He said that the successful conduct of the Yatra reflects the collective commitment and tireless efforts of all stakeholders.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

CONTENT CREATION COMPETITION

Under

NASHA MUKT J&K ABHIYAN

"Choose the stage of life, not the trap of drugs"

Create • Inspire • Influence •

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

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

A) **SLOGAN WRITING**

B) **AUDIO-VISUAL CONTENT**

i) Song (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes)
ii) Animation Film (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes)
iii) Short Film (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes)
iv) Short Documentary (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes)
v) Cartoon
vi) Logo Design on the Theme

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

- All entries must be original and unpublished.
- Copyright violations will lead to disqualification.
- Entries may be submitted in English, Hindi or any official Languages of J&K.
- Only one entry per participant per category.
- AI generated entries shall be rejected.
- Only Original and Creative ideas welcome.

THEMES FOR CONTENT CREATION

- 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

SUBMISSION

Submit entries through:

e-mail:
sec-jkaacl@jk.gov.in

Cut-off Date for receiving entries
07 July, 2026 upto 5:00 PM

ELIGIBILITY

- 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.

SELECTION PROCESS

A Committee constituted by JKAACL shall evaluate all entries in a fair and transparent manner.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in each competition categories.
- Winning entries shall be showcased during District, Divisional, and UT-level events and future official campaigns.

NASHA MUKT J&K ABHIYAN

Organised by

JAMMU & KASHMIR Academy of Art, Culture and Languages

Space Devoted by Headlines Today, Purely in Public Interest

HT EDITORIAL

Reliable Power, Reliable Governance

Electricity is no longer a comfort that people can do without. It is an essential public service that sustains homes, hospitals, schools, businesses and virtually every aspect of modern life. In today's increasingly digital world, uninterrupted power is as fundamental as clean drinking water and healthcare. It is, therefore, a matter of genuine concern that people across the Kashmir Valley continue to face frequent and unscheduled power cuts despite repeated assurances of improvements in the electricity distribution system.

The growing public frustration is understandable. While occasional outages owing to technical faults, maintenance work or adverse weather are inevitable, prolonged and unpredictable interruptions have become all too common. The absence of any prior information only compounds the inconvenience, leaving households, traders, students and professionals to bear the consequences without any opportunity to plan their day.

The impact extends far beyond the temporary loss of lighting or cooling. Erratic electricity disrupts water supply systems, affects healthcare services, hampers educational activities and slows commercial operations. For small businesses, every hour without power translates into financial loss. For students, it means interrupted studies. For families, particularly those with elderly members or young children, it becomes a daily struggle.

The power sector undoubtedly faces operational and financial challenges. Rising demand, ageing infrastructure in some areas and unavoidable maintenance requirements cannot be ignored. However, these realities cannot become a permanent explanation for a service that has become indispensable to everyday life. The real test of a public utility lies not in avoiding every disruption but in managing them efficiently, communicating transparently and restoring services promptly.

Over the years, considerable emphasis has been placed on power sector reforms through universal metering, upgrading of distribution networks and replacement of old transmission lines with modern cabling. Consumers have largely responded positively by accepting metered connections and paying their electricity bills with the expectation that improved compliance would eventually translate into better service. That expectation must now be fulfilled.

The authorities should ensure that areas where distribution infrastructure has already been modernised and revenue collection has significantly improved receive the quality of service that such investments were intended to deliver. A dependable power supply in these areas would not only reward responsible consumers but would also reinforce public confidence in ongoing reforms and encourage greater participation in future initiatives.

Equally important is the need for better communication. If scheduled maintenance or unavoidable shutdowns are necessary, consumers deserve timely and accurate information. Transparency builds trust, whereas uncertainty breeds resentment.

Reliable electricity is more than an engineering challenge; it is a measure of effective governance. A responsive and efficient power distribution system reflects the administration's commitment to public welfare and economic progress. As the Kashmir Valley moves towards greater digitalisation and development, ensuring a stable and predictable electricity supply should remain a priority rather than an aspiration.

The time has come to move beyond temporary explanations and focus on lasting solutions. The people deserve a power supply that is dependable, predictable and worthy of the investments already made. Delivering that reliability will not only illuminate homes and workplaces but also strengthen public trust in the institutions responsible for providing one of life's most basic necessities.

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Beyond a Viral Clip: Protecting Children's Voices and Dignity



■ REYAZ BADHANA

A recent incident sparked widespread discussion after a young schoolboy was asked about the summer vacation. Instead of answering the question, the child used inappropriate language while referring to Education Minister. The video clip was subsequently aired by the media and rapidly circulated across social media platforms. At first glance, it may appear to be just another viral video, but a closer look reveals several important issues concerning child upbringing, the responsibilities of parents and teachers, child protection, children's right to express their views, and the ethical responsibilities of the media.

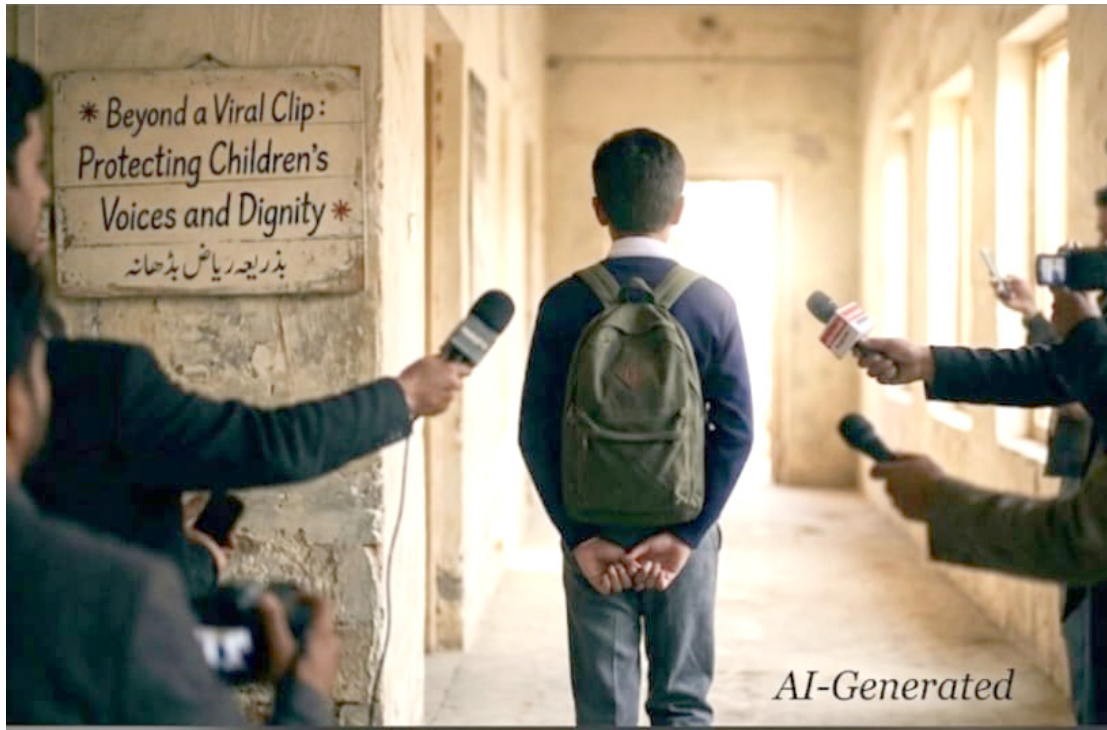
It is important to understand that children are in the early stages of learning and development. Their opinions, language, and behaviour are largely shaped by the environment around them. What they hear at home, observe in society, or consume through social media and other platforms often influences the way they speak. Therefore, it would be unfair to treat a child's statement as a fully informed political opinion or a carefully considered personal viewpoint.

At the same time, every child has the right to express his or her views. Silencing children or discouraging them from speaking is not the answer. A healthy society encourages children to communicate openly and confidently. However, the right to freedom of expression also comes with the responsibility of guiding children to express disagreement respectfully, politely, and responsibly. Protecting a child's right to speak should always go hand in hand with providing proper guidance and moral education.

Parents play the most fundamental role in shaping a child's personality. The home is a child's first school. If disrespectful language is commonly used at home while discussing public figures, political leaders, or government officials, children are likely to imitate the same behaviour without fully understanding its implications. It is therefore the responsibility of parents to teach children the values of respect, civility, and constructive criticism. Children should learn that disagreement is natural, but abusive language is never acceptable.

Teachers also play a vital role in a child's intellectual and moral development. Schools are not merely institutions for academic learning; they are centres for character building. Teachers should encourage critical thinking while simultaneously teaching students the importance of respectful communication, social responsibility, and ethical behaviour. Children should be guided to answer questions thoughtfully and to communicate responsibly, especially in public settings.

Another important aspect of this incident is the



AI-Generated

child's age and limited understanding. Young children often do not fully comprehend the social, political, or public consequences of their words. They may repeat what they have heard from adults, seek attention, or speak impulsively without understanding the impact of their statements. For this reason, society should avoid judging children's remarks by the same standards applied to adults.

This incident also highlights the important role of child protection institutions and related government agencies. Children's rights extend far beyond education and healthcare; they also include the protection of their dignity, privacy, mental well-being, and emotional safety. When a child's video is broadcast widely and becomes the subject of public criticism, ridicule, or online trolling, child protection authorities should ensure that the child's best interests remain the primary concern. Child protection is not only about shielding children from physical harm but also about protecting them from unnecessary public exposure and psychological distress.

The role of the media deserves particular attention. Journalism is a profession built upon responsibility and public trust. While the media enjoys freedom of expression, that freedom must always be exercised with professional ethics and social responsibility. When interviewing a minor, journalists should carefully consider whether the child fully understands the question being asked and whether broadcasting the response serves any genuine public interest.

If a child uses inappropriate language due to immaturity or emotional impulse, it should not become material for sensational headlines or viral content. Responsible journalism should aim to inform, educate, and serve society rather than chase ratings, online engagement, or social media popularity at the expense of a child's dignity.

It is equally important to recognise the psychological impact such incidents can have on children.

When a child's video reaches thousands or even millions of viewers and becomes the subject of criticism, mockery, or harsh commentary, the child may experience embarrassment, fear, anxiety, or emotional distress. Such experiences can negatively affect self-confidence, academic performance, social relationships, and overall mental well-being. Defining a child's identity by a single moment captured on camera can leave lasting emotional scars.

In today's digital age, the competition for views and viral content has unfortunately weakened journalistic standards in many cases. The desire to generate online traffic often overshadows ethical considerations. However, media professionals must remember that content involving children demands the highest level of care and sensitivity because its consequences may extend far beyond the moment of publication.

This incident reminds us that children are among the most vulnerable members of society. Their words often reflect the environment in which they are raised rather than fully developed personal convictions. Parents should be mindful of their own language and behaviour, teachers should continue strengthening value-based education, child protection mechanisms should actively safeguard children's dignity and well-being, and media organisations should uphold the highest standards of professional ethics.

Freedom of expression is one of the strengths of a democratic society, but the manner in which it is exercised is equally important. Teaching children respect, tolerance, and responsible communication is a collective responsibility shared by families, schools, society, and the media. Likewise, the media must recognise that not every viral clip constitutes responsible journalism. A truly civilised and compassionate society can only be built when children's right to express themselves is balanced with their right to protection, dignity, and emotional well-being.

A SEASON OF HOPE FOR TOURISM IN KASHMIR



■ MOOL RAJ

The impressive tourist influx witnessed across Kashmir during the first week of June has brought renewed optimism to the Valley's tourism sector. With more than six lakh tourists already visiting Jammu and Kashmir this year, stakeholders are hopeful that 2026 could emerge as one of the most successful years for tourism in the Union Territory. The encouraging trend reflects not only Kashmir's enduring appeal but also the positive impact of improved infrastructure, enhanced connectivity and growing confidence among travelers.

Tourism has long been the backbone of Kashmir's economy, providing livelihoods to thousands of families associated with hotels, guest houses, houseboats, transport ser-

vices, handicrafts and local businesses. Therefore, the steady rise in visitor numbers is a welcome development for the region. Particularly significant is the role played by improved road, rail and air connectivity in making travel to Kashmir more convenient and accessible.

The launch of the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express marks a major milestone in strengthening connectivity between Jammu and the Valley. Combined with the improved condition of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and better air services, the rail link has substantially reduced travel time and enhanced the overall visitor experience. The positive feedback from tourists highlights the importance of reliable infrastructure in boosting tourism growth.

Equally encouraging is the increasing popularity of offbeat destinations such as Gurez, Doodhpathri, Bangus Valley, Lolab and Yusmarg. For years, tourism in Kashmir remained concentrated in traditional destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg. The growing interest in lesser-known areas reflects changing travel preferences and offers an opportunity for more balanced

regional development. By promoting these destinations, authorities can distribute tourism benefits more evenly while reducing pressure on already crowded tourist spots.

Another factor contributing to the surge in arrivals is Kashmir's pleasant weather. At a time when many parts of India are battling severe heatwave conditions and temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius, the Valley continues to offer a cool and refreshing escape. This natural advantage has made Kashmir one of the most attractive summer destinations in the country, encouraging tourists to extend their stays and explore a wider range of locations.

What makes the current trend particularly noteworthy is the resilience displayed by the tourism sector despite challenges. The industry managed to recover quickly from the temporary setback caused by the April terror attack in Pahalgam. The continued arrival of tourists demonstrates confidence in Kashmir as a travel destination and underscores the efforts of stakeholders and authorities in maintaining a welcoming environment for visitors.

However, the rising tourist num-

bers also bring responsibilities. Sustainable tourism must remain a priority. The fragile ecology of Kashmir cannot afford unchecked commercialisation, environmental degradation or unplanned development. Waste management, traffic regulation, conservation of natural resources and protection of tourist sites must accompany efforts to attract more visitors. Authorities should also ensure that local communities remain active participants and beneficiaries of tourism growth.

The current tourist rush is more than a seasonal success story. It signals a broader transformation driven by better connectivity, improved infrastructure and renewed confidence in Kashmir's tourism potential. If this momentum is maintained through careful planning and sustainable practices, 2026 could become a landmark year for the Valley, reinforcing its position as one of India's premier tourist destinations while ensuring that growth remains inclusive and environmentally responsible.

THE AUTHOR IS A
REGULAR COLUMNIST AND
FREELANCE WRITER

Drowning incidents in Kashmir Valley

Nature is benevolent an sometimes dreadful



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

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

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

■ Nature is Incredible

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

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

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

■ Heat, Summer, and the Shift Toward Risk

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

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

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

■ The Rush Toward Water — and the Danger That Follows

To escape the heat, youth from cities flock to villages, where glacial streams and clear water bodies offer natural relief. These rivers, sourced from melting glaciers, rush with terrifying force—like water driven by



powerful motors. Though visually appealing, they are extremely dangerous.

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

■ Case Study: Raiyar-Ich, Budgam

The residents of Bhatti Mohallah, Raiyar-Ich, Khansahib (Budgam) have been urging the government for over ten years to construct a mini-connectivity bridge. Despite repeated appeals, nothing has been done. Recently, a minor girl and a 20-year-old

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

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

■ What Needs to Be Done?

To prevent further loss of life, the following steps are essential:

1. Ban Open-River Bathing in Tourist Areas

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

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

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

2. Develop Public Swimming Pools

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

3. Launch Public Awareness Campaigns

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

4. Protect and Respect Water Bodies

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

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

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

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

Let us act now.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Toni Morrison: A Dream Icon for the Oppressed



■ DR. RATÁN BHATTACHARJEE

Toni Morrison stands in the modern literary imagination as a luminous force whose words do not merely narrate stories but carve out spaces of dignity for those whom history has silenced. She is not simply a novelist of extraordinary craft; she is a dream icon for the oppressed, a visionary who transformed the pain, memory, and resilience of African American life into a universal language of liberation. Morrison's work is a testament to the power of storytelling as resistance, as reclamation, and as rebirth. Her novels, essays, and speeches form a constellation of courage that continues to guide generations struggling against the weight of injustice. To read Morrison is to encounter a voice that refuses erasure, a voice that insists on the beauty and complexity of Black life, and a voice that dreams of a world where the oppressed can finally breathe freely. She is not simply a novelist of extraordinary craft; she is a dream icon for the oppressed, a visionary who transformed the pain, memory, and resilience of African American life into a universal language of liberation. Morrison's work is a testament to the power of storytelling as resistance, as reclamation, and as rebirth. Her novels, essays, and speeches form a constellation of courage that continues to guide generations struggling against the weight of injustice. To read Morrison is to encounter a voice that refuses erasure, a voice that insists on the beauty and complexity of Black life, and a voice that dreams of a world where the oppressed can finally breathe freely. Morrison's journey into the heart of American consciousness began with her profound understanding that literature is not merely an artistic endeavor but a political and moral one. She believed that the stories of the marginalized must be told not as footnotes to dominant narratives but as central truths. Her writing emerged from a deep awareness that the oppressed often inherit a world that denies their humanity, and that the act of writing itself can become a form of emancipation.

Morrison's novels do not offer easy resolutions; instead, they confront the reader with the rawness of trauma, the haunting of memory, and the stubborn endurance of hope. In doing so, she created a literary universe where the oppressed could see themselves not as victims but as protagonists of immense spiritual strength. Her debut novel, *The Bluest Eye*, remains one of the most searing explorations of internalized oppression in American literature. Pecola Breedlove's tragic longing for blue eyes is not merely a child's fantasy but a devastating indictment of a society that equates whiteness with beauty, worth, and visibility. Morrison exposes how systemic racism infiltrates the most intimate corners of the human psyche, shaping desires, fears, and self-perceptions. Pecola's collapse is heartbreaking, yet Morrison's narrative does not exploit her suffering; instead, it reveals the structural violence that crushes innocence. Through Pecola, Morrison articulates a truth that resonates across oppressed communities worldwide: the most dangerous oppression is the one that teaches individuals to despise themselves. By giving voice to Pecola's pain, Morrison becomes a dream icon—someone who dares to imagine a world where no child grows up believing they are unworthy of love. If *The Bluest Eye* exposes the wounds inflicted by racism, *Beloved* confronts the historical trauma that continues to shape Black existence. Sethe's act of infanticide, horrifying yet rooted in a desperate love, forces readers to confront the brutal realities of slavery. Morrison refuses to sanitize history; she resurrects its ghosts—literal and metaphorical—to insist that the past is not dead but lives within bodies, memories, and landscapes. The character Beloved, both spirit and symbol, embodies the unburied grief of generations. Morrison's genius lies in her ability to transform this grief into a narrative of survival. Sethe's journey is not simply one of suffering but of reclaiming her right to live, to love, and to heal.

In this reclamation, Morrison's dream for the oppressed is inseparable from her understanding of memory as both burden and blessing. She recognized that oppressed communities often inherit memories that are heavy with sorrow, displacement, and violence, yet she also believed that memory can be a source of strength. In her novels, memory is not a static archive but a living force that shapes identity and possibility. Characters like Sethe, Florens, and Pecola are haunted by memories that threaten to consume them, yet Morrison's narratives reveal that confronting these memories is essential for healing. She refuses the easy comfort of forgetting; instead, she insists that liberation requires an honest reckoning with the past. This insistence is itself a radical act, for oppressive systems often depend on historical amnesia. By resurrecting forgotten or suppressed histories, Morrison empowers the oppressed to reclaim their narratives and assert their place in the world. Her exploration of community is equally central to her role as a dream icon. Morrison understood that oppression isolates individuals, convincing them that their struggles are personal failures rather than collective experiences shaped by structural forces. In her novels, community becomes a site of both conflict and refuge. The towns in *Sula*, the women in *Beloved*, the families in *Song of Solomon*—all reveal the complexities of communal life. Morrison does not romanticize community; she portrays its flaws, prejudices, and contradictions. Yet she also shows how community can nurture resilience, provide belonging, and sustain hope. For the oppressed, community becomes a lifeline, a reminder that they are not alone in their struggles. Morrison's depiction of communal bonds offers a dream of solidarity, one that transcends individual suffering and gestures toward collective liberation.

Another dimension of Morrison's dream for the oppressed lies in her interrogation of freedom. She understood that freedom is not merely the absence of physical chains but the presence of selfhood, dignity, and possibility. Her characters often grapple with the meaning of freedom in contexts where their choices are constrained by racism, sexism, and poverty. In *A Mercy*, for example, Florens's journey reveals the complexities of freedom in a world where bondage takes many forms—emotional, psychological, and social. Morrison challenges simplistic notions of freedom, urging readers to consider the deeper dimensions of what it means to be free. For the oppressed, her work becomes a philosophical exploration of liberation, one that acknowledges its difficulties while affirming its necessity. Morrison's engagement with spirituality further enriches her role as a dream icon. Her novels are infused with a sense of the sacred, not in a doctrinal sense but in a deeply human one. She draws on African American spiritual traditions, folklore, and cosmologies to create narratives that transcend the material world.

Characters like Pilate in *Song of Solomon* embody a spiritual wisdom that defies conventional logic. Morrison's spirituality is rooted in the belief that the oppressed possess an inner strength that cannot be extinguished by external forces. This spiritual dimension offers a dream of transcendence, a reminder that liberation is not only political but also metaphysical. For readers who have endured oppression, Morrison's spiritual vision becomes a source of solace and empowerment. Her influence on global literature cannot be overstated. Morrison's work has inspired writers across continents who see in her narratives a model for articulating the experiences of marginalized communities. She demonstrated that literature rooted in specific cultural contexts can achieve universal resonance. Writers from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean have drawn on Morrison's techniques of magical realism, fragmented narrative, and polyphonic storytelling to explore their own histories of colonization, displacement, and resistance. Morrison's global impact underscores her status as a dream icon whose vision transcends national boundaries. She speaks to the oppressed everywhere, offering a language through which they can articulate their own dreams of freedom. Morrison's intellectual courage also contributes to her iconic status. She was unafraid to challenge dominant cultural narratives, whether in literature, politics, or academia. She critiqued the ways in which whiteness is constructed as the default center of American identity, arguing that such constructions erase the contributions and experiences of Black people. Her essays dismantle the myths that uphold oppressive systems, exposing their contradictions and hypocrisies. Morrison's willingness to confront uncomfortable truths makes her a powerful voice for the oppressed, one who refuses to accept the world as it is and instead demands that it be reimagined. Her intellectual rigor inspires readers to question their assumptions and to engage critically with the world around them.

In her later years, Morrison continued to speak with clarity and conviction about the challenges facing the oppressed. She addressed issues such as mass incarceration, economic inequality, and the persistence of racial violence. Her commentary on contemporary events revealed her deep understanding of the ways in which historical injustices continue to shape the present. Morrison's voice remained a moral compass, guiding readers through moments of crisis and uncertainty. Even in her final interviews, she emphasized the importance of imagination, empathy, and courage. Her enduring commitment to justice solidified her status as a dream icon whose influence extends far beyond her literary achievements. What ultimately makes Toni Morrison a dream icon for the oppressed is her unwavering belief in the transformative power of storytelling. She understood that stories shape how individuals see themselves and how societies understand their past, present, and future. For the oppressed, storytelling becomes a means of reclaiming agency, asserting identity, and envisioning new possibilities. Morrison's work embodies this transformative potential.

Her narratives challenge readers to confront the realities of oppression while also offering visions of hope, resilience, and liberation. She invites the oppressed to dream—not as an escape from reality but as a way of reshaping it. Morrison's legacy is a testament to the enduring power of literature to inspire change. Her words continue to resonate with readers who seek to understand the complexities of oppression and the possibilities of liberation. She remains a guiding light for those who believe in the power of imagination to challenge injustice and to create a more equitable world.

Morrison's dream is not confined to the pages of her books; it lives in the hearts and minds of those who continue to fight for justice, dignity, and freedom. She is a dream icon not because she offers easy answers but because she illuminates the difficult path toward truth and transformation. In celebrating Toni Morrison, we celebrate the power of the oppressed to dream, to resist, and to rise. Her work reminds us that even in the face of overwhelming adversity, the human spirit possesses an extraordinary capacity for resilience and renewal. Morrison's dream is a dream of liberation—one that honors the past, confronts the present, and imagines a future where all people can live with dignity and freedom. As long as her words endure, that dream will continue to inspire generations of readers, activists, and dreamers. Toni Morrison remains, and will always remain, a luminous icon for the oppressed, a visionary whose legacy lights the way toward a more just and compassionate world.

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Monsoons Beauty



■ **SHAHNAZ HUSAIN**

Monsoons are here. Are you one of those who enjoy when the rains come?

After the dreaded season of sunburn and tan, the rainy season brings a refreshing change in the weather, but it also poses challenges for maintaining a flawless makeup look. Change of season affects your skin more than you think.

As the weather changes, a drastic increase in humidity can pose significant challenges for your skin.

Our skin can suffer damage from humidity, moisture, and repeated exposure to rainwater, which can cause several issues such as breakouts, blackheads, whiteheads, and excessive oiliness.

However, with a few essential tips and tricks, you can master the art of creating a flawless rainy-season makeup look.

Always remember, the basic rule is to cleanse, tone, and moisturise your skin during monsoon season.

■ **Cleansing:**

Increased humidity causes an increase in sebum secretion, which attracts dust and pollution particles that cause clogged pores and breakouts. To prevent clogged pores and breakouts, opt for a gentle cleanser that removes dirt, pollutants, and excess oil without stripping away your skin's natural moisture.

Cleanse your face at least twice a day using a mild, chemical-free cleanser, which will help remove excess oil, dirt, and impurities from your skin. Natural ingredients like seaweed extracts in your face wash help maintain the skin's pH balance and ensure it stays nourished despite the changing weather.

■ **Choose lightweight and waterproof products:**

The skin may feel sticky during the monsoon season due to high humidity. Heavy makeup can clog pores and lead to breakouts. Opt for oil-free formulas for foundation, concealer, and powder.

Look for waterproof makeup products that will last throughout the rainy and humid days. You can use a waterproof setting spray instead of powder to set the makeup. Choose lightweight formulas like tinted moisturisers or BB creams. Finding the right moisturiser for the monsoon is essential, especially for acne-prone skin. A lightweight, waterproof or oil-free moisturiser can keep your skin oil and grease-free, which can prevent acne and keep the skin hydrated.

■ **Include Vitamin C in the Diet**

Vitamin C is an antioxidant that keeps the skin healthy during the monsoon season.

Citrus fruits like lemons, oranges, and grapefruits are excellent sources of vitamin C. Kiwis, bell peppers, and broccoli are also rich in this essential nutrient. Vitamin C helps in the production of white blood cells, which are crucial for fighting off infections and boosting your body's defences.

Vitamin C serum can maintain the skin's glow. It eliminates microorganisms, prevents the onset of age-related changes, and lessens scars and blemishes to give you clear, flawless skin.

■ **Exfoliating Regularly**

Choose a gentle scrub to exfoliate at least 2-3 times every week to deeply cleanse the stubborn dirt deposit and remove any excess oil.

Exfoliation removes dead skin cells from the top, making your skin brighter and lighter.

Exfoliate regularly to keep your skin glowing and soft. This will prevent clogged pores during the monsoon season and help you avoid breakouts.

It improves skin radiance and helps get rid of dead skin cells. It removes dead skin cells from the top and lets brighter and fresher skin appear. Additionally, it prevents the clogging of pores with dirt and sweat. Thus, you can also avoid blackheads.

Clay Mask

When your skin appears flaky, dull, uneven, or even dry or oily, clay face masks have medicinal and cosmetic properties beneficial for any skin type. Use a face mask at least twice a week to draw out impurities, absorb excess sebum, and tighten your pores in addition to following a standard skincare regimen. Selecting the right clay mask depends on your skin type. If you have oily skin, opt for a bentonite clay mask as it excels at absorbing oil. Those with dry or sensitive skin may find kaolin clay to be gentler and more suitable. Acne-prone individuals can benefit from a turmeric clay mask, which works wonders for all skin types. In addition, the clay mask also aids in acne and balances sebum production. Regular use of clay masks will leave your skin refreshed, balanced, and less prone to breakouts.

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



BLOOD DONATION AS SAVIOUR OF LIFE



■ **SURINDERPAL SINGH**

In a world where medical science continues to achieve remarkable breakthroughs, one life-saving resource still cannot be manufactured in any laboratory—human blood. Every day, millions of people around the globe depend on blood transfusions to survive accidents, surgeries, childbirth complications, cancer treatments and numerous other medical emergencies. Blood donation, therefore, is not merely a charitable act; it is a vital social responsibility and an invaluable contribution to humanity.

The importance of blood donation cannot be overstated. According to health experts, a single unit of donated blood can save up to three lives because it can be separated into different components such as red blood cells, plasma and platelets. These components are used to treat patients suffering from diverse medical conditions. For accident victims experiencing severe blood loss, donated blood often makes the difference between life and death.

Similarly, patients undergoing major surgeries, organ transplants, or cancer therapies frequently require regular blood transfusions to survive and recover.

Blood donation should become an integral part of every healthy person's life because the need for blood is constant and universal. Emergencies do not announce their arrival. Any individual, regardless of age, gender, religion, nationality, or social status, may one day require blood. By donating blood regularly, people contribute to a reserve that could save the lives of family members, friends, neighbours, or even strangers. A society that embraces voluntary blood donation creates a stronger and more resilient healthcare system capable of responding effectively to emergencies and disasters.

Blood donation should become an integral part of every healthy person's life because the need for blood is constant and universal. Emergencies do not announce their arrival.

Any individual, regardless of age, gender, religion, nationality, or social status, may one day require blood. By donating blood regularly, people contribute to a reserve that could save the lives of family members, friends, neighbours, or even strangers

to participate.

Blood donation is often described as the purest form of service because it requires no special skills, wealth or status. Anyone who meets the health requirements can become a lifesaver. Unlike monetary donations, blood cannot be stored indefinitely and must be replenished continuously. This makes regular voluntary donors an indispensable part of modern healthcare systems. Their generosity ensures that hospitals have sufficient supplies to meet daily and emergency demands.

The role of blood donation as a saviour of life is evident in countless stories from hospitals worldwide. Mothers suffering severe bleeding during childbirth, children battling blood disorders such as thalassemia, patients fighting cancer and victims of natural disasters have all been given a second chance at life through donated blood. For these individuals and their families, a blood donor is often an unseen hero whose simple act of kindness becomes a miracle of survival.

Despite its importance, many regions continue to face shortages due to misconceptions, fear or lack of awareness. Educational institutions, healthcare organizations, community groups and governments must work together to promote accurate information about blood donation and encourage regular participation. Public awareness campaigns can help dispel myths and reassure potential donors that the process is safe, quick, and medically supervised.

In conclusion, blood donation represents one of humanity's greatest acts of compassion and solidarity. It saves lives, strengthens communities, supports healthcare systems and demonstrates the profound impact that ordinary individuals can have on the lives of others. Making blood donation a regular part of one's life is not only a civic duty but also a noble expression of human kindness. In giving blood, we give hope, healing, and the priceless gift of life itself.

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

Field Functionaries are the Pillars of Rural Development

Government Schemes Succeed through their Commitment: Javid Dar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JULY 2: Minister for Agriculture and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today underscored the pivotal role of grassroots functionaries in translating government policies into tangible developmental outcomes, stating that the success of every flagship programme rests on the dedication, efficiency and commitment of officials working at the field level. It was stated on State-Level Sammelan-cum-Launch of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-GRAM G) at Shopian, the event was organised by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, J&K.

The event coincided with the nationwide virtual launch of the programme by Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Secretary, Rural Development Department, Mohammad Aijaz Asad; Director, Rural Development Department Jammu, Shahnaz Akhter; Additional Secretary-cum-Incharge, J&K VB-GRAM G, Wasim Raja; senior officers of the department field functionaries and large gathering attended the programme.

Highlighting the transformative impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the Minister said the programme has significantly strengthened rural livelihoods, generated sustainable employment, created durable community assets and improved the socio-economic profile of villages across Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the launch of VB-GRAM G marks a new milestone in rural transformation, aimed at making employment generation more productive,

sustainable and aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Reflecting on the developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister observed that despite numerous challenges over the past two years, the Rural Development Department has played a vital role in improving rural infrastructure and enhancing the quality of life in villages.

"The remarkable progress achieved in rural areas is largely the result of the tireless efforts of our officers and field staff who have worked with commitment under challenging circumstances," he said.

The Minister noted that Block Development Officers and field functionaries remain the first point of contact for rural citizens, who approach them with issues relating to roads, drainage, public infrastructure and other developmental needs.

Responding to their aspirations with sensitivity, efficiency and accountability is our foremost responsibility," he said.

Javid Dar informed that the existing employment guarantee framework has now been transformed into the Viksit Bharat-Gramin Rozgar framework with greater emphasis on sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management and durable rural asset creation.

He said Jammu and Kashmir actively participated in the consultative process for the new framework and submitted several suggestions to the Union Government, many of which have been incorporated, while others have been formally recorded for future consideration. "The objective is to make the programme more practical, flexible and responsive to local needs while fully supporting the vision of a developed India," he added.

Reassuring officers and beneficiaries, the Minister categorically stated that

there would be no disruption in the execution of ongoing developmental works.

The Minister further informed that the issue of pending liabilities under previous years has already been taken up with the Union Government and senior officials have assured appropriate resolution of the matter.

Highlighting an important feature of the new framework, he said Union Territory have been given flexibility to determine a two-month implementation window based on local climatic and agricultural conditions. "In Jammu and Kashmir, employment planning will be synchronised with agricultural seasons so that farming activities are not affected while employment opportunities are optimally generated," he said.

The Minister observed that the new framework provides immense opportunities for strengthening water conservation, natural resource management, land development and creation of durable public assets, thereby complementing the existing rural development initiatives.

He also appreciated the progress made by the department in areas such as e-KYC, administrative reforms and scheme implementation, while expressing confidence that the remaining challenges would be addressed through coordinated efforts and collective commitment. Earlier, Secretary, Rural Development Department, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, described the launch of VB-GRAM G as the beginning of a new phase in rural development and employment generation. He said MGNREGA has emerged as one of the most impactful rural development programmes by generating sustainable employment, conserving natural resources, strengthening rural infrastructure, promoting self-reliance and empowering local communities.

Public Notice

I, Khursheed Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat resident of Vizer, Tehsil Wagoora, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, do hereby solemnly declare on oath that I am the father and legal guardian of my minor son. It has come to my notice that his name has been incorrectly recorded as Ibyan Khursheed Bhat in his Aadhaar card instead of Abyan Khursheed Bhat. Now I want to apply for the correction.

Any individual who has objections to this correction may contact the concerned authorities within seven days. After this period, no objections will be considered.

Khursheed Ahmad Bhat
Father of Abyan Khursheed Bhat

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla

e-mail, id, xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No: M&HDB/TS/2026-27/17/803-07 | Date: 02-07-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized Service Providers of OEMs /Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	T.D Cost (In Rupees)	E/M	Time
01.	Job / Repair Works required for Mahindra Bolero bearing Registration No. JK05C-7964 (Inspection Vehicle) pertaining to Mechanical and Hospital Sub-Division 1st Baramulla	0.865	200.00	1730/-	07 days

Note:

AAA: Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Engineer M&HD Kashmir vide No. M&HED / K / Acctt / 29 of 2026-27 Dated: 30-04-2026.

Technical Sanction: - Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/05 of 06/2026; Dated: - 10-06-2026.

Executing Agency: - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	02-07-2026
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 02-07-2026 to 10-07-2026
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 02-07-2026 (10:00 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	10-07-2026 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1st	11-07-2026 (13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Tender Fee equivalent to Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred Only) has to be deposited in the Departmental Common Pool Account maintained in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Residency Road Srinagar, under Account No: 0005010200000355 (IFSC Code: JAKAOCHINAR). Proof of the said Electronic / Digital Transfer has to be uploaded in Cover-I documents.
02.	EMD	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost has to be deposited in the Departmental Common Pool Account maintained in Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Branch Residency Road Srinagar, under Account No: 0005010200000355 (IFSC Code: JAKAOCHINAR). Proof of the said Electronic / Digital Transfer has to be uploaded in Cover-I documents.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. / Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer.

Note:

The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.

No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.

Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.

Contractor/ Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.

A. Cover-II shall contain:

01. Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

02. The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.

03. The complete bidding process will be online.

04. The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.

05. Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

06. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

07. The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.

08. Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar / blacklist such firm(s).

09. Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.

10. Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee within 07 days after opening of price bid as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T. Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025 and relevant clauses of J&K (PWD) Engineering Manual 2020.

11. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

No: M&HDB/TS/e-tender-17/803-07 | Dated: 02-07-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla

DIPK: 2769/26 | Dated: 02-07-2026

JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE HAJ COMMITTEE

Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Haj Committee of India

Haj 2027 (1448 H)
IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

1 PASSPORT
PASSPORT VALIDITY
• Passport must be valid till **31 December 2027**.
• Passport must be valid on the date of application.

2 COVER / GROUP
• A group can have maximum **5 members**.
• Minimum age – **18 years** on the date of application.

3 COVER HEAD
• Cover Head must be a **male member**.
• Minimum age – **18 years** on the date of application.

4 MOBILE NUMBER & WHATSAPP
• Cover Head must use his own mobile number.
• WhatsApp must be active on the same number.

5 FORM SUBMISSION
• Fill the form yourself.
• Do not let anyone else fill the form using your mobile number.
• Do not share your OTP with anyone.

6 NOMINEE
• Nominee: Son / Daughter / Parents / Spouse (Legal heir preferred)
• Add only one nominee who will perform Haj in your place.

7 BANK DETAILS (ACCOUNT HOLDER MUST BE COVER HEAD)
• Account must be in the name of the Cover Head.
• Provide correct & active bank account details.
• Account must be active.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR HAJ – 2027 (1448 H)

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Applicants must carefully read the Guidelines and Undertakings to ensure their eligibility and upload scanned copies (not photographs) of the following:
a. 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;
b. Passport-size photo with white background (480 × 640 px, JPG/JPEG, 5–20 KB);
c. Bank passbook or cancelled cheque (590 × 750 px, JPG/JPEG, 80–250 KB); and
d. Address proof (590 × 750 px, JPG/JPEG, 80–250 KB).

4. Cancellation of a Haj seat is strongly discouraged, as it causes operational difficulties. Accordingly, cancellation shall attract substantial penalties in accordance with the Guidelines for Haj 2027. Intending pilgrims are advised to apply only after careful consideration of their preparedness and firm commitment to undertake the pilgrimage.

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Aapki Tayyari – Aapka Aaram – Hamari Zimmedari

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J&K pilgrims immerse in Gujarat's spiritual and cultural heritage during Somnath Swabhiman Yatra-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SOMNATH (GUJARAT), JULY 02: Continuing their journey under the Somnath Swabhiman Yatra-2026, pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday explored several religious, historical and cultural landmarks in Gujarat.

The pilgrims visited Baan Ganga and Balika Tirth, offering prayers for peace, communal harmony and prosperity.

The yatris later visited the historic Ahilyabai Temple, paying homage to Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar, the ruler of Malwa renowned for restoring several revered temples.

At the Somnath Museum and Photo Gallery, the pilgrims viewed a collection of rare sculptures, archaeological artefacts, ancient



inscriptions and historical exhibits chronicling the legacy of the Somnath Temple and its repeated reconstruction.

The pilgrims also visited Somnath Chowpatty to view the Arabian Sea. They explored the local haat, interacting with tra-

ditional artisans and appreciating Gujarat's vibrant handicrafts and folk traditions.

Earlier, Additional Secretary Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Lal Chand, accompanied by OSD (State Yatra Coordinator) Dr Ajeet Singh Rana, called on Sub-Divisional Magistrate Veraval Jainim Kakadiya.

The Additional Secretary expressed gratitude to the Government of Gujarat, Gir Somnath district administration, Veraval sub-divisional administration and the Shree Somnath Trust for arrangements regarding the safety, security and accommodation of the pilgrims. He appreciated the Shree Somnath Trust for facilitating darshan at the Shree Somnath Mahadev Temple. He also commended

Nodal Officer (Dream Path Creation) Dhruv, Kishorebhai Padiyar and the coordination team for their support in conducting the yatra.

As a gesture of goodwill, SDM Jainim Kakadiya presented a portrait of Lord Shree Somnath Mahadev to the Additional Secretary. The exchange symbolised the cultural bond between Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir.

Interacting with the media, the pilgrims expressed gratitude to the Governments of India, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir, the Shree Somnath Trust and all authorities concerned for their hospitality and planning. They described the yatra as an inspiring experience that fostered emotional integration and cultural harmony.

DC Udhampur inaugurates FMD vaccination campaign under NADCP in Udhampur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, JULY 02: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today inaugurated the district-wide Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccination Campaign under the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) at the District Veterinary Hospital, Udhampur.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the Animal Husbandry Department's efforts in implementing NADCP and highlighted the importance of timely vaccination in preventing Foot and Mouth Disease, one of the most contagious diseases affecting livestock, noting that effective disease prevention is essential for improving livestock productivity and farmers' economic well-being. He appealed to livestock owners across the district to cooperate with the department and ensure every animal is vaccinated during the campaign.



Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Udhampur Dr Shwetambri Khajuria informed that the campaign will be conducted across all blocks of the district as per the prescribed NADCP schedule, and urged farmers to extend cooperation to field staff and avail the free vaccination services. Following the inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner flagged off specialised veterinary vaccination teams deployed to cover all 17 blocks of the district.

The programme was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, IAS Probationer Dr Shagun Singh, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Udhampur Dr Shwetambri Khajuria and officers/officials of the Animal Husbandry Department and livestock farmers.

TB screening, chest X-ray and awareness camp organised at NTPHC Jakyas

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDOY, JULY 02: Under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), a TB Screening, Chest X-Ray and Awareness Camp was held at NTPHC Jakyas in Medical Block Gandoh today.

The camp aimed to strengthen early detection of tuberculosis and enhance public awareness on TB prevention, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment. Health experts educated the public on early diagnosis, treatment adherence and the government's commitment to a TB-free India. On-the-spot chest X-rays were conducted for suspected TB cases to facilitate timely diagnosis and management.



Speaking on the occasion, BMO Gandoh Dr Farooq Saleem stressed the importance of community participation in eliminating tuberculosis. He urged people experiencing persistent cough, fever, weight loss or night sweats to seek immediate medical consultation and appealed to the public to make full use of the free diagnostic and treatment services available under NTEP.

Among those present were Dr Farhat Abbas (Medical Officer), Akhter Rasool (X-Ray Technician), Mubasher Hussain (Senior Treatment Supervisor), Naseer Hussain (Data Entry Operator), Rohit Singh (MLHP), Mehwish Nisha (MLHP), Vinay Happy (Junior Laboratory Technician), Zubeeda Begum (FMPHW) and Uzma Kousar (FMPHW), who participated in the screening and awareness activities.

Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) reviews development works in migrant camps, budgetary provisions for 2026-27

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 02: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) Dr Arvind Karwani to review ongoing development works in the migrant camps at Jammu, including migrant schools, dispensaries and community halls, and to take stock of budgetary provisions made by various government departments for the financial year 2026-27.

The Commissioner reviewed the status of basic amenities including drinking water, power supply and sanitation in the camps. Works worth over 100 crore have been approved by the Government recently, includ-

ing about 82 crore for repair and renovation of assets in the camps, with tender work in progress. Five bore wells are to be commissioned by the end of the month, along with renovation of more than two dozen hand pumps, while the multi-purpose community hall at Jagti, estimated at 6.5 crore, is to be completed by the end of the month.

On the water shortage at Jagti, Dr Karwani directed immediate deployment of water tankers fitted with specialised motors, and for the long term, directed preparation of a DPR on priority and regular water quality testing through two independent agencies. Officers concerned were directed to examine and project demand for maintenance of schemes. The Deputy Commissioner Relief and Assistant Commissioners Relief were asked to ensure regular visits to their assigned camps as per roster, monitor development works and attend to grievances. Dr Karwani also asked officers to ensure adherence to recent General Administration Department directions assigning responsibilities for Transit Migrant Camps in Jammu and Kashmir to various government departments. Among those present were Executive Engineers/Assistant Executive Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department, Public Works Department (R&B), UEED and Jammu Power Development Corporation.

DC Kathua kickstarts Van Mahotsava plantation drive at Kathua Waterfront

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, JULY 02: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today kickstarted the Van Mahotsava plantation drive organised by the Social Forestry Department Kathua under the theme "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" at the Kathua Waterfront along the Kathua Canal.

The plantation drive aims to promote environmental conservation, expand the district's green cover and encourage public participation in afforestation initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said tree plantation helps maintain ecological balance and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, adding that trees play a vital role in oxygen production, improving air quality and creating a healthier environment for present and future generations.

The Deputy Commissioner said all available vacant and uncovered areas should be identified and covered with plantations to increase the district's green cover. Calling the Kathua Waterfront one of the city's prominent recreational spaces, he appealed to the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Kathua, to undertake plantation along the entire stretch of the waterfront given the large number of morning and evening walkers, cyclists and visitors who frequent the area. He said the initiative would also enhance the aesthetic appeal of the waterfront and provide a pleasant ambience for the public.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Kathua, Hitashi Sharma said the department plans to plant more than 350 saplings along the Kathua Waterfront to further beautify the area and



strengthen the city's green landscape.

She appealed to the people to participate in the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" and "Ek Ped Shaheed Ke Naam" campaigns by planting and nurturing trees and invited educational institutions, allied departments, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders to collaborate with the Social Forestry Department in organising plantation drives and ensuring post-plantation care. Interested organisations can coordinate with the department to obtain saplings or organise plantation programmes at suitable locations.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua Mahima Madan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Vishav Partap Singh and Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Kathua Hitashi Sharma, along with officers and officials of the department also planted saplings during the programme.

DDC Doda reviews PM Surya Ghar implementation

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JULY 02: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today reviewed implementation and progress of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana at the VC room, DC Office Doda.

The DDC reviewed the status of consumer registrations on the PM Surya Ghar portal, rooftop solar installations, inspection of installed systems, subsidy disbursement, loan applications sanctioned and disbursed and the number of empanelled vendors registered on the portal. He assessed feeder-wise progress of the scheme and directed the officers concerned to ensure regular monitoring for timely achievement of targets.

Reviewing the pace of execution, the DDC sought per-day installation data of smart meters and assessed the status of smart meter installation across the district, including government office buildings. He also reviewed progress of works under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and directed the agencies concerned to expedite pole installation and other infrastructure works to



strengthen the power distribution network.

The DDC directed that strict action be initiated against vendors responsible for delays in executing sanctioned works and said all empanelled vendors must adhere to prescribed timelines and maintain quality standards.

He directed the officers concerned to expedite execution of ongoing works and ensure close monitoring of projects at every stage and instructed implementing agencies and other stakeholders to augment manpower in all divisions wherever required to achieve targets within the stipulated time-frame.

The DDC urged field functionaries to encourage eligible households

to register on the PM Surya Ghar portal and avail the benefits of the scheme and said effective coordination among stakeholders is essential for successful implementation of the programme.

The officers informed the chair about progress achieved so far, including consumer outreach, vendor coordination, timely processing of applications, regular inspection of rooftop solar installations, continuous monitoring and resolution of operational bottlenecks.

Among those present were ACR Doda Ashraf Parvaiz, AD Planning Doda Kishore Kumar and the executive engineers concerned, along with stakeholders from RDSS, Genesis, JK Bank and other officials concerned.

2.05 lakh livestock to be vaccinated in Kathua for Foot and Mouth Disease

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, JULY 02: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today flagged off the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Vaccination Van under the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, from the DC Office Complex here.

The district-wide vaccination campaign, being conducted under the eighth phase of the nationwide programme, will run from July 2 to August 15 to protect livestock from Foot and Mouth Disease and contribute to the national goal of making India FMD-free by 2030.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said Foot and Mouth Disease is a highly contagious viral disease that commonly affects livestock during the rainy season, causing substantial economic losses to dairy farmers through reduced milk production, poor growth and decline in animal productivity. He said the vaccination drive is a significant preventive measure to contain the spread of the disease and safeguard livestock health and informed that



nearly 2.05 lakh eligible animals across Kathua district will be vaccinated free of cost during the campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to livestock owners to extend full cooperation to the Animal Husbandry Department by presenting all eligible animals above six months of age for vaccination, saying active participation of farmers is essential to achieve the target of an FMD-free India by 2030.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Dr Yugal Kishore Gupta said the FMD vaccine is administered twice a year at an interval of six

months under NADCP to provide sustained immunity against the disease. He urged livestock farmers to ensure timely vaccination of their animals and report suspected cases immediately to the nearest veterinary institution, adding that the campaign is being conducted free of cost across the district through dedicated field teams and mobile vaccination units.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua Mahima Madan and Assistant Commissioner Revenue Vishav Partap Singh along with officers and officials of the Animal Husbandry Department were present on the occasion.

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

May This.....

administration, the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, police, the Army, security forces, local communities and other stakeholders had made comprehensive arrangements to ensure the smooth and secure conduct of the pilgrimage for devotees arriving from across the country and overseas.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by spiritual leaders, heads of religious organisations, public representatives, senior civil and police officers, security officials, shrine board representatives and a large gathering of devotees, reflecting the significance of one of the country's most important annual pilgrimages.

Maintain....

smooth and uninterrupted movement of pilgrims during the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, saying security measures must be robust without causing inconvenience to devotees.

During a comprehensive review of security and facilitation arrangements at the Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam, the DGP inspected the multi-layered security system, including frisking procedures, access control mechanisms, deployment of police and security personnel, crowd management strategies, and facilities established for pilgrims.

Interacting with officers and personnel deployed on pilgrimage duty, Prabhat emphasised the need for constant alertness, professionalism, and courteous public conduct. He instructed security teams to carry out thorough checks while ensuring that pilgrims experience a safe, orderly, and hassle-free journey.

Highlighting the importance of coordinated planning, the Police Chief said close cooperation among the police, security forces, civil administration, and all other agencies involved in the pilgrimage is essential to ensuring a safe, peaceful, and incident-free event.

He also commended the dedication and commitment of police personnel and other security agencies deployed along the pilgrimage route, urging them to remain vigilant, responsive, and compassionate in the discharge of their duties so that every pilgrim feels secure and well assisted throughout the journey.

The visit forms part of the Jammu and Kashmir Police's ongoing security preparedness for the 2026 Amarnath pilgrimage, with authorities continuing to review arrangements across transit routes and base camps to ensure the smooth conduct of one of the country's largest annual religious pilgrimages.

LG pays.....

extended his heartfelt best wishes to the Sadhus and Sadhvis who are embarking on the holy annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji.

Mahamandleshwar Mahant Shri Rameshwar Dass; Shri Yudhvir Sethi and Shri Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Members of Legislative Assembly; religious leaders and senior officials accompanied the Lieutenant Governor.

India, Japan.....

for cooperation in artificial intelligence.

The summit reflected the growing importance of the India-Japan partnership at a time of shifting global economic and strategic dynamics. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the talks were aimed at taking forward a partnership anchored in trust, shared values and strategic convergence.

The two countries also deliberated on expanding cooperation in critical minerals and pharmaceuticals, sectors that have assumed increasing significance in strengthening economic resilience and reducing supply chain vulnerabilities.

Prime Minister Takaichi is on a three-day visit to India. Her visit comes as New Delhi and Tokyo continue to build on a relationship that was elevated to a Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2014.

With India and Japan set to celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2027, bilateral engagement has expanded steadily across trade and investment, defence and security, science and technology, culture and people-to-people exchanges. The partnership is now supported by more than 70 institutional dialogue mechanisms, making it one of the most comprehensive strategic relationships in the Indo-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Modi last visited Japan for the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit in Tokyo in August last year. The annual summit continues to serve as the principal platform for advancing the strategic agenda of the two countries and strengthening cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

LG Attends.....

gain confidence. When schools are strengthened, society becomes more resilient and when education moves in the right direction, Jammu Kashmir and the nation advance toward a brighter, safer and more prosperous future.

We must remember that the ultimate purpose of education is transformation. When learning connects with lived experiences, it sparks generational change. The greatest power of education does not lie in exam results but in its ability to change lives. A dedicated teacher shapes destiny. I want schools in Jammu Kashmir to focus on this aspect and become laboratories of life-building," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The one-day capacity-building programme is also linked to the broader "Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir" campaign. Its aim is to improve teaching methods and protect students from the challenges today's youth face. The Lieutenant Governor said that rising trends in drug abuse, mental stress, social pressure, digital-world risks and changing lifestyles have made the school's role more important than ever. He said teachers are being provided with modern tools and training so they help build students'

personalities and empower them to face life's challenges.

"Every student is born with unique talents. Our duty is to recognise each child's talent and provide resources and tools to grow. I ask every teacher, with a strong sense of responsibility, to remember that education is not merely competition but an ongoing journey of self-development. In this journey you must respect and encourage each student's individuality.

Education today cannot be restricted to measurable academic achievement alone. The challenges of modern life are far more complex than before. Pressure from competition, societal expectations, stress, peer influence and the growing danger of substance abuse, are realities our children face daily. In such circumstances life-skills education becomes essential, and schools should focus on self-awareness, emotional balance, problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking. We must teach children practical lessons for living so they learn with greater confidence and contribute to building a healthy society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the National Education Policy's aim is to develop citizens who are creative, responsible, innovative, compassionate and self-reliant. He also commended the initiative of the Directorate, School Education Jammu to start online classes for grades 11 and 12 across ten districts. He said this is an important step toward educational equality and through this initiative even students in remote villages can access quality learning.

"Success of these efforts will be measured by the confidence of our students and their contribution to a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir. Many countries have shown that in times of crisis the younger generation becomes our greatest hope. Beyond the standard curriculum, learning must include how to overcome hardships, help rebuild communities and support one another. Life-skills-based education can reduce social divides and strengthen the values of diversity.

The purpose of education is the upliftment of all humanity. Today Jammu Kashmir is making its important contribution to this global endeavour. Every positive step taken here can reshape the lives of millions of children in the years ahead. This initiative also reflects the spirit of long-term collaboration among government, teachers, parents, industry and society. All the stakeholders must come together to build a Jammu Kashmir where every student feels safe, respected and inspired, where every teacher, through knowledge, compassion and dedication, shapes the next generation and where education becomes the primary means of transformation, confidence, social harmony and hope," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the meritorious students and winners of Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (TOFEI) initiative. Several books on life-skills were also released.

Shri Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman Bharti Airtel Foundation; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Ms Nuriya Ansari, CEO, Bharti Airtel Foundation; Dr. Naseem Javid Chowdhary, Director School Education Jammu, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, prominent citizens, teachers and students were present.

Cabinet Reshuffle.....

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary is widely expected to lose the Influential Roads and Buildings portfolio following criticism over his handling of the department. However, political observers believe he is unlikely to be removed from either the cabinet or the post of Deputy Chief Minister, given his importance as the party's senior-most Hindu legislator from the Jammu region.

Sources indicate that a wider redistribution of portfolios is also under consideration, with changes likely to affect almost every minister, including the Chief Minister.

Among those expected to receive more significant responsibilities are ministers Sakina Masood Ittoo and Javid Ahmad Dar, both of whom are regarded within the ruling party as effective administrators with strong working relationships with legislators.

The expansion is also expected to improve regional representation. While one minister from the Jammu region could be replaced by another leader from the same area, the focus is likely to remain on inducting two or three new ministers from the Kashmir Valley, particularly from Central and South Kashmir. North Kashmir is also being considered, although its prospects appear comparatively less certain despite several legislators reportedly seeking cabinet positions.

Another important decision before the Chief Minister is whether to reserve one of the three available berths for the Congress, the National Conference's alliance partner, or allocate all vacant positions to members of his own party.

With the Chief Minister confirming that the long-awaited exercise is imminent, the cabinet reshuffle is expected to reshape the government's administrative structure while balancing regional representation, political priorities and governance ahead of the next phase of its tenure.

No Injustice.....

works to ensure that benefits reach the public without delay. Stressing the importance of projects sanctioned under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), he instructed the Deputy Commissioner to closely monitor their execution and ensure adherence to prescribed timelines.

The Chief Minister described Shopian as a strategically important district whose identity is closely linked to its globally recognised apple industry, scenic landscapes and the historic Mughal Road. He

said the government would continue to strengthen these assets through focused investments and sustained development.

During the visit, Omar Abdullah inaugurated and laid the foundation for 13 development projects worth Rs. 76.45 crore covering roads, bridges, drinking water supply, urban development, rural infrastructure and horticulture.

Among the completed projects were the upgraded Shirmal-Wathoo-Matipora Road, several drinking water supply schemes, the Trenz-Sheikhpora Bridge, residential accommodation for local elected representatives and the upgraded Safanagri-Lamine Darbagh Wachi Road.

He also laid the foundation for the Doompura multi-cell causeway, urban beautification works in Shopian town, a mechanical composting unit at the Mega Fruit and Vegetable Market at Aglar, a compost production unit at Allowpora and an auction platform to strengthen post-harvest marketing facilities for fruit growers.

Interacting with representatives of the Fruit Market Association, farmers and horticulturists, the Chief Minister reaffirmed that agriculture and horticulture remain the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy and assured continued government support for the sector.

Responding to issues raised by growers, he promised priority action on demands related to controlled atmosphere storage facilities, marketing infrastructure and shop allotments. He also assured that the government would take concrete measures to curb the sale of counterfeit pesticides and work towards introducing weather-based crop insurance, hail protection systems and other risk mitigation measures to safeguard farmers' livelihoods.

Later, the Chief Minister met public delegations from different parts of the district, listened to their grievances and assured them that all genuine concerns would be examined and addressed on priority. He also visited exhibition stalls showcasing locally produced agricultural, horticultural and value-added products, appreciating the efforts of local entrepreneurs and government departments in promoting rural livelihoods and economic growth.

AI To Be.....

by the commitment to empower public institutions with technologies that improve transparency, accountability, efficiency and service delivery. He said governance of the future must combine the speed and analytical capabilities of Artificial Intelligence with human judgement, constitutional values and democratic accountability, ensuring that technology strengthens governance without diminishing the role of public institutions or civil servants.

The Awards Session marked the culmination of the 29th National Conference on e-Governance, jointly organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Government of Rajasthan. Organised around the theme "Viksit Bharat 2047: AI-enabled, Data-driven and Secure Digital Governance," the conference brought together policymakers, senior administrators, technology experts, innovators, industry leaders, researchers and representatives of local governments from across the country to deliberate on the next phase of India's digital governance journey. Rajasthan Chief Secretary Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG, Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma, Rajasthan Cabinet Minister Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Member of Parliament Smt. Manju Sharma, senior officers of the Central and State Governments and distinguished delegates participated in the Awards Session.

Congratulating the Government of Rajasthan for hosting the national conference, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the enthusiastic participation from every State and Union Territory reflected the growing confidence of governments in technology-enabled public administration. He appreciated the wholehearted cooperation extended by the State Government and said the conference exemplified the "Whole-of-Government" approach, where the Centre, States, academia, industry and civil society collectively contribute to shaping governance reforms for the future. He added that such collaborative platforms have become essential for building governance systems capable of responding to rapidly changing technological and societal needs.

Recalling the evolution of the National Conference on e-Governance, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Government had consciously decided to move flagship governance conferences beyond New Delhi so that reform initiatives become truly national in character. He said holding these conferences across different regions has widened participation, strengthened ownership among States and enabled governments to learn directly from one another's experiences. Similar outreach, he added, has subsequently been adopted across several other Ministries and scientific institutions, creating stronger engagement between government, stakeholders and citizens while expanding the national ecosystem of innovation.

Referring to the conference theme, the Minister said it resonates with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, where technology serves as an instrument for inclusive development and good governance. He said the Government's governance reforms during the past decade have consistently been guided by the principle of "Maximum Governance, Minimum Government," with digital technologies enabling greater transparency, faster service delivery and enhanced public accountability. Artificial Intelligence, data-driven administration and secure digital platforms, he said, are now integral to creating governance systems that are responsive to citizens' aspirations.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said Artificial Intelligence should be viewed as an enabler of governance rather than a substitute for human responsibility. "The real question is not Artificial Intelligence alone; the

question is how intelligent we are in using Artificial Intelligence," he remarked, stressing that India must build a governance model where Human-led AI becomes the guiding philosophy for public administration. Technology, he said, should amplify human capability, strengthen institutional credibility and improve citizens' experience while remaining firmly anchored in ethics, transparency and public trust.

The Minister also urged policymakers to view Viksit Bharat 2047 through the lens of the future rather than the limitations of the present. Drawing attention to the pace at which technology has transformed everyday life over the past two decades, he said many innovations once considered indispensable have become obsolete within a short span of time. Governance, therefore, cannot be designed solely around present-day realities. Public institutions, administrative systems and even the role of civil servants, he said, will continue to evolve alongside emerging technologies. Preparing governance for 2047 demands the ability to anticipate change rather than merely respond to it, ensuring that India's administrative framework remains agile, future-ready and capable of meeting the aspirations of a developed nation.

Over the two days of deliberations, Jaipur emerged as a vibrant platform where policymakers, administrators, technology leaders, innovators, researchers and representatives of grassroots institutions exchanged ideas on the future of governance in the age of Artificial Intelligence. Dr. Jitendra Singh said the conference demonstrated that India's digital governance journey has moved well beyond digitisation of services and is now entering a new phase where Artificial Intelligence, data-driven decision-making, Digital Public Infrastructure and secure digital ecosystems are collectively shaping the future of public administration.

The Minister said the Government's approach towards Artificial Intelligence is fundamentally different from a purely technology-driven model. India, he said, is committed to deploying AI in a manner that complements human intelligence rather than replacing it. Referring to the Prime Minister's vision of Maximum Governance, Minimum Government, Dr. Jitendra Singh said every technological intervention introduced during the last decade has sought to make governance simpler, more transparent and more accountable while ensuring that the citizen remains the central stakeholder. Technology, he said, should reduce complexity, eliminate unnecessary procedures and strengthen public trust in institutions.

Emphasising that governance reforms are meaningful only when they improve the lives of ordinary citizens, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has consistently demonstrated how administrative innovation and digital technologies can together transform public service delivery. He referred to the remarkable expansion of the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), which has evolved into one of the world's largest technology-enabled grievance redress mechanisms, significantly reducing disposal time while expanding accessibility across the country.

The Minister also referred to SAMADHAN DID!, the AI-powered multilingual voice chatbot developed in collaboration with BHASHINI, as a powerful example of how Artificial Intelligence can make governance more responsive, inclusive and accessible by enabling citizens to interact with government in their own languages through secure public digital infrastructure.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said India's digital governance ecosystem has also been strengthened through initiatives such as the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA), which has emerged as an important benchmark for evaluating digital public services across States, Union Territories and Central Ministries. Coupled with the expanding Digital Public Infrastructure and the computing capabilities being developed under the IndiaAI Mission, these reforms, he said, will enable governments to deliver faster, smarter and more efficient public services while maintaining the highest standards of security, transparency and accountability.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said governance reforms cannot be confined to technology alone. Referring to Special Campaign 5.0, he said administrative efficiency is equally dependent on improving workplace practices, record management, institutional discipline and optimum utilisation of public resources. Such reforms, he said, have strengthened government institutions by creating cleaner, better organised and more productive work environments while reinforcing the principles of transparency and accountability across Ministries and Departments. Likewise, Mission Karmayogi has transformed capacity building by preparing civil servants for a rapidly evolving governance landscape through continuous learning in emerging domains such as Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity, digital governance, leadership and evidence-based policymaking. A future-ready civil service, he said, is indispensable for building a future-ready nation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh conferred the National Awards for e-Governance 2026 upon 17 exemplary initiatives from Central Ministries and

Departments, State and Union Territory Governments, District Administrations, Gram Panchayats and Academic & Research Institutions. The awards comprised 10 Gold Awards, 6 Silver Awards and one Jury Award across seven categories. Congratulating the awardees, he said the winning initiatives demonstrate how innovation, technology and public service can come together to create measurable improvements in citizens' lives.

Appreciating Rajasthan's remarkable progress in digital governance, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the State has successfully created an enabling ecosystem where governance reforms, innovation, entrepreneurship and emerging technologies reinforce one another. Referring to the Raj-Kaj integrated administrative platform, he said it has significantly strengthened administrative efficiency, transparency and accountability by enabling faster, paperless and technology-enabled governance across departments. Such initiatives, he said, contribute directly to the national vision of building an efficient, transparent and digitally empowered public administration.

Earlier, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma, described the Conference as a premier platform for institutionalising governance innovations, promoting inter-governmental learning and showcasing technology-driven best practices from across the country.

Concluding his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh said India's aspiration of becoming a developed nation by 2047 will depend not only on technological advancement but also on the country's ability to preserve human judgement, institutional integrity and democratic accountability while embracing emerging technologies. Artificial Intelligence, he said, must remain an instrument that empowers people rather than replacing them. Calling upon participants to carry the spirit of the conference back to their respective organisations, he urged governments at every level to convert the ideas, innovations and best practices showcased in Jaipur into measurable improvements in governance that directly benefit every citizen.

"Technology can accelerate governance, but only human wisdom can give it direction. Human-led Artificial Intelligence is the pathway through which India will realise the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047," Dr. Jitendra Singh said, expressing confidence that India's unique model of responsible, citizen-centric digital governance would continue to serve as a global benchmark in the years ahead.

The Conference concluded with the adoption of the Jaipur Declaration on e-Governance 2026, outlining a shared vision and strategic roadmap for advancing AI-enabled, data-driven, secure and citizen-centric digital governance in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Rain brings.....

mm, Ramban 34.5 mm and Kishtwar 25 mm.

In the Kashmir Valley, Batkoot recorded 27 mm of rain, Pampore 24.5 mm, Pahalgam 13.2 mm, Kokernag 11.7 mm, Sonamarg 11.5 mm and Qazigund 9 mm. Srinagar received 2.4 mm of rainfall during the period.

The MeT office said the current spell has been caused by the interaction of active monsoon winds with a series of weak western disturbances affecting the region.

It said hot and humid conditions are likely to return between July 5 and July 8, although scattered rain and thunderstorms are expected to continue, particularly over parts of the Jammu division.

He cautioned that while widespread flooding is not anticipated, short-duration intense rainfall and isolated cloudbursts could trigger localized flash floods, waterlogging, landslides and a rise in water levels in streams and nallahs—(KNO)

J&K To Receive.....

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to implement the project. The advanced diagnostic equipment will be installed in identified government hospitals, with procurement, installation and commissioning to be carried out by designated central agencies. Supplies are expected to begin in the coming months.

The Health and Medical Education Department will oversee site readiness, deployment of trained personnel and timely operationalisation of the equipment to ensure the new facilities become available to patients at the earliest.

Officials said the allocation reflects the Government's continued commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and expanding access to advanced diagnostic services throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo has been overseeing reforms in the health sector, with a focus on modernising healthcare infrastructure, improving diagnostic capabilities, strengthening public health institutions and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare.

The new facilities are expected to substantially increase diagnostic capacity in government hospitals, reduce referrals to higher medical centres, enable earlier diagnosis and treatment, and improve healthcare outcomes across the Union Territory.

