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Safety, Security and Smooth Pilgrim Movement Must Remain Our Top Priority: LG Manoj Sinha



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 7: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday directed the administration to ensure the highest standards of safety, security and pilgrim facilitation during the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, stressing that the smooth movement of devotees and uninterrupted access to the shrine must remain the government's foremost priority.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on the annual pilgrimage, the Lieutenant Governor instructed senior officials to ensure proper registration of pilgrims and provide prompt assistance at every stage of the journey. He said the administration is committed to making the pilgrimage a memorable experience by providing the best possible facilities while maintaining strict safety and security measures.

"Our goal is to make this pilgrimage a truly...
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LG Orders Audit of Schools Over Anti-National Literature

HT NEWS NETWORK

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting with senior officers and reviewed the action taken regarding the circulation of books and literature containing anti-national and separatist content in educational institutions.

The meeting was attended by...
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We Should Send Skilled People Abroad, Not Just People: CM Omar Abdullah

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 7: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said Jammu and Kashmir must focus on preparing a globally skilled workforce instead of merely facilitating overseas migration, as he directed the revival and operationalisation of the Jammu & Kashmir Overseas Employment Corporation Limited (JKOEC) to unlock international employment opportunities for the region's youth.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister assessed the roadmap for reviving JKOEC as the government's...
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CM Meets Tourism, Business Stakeholders

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met delegations representing the travel, tourism and business sectors here at the Civil Secretariat and held detailed discussions on issues concerning tourism promotion, business facilitation and the...
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Around 1,000 Drug Cases Registered, Over 1,100 Arrested Under Anti-Narcotics Campaign in Jammu Zone: IGP Tuti

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JULY 7: Nearly 1,000 drug-related cases have been registered and more than 1,100 persons arrested in Jammu Zone since the launch of the anti-narcotics campaign on April 11, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhim Sen Tuti said on Monday, highlighting the significant progress made in the crackdown on drug trafficking across the region.

Addressing the campaign's achievements, Tuti said the Jammu Zone Police have registered 962 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Sub-



stances (NDPS) Act and arrested 1,140 accused across the division's ten districts as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The IGP said police have seized 15 kilograms of heroin, 49 kilograms...
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PM holds official talks with Prez of Indonesia

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUL 7: As part of his State Visit to Indonesia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was Tuesday warmly received by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Prabowo Subianto at the Istana Merdeka (Presidential Palace) and accorded a ceremonial welcome.

This was the first meeting between the two leaders since President Prabowo's State Visit to India in January 2025 as the Chief Guest for India's 76th Republic Day celebrations.

The leaders held official talks in both...
● Turn on Page 2

Amarnath Yatra Crosses 1.13 Lakh Pilgrims in First Five Days

Record 8,815 devotees leave Jammu in sixth batch as over 28,000 visit cave shrine on Day 5

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, JUL 7: The annual Amarnath Yatra has recorded an unprecedented start, with the number of pilgrims visiting the cave shrine crossing 1.13 lakh within the first five days, underscoring one of the highest turnouts witnessed in recent years.

Official figures showed that 28,035 pilgrims visited the shrine on Tuesday alone, taking the cumulative number of devotees since the pilgrimage began on July 3 to 1,13,814.

Authorities said the steady influx of pilgrims through both the traditional Pahalgam route in south Kashmir and the Baital route in central Kashmir has continued without disruption, sup-



ported by extensive security and...
● Turn on Page 2

Over 1 lakh pilgrims perform darshan, arrangements streamlined: Div Com Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 07: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Tuesday said that more than one lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy Amarnath cave shrine since July 3, when the annual pilgrimage commenced.

Talking to reporters, Garg, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer...
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Phase I of Srinagar Semi Ring Road to Be Completed by November: NHAI

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUL 7: The first phase of the Srinagar Semi Ring Road, one of the Valley's most significant road infrastructure projects, is expected to be completed by November this year, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said on Monday, even as unresolved land acquisition and utility relocation issues continue to slow progress on subsequent phases.

NHAI Project Director, Srinagar, Akash Deep Singh said the 42.10-kilometre stretch from Galander in Pulwama to Sarai Dangerpora in Bandipora is in its final stage of construction.

"We are confident of completing Phase I by November, subject to the transfer of the remaining land required for one electricity transmission tower in Bandipora. Once that land is made



available, the balance work will be completed within the planned schedule," Singh told Kashmir News Observer (KNO).
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CS assesses Infra projects to be taken-up under Urban Challenge Fund

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 07: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to review the progress made in identification and shortlisting of urban infrastructure projects proposed to be taken up under the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) of the Government of India.

The meeting attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Municipal



Commissioners and other HoDs deliberated upon the strategy for positioning Jammu and Kashmir to effectively leverage the transformative funding mechanism aimed at accelerating sustainable urban development and regional economic growth.

Emphasizing the importance of preparing high-quality and financially viable proposals, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to ensure that all short-listed projects are aligned with...
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BJP National President chairs joint meet of MPs, MLAs in J&K, sets 2029 poll strategy

Nitin Nabin cuts short UT visit; LoP Sharma accuses govt of delaying local polls

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

JAMMU, JUL 07: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Nitin Nabin on Tuesday chaired a joint meeting of party MPs, MLAs, former legislators, and senior functionaries at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to review organisational affairs, outline the party's strategy for Jammu and Kashmir, and discuss preparations for the 2029 Parliamentary elections.

Originally planned as separate interactions with district leaders, elected representatives, and former legislators, the meetings were merged into a single session following changes in Nabin's schedule. Deliberations centred on strengthen-

ing the BJP's organisational structure in the Union Territory, expanding public outreach, reinforcing nationalist ideology, and addressing security and governance issues.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the meeting reviewed the party's roadmap for the 2029 Parliamentary elections and assessed organisational preparedness across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma accused the Jammu and Kashmir Government of deliberately delaying local body and panchayat elections. "It is concerning that the J&K Government is deliberately delaying...
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Flash floods wreak havoc in Doda' Thathri

Houses, shops buried under debris

HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JULY 7: Heavy overnight rainfall triggered flash floods and mudslides in Doda district on Tuesday, causing widespread devastation in Thathri town where several houses, shops and vehicles were buried under mud and debris, while the strategic Doda-Kishtwar National Highway (NH-244) was blocked at multiple locations.

The worst-hit area was Thathri, where floodwaters carrying boulders, silt and debris swept through parts of the town, inundating residential and commercial areas. Initial reports indicated extensive damage to private property, with several houses and shops...
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Safety, Security.....

memorable experience for everyone. Safety, security and smooth pilgrim movement must remain our top priority," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Officials informed the meeting that more than 113,000 pilgrims have so far visited the holy cave shrine since the commencement of this year's pilgrimage.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, senior civil administration officials and representatives of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

Describing the pilgrimage as an important symbol of India's spiritual and cultural heritage, the Lieutenant Governor said its successful conduct reflects the country's enduring traditions and collective commitment to preserving its religious legacy. He urged all departments and stakeholders to work in close coordination to make this year's pilgrimage a benchmark for spiritual tourism across the country.

He also appealed to pilgrims to experience the region's hospitality, traditional arts and crafts during their visit, saying support for local products would strengthen the economy while showcasing the cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor reviewed the functioning of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board's round-the-clock control room and assessed arrangements along the pilgrimage routes. He also took stock of security deployment, pilgrim assistance, community kitchens, queue management systems and other facilities, directing officials to maintain seamless coordination to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the pilgrimage.

LG Orders.....

Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Shri Ashwani Kumar; Principal Secretary, Home Department, Shri Chandraker Bharti; Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari; Additional Director, Intelligence Bureau, Shri Pankaj Thakur; ADGP, CID, Shri Nitish Kumar and Commissioner/Secretary School Education Department, Shri Ram Niwas Sharma.

Officials briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the recovery of books allegedly glorifying separatism, emphasizing that those responsible for procuring, approving, or circulating the literature will face strict legal consequences.

Taking serious note of the matter, the Lieutenant Governor directed the concerned departments to put in place effective mechanism to ensure no procurement, distribution and availability of any publications including books, journals, magazines or any literature containing anti-national, separatist or objectionable content in the Universities, government and private colleges and schools, public and private libraries etc. This would include the heads of these institutions affirming within specified period against availability of any such material in their respective institutions, apart from conduct of comprehensive audit and inspection thereof.

The Lieutenant Governor also instructed the authorities to examine the websites and digital repositories of universities and higher educational institutions and immediately remove any objectionable material, if any.

Emphasising that such incidents must not recur, the Lieutenant Governor directed the formulation of a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) governing the procurement of books and academic material for schools, colleges and universities. The SoP should provide for a robust screening mechanism, including periodic random scrutiny by a panel comprising eminent educationists, intellectuals and senior officers, to ensure that no material promoting anti-national or separatist narratives enters educational institutions.

The Lieutenant Governor warned that any lapse would invite strict accountability, and the Head of the Institution concerned would be held personally responsible for the same.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to safeguarding the educational ecosystem, the Lieutenant Governor said educational institutions must remain centres of learning, nation-building and constitutional values, and there will be zero tolerance for any attempt to mislead or radicalise students through objectionable literature.

We Should.....

nodal agency for facilitating safe, transparent and market-driven overseas employment. The meeting also reviewed the Union Territory's overseas recruitment infrastructure with the objective of creating a robust institutional framework to connect skilled youth with global labour markets.

Emphasising the importance of skill development, Omar Abdullah said, "We should not only send people abroad; we should send skilled people there. Our focus should be on skilling." He directed the Labour and Employment Department to prepare a time-bound implementation plan with clearly defined and measurable outcomes to operationalise the proposed framework.

Officials informed the meeting that the proposed strategy envisages strengthening institutional mechanisms, expanding international partnerships, aligning skill development programmes with global standards and creating an integrated support system for candidates seeking overseas employment.

Director Employment Harvinder Singh pre-

sented a phased roadmap for operationalising JKOECL, which includes the creation of a digital overseas employment portal, partnerships with licensed recruiting agencies, foreign language training, international certification programmes, employer engagement, counselling, pre-departure orientation and post-placement support. The framework also proposes coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, the Protector of Emigration, Indian Missions abroad, skill development institutions and licensed recruiting agencies to ensure ethical and legally compliant recruitment.

Protector of Emigration, Chandigarh, Yashu Deep Singh briefed the meeting on emigration trends from Jammu and Kashmir, overseas remittances and employment opportunities available under India's labour mobility agreements with several countries. He also highlighted challenges such as limited awareness of legal migration channels, inadequate institutional outreach, dependence on unverified social media information and the need to develop skills that meet international standards.

The Chief Minister directed officials to adopt best practices from states such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which have established effective institutional mechanisms for overseas employment facilitation.

He further instructed that the forthcoming Industrial Policy should provide for the establishment of skill development and training institutes capable of meeting international workforce requirements while encouraging greater private sector participation in skill development and employment generation.

The meeting was attended by Education Minister Sakinaltoo, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and other senior government officials.

CM Meets....

overall growth of the economy in Jammu and Kashmir.

A delegation comprising representatives of leading travel and tourism associations, including Irshad Ahmad (TAAI), Zahoor Qari, President SKAL International Kashmir; Burhan Misgar, Chairman Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI), and Waseem Goosani, President TASK, called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various matters relating to the travel and tourism sector.

The delegation highlighted issues concerning the tourism industry, measures to further strengthen tourist inflow, ease of travel, and initiatives required to sustain the momentum of tourism in J&K. They also shared suggestions aimed at improving visitor experience and enhancing Jammu and Kashmir's position as a preferred tourist destination.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and reiterated his government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for the tourism sector, recognising it as one of the key drivers of economic growth and employment in Jammu and Kashmir.

He assured the representatives that the concerns raised by them would be examined sympathetically and addressed in a time-bound manner in coordination with the concerned departments.

Later, Tariq Ghani, Secretary General, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed a range of issues pertaining to business, trade and tourism.

Around 1,000.....

of cannabis, 30 kilograms of poppy straw and six kilograms of charas during the operation. He added that 30 persons have been detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act, while 82 properties linked to drug trafficking have been attached.

In another major action, law enforcement agencies destroyed illegal narcotic cultivation spread over 140 kanals of land. Authorities also cancelled 121 driving licences and blacklisted 153 vehicle registration certificates for their alleged involvement in narcotics-related offences.

Tuti said the campaign has also focused on preventing the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs, with police inspecting 4,045 druggist and chemist shops across the Jammu division.

Highlighting the public outreach component of the initiative, he said police and other stakeholders have organised 2,125 awareness programmes that have been attended by lakhs of people, including students and members of local communities.

Launched by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on April 11, the 100-day anti-narcotics campaign follows a three-pronged strategy of public awareness, rehabilitation of individuals affected by drug addiction and strict enforcement against drug trafficking networks. Officials said the drive will continue with sustained action to curb the narcotics trade and strengthen community participation in the fight against drug abuse.

PM holds.....

restricted and delegation-level formats. They reviewed the entire gamut of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership encompassing trade and investment, defence and security, maritime cooperation, digital and financial technology, energy, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, space, critical minerals and rare earths, culture, tourism, agriculture and people-to-people exchanges.

The two leaders welcomed the launch of India's Open Network (ION) based on Open

Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) of India. To mark the centenary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Indonesia in 2027, Prime Minister Modi announced that the two countries would jointly celebrate the occasion as "Tagore-Dewantara Year for Cultural and Educational Diplomacy".

The leaders also exchanged perspectives on regional and global issues of mutual interest. They discussed further strengthening of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. They reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

In this context, Prime Minister underlined India's MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision. President Prabowo conveyed Indonesia's full support for India's ongoing Presidency of the BRICS in 2026.

Following the talks, the leaders witnessed the exchange of MoUs/agreements in the fields of defense, critical minerals and rare earths, science and technology, education, electoral practices, telecommunications, agriculture, maritime security, space, steel supply chain, disaster management, medical products regulation, health workforce collaboration, among others.

A Letter of Intent on India's support for the conservation and restoration of UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Prambanan Temple Complex, Yogyakarta was also exchanged. The full list of MoUs/ agreements exchanged may be seen here.

Following the talks, President Prabowo hosted a luncheon in honour of Prime Minister. Prime Minister thanked President Prabowo for his gracious hospitality and invited him to visit India.

Amarnath.....

logistical arrangements.

The day's visitors included 20,270 men, 7,053 women, 284 children, 136 monks, nine women ascetics, five transgender pilgrims and 278 security personnel.

In another significant development, 8,815 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu early Tuesday in the largest batch of the pilgrimage so far.

Officials said the convoy of 363 vehicles departed in two phases under tight security. Of the total, 3,989 pilgrims travelling in 181 vehicles left for the Baltal base camp at 3:35 am, while 4,826 pilgrims in 182 vehicles proceeded to the Nunwan base camp via the Pahalgam route at 4:08 am.

The sixth batch comprised 5,831 men, 2,193 women, 30 children, 598 monks, 131 women ascetics, one child monk and 31 foreign pilgrims. The convoy included 172 buses, 58 medium motor vehicles, 130 light motor vehicles and three motorcycles.

Officials said comprehensive arrangements, including multi-layered security, medical services, accommodation and other essential facilities, have ensured the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage despite the heavy rush of devotees.

The 57-day Amarnath Yatra began on July 3 and will conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

Over 1 lakh.....

(KNO) said the Amarnath Yatra has witnessed a huge influx of pilgrims during the first five days.

He said a huge number of devotees who had not registered online turned up during the initial days of the Yatra, creating logistical challenges for the administration. "We appeal to all pilgrims to register themselves online before undertaking the Yatra," he said.

The Divisional Commissioner said the situation has now been streamlined with the augmentation of transit accommodation facilities on the directions of the Lieutenant Governor. He added that the on-the-spot registration facility has also been expanded to ensure that pilgrims do not face any inconvenience.

"More than one lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, and the darshan process is continuing smoothly," Garg said.

He said senior officers have been deployed at both the Nunwan and Baltal Base Camps, while regular reviews are being conducted by the Amarnath Shrine Board and the civil administration to ensure all necessary facilities are extended to pilgrims and that the Yatra continues smoothly—(KNO)

Phase I of.....

The first phase, estimated to cost around Rs 2,920 crore, forms the backbone of the Semi Ring Road project. Originally planned to terminate at Narbal, the alignment was later extended to Sarai Dangerpora, increasing both its length and strategic importance.

The highway originates at Galander on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, passes through several key junctions, connects with the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway near Narbal, and extends onwards to Sarai Dangerpora.

Officials said most civil works under Phase I have either been completed or are in the final stages. However, construction slowed in recent months due to disruptions in bitumen supply caused by refinery-related constraints.

Work on the 24.70-kilometre Phase II, extending from Sarai Dangerpora to Wayul in Ganderbal, has reached nearly 50 per cent physical progress. However, officials said the package is

unlikely to meet its original completion target as significant portions of the required land are yet to be handed over.

Singh said the Deputy Commissioners of Bandipora and Ganderbal have been requested to expedite pending land acquisition and compensation cases. He added that relocation of water supply pipelines in Ganderbal has also delayed construction, although the work is nearing completion.

Phase IIA, covering a 12.11-kilometre stretch between Pandach and Wayul, has also been affected by unresolved land acquisition and compensation issues. The Rs 828-crore package includes a 2.55-kilometre elevated corridor through Ganderbal town.

Meanwhile, the proposed Phase III, connecting Lasjan with Pandach via Hazratbal, remains at the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage and is awaiting the necessary approvals. The 24.60-kilometre corridor, estimated to cost nearly Rs 2,380 crore, also includes a dedicated airport connectivity link.

Being developed under the Prime Minister's Development Package, the Srinagar Semi Ring Road will eventually span more than 85 kilometres across Pulwama, Budgam, Srinagar, Baramulla, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts.

Designed as a four-lane highway with provision for future expansion to six lanes, the corridor is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion in Srinagar, improve freight movement, shorten travel time, and strengthen industrial, tourism and commercial activity across Kashmir.

CS assesses....

the guidelines of the Urban Challenge Fund and are supported by robust feasibility studies, sustainable financing models and clear implementation strategies.

He stressed that the projects should not only address the immediate infrastructure needs of urban centres but also create long-term economic opportunities, strengthen urban resilience, improve the quality of life for citizens and promote environmentally sustainable growth.

The Chief Secretary further underscored the need for coordination with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to facilitate timely appraisal and approval of the proposed projects. He called upon all stakeholders to expedite the preparation of detailed project reports and complete all requisite formalities so that Jammu and Kashmir is able to effectively leverage the opportunities offered under the Urban Challenge Fund.

During this meeting the Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur informed that the Urban Challenge Fund has been conceived by the Government of India as a paradigm shift in urban financing by encouraging cities and Union Territories to undertake bankable, revenue-generating infrastructure projects through a combination of Central assistance, market-based financing and contributions from the States and UTs.

She further apprised the meeting that, following the first round of discussions with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Jammu and Kashmir has shortlisted four major urban development projects having an aggregate estimated cost of Rs. 1,990.37 Cr. Against this, the proposed Central assistance amounts to Rs. 495.86 Cr, the UT share to Rs. 486.12 Cr, while nearly Rs. 1,008.38 Cr are proposed to be mobilized through market-based financing.

The concerned Municipal Commissioners divulged the details of the shortlisted projects from their respective areas. It was given out that the initially the shortlisted projects include Walled City and Nigeen Lakefront Revitalization aimed at conserving heritage assets while enhancing tourism infrastructure and improving the urban environment. The meeting also reviewed the TARANG - Tawi Area Regeneration and Green Growth Project. It envisages comprehensive regeneration of the Tawi riverfront and surrounding urban areas through sustainable, environment-friendly and economically vibrant development interventions.

Another proposal pertains to the Lidder Riverfront Development, which seeks to develop the riverfront as a catalyst for planned urban growth and position Anantnag as a counter-magnet city through integrated public infrastructure and improved urban amenities.

The fourth project discussed was KRIPA - Katra Revitalisation through Integrated Pilgrimage Amenities (Transit-Oriented Development). The proposal aims at strengthening civic infrastructure, enhancing mobility and creating integrated pilgrim facilities to improve the overall experience of pilgrims visiting the holy town of Katra.

Concluding the Chief Secretary maintained that the successful implementation of these transformative projects would significantly enhance urban infrastructure, improve public services, boost tourism, attract private investment and contribute towards making the cities of Jammu and

Kashmir more vibrant, resilient and economically competitive for the times to come.

BJP National.....

local body and panchayat elections and is not committed to establishing a true three-tier democracy in the Union Territory," he said.

Addressing party leaders, Nabin said the BJP would continue working for the development of Jammu and Kashmir while discharging the responsibilities of a constructive opposition.

Calling his visit significant as it coincided with the 125th birth anniversary of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mukherjee, he said the programme was primarily aimed at reviewing organisational affairs and interacting with party workers.

Nabin asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 had fundamentally transformed Jammu and Kashmir by integrating it more closely with the rest of the country. "Our MLAs and workers will remain vigilant and continue to raise issues concerning the people, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed significant changes after the removal of Article 370," he said, adding that the region was registering progress in infrastructure development, tourism, women's empowerment, and preservation of cultural heritage.

Highlighting the ideological significance of Jammu and Kashmir for the party, Nabin said the BJP's roots were linked to the movement for "Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan", associated with the sacrifice of Syama Prasad Mukherjee. "Jammu and Kashmir is the ideological cradle of the BJP. The party's foundation is rooted in the movement for 'Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan' (One Constitution, One Flag), which began with the sacrifice of Mukherjee," he said.

Earlier in the day, Nabin, accompanied by BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, visited the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) office Keshav Bhawan at Amphalla, where he met senior Sangh functionaries. He also paid floral tributes to veteran Praja Parishad and Bharatiya Jana Sangh leader Prem Nath Dogra at his statue and interacted with BJP workers, including representatives of the Gujjar and Bakerwal communities. He participated in programmes marking Mukherjee's 125th birth anniversary at Dogra Bhawan before proceeding to the party headquarters.

Nabin cuts short J&K visit, skips Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president cut short his two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, cancelling his scheduled pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and returning to New Delhi due to official commitments, party leaders said.

Nabin, who arrived in Jammu on Monday afternoon on his maiden visit to the Union Territory after taking over as the BJP president, attended a series of organisational meetings during his brief stay. He visited the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) headquarters and later chaired a joint meeting of the BJP's sitting and former legislators at the party's Trikuta Nagar headquarters, which lasted around one-and-a-half hours and focused on organisational matters.

The BJP president was scheduled to visit the revered Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta Hills in Reasi district on Tuesday. However, the programme was cancelled following a change in his itinerary.

While the BJP did not officially specify the reason for the revised schedule, senior party leaders said Nabin had to return to the national capital because of official commitments, with party insiders saying he is expected to attend an important organisational meeting in New Delhi. The change in schedule brought his maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir as the BJP's national president to an earlier-than-planned conclusion—(KNO)

Flash floods.....

either buried or partially damaged by the debris. Authorities were assessing the extent of the losses.

The incessant rainfall also triggered flash floods and mudslides at Prem Nagar, leading to the closure of the Doda-Kishtwar Highway. Several vehicles were trapped or buried under mud and rocks, forcing authorities to suspend traffic on the route as road restoration agencies rushed men and machinery to clear the debris.

Officials said restoration work was launched immediately, but continuous rain and unstable slopes were hampering clearance operations. Commuters have been advised to avoid the highway until traffic is restored.

The heavy rainfall also affected several areas of the Chenab Valley, with overflowing streams, landslides and shooting stones disrupting normal life and increasing the risk of further incidents. Authorities have urged residents living near vulnerable nallahs and landslide-prone areas to remain vigilant and avoid unnecessary travel. [KNT]



Javid Dar reviews compensation cases of Rohama–Ladoora road project affected families

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JULY 7: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting at Baramulla, to assess the cases of 26 families whose residential and commercial structures are likely to be affected by the alignment of the Rohama–Ladoora road project.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildars, concerned Executive Engineer and other senior officers.

The Minister conducted a detailed review of the status of the affected structures and the progress made in the assessment process. Stressing the need for a fair, transparent and time-bound approach, Javid Ahmad Dar directed the concerned officers to conduct an on-the-spot inspection and complete the valuation



of all affected structures at the earliest. The Minister further instructed the Revenue authorities to verify the land status of each affected property to ensure that

all eligible families receive adequate compensation strictly in accordance with the established rules and provisions.

Emphasising the government's commitment to safeguard the interests of the affected families, the Minister said that developmental projects should be implemented in a manner that balances infrastructure development with the welfare and rights of the people. He directed the district administration to expedite the necessary formalities so that compensation cases are processed without unnecessary delay.

The Deputy Commissioner Baramulla assured the Minister that the district administration is taking all necessary measures to complete the required assessments and procedural formalities promptly. He further assured that every genuine case will be dealt with fairly and that all eligible beneficiaries will receive compensation in accordance with the applicable norms, ensuring that no affected family suffers undue hardship.

₹17 Crore NABARD Eco-Tourism Project Revives Historic Badambagh at Watayan Kultoor

DR. AB QAYOOM

HANDWARA, JUL 07: After decades of public demand and anticipation, the historic Badambagh area at Watayan Kultoor in north Kashmir's Kupwara district is set for a major transformation with the launch of a Rs. 17 crore Eco-Tourism Project under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

The ambitious project, owned by the Horticulture Department, Kupwara, and being executed by the R&B Division Handwara, is expected to promote eco-tourism, improve rural infrastructure, generate employment opportunities for local youth, and restore the historical and natural significance of one of the district's most scenic destinations.

Situated just off the Sopore Kupwara Highway near Watayan Kultoor, the picturesque Badambagh has long been admired for its breathtaking landscape.



Once renowned for its flourishing almond and walnut orchards, the area's natural beauty gradually declined over the years. Perched around 300–400 metres above the surrounding plains, the site offers panoramic views of Kupwara and Baramulla districts on one side and the majestic Divalen mountains and Sopore region on the other.

At the hilltop stands the revered shrine of the Sufi saint Peer Khan Wali Sahib, where devotees from different areas visit regularly to offer prayers and seek blessings. Senior citizens recall that Badambagh was once among the most popular picnic and recreational destinations in Kupwara district. Families, students and visitors from different regions gathered here during Eid, Baisakhi, Holi, Diwali and other festivals, reflecting the area's spirit of communal harmony and cultural unity.

Local residents said they had approached both the Union and Jammu and Kashmir administrations for many years, requesting that the area be developed as a recognised tourist destination. They expressed satisfaction that the project has finally been sanctioned under NABARD without political interference, describing it as the fulfilment of a long-cherished dream.

According to official project details, the eco-tourism park will be developed over 120 kanals of land, with nearly 70 kanals reserved for plantations to preserve and enhance the area's ecological character. Planned infrastructure includes tourist huts, a large meeting hall, a chowkidar hut, an attractive entrance gate, a 1.6-kilometre internal road, landscaped flower gardens, water fountains, an irrigation water tank and solar-powered facilities. The project also includes the development and beautification of the heritage shrine of Peer Khan Wali Sahib located at the highest point of the site.

The construction work is being carried out by Al-Khadeej Infrastructure under the supervision of Firdous Ahmad Wani, who has assured that the project will retain the site's natural beauty while creating modern eco-tourism facilities. Project Engineer Khalid Farooq Qureshi, a native of the area, is closely monitoring the work to ensure timely and quality execution.

Executive Engineer, R&B Division Handwara, Farooq Ahmad Shah said the project reflects the government's commitment to sustainable rural development and tourism promotion. He expressed confidence that the initiative would create new livelihood opportunities while protecting the area's environmental and cultural heritage.

Officials and locals acknowledged the contribution of the R&B Division Handwara, particularly the efforts made over the past three years under the leadership of Executive Engineer Farooq Ahmad Shah, along with the Horticulture Department. Former Assistant Executive Engineer Mohammad Hussain and his team were also appreciated for their sustained efforts in preparing the project, which ultimately secured NABARD approval.

Residents have thanked the district administration, the Horticulture Department and the R&B Division Handwara for bringing the long-awaited project to fruition. They believe the initiative will not only strengthen the horticulture sector considered the backbone of the local economy but also place Badambagh Watayan Kultoor prominently on Jammu and Kashmir's tourism map, opening new avenues of economic growth and employment for the area.

'Baba has called me': UP devotee skates 10 months, 14 states for Amarnath Yatra

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

QAZIGUND (BADRAGUND), JUL 07: A 20-year-old devotee from Uttar Pradesh (UP), who has been skating across the country for the past ten months as part of his pilgrimage to the holy Amarnath cave shrine, has said that faith in Lord Shiva kept him going despite the hardships of the journey.

Kanhaiya Kumar, a resident of Chali village near Lucknow, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that he began his journey on October 25, 2025, with a pledge not to use any vehicle and to complete his pilgrimage entirely on roller skates.

"I have travelled across 14 states, visited nine Jyotirlingas and two Dhams, and now I am on my way to the Amarnath shrine. It has been ten months since I left home, and I have been skating continuously throughout this journey," he said.

Describing the pilgrimage as physically demanding, Kanhaiya said the journey involved numerous challenges and dangers but added that his devotion to Lord Shiva gave him the strength to continue. "It is very difficult and risky, but I believe Baba has called me. Without His blessings, no one can undertake this pilgrimage. Only a short distance remains, and I expect to reach the holy cave within the next two or three days," he said.

Kanhaiya said he had received overwhelming support after entering Jammu and Kashmir and praised the warmth and hospitality extended by local residents.

"The people of Kashmir are very kind and respectful. Since entering Jammu and Kashmir, I have received immense support and encouragement," he said.

He also lauded the security arrangements for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, saying devotees have nothing to fear.

"The Yatra is completely safe. Security personnel are deployed throughout the route, and pilgrims are receiving full support. I urge devotees from across the country to come with faith and undertake the pilgrimage without hesitation," he said.

Praying for peace and harmony, Kanhaiya said his wish at the holy shrine would be for people across the country to live together in peace and continue working for the progress of nation—(KNO)

Secretary RDD reviews SNA-SPARSH implementation

Directs faster fund utilisation, closer monitoring of flagship schemes

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 7: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation of the SNA-SPARSH framework across Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), directing officers to secure Mother Sanctions on priority and ensure timely utilisation of funds for seamless implementation of flagship rural development programmes.

The Secretary emphasised that with the SNA-SPARSH framework now in operation, all Scheme Heads must focus on resolving technical bottlenecks and strengthening financial management to ensure uninterrupted fund flow and timely execution of schemes. He directed all Scheme Heads to personally monitor both physical and financial progress and ensure that implementation remains on track.

Aijaz Asad reviewed the status of fund flow, SNA-SPARSH account onboarding and expenditure under major schemes, including VB-GRAM G, PMAY-G, Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G), Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), PMKSY-IWMP.

The meeting was attended by Director General, Rural Sanitation, Anu Malhotra; Mission Director, NRLM, Shubhra Sharma; Director, Panchayati Raj, Riyaz Ahmad Wani; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Chief Operating Officer, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta; Chief Executive Officer, IWMP, Rajnish Kumar; Joint Director, Plan-



ning, Kamal Kumar Sharma and Deputy Director, Rural Sanitation, Shabir Ahmad Hakak.

The meeting was informed that during 2026-27, the department has so far received Rs. 552.29 crore, which has been released to the respective Scheme Heads. Reviewing the implementation status of SNA-SPARSH, the Secretary was informed that while 17 Scheme-Level Single (SLS) accounts have been opened with the Reserve Bank of India across six Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Aijaz Asad further instructed that funds should be released immediately upon receipt of sanctions and

their utilisation monitored closely, noting that future releases from the Government of India are contingent upon timely expenditure of funds already released.

Taking serious note of concerns regarding the PMAY-G beneficiary list, the Secretary said strict action would be initiated wherever any genuine beneficiary is found to have been excluded or any ineligible person included. He reiterated the department's commitment to transparency, accountability and fairness in beneficiary selection.

The meeting also reviewed technical issues affecting bill processing under SNA-SPARSH. Officers highlighted instances of bill rejections arising from data mismatches. The Secretary was informed that the matter has already been taken up with the concerned for early resolution of all such pending issues.

He further instructed officers to close or convert into zero-balance all legacy scheme accounts no longer required under the SNA-SPARSH framework in accordance with Finance Department guidelines and ensure proper reconciliation and accounting of recovery amounts lying in such accounts.

The Secretary reiterated that effective implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes requires proactive leadership, close monitoring and sound financial management. He called upon all senior officers and Scheme Heads to accelerate implementation, improve financial performance and ensure timely, transparent and accountable delivery of benefits to the people.

Deputy Chief Minister inaugurates Rs 2.49 cr conference hall at PWD Dak Bungalow, Nowshera

Assesses development works, holds public outreach programme

HT NEWS NETWORK

NOWSHERA (RAJOURI), JULY 7: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today inaugurated the newly constructed conference hall at the PWD Dak Bungalow in Nowshera, built at a cost of Rs 2.49 crore. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the new facility will strengthen the administrative infrastructure of the area by providing a modern venue for official meetings, conferences and public interactions. He reiterated the government's commitment towards

creating quality public assets that enhance governance and improve the public service delivery.

Addressing the gathering of local residents, the Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the government's focus on inclusive and people-centric development. He said that infrastructure development remains a key priority and every effort is being made to ensure that developmental projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister undertook an extensive



inspection of various ongoing developmental works across the Nowshera constituency, including road, bridge and other infrastructure projects. He reviewed the progress of the works and directed the concerned officers to expedite execution while ensuring transparency, quality and adherence to the prescribed timelines.

He emphasized that timely completion of public projects is essential to provide better connectivity, improved civic amenities and enhanced quality of life to the people.

The Deputy Chief Minister also held a detailed public outreach programme during which he interacted with the local residents, public representatives and various delegations. He assured them that all their genuine issues would be addressed on priority through coordinated efforts of the concerned departments.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Superintending Engineer PWD, Executive Engineers and other senior officers of the district administration and line departments.

DC Bandipora reviews MPLADS Works, directs officers to expedite process

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JULY 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib today reviewed the progress of works being executed under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) at a meeting held at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a department-wise review of the works being implemented under the scheme and directed the executing agencies to speed up the pace of work and ensure timely completion of all projects.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for close coordination among the concerned departments so that the works are completed without unnecessary



delay for the benefit of the public.

It was informed in the meeting that a total of 30 works were

taken up under the 2025-26 MPLADS. Of these, 15 works are being executed by the Rural Development Department (RDD),

six by the Public Works Department (R&B), three by the Youth Services & Sports Department, and one by the Municipal Council.

It was further informed that work on most projects is either ongoing or has already been completed, while five works remain pending.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to closely monitor the progress of the remaining works and ensure their completion within the stipulated timeframe. She emphasized that timely execution of development works is essential for improving public infrastructure and delivering the intended benefits to the people.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Sub Division Bandipora and other concerned officers.

SWD Srinagar organises Awareness Session to promote Girls' participation in Sports

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 07: In a significant initiative aimed at promoting gender equality and empowering young girls through sports, the Social Welfare Department-SANKALP-HEW, Srinagar organised an awareness and interactive session on the theme "Encouraging Sports Participation and Ending Sports Stigma Among Girls in Schools."

The programme conducted at GGHS Narwara, Srinagar, students, teachers, and stakeholders were sensitized about the importance of creating an inclusive and supportive environment for girls to actively participate in sports and physical activities.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, educators, and officials of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, reflecting a shared commitment towards fostering equal opportunities for girls in education and sports.

A Resource Person from the District Youth Services and Sports Department, Srinagar, highlighted the transformative role of sports in the holistic development of young girls, emphasizing that participation in sports not only enhances physical fitness but also builds confidence, leadership qualities, discipline, resilience, teamwork, and decision-making skills.

The resource person stressed the need to collectively challenge and eliminate such stigmas by creating safe, inclusive, and supportive school environments where girls can participate freely in sports without fear of discrimination or prejudice.

Schools, parents, teachers, and the community were urged to work together to motivate girls to pursue sports as an essential component of education and personal development.

The Department reaffirmed its resolve to continue organising such awareness programmes to promote gender-inclusive development and empower girls to realise their full potential through education, sports, and community participation.

DC Reasi reviews progress on removal of forest encroachments, demarcation of forest boundaries

HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, JULY 07: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) constituted to execute eviction of encroachments from forest land in the district. The meeting reviewed issues related to forest clearances required for developmental works being executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).



The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress achieved in the eviction of encroachments from forest land in Reasi and Mahore Forest Divisions. He also assessed the status of demarcation of forest boundaries and the installation of boundary pillars, particularly in areas prone to disputes or ambiguity in revenue and forest records.

Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to strengthen coordination and conduct joint verification of forest boundaries to ensure accurate demarcation. He stressed the need to expedite the installation of boundary pillars and remove all identified encroachments in a time-bound manner.

Deputy Commissioner instructed the officers to maintain close coordination between the Forest and Revenue Departments, resolve pending issues promptly and submit regular progress reports to ensure that the prescribed targets are achieved within the stipulated time frame.

The meeting was attended by ACR Reasi Nitin Verma, DFO Reasi, DFO Mahore, XENs PMGSY, Tehsildar Reasi and other concerned officers.

Malaria Team conducts anti-dengue awareness, surveillance activities in Doda Town

HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JULY 07: As part of the ongoing Anti-Dengue Month (ADM) campaign under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), the District Malaria Team from CMO Office Doda conducted an extensive field visit in Doda Town and its adjoining areas.

During the visit, the team carried out intensive Information, Education and Communication/Behaviour Change Communication (IEC/BCC) activities to raise awareness among the public regarding the prevention and control of Dengue and Malaria.

Residents were sensitized about the importance of maintaining environmental sanitation, eliminating stagnant water and other mosquito breeding sites and adopting personal protective measures to safeguard themselves from vector-borne diseases.

As part of surveillance and monitoring activities, the team also inspected the MF-8 Register maintained at the Pathology Section of Associated Hospital, Government Medical College Doda to ensure proper recording and reporting in accordance with programme guidelines.

The activity was conducted under the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer, Doda Dr Vinod Sharma and under the supervision of the District Malaria Officer, Doda, in line with the guidelines of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) to strengthen vector-borne disease prevention and control measures across the district.

MVD Ramban, DLSA organise Road Safety Awareness Camp

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, JULY 07: The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), Ramban, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ramban, today organised a Road Safety Awareness Camp at the Trial Ground near Government Polytechnic College, Ramban, to promote safe driving practices and enhance awareness about road safety.

The programme was attended by Secretary DLSA, Sub Judge Ramban, Ms. Priyanka Mahajan and Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Ramban, Varun Bhasin.

Addressing the participants, the speakers highlighted the importance of adhering to traffic rules, responsible driving, the use of helmets and seat belts, avoiding speeding and drunken driving and following other road safety measures to prevent accidents. They also sensitised drivers, commuters and members of the public about their legal responsibilities while using roads.

The ARTO Ramban urged motorists to strictly follow traffic regulations, carry valid driving documents and adopt safe driving habits to ensure their own safety as well as that of other road users.



The awareness camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from drivers, students and members of the public, who were encouraged to become responsible road users and contribute towards making roads safer for everyone.

DC Ramban chairs SPCA meeting, reviews animal welfare measures

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, JULY 07: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of the District Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to review the implementation of animal welfare measures across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACP Sheraz Ahmed, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Ramban Rajesh Arora, Tehsildar Headquarters Reejuta Mahajan and officers from the Indian Army, Forest Department, Wildlife Department, Municipal Committees and other concerned departments.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the action taken by the concerned departments on the directions issued during the previous SPCA meeting.

Detailed discussions were held on sterilisation and vaccination of stray dogs, their relocation from institutional areas, inspection reports for the quarters ending March and June 2026, identification of infrastructure gaps for establishing a fully functional Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre and creation of dedicated feeding spaces for stray dogs in each municipal ward.



The Deputy Commissioner also directed the initiation of companion animal registration and instructed the Municipal Committees to identify suitable sites for animal shelters.

Emphasising coordinated efforts, the Deputy Commissioner directed all stakeholder departments to work in close coordination for effective implementation of SPCA guidelines and strengthening of animal welfare mechanisms across the district.

SWD Srinagar organises registration drive under PMMVY

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 07: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organised a special registration and awareness drive under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) at SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Bemina, with the objective of facilitating enrolment of eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers under the flagship maternity benefit scheme.

The drive witnessed active participation from officials of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, healthcare professionals, and beneficiaries visiting the hospital. Dedicated registration counters and awareness desks were established to assist eligible women with on-the-spot registration, verification of documents, and dissemination of information regarding the benefits and eligibility criteria of PMMVY.

During the programme, beneficiaries

were sensitised about the importance of early registration of pregnancy, regular antenatal care, institutional delivery, child immunisation, and timely availing of maternity benefits under the scheme. The officials also guided beneficiaries on the application process and addressed their queries to ensure hassle-free enrolment.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar emphasised that the PMMVY aims to provide financial assistance to eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers, thereby promoting improved maternal and child health, encouraging positive health-seeking behaviour, and supporting nutritional needs during pregnancy and after child birth.

The Department reiterated its commitment to extending the benefits of welfare schemes to every eligible beneficiary through sustained awareness campaigns and outreach programmes across the district.

SKUAST-K brings Scientific Farming Solutions to Tribal Communities

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JULY 07: The Division of Silviculture & Agroforestry, Faculty of Forestry, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the Regional Fodder Station, Shuhama, organized an awareness-cum-distribution program at Wangath, Ganderbal under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) project aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods among Scheduled Tribe communities.

The program, held under the project "Outreach of Technologies and Distribution of Agriculture Implements for Economic Upliftment of Low-Income ST Groups," focused on raising awareness of improved agricultural technologies and providing essential farm inputs to tribal households to enhance productivity and income. Chairing the program, Dr.



Vaishnu Dutt, Head, Division of Silviculture & Agroforestry, Faculty of Forestry, underscored the importance of taking scientific knowledge and technology-driven

interventions to tribal communities for sustainable socio-economic development.

Principal Investigator, TSP Project, Dr. Meraj-u-Din Dar, said

the initiative goes beyond distributing agricultural implements by promoting technology dissemination, raising awareness, and building capacity among tribal farmers. He noted that adopting improved farming practices and more efficient use of resources can significantly enhance livelihood security and income for low-income Scheduled Tribe families.

Ashish Verma, In-charge Head, Regional Fodder Station, Shuhama, interacted with farmers and demonstrated practical technologies suited to local conditions.

Tarpaulins and fodder seed were distributed to selected tribal beneficiaries to encourage the adoption of improved, sustainable agricultural practices.

The program concluded with reaffirming SKUAST-K's commitment to strengthening tribal livelihoods through technology outreach, capacity building and inclusive rural development.

Adbi Markaz Kamraz Organises Majlis-e-Hussaini at Hygam Sopore

Emphasis Laid on Following the Teachings of Ahlul Bayt (AS)

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JULY 7: The Adbi Markaz Kamraz, Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with Anjuman-e-Hussaini Auqaf-e-Zainabiya, Hygam, organised a dignified Majlis-e-Hussaini at Imam Bargah Zainabiya, Hygam, Sopore. The event witnessed the participation of poets, writers, intellectuals and devotees from different districts of the Kashmir Valley.

The function was presided over by noted poet Shahnaz Rashid. The presidium also included Mohammad Amin Bhat, President of Adbi Markaz Kamraz; Syed Saduddin Saldi, Shahbaz Hakbari, and Syed Yousuf, President of Anjuman-e-Hussaini Auqaf-e-Zainabiya.

The programme commenced with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Mohsin Hussain, followed by a soulful rendition of a Naat by Mir Shahnawaz Hussain, paying tribute to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) through the verses of the late Dr. Aziz Hajni.

On the occasion, Ibrahim Muntazir presented a paper on the life, patience, steadfastness and everlasting message of Hazrat Zainab (AS). He highlighted that after the tragedy of Karbala, Hazrat Zainab (AS) carried the message of truth and justice to the world with unparalleled courage, wisdom and resilience, making her an eternal inspiration for humanity.

The poetic session featured dozens of poets from across the Valley, who presented heartfelt tributes to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), Hazrat Abbas (AS), Hazrat Zainab (AS), Hazrat Ali Asghar (AS) and the other martyrs of Karbala. Through their poetry, the participants elo-



quently reflected upon the sacrifices of Karbala and the timeless values of truth, justice and human

dignity. Their recitations were warmly appreciated by the audience.

Among the poets who presented their works were Rashid Roshan, Javid Iqbal Mawri, Rashid

Johar, Ghulam Hassan Ajmi, Arshad Mohiuddin, Farooq Shaheen, Hassan Azhar, Abid Ashraf,

Sarwar Hashmi, Zahoor Hygami, Saleem Yousuf, Dilshad Mustafa, Muntazir Hygami, Syed Nadim Bukhari, Ghulam Din Bahar, Shair Ali Mashghool, Syed Saduddin Saidi, Shahnaz Rashid, Shahbaz Hakbari, Majrooh Kashmiri, Syed Abid Gowhar and Ameen Ashraf.

In his presidential address, Mohammad Amin Bhat, President of AMK, said that the tragedy of Karbala is not merely a historical event but a timeless symbol of truth, justice, patience, sacrifice and the dignity of humanity. He stated that the sacrifices of Imam Hussain (AS) and the Ahlul Bayt (AS) continue to inspire people to stand firmly against oppression, injustice and falsehood in every age.

He further emphasised that literature plays a vital role in promoting moral values, humanism, tolerance and intellectual awakening. He appreciated the cooperation extended by Anjuman-e-Hussaini Hygam and expressed hope for organising more joint literary and cultural programmes in the future.

Welcoming the guests, Shafir Shafi, Vice President of AMK, said that the Majlis-e-Hussaini is not only an expression of devotion but also an important part of the region's literary, cultural and spiritual heritage. He stressed the need to adopt the teachings of Imam Hussain (AS) in everyday life to promote love, brotherhood, justice and noble human values in society.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks to all the poets, guests and participants on behalf of Anjuman-e-Hussaini Hygam and Adbi Markaz Kamraz, followed by a collective prayer. The proceedings of the Mushaira were conducted by Farooq Shaheen, Secretary of AMK.

Yikvot: Literature and Language App. But What Is It?

HT CULTURAL DESK

What does one do when a mother tongue begins to feel foreign? The question demands a real answer, and resists a comfortable one. A generation of Kashmiris keeps asking it, quietly and with some urgency: those still in the valley, and those scattered well beyond it, who have watched the gap between themselves and their own language widen each year. A few of them have decided that watching no longer suffices.

They call it Yikvot, and it started with one person and a private ache. "When Yikvot started, I had not envisioned it growing as it has today," its founder, Seerat, admits. "It began as a way for me to connect and engage with my language at a time when there was not much discourse around Kashmiri literature." What one person started alone soon found others who felt the same longing, including some who had never lived in Kashmir yet still hoped to keep a connection they counted as theirs. As Seerat puts it, "a village was formed."

The village now numbers eight. Its reading sessions have gathered readers around important works of Kashmiri literature; its discussions have ranged widely; its speaker sessions have hosted eminent writers and translators, Prof.



Shafi Shouq and Prof. Neerja Mattoo among them, before an audience that had long awaited exactly this. Its most ambitious effort has recovered the vast, overlooked corpus of translation both into and out of Kashmiri, and reminded readers that Tolstoy's War and Peace and Dostoevsky's fiction have lived in their own language for years, a fact most had never known. That single revelation reframed how far translation had shaped the literary history of Kashmir itself. A website devoted to literature, arts, and culture runs alongside all this, a place where the valley's artists and writers can publish their own work.

One line from the team lingers. "Yikvot is a space that allows you to deliberate, speak, and question," the team offers, "and this is the legacy that we are working to build." What binds them, they point out, is not a single set of opinions (they arrived with plenty of their own) but a

shared love for a language starved of attention, and a conviction that only the people it belongs to can revive it. "It is not easy; it demands great effort which is not limited to sharing a vision but working towards it."

Then comes the app, and with it the part hardest to stop wondering about. Yikvot will release it soon, and has said almost nothing about what it will contain. What does it actually mean to build a home for a language inside a phone, one that welcomes both the reader fluent in Kashmiri and the one still finding a way back to it? Will it invite reading, argument, or both at once? Yikvot has not said. An app, by itself, holds only what its makers place there. The better question asks what a group this deliberate will put inside it, and how much of a scattered literary inheritance they can gather into one place. Several established figures in Kashmiri letters have not only welcomed the project but agreed to appear within it: Dr. Sohan Lal Kaul, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi, Mr. Shamsad Kralwari, and Prof. Naseem Shafia among them.

Whatever the app finally holds, its purpose reads clearly enough: to carry one person's longing into the work of many, and to knit each reader into an effort none of them could sustain alone. What waits inside, its release will reveal.

Two-Week Summer Theatre Workshop for Children Begins at Theatre Studio "ADCC" in Ganderbal

GULFAM BARI

GANDERBAL, JULY 7: A two-week Summer Theatre Workshop for school children, organized by Azad Dramatic Cultural Club Repora commenced at the Theatre Studio "ADCC" Ganderbal. The workshop is being conducted under the Guru Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant) Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The primary objective of the workshop is to introduce school children to the art of theatre during their summer vacations and provide them with practical training in acting, stagecraft, dialogue delivery, voice modulation, expression and other essential aspects of theatre. Several renowned theatre personalities from the Valley have been engaged as resource persons and trainers to men-



tor the participants and acquaint them with both traditional and contemporary theatre practices. A large number of students from different schools are enthusiastically participating in the workshop and gaining hands-on experience in various aspects of theatre. According to the organizers such initiatives play a sig-

nificant role in nurturing creativity, enhancing self-confidence and encouraging children's interest in performing arts. The workshop will continue until July 19, 2026 and will conclude with a special stage performance by the participating children showcasing the skills they have acquired during the training.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

CONTENT CREATION COMPETITION

Under
NASHA MUKT J&K ABHIYAN

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

Create • Inspire • Influence •

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

<p>COMPETITION CATEGORIES</p> <p>A) SLOGAN WRITING</p> <p>B) AUDIO-VISUAL CONTENT</p> <p>i) Song (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) ii) Animation Film (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) iii) Short Film (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) iv) Short Documentary (Max. 2.5 to 3 Minutes) v) Cartoon vi) Logo Design on the Theme</p>	<p>THEMES FOR CONTENT CREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say No to Drugs Youth Against Substance Abuse Healthy Lifestyle & Mental Wellness Impact of Drugs on Family and Society Role of Youth in Building Drug-Free India Rehabilitation and Hope Drug-Free Campus Movement 	<p>ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to students of recognized Higher Secondary Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Professional Institutions. Age Group: 17 - 23 Years. Individual Participation: Slogan Writing & all AV Content Categories. Group Participation: Only for Animation Film, Short Film & Short Documentary Categories (Max. 3 members). Valid College/Institution ID Card or Bonafide Certificate from institute is mandatory.
<p>IMPORTANT GUIDELINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All entries must be original and unpublished. Copyright violations will lead to disqualification. Entries may be submitted in English, Hindi or any official Languages of J&K. Only one entry per participant per category. AI generated entries shall be rejected. Only Original and Creative ideas welcome. 	<p>SUBMISSION</p> <p>Submit entries through:</p> <p>e-mail: sec-jkaacl@jk.gov.in</p> <p>Cut-off Date for receiving entries 07 July, 2026 upto 5:00 PM</p>	<p>SELECTION PROCESS</p> <p>A Committee constituted by JKAACL shall evaluate all entries in a fair and transparent manner.</p>
<p>AWARDS & RECOGNITION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Hit the Profits, Break the Drug Trade ; Targeting Illicit Wealth Is the Most Effective Weapon

The attachment of properties at a rapid pace under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act by the Jammu and Kashmir Police marks a significant evolution in the region's fight against drug trafficking. More than a routine enforcement action, it reflects a strategic recognition that the battle against narcotics cannot be won merely by intercepting consignments or arresting traffickers. It must also dismantle the financial architecture that sustains the illicit trade.

Drug abuse continues to pose one of the gravest threats to Jammu and Kashmir's social well-being. Beyond the immediate harm inflicted on individuals, it fractures families, undermines educational institutions, fuels crime and weakens the social fabric. The youth remain the most vulnerable victims, with addiction robbing them of opportunity, dignity and hope. Confronting this challenge, therefore, requires a response that extends beyond conventional policing and embraces a comprehensive, long-term strategy.

The latest action by the police is significant because it strikes at the very incentive that fuels organised narcotics networks—money. Drug trafficking is fundamentally an economic enterprise driven by enormous profits. Criminal syndicates survive and expand not simply because they move contraband, but because they are able to convert illegal proceeds into legitimate-looking assets, thereby consolidating financial power and social influence. By identifying and attaching properties allegedly acquired through the proceeds of drug trafficking, the authorities are sending a clear and unequivocal message: crime will not be allowed to create wealth.

This approach represents a natural progression of the broader anti-drug campaign underway in Jammu and Kashmir. The Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan has rightly recognised that enforcement alone cannot eliminate the narcotics menace. Sustainable success depends upon integrating stringent legal action with financial investigations, public awareness, preventive interventions and accessible rehabilitation programmes. The campaign's growing emphasis on targeting the economic lifelines of drug syndicates reflects an increasingly sophisticated understanding of organised crime.

Encouragingly, the region's anti-narcotics strategy has evolved into a multi-dimensional initiative. Alongside intensified seizures and arrests, investigative agencies are tracing financial transactions, attaching illegally acquired assets, expanding awareness campaigns and strengthening rehabilitation services. This balanced approach acknowledges that reducing supply must go hand in hand with reducing demand, while simultaneously dismantling the criminal infrastructure that profits from addiction.

Yet the responsibility cannot rest with law enforcement agencies alone. Drug abuse is a societal challenge that demands collective action. Parents, educational institutions, religious organisations, community leaders and civil society must work in concert to identify early signs of addiction, promote awareness and encourage timely intervention. Public cooperation with investigative agencies can substantially enhance efforts to expose trafficking networks and prevent vulnerable youth from falling prey to them.

Equally important is maintaining the distinction between traffickers and victims. Those who finance and profit from the narcotics trade deserve the strictest application of the law. Those battling addiction require treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and opportunities for reintegration into society. A truly effective anti-drug policy is one that punishes criminal enterprise while restoring human lives.

The recent attachment of properties should therefore be viewed as more than an isolated enforcement success. It signals a deliberate effort to dismantle the financial ecosystem that enables drug trafficking to flourish. Confiscating illicit assets not only deprives criminal networks of their economic strength but also reinforces public confidence that unlawful wealth cannot be accumulated with impunity.

The road to a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir will undoubtedly be long and demanding. However, by targeting the profits that sustain the narcotics trade, the authorities are attacking the problem at its roots rather than merely addressing its symptoms. If pursued consistently, transparently and with sustained public participation, this strategy can significantly weaken organised drug networks, protect future generations and strengthen the foundations of a safer, healthier and more resilient society.

Rouf Khanday: The Man Who Chose to Heal Nature Instead of Watching It Fade

A Story of Courage, Community, and the Revival of Koolar Meadows



SHAHNAWAZ NAZIR

In every generation, there are individuals who refuse to accept that problems belong to someone else. They understand that meaningful change begins with a single decision—the decision to act. In the breathtaking landscapes of Kashmir, where snow-capped mountains embrace emerald meadows and crystal-clear streams nourish life, one such individual has emerged as a symbol of hope. His name is Rouf Khanday of Bamnoo, Pulwama.

While thousands visit Kashmir's pristine destinations to admire their beauty, only a handful return determined to protect them. Rouf Khanday belongs to that rare group of people who see nature not merely as a place to enjoy but as a sacred trust to preserve. His recent initiative to restore the beauty of Koolar Meadows in Keller, Shopian, stands as a shining example of what committed citizens can achieve when they replace complaints with action.

Koolar Meadows have long been regarded as one of Kashmir's hidden treasures. Their rolling green landscapes, colorful wildflowers, cool mountain breeze, and breathtaking views offer visitors a glimpse of paradise. Only a few years ago, these meadows reflected nature in its purest form. Visitors walked through lush grass untouched by litter, breathing fresh mountain air while experiencing the serenity that only untouched landscapes can provide.

However, as tourism increased, another visitor quietly arrived—plastic. Water bottles, disposable cups, food wrappers, polythene bags, and countless other forms of waste gradually began replacing the natural beauty that once defined the meadows. Every abandoned bottle became a reminder that human carelessness can damage even the most beautiful places. Plastic does not disappear with the changing seasons. It remains in the soil for decades, contaminates water sources, harms wildlife, and slowly destroys ecosystems that have taken centuries to evolve. Many people noticed the problem, but very few decided to solve it. Rouf Khanday chose to become one of those few.

As a passionate photographer and nature enthusiast, Rouf frequently visited Kashmir's scenic landscapes to capture their beauty through his camera lens. During one of his visits to Koolar Meadows, however, his camera recorded something painful. Instead of photographing untouched grasslands, it captured piles of discarded plastic. Rather than ignoring the problem or merely sharing photographs online to express disappointment, Rouf made a different choice. He transformed concern into commitment.

He announced a community-led cleanliness drive and invited people from every walk of life to become part of the solution. His message was simple yet powerful: "Nature didn't change. We did. And if people can pollute these meadows, people can also restore them." These words resonated deeply because they reminded society that environmental destruction is not inevitable. It is a consequence of human behavior, and human behavior can also reverse it.

The cleanup campaign quickly evolved into something much larger than collecting trash. It became a movement. Volunteers from different backgrounds answered the call. Students, photographers, trekkers, environmental enthusiasts, and ordinary citizens gathered at Koolar Meadows with one common purpose—to protect the land they love. Every plastic bottle collected represented a conscious decision to repair rather than



destroy. Every bag of waste removed symbolized hope. The volunteers demonstrated that environmental conservation does not always require massive budgets or sophisticated technology. Sometimes it begins with gloves, garbage bags, determination, and people willing to give a few hours of their time.

Under Rouf Khanday's leadership, the cleanup became an inspiring reminder that ordinary citizens possess extraordinary power when united by a common purpose. True leadership is measured not by speeches but by actions. Rouf never positioned himself above the volunteers. He worked alongside them, bent down to pick up litter, carried heavy bags of waste, and encouraged others through his own example. Such leadership inspires because it is authentic. People naturally follow individuals who demonstrate commitment rather than merely demanding it from others.

His initiative also highlighted an important truth: environmental responsibility belongs to everyone. Governments, local administrations, organizations, schools, businesses, tourists, and local communities all share the responsibility of protecting natural heritage. No single institution can preserve Kashmir's landscapes without active public participation. Rouf's campaign successfully transformed environmental protection into a shared community mission.

Every successful environmental movement begins with awareness but succeeds only through participation. The volunteers who joined the Koolar cleanup proved that communities possess tremendous strength when working together. Instead of asking who was responsible for the pollution, they asked how they could remove it. Instead of criticizing others, they contributed their own efforts. Their work demonstrated that meaningful environmental change does not require perfection; it requires participation. Every individual who removed a single plastic bottle became part of something far greater than a cleanup drive. They became guardians of Kashmir's natural heritage.

Koolar Meadows welcome thousands of visitors each year. Tourism brings opportunities for local communities, supports livelihoods, and allows people from across the world to experience Kashmir's extraordinary beauty. However, tourism must also be responsible. Every visitor carries a simple obligation: take back everything you bring, leave only footprints, and carry home only memories. The mountains never ask for anything in return. They provide peace, inspiration, clean air, fresh water, and unforgettable experiences. Protecting them is the least humanity can do. History repeatedly reminds us that

Koolar Meadows have long been regarded as one of Kashmir's hidden treasures. Their rolling green landscapes, colorful wildflowers, cool mountain breeze, and breathtaking views offer visitors a glimpse of paradise. Only a few years ago, these meadows reflected nature in its purest form. Visitors walked through lush grass untouched by litter, breathing fresh mountain air while experiencing the serenity that only untouched landscapes can provide

lasting social change often begins with individuals rather than institutions. One person's determination inspires another. One volunteer motivates ten more. One cleanup encourages an entire community. Rouf Khanday's work illustrates this principle perfectly. He did not wait for someone else to organize a campaign. He became the organizer. He did not wait for change. He became the change. This is perhaps the greatest lesson his initiative offers. Environmental conservation is not reserved for scientists, activists, or government officials. It belongs to every citizen.

Whether through reducing plastic use, planting trees, educating children, participating in cleanups, or simply refusing to litter, everyone can contribute.

Children learn more from examples than from instructions. When young people witness volunteers cleaning mountains instead of polluting them, they develop respect for nature. When they observe community members sacrificing time to protect public spaces, they learn civic responsibility. Rouf's initiative therefore extends beyond a single cleanup. It is helping cultivate a culture of environmental consciousness. The greatest legacy of such campaigns lies not merely in cleaner landscapes but in changing attitudes. If future generations inherit both cleaner meadows and stronger environmental values, then the movement will have achieved something truly remarkable.

The journey has only begun. Cleaning Koolar Meadows once is not enough. Protecting nature requires continuous effort. Plastic pollution returns whenever awareness disappears. Therefore, initiatives like these must become regular community traditions rather than one-time events. Educational campaigns, responsible tourism practices, improved waste management, and sustained volunteer engagement are essential for preserving Kashmir's fragile ecosystems. Rouf Khanday has shown what is possible. Now the responsibility belongs to all of us.

Heroes do not always wear uniforms or stand on grand stages. Sometimes they walk through mountain meadows carrying garbage bags. Sometimes they inspire without seeking recognition. Sometimes they protect landscapes that cannot speak for themselves. Rouf Khanday is one such hero. His efforts at Koolar Meadows remind us that protecting nature is not an extraordinary act—it is a human responsibility. The true measure of civilization is not how many beautiful places we inherit but how many beautiful places we leave behind.

Kashmir's mountains, forests, rivers, and meadows have given generations countless blessings. Now they ask for something in return: our respect, our care, and our commitment. If more individuals choose action over indifference, as Rouf Khanday has done, the dream of a cleaner, greener, and plastic-free Kashmir will no longer remain a dream. It will become a living reality.

May his example inspire countless others to rise, serve, and protect the paradise that has been entrusted to us.

"Nature didn't change. We did. Now it is our responsibility to change again—for the better."

The author from Zagitpora, Charar-e-Sharief

Partition Literature: Situating an Odyssey of Painful Trauma



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The Partition of India in 1947 remains one of the most cataclysmic ruptures in modern history, a moment when the cartography of the subcontinent was violently redrawn and millions of lives were uprooted in the name of nationhood. Literature born out of this rupture—is not merely a record of historical events; it is an archive of wounds, a repository of memory, and a testament to the human capacity to endure unimaginable suffering. It is an odyssey of painful trauma, where writers become chroniclers of loss, witnesses to brutality, and interpreters of fractured identities. Through fiction, memoir, poetry, and oral narratives, Partition Literature reconstructs the emotional landscape of a people torn between home and exile, belonging and alienation, memory and forgetting.

Trauma literature on the Partition in Jammu and Kashmir captures a uniquely complex landscape of violence, displacement, and fractured identities.

Unlike Punjab or Bengal, Kashmir's Partition trauma intertwined with political uncertainty, tribal invasions, and mass migrations across mountainous borders. Literary narratives—through memoirs, oral histories, and regional fiction—reveal the anguish of families uprooted overnight, women subjected to brutalities, and communities torn apart by fear and suspicion. These works document not only physical suffering but also the psychological wounds of lost homelands, ruptured cultural bonds, and unresolved grief. Partition literature from Kashmir thus becomes a poignant archive of memory, mourning, and resilience. Partition was not a single event but a prolonged trauma that unfolded across borders, communities, and generations. The violence that accompanied it—massacres, abductions, arson, forced conversions, and the largest migration in human history—left behind scars that continue to shape the psyche of the subcontinent. Literature becomes the medium through which these scars speak. It gives voice to the silenced, restores agency to the marginalized, and confronts the political decisions that reduced human lives to bargaining chips. In doing so, Partition Literature transcends the boundaries of nation-states and enters the realm of universal human suffering.

One of the central concerns of Partition Literature is the burden of memory. Writers

who lived through the event—Saadat Hasan Manto, Bisham Sahni, Ismat Chughtai, Rajinder Singh Bedi, and others—wrote with the immediacy of witnesses. Their stories are raw, unfiltered, and often unbearably painful. Manto's Toba Tek Singh, for instance, transforms the madness of Partition into a metaphor for the absurdity of political borders. The protagonist, Bishan Singh, trapped in a mental asylum, becomes the embodiment of a people who no longer know where they belong. His death in the no-man's-land between India and Pakistan is one of the most haunting images in modern literature—a reminder that Partition created spaces where humanity itself became stateless.

The ethics of representation becomes crucial here. How does one write about violence without aestheticizing it? How does one narrate trauma without exploiting it? Partition writers navigate this dilemma by foregrounding the human over the political. They refuse to reduce suffering to statistics. Instead, they focus on individual stories—women abducted and never returned, children lost in the chaos, families torn apart, friendships destroyed by communal hatred. These micro-histories challenge the grand narratives of nationalism and expose the human cost of political ambition.

Partition Literature also foregrounds the gendered nature of violence. Women's bodies became battlegrounds on which notions of honor, purity, and community were violently inscribed. Thousands were abducted, raped, forcibly married, or compelled to commit suicide to "protect" family honor. Writers like Amrita Pritam, Qurratulain Hyder, and Jyotirmoyee Devi bring these silenced stories to the forefront. Amrita Pritam's iconic poem addressed to Waris Shah—"Ajj aakhaan Waris Shah nu"—is a lamentation for the daughters of Punjab whose cries went unheard. It transforms the poet into a collective voice of mourning, invoking the legendary chronicler of Heer's tragedy to rise again and witness the devastation of an entire generation of women. Jyotirmoyee Devi's The River Churns explores the psychological trauma of a woman abducted during Partition and later "recovered" by the state, only to find herself alienated from both her past and her present.

These narratives reveal how women were doubly victimized—first by the violence of mobs, and then by the patriarchal structures of their own communities.

Partition was fundamentally a crisis of home. Millions were forced to leave behind ancestral lands, memories, and identities. The trauma of displacement permeates Partition Literature, where home becomes a spectral presence—longed for, remembered, mourned, but never fully regained. In Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan, the village of



Mano Majra becomes a microcosm of a world on the brink of collapse. The arrival of ghost trains filled with corpses transforms a peaceful village into a site of terror, illustrating how Partition shattered the illusion of communal harmony. Similarly, Bapsi Sidhwa's Ice-Candy-Man (later adapted as Cracking India) captures the disintegration of Lahore through the eyes of a child. The innocence of the narrator contrasts sharply with the brutality unfolding around her, creating a narrative tension that heightens the emotional impact. The novel reveals how Partition infiltrated the most intimate spaces of everyday life, turning neighbors into enemies and homes into sites of fear.

Displacement is not merely physical; it is psychological. The loss of home becomes a loss of identity. Refugees carry with them not only memories but also the trauma of being uprooted. Their narratives reflect a perpetual longing for a past that can never be reclaimed. Partition Literature thus becomes a literature of exile, where nostalgia and grief intertwine.

Partition Literature confronts the darkest aspects of human nature. The communal violence that erupted during Partition was not spontaneous; it was the culmination of decades of political manipulation, colonial divide-and-rule policies, and communal mistrust. Writers expose how ordinary people, driven by fear and hatred, became perpetrators of unspeakable violence. In Bisham Sahni's Tamas, the killing of a pig and its placement near a mosque becomes the catalyst for widespread riots. The novel reveals how small acts of provocation can ignite large-scale violence when communities are already polarized. Sahni's narrative is not accusatory; it is diagnostic. He dissects the anatomy of communal hatred, showing how political leaders exploit religious sentiments

for personal gain. Manto's stories, too, refuse to offer simplistic moral judgments. In Thanda Gosht, he portrays a man who participates in the massacre of a Sikh family, only to discover that the woman he abducted is already dead. The story is brutal, but it forces readers to confront the moral degradation that Partition unleashed. Manto's genius lies in his refusal to sanitize reality. He compels readers to acknowledge the capacity for evil that resides within society.

Although Partition occurred in 1947, its trauma continues to reverberate across generations. The borders drawn then have hardened into geopolitical hostilities, wars, and ideological divides. Partition Literature reflects this ongoing trauma, exploring how memory is transmitted across generations. Contemporary writers like Kamila Shamsie, Amitav Ghosh, and Urvashi Butalia revisit Partition not as a historical event but as a living wound. Urvashi Butalia's The Other Side of Silence is a groundbreaking work that collects oral histories of survivors, especially women and marginalized communities. It reveals how official histories often erase uncomfortable truths, and how personal narratives challenge these silences. Butalia's work underscores the importance of memory as resistance—an act of reclaiming agency in the face of erasure.

Amitav Ghosh's The Shadow Lines explores the psychological borders that Partition created. The novel suggests that borders exist not only on maps but also in minds. The violence in Dhaka and Calcutta becomes a metaphor for the fragility of human relationships in a world divided by nationalism. Ghosh's narrative blurs the boundaries between past and present, showing how Partition continues to shape contemporary identities.

Partition Literature also critiques the political decisions that led to the division

of the subcontinent. Writers highlight the failure of leadership, the haste of the Radcliffe Line, and the indifference of colonial administrators who drew borders without understanding the human consequences. Literature becomes a counter-narrative to official histories that celebrate independence while glossing over the suffering that accompanied it. The trauma of Partition is thus inseparable from the politics of nationhood. The creation of India and Pakistan was accompanied by the destruction of countless lives. Partition Literature forces readers to confront this paradox. It challenges triumphalist narratives and insists on acknowledging the human cost of freedom. Despite its focus on trauma, Partition Literature is not devoid of hope. Many narratives explore the possibility of healing and reconciliation. Stories of friendship across religious lines, acts of compassion amidst violence, and the resilience of survivors offer glimpses of humanity's capacity for goodness.

Literature becomes a space where wounds can be acknowledged, shared, and perhaps even healed. The act of writing itself becomes therapeutic. For survivors, narrating their experiences is a way of reclaiming control over their memories. For readers, engaging with these narratives fosters empathy and understanding. Partition Literature thus plays a crucial role in shaping collective memory and promoting dialogue.

Finally, Partition Literature can be called "an odyssey of painful trauma"—an ongoing journey through memory, loss, and resilience. It confronts the darkest chapters of human history while illuminating the indomitable spirit of those who survived. It challenges political narratives, exposes the brutality of communal hatred, and gives voice to the silenced. Above all, it reminds us that history is not merely a record of events but a tapestry of human experiences. The trauma of Partition cannot be confined to textbooks or commemorative speeches. It lives on in the stories of survivors, in the memories of displaced families, and in the literature that continues to bear witness. As long as borders divide people, as long as communities are torn apart by hatred, Partition Literature will remain relevant. It is not merely a genre; it is a moral imperative—a call to remember, to reflect, and to ensure that such a tragedy never recurs.

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GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS

■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

The twenty-first century has placed agriculture at a critical crossroads. Climate change, declining arable land, a rapidly growing global population and increasing food insecurity have forced scientists and policymakers to rethink conventional farming practices. Among the most significant scientific developments in modern agriculture is the emergence of genetically modified (GM) crops. While hailed by many as a breakthrough capable of transforming global food production, GM crops continue to generate debate over their impact on human health, the environment and society. The challenge before humanity is not whether biotechnology should be embraced or rejected outright, but whether it can be applied responsibly, transparently and ethically.

Genetically modified crops are developed by introducing specific genetic changes into plants through advanced biotechnology. Unlike traditional plant breeding, which may take years to produce desirable characteristics, genetic engineering enables scientists to introduce precise traits such as insect resistance, disease tolerance, drought resilience, improved

nutritional quality and enhanced productivity. Crops such as maize, soybean, cotton and canola have already become integral components of agriculture in several countries.

The greatest argument in favour of GM crops lies in their potential to strengthen food security. As the world's population continues to rise, agricultural productivity must increase without placing additional pressure on forests, water resources, and biodiversity. GM crops capable of resisting pests and diseases reduce crop losses and often require fewer chemical pesticides, thereby lowering production costs and limiting environmental contamination. Similarly, drought- and heat-tolerant varieties offer hope to farmers struggling with the increasingly unpredictable effects of climate change.

Another important contribution of genetic engineering is nutritional enhancement. Scientists have successfully developed crops enriched with essential nutrients to combat widespread nutritional deficiencies. The widely discussed example of Golden Rice, enriched with beta-carotene to address Vitamin A deficiency, demonstrates how biotechnology can contribute not only to food production but

also to public health, particularly in developing nations where malnutrition remains a serious concern.

Despite these achievements, concerns regarding human health continue to dominate public discussion. Questions about allergies, long-term safety and possible unforeseen biological effects frequently arise whenever GM foods are discussed. However, decades of scientific evaluation have consistently shown that genetically modified foods approved for human consumption are as safe as their conventionally produced counterparts. Major international scientific and regulatory bodies have found no credible evidence linking approved GM foods with cancer or other chronic diseases. Nevertheless, scientific integrity demands that every newly developed GM crop undergo rigorous safety assessment before approval and remain subject to continuous post-market monitoring. Scientific knowledge evolves continuously and maintaining vigilance is an essential part of responsible innovation.

Environmental concerns deserve equal attention. Although GM crops have reduced pesticide use in many farming systems, they are not without ecological

challenges. Gene flow between cultivated crops and wild relatives, the emergence of herbicide-resistant weeds through repeated herbicide use and the possibility of reduced biodiversity require careful management. These concerns do not invalidate genetic engineering itself but highlight the importance of sound agricultural practices, environmental monitoring and balanced regulatory oversight.

Beyond science, GM crops have raised important ethical and socioeconomic questions. Much of the world's genetically modified seed technology remains protected under patents held by multinational biotechnology companies. Consequently, many farmers become dependent on purchasing new seeds each growing season rather than saving seeds from previous harvests. Such dependence may increase production costs and weaken traditional farming systems, particularly among small and marginal farmers. Ensuring fair access to technology and protecting farmers' rights should therefore remain integral components of agricultural policy.

Public perception represents another significant challenge. Many consumers continue to view genetically modified

foods with suspicion, often influenced by misinformation, emotional narratives, or limited understanding of modern biotechnology. Public confidence cannot be built through scientific data alone. Transparent food labeling, open communication, independent research and effective science education are equally important in enabling consumers to make informed choices.

Looking ahead, the future of agricultural biotechnology appears increasingly promising. Advanced gene-editing technologies such as CRISPR-Cas9 now allow scientists to make highly precise genetic modifications, reducing many of the limitations associated with earlier genetic engineering methods. Research is progressing toward crops capable of tolerating extreme climatic conditions, resisting emerging plant diseases, improving nutritional quality and reducing dependence on chemical inputs. If accompanied by robust regulation and ethical governance, these innovations may play a vital role in achieving sustainable agriculture and global nutritional security.

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Curd and it's amazing benefits



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Stress levels among all age groups are increasing with each passing day in our country. India is the second-largest country in the world in terms of its population, which is more than 140 crore. One thing is very clear: the country is heading towards development in all fields, like science and technology, women's empowerment, and providing employment to educated youth. At the same time, it is very unfortunate that we are decreasing agricultural land. With the hike in population, the demands are increasing, like vegetable demand, fruit demand, and other essential items like cereals, pulses, spices, rice, and wheat. Concerned authorities have to take the issue very seriously and provide some alternative ways for the public to fulfil their demands in the country.

Today I am going to let you learn about the health benefits of curd. Curd is one of our favourite foodstuffs and is used worldwide due to its great health benefits. Curd is prepared from the milk after adding some sour milk to it and then taking it in a warm place for 6 to 8 hours or more. Curd is sour, tasty, and has great health benefits.

Benefits of curd:
Curd contains vitamin C, which boosts our immune system and is beneficial for our gum health. Minerals present in curd like zinc, potassium, fat, carbohydrate, sodium, protein, vitamin A, etc.

Good for heart health: Curd reduces blood pressure and reduces strokes. It is known to increase good cholesterol and reduce blood pressure. Cholesterol and blood pressure are increas-

ing heart-related issues. Good cholesterol allows the arteries to flow blood smoothly, which keeps the heart healthy.

Curd boosts immune system: Due to the presence of multi-nutrients in curd like minerals, vitamins, and probiotics, it boosts our immune system. Probiotics also help reduce inflammation, which causes various other chronic conditions.

Helps in weight loss: curd helps us to reduce our weight. It is better for those who are overweight to try.

Good digestion: Curd is one of the best foods, and it causes irritability of the stomach and indigestion. It contains lactobacillus and bifidobacteria, which are beneficial for the digestive system and reduce bloating and bowel irritation. Dysentery, constipation, and keeping us hydrated.

During the summer, most people used to drink curd with meals; some had it with bread or parathas. Curd keeps us hydrated and has immense health benefits.

Today, we are noticing that young people have stomach issues; intestinal infections are one of the concerning problems we are having among our youth. All such problems are occurring due to unhygienic, nutrient-poor junk food items. IBS (irritable bowel syndrome) is one of the most concerning problems among all age groups. This problem arises due to our bad food habits, like skipping mid-day meals, drinking cold drinks on an empty stomach, smoking, etc.

Those who are suffering from IBS. Should they never avoid mid-day meals if they have some issues or are not having lunch with them at their jobs, it is best to have a few glasses of curd with ample water content with common Kashmir bread.

Suggestion: Take balanced, hygienic, and properly cooked food. Junk food is never a good option because health is wealth. Junk can increase our weight and trigger some other diseases, like IBS. Take plenty of liquid, keep hydrated, and eat fresh and seasonal fruits and vegetables.

sahilmanzoor9419@gmail.com



Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo To Be Available For Consultations At Umeed Day Care And Diagnostics Every Sunday

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Umeed Day Care and Diagnostics, Mattan, is pleased to announce that Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, an eminent Physician, will be available for patient consultations every Sunday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the healthcare facility located near Petrol Pump, Mattan, Anantnag.



Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo holds the qualifications MBBS, PGDFM (CMC Vellore), B.Sc., FRCP (London, UK), FRSPH (London, UK), CBiol (UK), CSci (UK), MRSB (UK), and MACad-Med (Cardiff, UK). He is a Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium), a Member of the American College of Physicians (ACP, USA), and an Academic Life Member of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI).

Patients seeking consultation for general medicine, diabetes, hypertension, thyroid disorders, infectious diseases, preventive healthcare, and other medical conditions can now avail themselves of his services at Umeed Day Care and Diagnostics on Sundays.

Clinic Details:
Doctor: Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, Physician
Venue: Umeed Day Care and Diagnostics, Near Petrol Pump, Mattan, Anantnag
Consultation Timings: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Days: Every Sunday
JKMC Registration No.: 15414

The management of Umeed Day Care and Diagnostics welcomes Dr. Itoo and looks forward to providing high-quality, patient-centred healthcare services to the community through his regular outpatient consultations.

The Unruly Adolescence



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

There is an old saying that if we wish to predict the future of a nation, we only need to observe its youth. Very few stages of life influence that future more profoundly than adolescence—the critical transition from childhood to adulthood. It is during these formative years that values are shaped, character is moulded, aspirations are born and habits are established. The quality of guidance adolescents receive today will determine the quality of society tomorrow.

Unfortunately, adolescence is often misunderstood. Many adults perceive teenagers as rebellious, impulsive, or irresponsible. While mood swings, emotional sensitivity and risk-taking behaviour are indeed common during this stage, they are largely the result of natural biological and psychological changes rather than deliberate misconduct. The adolescent brain is still developing, particularly the regions responsible for judgment, emotional regulation and decision-making. Consequently, young people require understanding, patient guidance and positive mentorship instead of constant criticism.

The influence of adolescence on an individual's overall behaviour cannot be overstated. It is during these years that a person's moral compass, emotional resilience, social skills and sense of responsibility begin to take lasting shape. A nurturing family, inspiring teachers, supportive friendships and a healthy social environment foster confidence, empathy, discipline and integrity. Conversely, neglect, domestic conflict, substance abuse, violence, discrimination and social isolation often leave deep psychological scars that may affect behaviour well into adulthood.

The modern adolescent faces challenges that previous generations could scarcely have imagined. The digital revolution has placed the world in the palm of every young person's hand. Never before has information been so accessible, nor distractions so relentless. Social media offers opportunities for learning, creativity, entrepreneurship and global communication, yet it also exposes adolescents to cyberbullying, misinformation, unrealistic lifestyles, online addiction and unhealthy comparisons. The pressure to seek validation through likes, followers and virtual popularity is quietly eroding self-esteem and mental well-being for many young people.



Equally concerning is the growing mental health crisis among adolescents. Academic competition, career uncertainty, family expectations, loneliness and identity struggles have contributed to rising levels of stress, anxiety and depression. Sadly, emotional distress often goes unnoticed because society continues to associate mental health struggles with weakness. Schools and families must foster environments where adolescents feel safe to express their concerns without fear of judgment. Emotional intelligence, resilience and stress management deserve as much importance as academic achievement.

Yet adolescence should never be viewed merely as a period of vulnerability. It is also an age of immense promise. Adolescents possess extraordinary energy, curiosity, imagination and idealism. History bears witness to the transformative power of young minds. Many scientific discoveries, social movements, technological innovations, artistic achievements, and humanitarian initiatives have been driven by individuals who began nurturing their dreams during adolescence.

The responsibility of directing this tremendous potential rests with all sections of society. Parents must replace excessive control with meaningful communication, combining affection with discipline and freedom with responsibility. Teachers should inspire curiosity rather than rote learning, encouraging critical thinking, creativity, ethical reasoning and compassion alongside academic excellence. Governments must invest in quality education, mental health services, sports infrastructure, skill development, libraries and youth leadership programmes. Communities should create opportunities for adolescents to engage in volunteerism, environmental conservation, blood donation awareness, literacy campaigns and oth-

er constructive civic initiatives that instil responsibility and social commitment.

Character education deserves renewed emphasis. While professional success is important, society needs young citizens who value honesty, integrity, empathy, respect, tolerance and service above selfish ambition. Adolescents who learn to think independently while remaining socially responsible become adults capable of strengthening democratic institutions, fostering social harmony and driving sustainable development.

Perhaps the greatest mistake society can make is to underestimate its adolescents. Every great leader, scientist, teacher, entrepreneur, artist and reformer once stood uncertain at the threshold of adolescence. Whether that uncertainty evolves into confidence or despair depends largely upon the guidance, opportunities, and encouragement provided during these decisive years.

The choices made during adolescence rarely remain confined to adolescence alone; they echo throughout an individual's lifetime and collectively, shape the destiny of nations. Investing in the education, health, character and emotional well-being of adolescents is therefore not an act of charity but an obligation owed to the future.

A society that neglects its adolescents mortgages its future. A society that nurtures them secures it. The question before us is not whether adolescence matters—it unquestionably does. The real question is whether we are prepared to invest the time, wisdom and compassion required to transform today's adolescents into tomorrow's responsible citizens, ethical leaders and architects of a more humane and progressive world.

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WMDA issues public notice for strict compliance with SWM rules at Manasbal

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

GANDERBAL, JUL 07: The Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) has issued a second public notice directing all shopkeepers, hoteliers, restaurant owners, vendors and other commercial establishments operating at Manasbal Tourist Destination to strictly comply with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016/2026.

The Authority, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) observed that despite an earlier notice, some establishments continue to violate waste management norms by littering, dumping waste in open spaces and using banned single-use plastic items. All commercial establishments have been instructed to ensure proper segregation, storage and disposal of solid waste through authorised agencies, maintain cleanliness in and around their premises and cooperate with inspection teams.

The Authority has also directed all commercial establishments to obtain Police Verification (Character Certificate) and produce valid registration/trade licences within 15 days for verification. Establishments have been asked to submit details of their waste management mechanism, including installation of separate bins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, daily collection and safe storage of waste, and disposal only through authorised agencies.

The WMDA has warned that failure to comply within the stipulated time will invite strict legal action, including environmental compensation, sealing or closure of establishments, cancellation of permissions/registrations and prosecution under the relevant provisions of law.

The Authority urged all stakeholders to treat the matter as urgent in the interest of environmental protection, preservation of Manasbal Lake and promotion of sustainable tourism—(KNO)

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of IRSHAD AHMAD TALI S/O MOHAMMAD SULTAN TALI R/O DANDMOOH Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes in his/her favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of DANDMOOH of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the TALI community having annual income 4,40,000/- the details of family of the applicant are as follows:

- 1..MOHAMMAD SULTAN TALI Father 65 years FARMER
- 2..ATIQA BEGUM Mother 60 years H/W
- 3... RAHEENA BANO sister 24 years student
- 4...IRSHAD AHMAD TALI self 20 years student

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

Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Public Notice

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

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

Public Notice

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

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

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER, J&K

Shram Bhawan-Railway Road, Jammu / Near General Bus Stand, Batamalo Srinagar
Website: jklabourcomm.jk.gov.in | E-mail: lab.comm@jk.gov.in

Subject: Appointment of Supervisors in the Labour Department.
Ref: I) Administrative Department's letter No. LE-Gen/63/2022-11 (7023733) dated 01.04.2026.
II) J&K Services Selection Board's Notification No. 09-Selection of 2026 dated 16.02.2026 issued vide endorsement No. JKSSB-Scry/20/2025-06 (7731559) dated 16.02.2026.

Order No. 199-LC of 2026 Dated: 02.08.2026

As recommended by the J&K Services Selection Board vide JKSSB-Scry/20/2025-06 (7731559) dated 16.02.2026 and its approval conveyed by the Labour & Employment Department, Civil Secretariat, J&K vide letter No. LE-Gen/63/2022-11 (7023733) dated 01.04.2026, sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of following candidates as Supervisors, with immediate effect, in the Pay Level 2 (19900-63200), in whose favour satisfactory verification of Character and Antecedents report has been received from the Criminal Investigation Department vide Form numbers indicated against each:

S No.	Name of the Candidate	Parentage	Address	Category	Form No. (CID)
1	Nishant Raina	Bansi Lal Raina	Poonch City, Sher Khas-185101	OM	155147 Dt: 19.05.2026
2	Anwar Sadat	Qazi Mohd Azam	Chanipora Payeen, Karnah, Kupwara-193225	OM/RBA	155154 Dt: 22.05.2026
3	Suhail Hassan	Ghulam Hassan Sheikh	Khaipora, Khansahib, Budgam-191111	RBA	155693 Dt: 28.04.2026
4	Sanjeev Kumar Bhagat	Bansihal Bhagat	Keran Bantalab, Jammu-North-181123	SC	155158 Dt: 21.05.2026

The appointee(s) shall report to the office of Labour Commissioner, J&K Srinagar within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this appointment order. In case of failure of appointee(s) to join within the stipulated period, the appointment shall be deemed to have been cancelled without any further notice.

The appointee(s) shall be allowed to join only on the production of following certificates in original:

1. Academic Qualification Certificates. Matriculation/ Date of Birth Certificate.
2. Health Certificate issued by concerned Chief Medical Officer (Physical Fitness Certificate).
3. Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
4. Certificates from the concerned authorities to the effect that no loan under Self Employment Scheme has been taken by the appointee(s).
5. Relevant Category Certificates (in case of candidates belonging to reserved categories).

The appointment of the above candidates as Supervisors shall further be subjected to the following terms and conditions:

6. The appointee(s) shall furnish an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that if on verification of the qualification certificates/DoB Certificate and other documents (whichever is applicable) from the concerned issuing authority are proved forged, false or fake, the appointee(s) shall have no claim for his appointment as Supervisor and the appointment shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab initio and the legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him/her.
7. If the candidate(s) has taken loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment and Counselling Centre of the Domicile District, he shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government Service. He shall be required to repay the entire loan liability/in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee(s) regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery in terms of Circular No. 06-JK (GAD) of 2023 dated 06-02-2023 issued by the General Administration Department.

8. Salary of the appointee(s) shall not be drawn and disbursed to him/her unless satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of the Qualification/DoB Certificates is received from the concerned issuing authority.
9. The appointee(s) shall be on probation for a period of 02 years.
10. The appointment of the above candidate(s) shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24th December, 2009.
11. The inter-seniority of the appointee(s) shall be determined in accordance with the merit secured by the appointee(s) in the selection list prepared by the Services Selection Board.
12. The appointment of the candidate(s) shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petition(s), if any, pending before any competent court.

No: LC/ESTT/14/2026-7 (E-7878279)

Dated: 02.08.2026

**Sd/-
Charandeep Singh, JKAS
Labour Commissioner, J&K**

DIPK: 2955/26 | Dated: 07-07-2026

Public Notice


It is hereby notified that we, the parents of our son, Saidian, are applying for correction of his name, who is studying in Tyndale Biscoe School, Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar under Admission No. 4646-16B, Class 9th, Section Yellow, Roll No. 15. The correction is as follows: from Saidian to Syedain Ithaz. If anybody has any objection, he may submit the same to the Principal, Tyndale Biscoe School, Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after this period.

**Ithaz Ahmed Pajwari & Shazia Bashir
Khanyar, Srinagar, Kashmir – 190003**

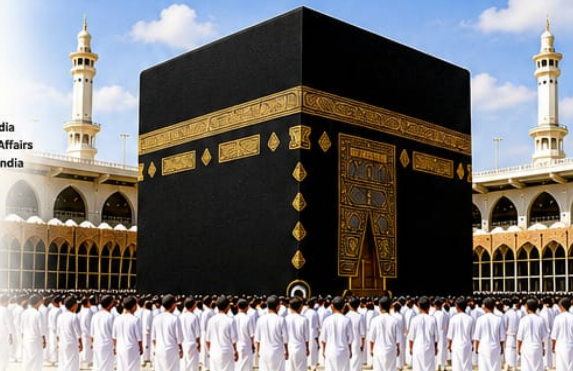
Public Notice

My Son's name has been wrongly written as MOHAMMAD ZEYAN SOFI S/O ZAHOR AHMAD SOFI bearing Registration No B-2023 : 1-05261000410 in his Date of Birth certificate while his correct name is MOHAMMAD ZAIN SOFI S/O ZAHOR AHMAD SOFI which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH/BMO office kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name...ZAHOR AHMAD SOFI
F/O ...MOHAMMAD ZAIN SOFI
R/O... BANDIPAYEEN KALANTRA**



JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE HAJ COMMITTEE



**HAJ 2027 (1448 H)
IMPORTANT GUIDELINES**

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

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR HAJ – 2027 (1448 H)

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

JOIN OUR OFFICIAL WHATSAPP GROUP
For Haj 2027 Updates

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

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

+91 194 249 5365
<https://www.jkshc.org/>

Aapki Tayyari – Aapka Aaram – Hamari Zimmedari

UT of Jammu & Kashmir Office of The Executive Engineer, Water Works Division Srinagar

Exchange Road near BSNL Office

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 19/WWD/Sgr/Civil of 2026-27; Dated 07.07.2026

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Executive Engineer, Water Works Division Srinagar invites e-tenders on percentage rate basis from reputed and resourceful A-Class Contractors/Firms/Companies registered with JKPWD/JS/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Revamping of 6.80 MGD Water Treatment Plant Alusteng including replacement of Filter Media", approved under City Sustainable Infrastructure Fund to SMC (Capex Budget 2026-27). The bidding process shall be completed online in two cover system with Cover 1st consisting of Qualification Criteria, Tender fee, Bid Security, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications etc. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid (BOQ) in the prescribed format.

Sr No	Name of work	Est. Cost (Lacs)	T.D Cost (Rs)	E/M (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time
1.	Revamping of 6.80 MGD Water Treatment Plant Alusteng including replacement of Filter Media	55.00	1500/-	02% of the estimated cost	90 days	90 Days

Tender Inviting Authority:	Executive Engineer, Water Works Division Srinagar.
Tender Opening Authority (TOA):	Executive Engineer, Water Works Division Srinagar.
Head of Account	City Sustainable Infrastructure Fund to SMC (Capex Budget 2026-27)
Position of Funds:	Available with Competent Authority

Key/Critical Dates:	
Publish Date (Online)	07.07.2026
Document Download Start / End Date	08.07.2026 To 22.07.2026 4:00PM
Bid Submission Start Date	08.07.2026 10:00 AM
Bid Submission End Date	22.07.2026 4:00 PM
Date and time of Bid opening (Technical Cover)	23.07.2026 4:00 PM in the Office of Tender Opening Authority (TOA) i.e., Executive Engineer, Water Works Division Srinagar.

No: WWD/Sgr/CC/2202-12 | Dated: 07.07.2026

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Water Works Division Srinagar**

DIPK: 2957/26 | Dated: 07-07-2026

Javed Rana listens to public grievances, assures swift disposal of representations

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 7: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today met several public delegations and individuals at Srinagar and listened to their issues and demands pertaining to the Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs departments.

The delegations, representing different areas, apprised the Minister of various public issues requiring immediate attention. They also projected several develop-



mental demands and sought timely intervention for the resolution of matters.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the deputations and individuals, assuring them that every genuine issue would be examined on merit and addressed

in a transparent and time-bound manner. He reiterated that the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, remains steadfast in its commitment to provide efficient public services and ensuring that developmental benefits reach every

section of society.

Javed Rana directed the concerned officers to promptly process the representations received during the interaction and ensure their swift disposal. He stressed the need for maintaining close coordination with the field functionaries so that public grievances are resolved efficiently and without unnecessary delay.

The Minister emphasized that regular interaction with the people is vital for responsive governance and enables the Government to identify local issues, assess developmental priorities.

SKUAST-K brings Scientific Farming Solutions to Tribal Communities

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JULY 07: The Division of Silviculture & Agroforestry, Faculty of Forestry, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the Regional Fodder Station, Shuhama, organized an awareness-cum-distribution program at Wangath, Ganderbal under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) project aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods among Scheduled Tribe communities.

The program, held under the project "Outreach of Technologies and Distribution of Agriculture Implements for Economic Upliftment of Low-Income ST Groups," focused on raising awareness

of improved agricultural technologies and providing essential farm inputs to tribal households to enhance productivity and income.

Chairing the program, Dr. Vaishnu Dutt, Head, Division of Silviculture & Agroforestry, Faculty of Forestry, underscored the importance of taking scientific knowledge and technology-driven interventions to tribal communities for sustainable socio-economic development.

Principal Investigator, TSP Project, Dr. Meraj-u-Din Dar, said the initiative goes beyond distributing agricultural implements by promoting technology dissemination, raising awareness, and building capacity among tribal farmers. He noted that adopting improved farming practices.

PMDDKY review meeting held in Kishtwar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, JULY 7: Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, a review meeting on PMDDKY regarding the compilation and submission of Output Data and Outcome Data for the financial year 2025-26 was held today under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Kishtwar, Vinod Behnal.

During the meeting, the progress achieved by various departments in furnishing Output and Outcome Data was reviewed in detail. The ADDC stressed the importance of timely and accurate submission of data to facilitate its upload on the PMDDKY Portal.



All concerned departments were directed to compile and submit their Outcome Data on or before July 10, 2026, so that the information can be uploaded to the PMDDKY portal within the prescribed timeline.

The Chair emphasized that adherence to timelines and data accuracy is essential for effective monitoring and evaluation of developmental programmes.

All concerned HODs of the line departments were instructed to ensure prompt compliance with the directions issued during the meeting.

The Chair directed all departments to work in close coordination and complete the exercise within the stipulated timeframe to ensure seamless reporting and effective implementation of government schemes.

The meeting was attended by CAO Kishtwar Kushal Chandel, DSHO Kishtwar Dr. Jamil Nasir besides other Officers and officials from concerned departments.

CPO, ACD Doda review progress of PMAY-Urban, PMAY-Gramin

Directions issues for timely completion of Housing Projects, Expedited disposal of pending cases

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JULY 07: Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Doda Manesh Kumar, along with Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Doda Din Mohammad Afaqi, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) across the district, with emphasis on timely completion of housing projects and effective implementation of the flagship schemes.

The meeting reviewed the overall status of sanctioned, completed and under-construction houses under both schemes. Detailed discussions were held on accelerating the pace of construction, timely geo-tagging of completed houses, updating beneficiary details on the PMAY-

U portal and ensuring prompt release of benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

The Chair directed all concerned officers to maintain accurate and updated records for effective monitoring and seamless implementation.

The progress of organizing Loan Melas for eligible beneficiaries was also reviewed. The CPO emphasized the need to create greater awareness about the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) so that eligible beneficiaries can avail themselves of its benefits. He further instructed the concerned departments to take appropriate action in respect of non-starter beneficiaries and expedite the completion of non-starter Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC) houses.

The meeting also reviewed the status of geo-tagging under PMAY-U 2.0, identification of projects under the Affordable



Housing in Partnership (AHP) component and the preparation of District and Urban Local Body (ULB)-wise action plans for completion of all PMAY-U houses within the extended mission period.

Reviewing the implementation of PMAY-Gramin, the Chair

assessed the status of completed and under-construction houses, pending cases and convergence with MGNREGA/VB-GRAM-G to ensure timely completion of rural housing units. He directed the concerned officers to identify bottlenecks delaying construction and resolve

all pending cases on priority.

The progress of Capex works being executed under the housing sector was also reviewed. The officers were instructed to ensure quality execution of works, strict adherence to timelines and regular field monitoring for timely completion of all approved projects.

Emphasizing the objective of providing safe, secure and dignified housing to every eligible family, the Chair called upon all implementing agencies to work in close coordination, strengthen monitoring mechanisms and ensure that all pending houses are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

The meeting was attended by Block Development Officers of the district, officers from JK Bank, officials of the Municipal Committees, officers of the Rural Engineering Wing and other concerned officers.

DC Budgam reviews progress of Transit Accommodation Project for PM Package Employees at Kakanmaran

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JULY 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited kakanmaran Budgam and conducted a comprehensive review of the progress of the Transit Accommodation Project for PM Package/Migrant Employees of District Budgam.

The project is aimed at providing modern residential accommodation for PM Package employees. The infrastructure comprises 12 residential blocks with a total of 192 flats, along with one community hall and one dormitory, besides other essential amenities.

During his visit, the DC was accompanied by the Joint Director Planning, Budgam, Superintending Engineer, R&B and Hydraulic Circle Budgam, Executive Engineers of the Roads & Buildings (R&B), Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Power Development Department (PDD), representatives from the

Relief Department, and other concerned officers.

During the inspection, the officers briefed the DC about the physical progress of the project and informed him that construction work is progressing at an accelerated pace.

On-site the DC inspected various components of the project and reviewed the quality and pace of execution.

The DC was also briefed that project also includes a range of allied works such as land levelling, security infrastructure, internal roads, approach roads, drainage network and protection works. The fencing wall of transit accommodation has been completed.

During the visit, the DC also reviewed the progress of the water supply infrastructure for the entire transit accommodation complex and directed the Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Budgam, to complete all pending water sup-

ply requirements within the shortest possible time to facilitate timely commissioning of the project.

The DC further directed the Mechanical Engineering Department to commence work on the proposed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at the earliest so that the required sanitation infrastructure is established well before the completion of the project.

The DC instructed all executing agencies to strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines while maintaining the highest standards of quality. He stressed the need for close coordination among all departments to remove bottlenecks and ensure seamless execution of the project.

The DC also said that all major infrastructure projects across various sectors are being closely monitored to ensure their timely completion and dedication to public use.

DC Kulgam chairs Training Programme on AgriStack Module

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JULY 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today chaired a meeting-cum-training programme at the Auditorium-cum-New Conference Hall, Kulgam, to review the implementation of the AgriStack Module and to build the capacity of the field functionaries associated with the programme.

The training programme was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Kulgam, Girdawars, Patwaris, and other concerned field functionaries from across the district.

During the programme, the nominated Master Trainer, Qaimoh, Mohd. Zakir Mir, imparted detailed training on the AgriStack Module. He explained the entire process of data entry and verification, particularly the Khewat-wise workflow, through practical demonstrations. The Master Trainer also screened instructional videos and elaborated on the various features and functionalities of the module to ensure that all



field functionaries acquire a clear understanding of the application and its effective implementation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining accuracy, transparency, and timely completion of all activities under the AgriStack initiative. He directed all field functionaries to work in close coordination and ensure that the assigned tasks are completed meticulously within the stipulated timeline. He further stressed that no laxity or delay would be tolerated and instructed the officers and officials to extend full cooperation for the successful implementation of the programme.

The participants also interacted with the Master Trainer and clarified their queries regarding different aspects of the module, making the training programme informative and productive.

PETITIONS COMMITTEE REVIEWS FOOD ADULTERATION CASES, CALLS FOR STRINGENT ENFORCEMENT

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 7: The Committee on Petitions of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, under the Chairmanship of Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, today examined the petitions pertaining to the adulteration of essential food commodities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Action Taken Report thereof.

The Committee also reviewed a petition regarding the appointment and confirmation of a Lumberdar in Porwara, Chadoora. Legislators Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Javaid Riyaz (Bedar), Dr Sajjad Shafi along with Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit, Commissioner FDA J&K Khalid Jahangir, Joint Commissioner Food Safety, State Drug Controller, ADCs Srinagar, Budgam and Baramulla along with other se-



nior officers from the concerned departments were present in the meeting. During the meeting, the officers of the Drug and Food Control Organization presented a detailed briefing on the functioning of the department, its mandate under the relevant laws and rules, inspection drives conducted across the Union Terri-

tory, enforcement measures, action taken against violators and penalties imposed to curb the sale of adulterated food and substandard drugs.

The Chairman stressed the need for greater interdepartmental coordination to effectively tackle the menace of food adulteration. He also emphasized

the importance of intensifying Information, Education and Communication (IEC) initiatives to create public awareness regarding food safety, quality standards and consumer rights.

Underscoring that the Drug and Food Control Organization is directly concerned with the protection of human life and

public health, the Chairman called for stringent enforcement of the law to eliminate the adulteration of essential food commodities. He directed the department to take strict and effective action against all violators and ensure that no compromise is made with public safety.

The Chairman instructed the department to maintain strict vigilance over the sale of medicinal drugs without valid medical prescriptions and to strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to prevent their unauthorized sale.

While discussing the petition regarding the appointment and confirmation of a Lumberdar in Porwara (Chadoora), the Committee directed the concerned officers to complete the appointment process within one week and submit a compliance report to the Committee positively.

MakeMyTrip Launches OneCircle, a Global Rewards Program With 13,300+ Accommodation Properties

Gurugram, Bengaluru, and Jaipur top the network by property count among cities

HT BUSINESS DESK

GURUGRAM: MakeMyTrip today announced the launch of OneCircle, a global rewards program built around the Indian traveller, bringing together a collaborative network of 13,376 accommodation properties including hotels and alternate accommodations across 1,002 cities worldwide (as of June 30, 2026) onto a single platform.

OneCircle launches at significant scale, covering 868 cities across India, with over 12,330 accommodation properties in India under one rewards program. Internationally, the program extends to 1046 properties across 39 countries covering 134 destinations, chosen for their salience to outbound Indian travel. Properties have been onboarded based on consumer ratings, on-

ground assessment by MakeMyTrip's supply team, and their interest in joining the program.

OneCircle brings together a diverse mix of accommodation partners, ranging from independent hotels to homestays and villas, across luxury, premium, and budget segments. It offers travellers the flexibility to choose from a wide variety of stays tailored to their preferences and budgets. Travellers stand to earn a minimum of 10% of their accommodation spend back as reward points on every booking, redeemable on their next stay anywhere in the network.

The program is weighted towards the non-metro markets driving India's domestic travel growth: three in four participating properties sit in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Gurugram, Bengaluru, and Jaipur have



emerged as the top cities by number of properties, while Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Kerala lead by state footprint. The program covers a wide range of destinations, from metros and business hubs to hill stations, beaches, spiritual centres, and off-beat getaways, across every price point from affordable stays to luxury hotels catering to both leisure and business travellers.

Rajesh Magow, Executive Director & Group CEO, MakeMyTrip, said, "OneCircle is built on a simple idea: every trip should be more rewarding for the traveller, and every accommodation

partner should have a way to turn that into lasting business. For travellers, that means earning real value on every stay at home or abroad. For our partners, it opens a new channel of demand and a way to build relationships with returning guests."

Since its phased rollout, OneCircle has seen encouraging early traction with travellers.

About MakeMyTrip: MakeMyTrip is a technology platform that enables transactions across a wide range of travel needs, empowering customers with seamless and integrated travel experiences.

The company serves a broad and diverse customer base ranging from individuals to enterprises and small and medium-sized businesses ("SMBs"). The brands including MakeMyTrip, Goibibo and redBus address distinct traveler categories, use cases and price points across the Indian travel ecosystem. The online travel company operates an asset-light marketplace model, connecting travelers with a broad network of suppliers, including airlines, hotels, accommodation providers and ground transport operators. The product and service offerings across customer-facing interfaces, distribution channels and supplier-facing systems are powered by an AI-supported integrated technology platform that is designed to promote scale, supply aggregation, personalization and customer convenience.

Godrej Pet Care enters four southern states, bets Rs 500 crore on pet food boom

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, JULY 7: Godrej Pet Care, a subsidiary of Godrej Consumer Products, on Monday announced a major expansion into Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala with the launch of its 'Godrej Ninja' dog food brand, backed by a planned Rs 500 crore investment as it eyes a larger share of India's rapidly expanding pet care market.

The expansion comes amid rising pet ownership and growing demand for packaged pet nutrition in India, with Karnataka — led by Bengaluru — emerging as the country's largest pet food market.

Launching the science-led pet food range, Godrej Pet Care Chief Operating Officer Nitin Jain said the company aims to democratise premium pet nutrition by offering high-quality, Indian-made products at affordable prices.

"South India is a strategic growth market for India's pet care industry. The response to Godrej Ninja in Tamil Nadu has been encouraging, and we are now scaling rapidly across the region. Karnataka, especially Bengaluru, is the most evolved pet food market in the country, with spending nearly 25 per cent higher than any other city," he said.

Jain said the company would invest Rs 500 crore in the pet care business

over the next few years to drive expansion and strengthen its presence nationwide.

Industry estimates cited by the company peg India's pet care market at around Rs 6,000 crore, of which pet food accounts for nearly Rs 5,000 crore. Despite increasing pet ownership, packaged pet food penetration remains low, presenting significant growth opportunities.

South India alone contributes an estimated Rs 1,800-2,000 crore to the national pet food market, with Karnataka accounting for the largest share of sales at 15 per cent.

Godrej said the 'Ninja' range has been developed and tested in India at the Nadi Godrej Centre for Animal Research & Development. Formulated with probiotics, prebiotics and polyphenols, the dog food is designed to improve gut health, strengthen immunity and provide complete nutrition through a blend of 37 essential nutrients.

Head of Research and Development Dr Ashok Pattanaik said gastrointestinal disorders account for nearly 30 per cent of veterinary visits, underscoring the need for scientifically balanced pet nutrition rather than relying solely on home-cooked meals.

The company said the products are available for both puppies and adult dogs, with prices starting at Rs 20 for a 100-gram pack.

HIGHER FUEL PRICES KEEP TRUCK RENTALS ELEVATED DESPITE WEAK FREIGHT DEMAND: SHRIRAM MOBILITY BULLETIN

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUL 7: Higher automotive fuel prices kept truck rentals elevated across major freight corridors in June despite subdued cargo movement, while electric vehicle (EV) sales continued their strong growth trajectory, according to the latest Shriram Mobility Bulletin released today.

The report said truck rentals recorded moderate month-on-month increases across most key trunk routes, with the Mumbai-Kolkata-Mumbai corridor registering the highest rise of around 2 per cent, followed by Delhi-Bengaluru-Delhi at 1.8 per cent and Delhi-Kolkata-Delhi at 1.7 per cent.

Freight rates also edged up on the Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi, Delhi-Hyderabad-Delhi, Delhi-Chennai-Delhi, Mumbai-Chennai-Mumbai and Guwahati-Mumbai-Guwahati routes.

However, truck rentals on the Bengaluru-Kolkata-Bengaluru and Bengaluru-Mumbai-



Bengaluru corridors remained flat, reflecting softer freight demand in parts of southern India.

Despite muted freight movement, long-haul trucking activity remained resilient on an annual basis. The Delhi-Kolkata-Delhi route led year-on-year growth at around 15 per cent, followed by Bengaluru-Mumbai-Bengaluru at 11 per cent, while Mumbai-Chennai-Mumbai and Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi

recorded growth of around 7-8 per cent.

Vehicle sales trends were mixed during June. Bus sales rose 24 per cent month-on-month, while agricultural tractor sales increased 18 per cent ahead of the Kharif sowing season. Commercial tractor sales and earthmoving equipment sales also posted gains of around 10 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively. In contrast, motor car sales declined 2 per cent, while e-

rickshaw sales fell 3 per cent compared with May.

On a year-on-year basis, goods carrier sales increased by around 21 per cent, motor car sales by 28 per cent, and three-wheeler goods vehicles by 42 per cent, indicating continued demand across logistics and personal mobility segments.

Electric mobility remained a bright spot, with electric two-wheeler sales rising 13 per cent and electric three-wheeler sales

increasing 10 per cent over the previous month. On an annual basis, e-two-wheelers sales surged 91 per cent, while e-three-wheelers sales more than doubled with 103 per cent growth, reflecting sustained adoption in last-mile mobility and commercial transport.

The bulletin also pointed to softer transport activity during the month, with petrol consumption declining 3 per cent month-on-month. FASTag collections also weakened, with transaction volumes falling 3.6 per cent and collection values declining 1.3 per cent, indicating lower highway traffic and freight movement compared with May.

Looking ahead, the report said logistics activity is expected to remain subdued in July as the southwest monsoon gathers pace across most parts of the country. It added that a possible easing in international crude oil prices could provide some relief to transport operators by lowering fuel costs in the coming weeks. UNI

India's Q2 deal value more than doubles to USD 36.3 billion despite moderation in volumes : Report

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUL 7: India's dealmaking activity recorded a sharp increase in transaction values during the second quarter of 2026, with the combined value of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and private equity (PE) deals surging 127 per cent quarter-on-quarter to USD 36.3 billion, even as overall deal volumes declined.

According to Grant Thornton Bharat's latest Deal-tracker report, the quarter saw 565 transactions, down 18 per cent from the previous quarter. However, a series of large strategic transactions, particularly outbound acquisitions by Indian companies, lifted overall deal values to their highest quarterly level in four years.

M&A activity emerged as the primary growth driver during the quarter, with 240 deals worth USD 27.9 billion. Although the number of M&A transactions declined 12 per cent sequentially, deal values jumped 302 per cent, driven by five billion-dollar cross-border acquisitions. Outbound transactions accounted for 84 per cent of the total M&A value, reflecting increasing overseas expansion by Indian companies.

The report noted that even after excluding the five billion-dollar deals, M&A values remained 23 per cent higher than the previous quarter, indicating sustained momentum in larger mid-market transactions.

Private equity activity moderated during the quarter, recording 325 deals worth USD 8.4 billion. Deal volumes declined 22 per cent while values fell 8 per cent compared with the previous quarter. Despite the slowdown, average deal sizes increased, suggesting investors continued to back larger, high-growth businesses. The quarter also saw the emergence of four new unicorns—Skyroot Aerospace, Square Yards Consulting, Sarvam AI, and KreditBee.

The report highlighted mixed trends in the capital markets. Initial public offering (IPO) activity softened, with 11 listings raising USD 1.1 billion, while Qualified Institutional Placements (QIPs) gained momentum with 16 issuances raising USD 2.3 billion, indicating stronger reliance on secondary fundraising.

Sector-wise, Retail and Consumer led deal activity with 95 transactions, followed by IT & ITeS with 80 deals, and Banking and Financial Services with 62 deals.

In value terms, Pharma, Healthcare, and Biotech emerged as the leading sector with USD 13.7 billion in transactions, supported by major cross-border acquisitions. Manufacturing followed with USD 3.5 billion, while Telecom recorded USD 3 billion, and Infrastructure Management accounted for USD 2.9 billion in deal value. The report said the quarter reflected a shift towards fewer but larger transactions, with strategic outbound acquisitions driving overall deal values despite a moderation in overall market activity amid global economic uncertainties. UNI

Govt cancels auction of nine critical mineral blocks due to poor investor response

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 7: The Centre has cancelled the auction of nine critical and strategic mineral blocks offered under the seventh tranche of auctions after failing to attract adequate investor interest, dealing a setback to its efforts to boost domestic production of minerals vital for the clean energy transition and advanced manufacturing.

The Ministry of Mines said two mineral blocks were withdrawn after receiving no bids, while the auction of seven others was annulled as fewer than three bidders qualified at the technical evaluation stage. "Since there were nil bids, the auction process for two mineral blocks stands annulled," the ministry said in a notification.

The two cancelled blocks are the Majhauri Titanium, Vanadium and Aluminium Laterite Block in Madhya Pradesh and the RAMB Degana Tungsten, Lithium and Associated Mineral Block in Rajasthan.

In a separate notification, the ministry said the auction process for seven additional blocks had been cancelled because there were fewer than three technically qualified bidders, making the auctions non-competitive.

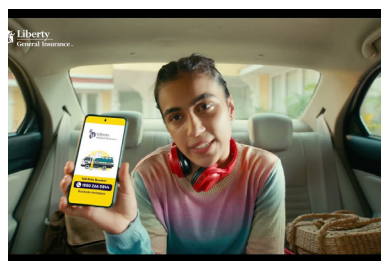
These include the Nawara-Nawadih Glauconite Block, Tipa Glauconite Block, Shahpur Glauconite Block, Sapneri Vanadium-bearing Magnetite-Illmenite Block, Gurur Glauconite Block, Karahibhadar Glauconite Block, and Naringpanga (South) Graphite Block, located across Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The seventh round of critical mineral auctions was launched on March 23 through a Notice Inviting Tender (NIT), offering 19 mineral blocks comprising critical and strategic minerals under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015. UNI

Liberty General Insurance launches road safety, insurance awareness drive in Delhi

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 7: Liberty General Insurance has launched a five-day road safety and insurance awareness campaign across select petrol pumps in Delhi to educate vehicle owners on the importance of insurance coverage, responsible accident response and road safety.

The campaign, organised from June 28-July 2 to mark Insurance Awareness Day, was conducted as part of the company's role as the Lead Non-Life Insurer for Delhi in line with the regulator's vision of



"Insurance for All by 2047."

As part of the initiative, awareness stalls were set up at petrol pumps where visitors were informed about timely insurance policy renewals, financial protection through insurance and the steps to be taken dur-

ing road accidents.

Participants were also provided with complimentary first-aid kits and bilingual accident response booklets containing information on emergency response, the Good Samaritan Law and road safety practices.

The drive recorded a footfall of more than 1,100 visitors across various locations. Liberty General Insurance said it plans to continue similar awareness programmes across Delhi in the coming months to promote road safety and increase insurance awareness among citizens. UNI

India achieves 20pc Ethanol blending target 5 years ahead of schedule

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUL 7: India has achieved its target of blending 20 per cent ethanol with petrol five years ahead of schedule, marking a major milestone in the country's biofuel programme aimed at reducing dependence on imported crude oil and promoting cleaner transport fuels.

According to the government, ethanol blending has increased from less than 1.5 per cent in 2013-14 to 20 per cent in 2025-26 under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.

Ethanol procurement has grown from about 38 crore litres

in Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2013-14 to a projected over 1,200 crore litres in 2025-26, while production capacity has expanded nearly fivefold from 421 crore litres in 2014 to around 2,000 crore litres in 2026.

The government said the programme has helped save more than Rs 1.90 lakh crore in foreign exchange since 2014-15 by substituting over 310 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil.

It has also reduced carbon dioxide emissions by around 930 lakh metric tonnes and generated additional farmer earnings exceeding Rs 1.60 lakh crore through increased demand for



feedstocks such as sugarcane, maize, and surplus rice.

Alongside the progress report, the government issued clarifications on several concerns related to E20 fuel, stating that there is no evidence of widespread engine damage or invalidation of vehicle warranties due to the use of ethanol-blended petrol.

It also said claims of a 30 per cent reduction in fuel efficiency are misleading, as the figure refers to ethanol's lower energy content and not actual on-road mileage. According to the government, vehicle maintenance, driving conditions, and driving habits have a greater influence on fuel economy.

The government further clarified that ethanol used for blending is produced through industrial fermentation and distillation processes and is different from raw sugarcane juice. It said modern ethanol plants use limited processed water and operate under Zero Liquid Dis-

charge systems, while only surplus rice approved after meeting food security requirements is diverted for ethanol production.

The release noted that ethanol blending has been adopted in several countries, including the United States, Brazil, Japan, Canada, Thailand, and a number of European nations as part of their transport fuel programmes.

The Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme is part of India's broader strategy to reduce crude oil imports, strengthen energy security, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and increase the use of domestically produced renewable fuels. UNI

Sanju Samson left out of India's T20I squad for Zimbabwe tour



■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD: Sanju Samson has been left out of India's T20I squad for the three-match series in Zimbabwe later in July. While the BCCI did not state a reason for Samson's exclusion - whether he was rested or dropped - he was among six changes to the T20I squad that is currently playing the five-match series in England. Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Washington Sundar, and Ravi Bishnoi were the other players not included in the 15-member group - led by Shreyas Iyer - going to Zimbabwe. Lower-order batter Rinku Singh and fast bowler Mayank Yadav made comebacks to the T20I squad, while wicketkeeper-batter Prabhsimran Singh, fast bowlers Yash Thakur and Ashok Sharma, and left-arm spin allrounder Harsh Dubey got their maiden T20I call-ups. Shivam Dube has been named as a replacement in the ODI squad for the three-match series that follows the ongoing T20I series. India's ODI series in England ends on July 19 and they play the first T20I against Zimbabwe on July 23, followed by matches on July 25 and 26, all of which are in Harare. Samson's absence from the squad follows him being left out of the playing XI for the second T20I against England at Old Trafford, where 15-year old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became India's youngest men's debutant and opened the innings, scoring 14 off 10 balls. Samson had made scores of 5, 0 and 1 in two matches against Ireland in Belfast and the first T20I against England in Durham. Before IPL 2026, however, he had reeled off three consecutive half-centuries to lead India to the 2026 T20 World Cup title and was named the Player of the Tournament.

The Big Time arrives in the hush of normalcy, and Australia win again

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

LONDON: With all due respect to the day's headline musical act, Rita Ora, and the polite reception she received - including from an impressively attentive Lord's pavilion - it was Adele who said it best... over the ground's PA system, during Australia's first drinks break. By then, Beth Mooney and Phoebe Litchfield had muscled their side along to 62 for 1 in the powerplay, and the Women's T20 World Cup final was as good as over. At which point, England's increasingly morose players were serenaded with a burst of "Someone Like You", a ballad about unrequited love, and the need to move on. And move on they must... to another date with Lord's, in fact, in just five days' time. Nat Sciver-Brunet was already on the brink of tears as she spoke to the media soon afterwards, so she wasn't desperately keen to be reminded of the next phase of her team's glass-ceiling-smashing summer. You wait 239 years for this, an unequivocal moment in which women's cricket takes centre stage at Lord's - with no caveats, or double-headers, or under-currents of tokenism.

Cricket has forgotten how to say goodbye properly

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

TRENT BRIDGE: William James, the father of American psychology, said that the deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated. Appreciated as different from praised or celebrated. Those are different things and both can happen at a distance without much real understanding attached to them. Appreciation is something quieter and more personal. It means being told that what you gave was real, the cost of it understood, and that people were genuinely paying attention while you were giving it. Cricket, of all sports, should understand this. It asks more of a person than most - years of emotional energy, private disappointment, and the quiet courage required to keep coming back after failure. That is why a fare-

well in cricket matters as much as it does, and why getting that wrong is a more serious failure than the game tends to admit. What happened around Ben Stokes at Trent Bridge in June 2026 was a mess, and a sadly dispiriting moment. I don't intend to go over every detail, as most people who care about cricket have already formed their own opinion. What lingers is the feeling his departure left behind. A great modern cricketer, a man who gave English cricket moments it will never forget, played his final innings as a kind of "up yours", if ever I have seen one. Yes, he received appreciation. But appreciation on its own is not the same as a proper farewell. Appreciation is the feeling; the right farewell is the way the game gives that feeling shape. Every player has a part in how



responsible for the game view these moments only through the behaviour of the individual, they miss the larger responsibility and opportunity. Cricket is very good at building pathways in. A young player entering professional cricket is surrounded by structure, but where is the serious, sustained conversation about departure and meaning for the sport that builds some of its biggest moments around them? I am still to hear of cricket treating the farewell as a genuine part of player development. The right farewell does not happen by accident. It requires thought, long before the final months and weeks arrive, not to manufacture emotion or impose ceremony on someone who wants none of it, but to ensure it is clear in what is said about the game.

their career ends. The timing, the manner, the emotional shape of a departure, are deeply personal and nobody can leave with grace if they haven't made peace with the ending themselves.

Employer and player cannot act in isolation, because above them both is the game. Stokes's own choices in the weeks before Trent Bridge clearly narrowed the space available to him, but if those

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