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Pilgrims' Comfort Must Remain Highest Priority: LG Sinha During Baltal Camp Review



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday reviewed the arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra at the Baltal Base Camp, directing all departments to ensure that the comfort, safety and convenience of pilgrims remain the highest priority throughout the pilgrimage.

Inspecting the Base Camp Hospital, on-the-spot registration counters, accommodation facilities and other essential services, the Lieutenant Governor stressed the need for seamless coordination among all departments to provide a hassle-free and memorable pilgrimage experience.

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Amarnath Yatra crosses 2 lakh mark in 8 days

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: The annual Amarnath Yatra crossed the two lakh pilgrim mark on Friday, with 29,507 devotees paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine, taking the total number of pilgrims to 2,01,008 since the pilgrimage commenced on July 3.

According to official figures available

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Kashmir Marathon Will Earn a Place on India's Marathon Calendar: CM Omar Abdullah



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Declaring that the Kashmir Marathon is set to become one of India's premier sporting events,

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday unveiled the official merchandise and launched the promotional campaign for the Kashmir Marathon 2026.

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Global Boost for Kashmir Marathon: Tourism Director

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Director Tourism Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajad, on Friday said the inclusion of the Kashmir Marathon in the calendar of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) marks a major milestone that will enhance the event's global profile and attract more elite athletes from across the world.

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Coordinated Action, Timely Intelligence Vital to Maintaining Robust Security Grid: DGP Prabhat

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday said coordinated action among security agencies and the timely sharing of actionable intelligence are essential for maintaining a robust security grid, as he reviewed the overall security environment and the multi-layered arrangements in place for the safe and peaceful conduct of the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Chairing a high-level security review



meeting at the Police Control Room in Srinagar, the DGP assessed the prevailing security situation across the Kashmir Valley and took stock of preparedness by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Army, Central Armed Police Forces and intelligence agencies.

The meeting brought together senior officers from all major security and intelligence organisations, including the Army, CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CID, traffic police and district police, who presented detailed

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Nearly 91% enrolled students take up NMMSS Examination: J&K BOSE

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 10: A total of 6000 candidates appeared in National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship (NMMSS) 2025-26 examination out of enrolled 6644 candidates, registering an overall attendance of 90.30%.

The examination was successfully conducted by the J&K BOSE under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Government of India aimed at identifying and supporting meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections studying in Government and Government-aided schools.

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MeT forecasts widespread rain across J&K from today

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday forecast fresh spells of rain and thunderstorms across Jammu and Kashmir from July 11, with the possibility of heavy rainfall at isolated places in the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal range.

According to the MeT Centre, many places across the Union Territory are likely to witness one or two spells of rain and thundershowers on July 11 and 12. Isolated places in the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal range of Jammu division may receive heavy rain or brief intense showers, particularly

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June rainfall in J&K falls 24% below normal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Jammu and Kashmir recorded a 24 per cent rainfall deficit in June, marking the eighth consecutive month of below-normal precipitation, despite witnessing frequent spells of light to moderate rain that improved the distribution of rainfall across the Union Territory, according to data.

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Best Possible Treatment Will Be Ensured for Injured Pilgrims: LG Manoj Sinha

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday directed the civil administration and health authorities to ensure the "best possible treatment" for six pilgrims injured in a road accident on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Udhampur district while travelling to the Amarnath pilgrimage.

The accident occurred near Toldi Nallah on the Udhampur-Chenani stretch of the highway when the vehicle carrying the pilgrims to the Pahalgam base camp reportedly skidded off the road and overturned.

According to officials, all six injured pilgrims are residents of Baikunthpur in Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh. One pilgrim sustained critical injuries and was shifted to Government Medical



College (GMC), Jammu, while the remaining five are undergoing treatment at GMC Udhampur and are reported to be in stable condition.

Rescue operations were carried out jointly

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BJP Will Not Join NC's Jantar Mantar Protest: LoP Sunil Sharma

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Leader of Opposition and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sunil Sharma on Friday ruled out his party's participation in the National Conference (NC)-led protest in New Delhi seeking the res-



toration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, asserting that the proposed demonstration was merely a "diversionary exercise" designed to deflect attention from what he described as the ruling government's failures in governance, corruption allegations and

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Ladakh's Fragile Ecology Demands Clean Mobility: LG Saxena

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH, JULY 10: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday inaugurated Ladakh's first network of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, describing the initiative as a landmark step towards achieving the Union Territory's vision of becoming carbon neutral while safeguarding its fragile Himalayan ecosystem. Launching the charging infrastruc-



ture at five locations across Leh district, the Lieutenant Governor said

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CS reviews implementation of flagship Centrally Sponsored Schemes in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: In a marathon meeting of the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, took first hand appraisal of the implementation and progress of key Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and flagship infrastructure projects being executed across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the comprehensive review, Administrative Secretaries of the concerned departments made detailed presentations on the physical and financial progress achieved under their respective schemes, besides outlining the targets, implementation challenges and future action plans.



The Chief Secretary undertook a scheme-wise assessment covering sectors including

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Rail Track Safety Upgrade Prompts Suspension of Three Passenger Trains Till July 25

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JULY 10: Railway authorities have suspended three passenger train services on the Banihal-Baramulla rail section from July 11 to July 25 to facilitate a scheduled track maintenance programme aimed at enhancing the safety and reliability of train operations in Kashmir.

Officials of the Jammu Division of Northern Railway said the maintenance exercise is being undertaken to strengthen the railway infrastructure on the strategically important Banihal-Baramulla section, ensuring safer and more efficient operations during the peak summer season.

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Jal Shakti Minister, Advisor to CM review I&FC sector of Kashmir Division

Call for strengthening flood protection infrastructure, improved irrigation network

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, along with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani today chaired a high-level review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar to assess the functioning and progress of the Irrigation and Flood Control (I & FC) sector across Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, senior officers of the department and representatives of various wings associated with the irrigation & flood management and PHE.

While addressing the meeting, Javed Rana stressed the need for further strengthening the flood protection infrastructure across Kashmir Valley, particularly along vulnerable stretches of River Jhelum and its tributaries, to enhance resilience against flood-related risks and safeguard the lives, property and public assets.

The Minister reviewed the physical and financial progress achieved under various flood management and mitigation projects. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the execution of ongoing works while ensuring strict adherence to quality standards and stipulated timelines so that all critical interventions are completed

ahead of the monsoon season.

Emphasising the importance of continuous monitoring, inter-departmental coordination and proactive planning, Javed Rana called for a comprehensive and preparedness-driven approach to flood management in the Valley. He instructed the officers to identify and promptly address the bottlenecks hindering the progress of flood protection works. He asked to ensure their timely completion in the larger public interest and for the safety of vulnerable communities.

Rana also emphasised upon prioritising restoration of defunct irrigation canals, repair of canal breaches and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure across the Valley to ensure uninterrupted water supply to agricultural fields.

Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani underscored the need for a proactive and long-term approach towards flood management in Kashmir. He stressed the importance of strengthening embankments, enhancing river carrying capacity and ensuring timely execution of flood protection works. He called for improved preparedness, regular maintenance of flood channels and greater inter-departmental coordination to safeguard vulnerable areas and minimise the impact of future flood events.

He emphasised the need for sustainable water use and the importance of rain water harvesting through installation and use of water storage tanks.

During the review, a detailed presentation was given on the measures undertaken to mitigate the flood risks across vulnerable areas and the progress achieved under various ongoing schemes and projects.

The presentation highlighted the status of desilting and dredging operations, strengthening and restoration of embankments, construction of flood protection works. It also covered the physical and financial progress of various flood management projects being executed under different schemes and funding components.

The officers apprised of the status of irrigation infrastructure, water discharge levels and measures being taken to meet the requirements of farmers across the Valley.

The Minister was informed that under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) launched in the aftermath of the devastating 2014 floods, under PMDP Phase-I, most works for flood management and restoration have been substantially completed. Accordingly, Phase-II (Part-A), involving works worth 1,623.43 crore under the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP), is under implementation from FY 2022-23.

The meeting also reviewed the safety audit of embankments along River Jhelum and assessed the progress achieved under the

Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) Phase-II. Progress of ongoing projects being executed under the UT Capex Budget, NABARD and SANSI Disaster Component was also reviewed threadbare.

Regarding the initiatives after September 2025, in view of the persistent flood threat posed by River Jhelum and to strengthen preparedness for the forthcoming monsoon season, it was informed that the department had initiated a comprehensive post-monsoon safety audit in October 2025 to assess the vulnerabilities and identify critical intervention points.

Based on the findings of the audit, 62 flood mitigation works were identified at an estimated cost of Rs 71.56 crore. Of these, 16 works involving an expenditure of Rs 27.31 crore were completed under the ongoing FMBAP, Regular UT Capex and DMRRR (UT Capex) programmes. The remaining 46 works were tendered under MH-4711 (Flood Sector-UT Capex) at an estimated cost of Rs 43.25 crore. So far, 28 works have been completed, while eight others are in advanced stages of completion, significantly enhancing the flood protection infrastructure along the river system.

Under the UT CAPEX Budget 2026-27, the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Kashmir sector recorded substantial progress across major irrigation, minor irrigation and flood control sec-

tors.

For the financial year 2026-27, the department has taken up 129 works for execution, comprising 124 ongoing works and five new works. It was also given out that sector-wise, the department has taken up 20 Major Irrigation works, 46 Minor Irrigation works, and 63 Flood Control works, reflecting the government's continued focus on strengthening irrigation infrastructure and flood management across Kashmir Division.

Under the NABARD-supported infrastructure programme, several key irrigation and flood management projects were completed during 2025-26, aimed at strengthening the water resources infrastructure and improving irrigation potential across Kashmir Division.

The major projects completed included construction/remodelling of Wussan Khul in Baramulla district at an estimated cost of Rs 6.50 crore, construction of a Lift Irrigation Scheme for augmentation of water supplies to New Reshi Khul and Dehgam Khul in Bandipora district at a cost of Rs 7.37 crore, improvement and Upgradation of Ahal Nayan Canal in Ganderbal district at an estimated cost of Rs 4.61 crore. Other works included flood protection and improvement works on Karz Nallah near Commerce Point on River Jhelum at Marhama in Anantnag district at a cost of Rs 2.19 crore.

District Admin Bandipora organises "Maa Se Guftagu" awareness programmes under NMJKA

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JULY 10: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), awareness programmes under the theme "Maa Se Guftagu" were organised on Friday at Government Higher Secondary School Shadipora and Government Higher Secondary School Madwan to strengthen community participation in the fight against substance abuse and highlight the crucial role of mothers in safeguarding youth from drug addiction.



tion.

At Government Higher Secondary School Shadipora, the programme was presided over by Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Bandipora, Rabia Iqbal who attended as the nominated officer.

Addressing the gathering, the ALC underscored the importance of collective responsibility in preventing substance abuse and emphasized the need for active involvement of parents, educational institutions and the community in guiding youth towards a healthy and drug-free future.

At Government Higher Secondary School Madwan, the programme was attended by Centre Administrator, One Stop Centre (OSC), Bandipora, Ishrat Ayoub, as the nominated officer. She highlighted the institutional support available for women and families dealing with substance abuse-related challenges and stressed the vital role of mothers in identifying early signs of addiction and ensuring timely intervention.

Principal of the institution, Manzoor Ahmad, emphasized the need for a collective community approach to eradicate the menace of drugs from society. Resource persons Farose Ahmad, Lecturer, and Senior Master Fayaz Ahmad Rather delivered informative sessions on the psychological and social impacts of substance abuse on individuals and families.

The programmes witnessed active participation from ICDS Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers, ASHA workers, parents, teachers and students, who engaged in interactive discussions on the harmful effects of drug abuse, the importance of early awareness and the shared responsibility of families and society in preventing addiction.

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the vision of a drug-free Bandipora through sustained awareness, community participation and collective action.

Mission Shakti organizes awareness programme at PHC Sedow to promote girl child protection, women empowerment

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JULY 10: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Shopian today organized an awareness programme under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative at Primary Health Centre (PHC), Sedow to raise awareness about the protection, education and empowerment of the girl child.

The programme focused on promoting gender equality and encouraging the community to ensure equal opportunities for girls through education,



healthcare and social support.

The Medical Officer, PHC Sedow, highlighted the importance of the pre-conception and prenatal diagnostic techniques (PCPNDT) act, emphasizing the need to prevent sex-selective practices and safeguard the rights and healthy development of girls.

During the programme, the gender specialist, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, sensitized participants about various women-centric welfare schemes being implemented in the district. Information was shared on women's safety and protection mechanisms, available support services, emergency helpline numbers, legal rights and government initiatives aimed at empowering women and girls. Participants were encouraged to make effective use of these services whenever required.

The programme concluded with an interactive session in which participants actively engaged with the resource persons and pledged to support the cause of protecting, educating, and empowering every girl child. Awareness pamphlets carrying information on women safety initiatives, helpline numbers and government welfare schemes were also distributed among the participants.

DDC KULGAM CHAIRS REVIEW MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF GOBAR-DHAN SCHEME

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JULY 10: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Aalam, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the implementation of the GOBAR-DHAN Scheme and Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the need for a coordinated and time-bound approach for the effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, which are being rolled out from this year.

He directed all concerned departments to immediately initiate the

groundwork, strengthen institutional mechanisms, ensure inter-departmental convergence and prepare comprehensive action plans for successful implementation across the district.

The DDC stressed that scientific solid waste management, source segregation, safe disposal, and effective utilization of organic waste through the GOBAR-DHAN initiative are essential for achieving sustainable sanitation and environmental protection.

He instructed all stakeholders to launch implementation measures at the grassroots level and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed framework and timelines.

Block Development Officers were directed to take the lead in implementing the mission in their respective jurisdictions, while ensuring active community participation and close coordination with all line departments to achieve the objectives of a clean and sustainable Kulgam.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, District Programme Officer ICDS, Deputy CEO JAKEDA, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, all Block Development Officers and District Pollution Officer.

Jammu Film Festival "JFF" Receives Overwhelming Global Response for Landmark 5th Edition, Announces Distinguished International Jury Panel

GULFAM BARJI

JAMMU, JULY 10: The 5th edition of the Jammu Film Festival (JFF) has received an overwhelming response from filmmakers across the world, reaffirming its growing stature as one of North India's leading international film festivals. Well ahead of the submission deadline of July 31, 2026, the festival has already received 180 film entries from 35 countries.

The submissions include 130 short films, 35 documentaries and 17 feature films, representing diverse cultures, languages and cinematic traditions from across the globe. With entries still open, the organisers expect the number of submissions to increase further before the closing date. The festival, scheduled to be held on September 28-29, 2026, is jointly presented by Vomedh and Koshurwood Studio and is expected to bring together filmmakers, delegates, artists and cinema enthusiasts from India and abroad. Jury Head Kapil Mattoo said the quality and diversity of entries reflected the growing international recognition of the Jammu Film Festival. He noted that receiving 180 submissions



from 35 countries at this stage demonstrated the confidence independent filmmakers across the world have placed in the festival. Festival Directors Rakesh Roshan Bhat and Rohit Bhat said the vision behind establishing JFF was to create a lasting cultural institution that would connect Jammu with the global film community through the medium of cinema. Sanjeev Kak of Koshurwood Studio described the festival as an important cultural bridge that continues to strengthen artistic and cinematic exchanges between Jammu and

the international filmmaking fraternity. The organisers also revealed that international delegates, including participants from the United States, have expressed interest in attending the festival, while discussions are underway with performers from Singapore for the festival's cultural programmes. Recalling the success of previous editions, the organisers noted that the landmark joint edition of Jammu Film Festival and The International Film Festival of Srinagar (TIFFS) was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu

& Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, at Aquaplex Crown, Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu, highlighting the growing prestige of the festival. Meanwhile, the Organising Committee announced a distinguished three-tier Jury Panel for Jammu International Film Festival (JIFF) 2026 to ensure a transparent, impartial and merit-based selection process. The Screening Committee comprises Festival Directors Rakesh Roshan Bhat and Rohit Bhat, Kamal Razdan, Suman Pandita, Ifra Kak and Manzoor Mir. The Review Committee includes Rahul Sharma, Kusum Tickoo,

Rani Bhan, J. R. Sagar, Dr. Kuldeep Raina Sudeshi and Shadab Khan.

The Final Jury will be headed by acclaimed filmmaker Kapil Mattoo, with noted Bollywood actors Vipin Sharma and Ashwath Bhatt, along with actor Tanvir Dar, serving as jury members. The Organising Committee expressed confidence that the distinguished panel, with its rich experience in filmmaking, acting, direction and the creative arts, will uphold the highest standards of cinematic excellence while selecting the finest films for recognition at JFF 2026.

HT EDITORIAL

Nature Is Sending a Warning. Are We Listening?

The weather in Jammu and Kashmir is changing, and the signs are becoming too obvious to ignore. The fact that Srinagar and Jammu recorded almost the same temperature is not just an unusual weather event. It is a reminder that the effects of climate change and global warming are now being felt in our own lives.

For generations, Kashmir was known for its pleasant summers and cool climate. Even during the hottest months, the Valley offered relief from the scorching heat of the plains. Today, however, the difference is narrowing. Heatwaves, high humidity, sudden cloudbursts and erratic rainfall are becoming more frequent. These are not random events but part of a larger environmental change taking place across the world.

Climate change is often seen as a problem that belongs to international conferences and scientific reports. In reality, it begins at our doorstep. Drying springs, shrinking glaciers, changing snowfall patterns, rising temperatures and unpredictable weather are all clear signs that nature is under stress. If these changes continue unchecked, they will affect every aspect of life—from farming and horticulture to drinking water, tourism, public health and the economy.

This is a challenge that demands collective action. Governments have an important responsibility to prepare for the future through better environmental planning, stronger protection of forests and wetlands, improved disaster management and climate-friendly development policies. At the same time, environmental agencies must step up public awareness campaigns so that people understand both the causes of climate change and the simple steps that can help reduce its impact.

But the responsibility does not end with governments alone. Every citizen has a role to play. Saving electricity, reducing the use of plastic, planting trees, protecting water sources, keeping rivers and lakes free from pollution and avoiding the unnecessary destruction of green spaces are small actions that can make a meaningful difference when adopted by society as a whole.

Schools, colleges, religious institutions, community organisations and the media should also become active partners in spreading awareness. Climate education should not be limited to textbooks or special occasions. It should become a part of everyday conversation, encouraging people to adopt habits that protect the environment.

The changing weather should not merely become a topic of discussion whenever temperatures rise or heavy rain causes disruption. It should encourage us to rethink how we treat our natural surroundings. Development and environmental protection must go hand in hand. Ignoring one for the other will only make future challenges more severe.

Nature is sending us repeated warnings. The question is not whether climate change is real, but whether we are prepared to respond. The choices we make today will determine the kind of environment we leave behind for future generations. The time to act is now, before today's warning turns into tomorrow's crisis.

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Shahnaz Rasheed
Wonderful Trendsetter Writer
A dreamer who never left the "Wonderland"



■ SHEIKH GHULAM MUHAMMAD

Shahnaz Rasheed has achieved milestones since his long travel from a village Nowpora in North Kashmir to JK Legislative Council of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir via noted and historical townships of Apple Town of Sopore, Sangrama and Pattan.

Keeping in view the personality dimensions of this great writer, I feel short of words to describe the dynamic personality of an exceptional talent like "Shahnaz Rasheed."

Professor (Dr.) Shad Ramzan's Comments about "Shahnaz Rasheed"

On the book launch event "ASMAAN WATHE PATALAN MANZ" at Tagore Hall, Srinagar on 16-11-2025, Professor (Dr.) Shad Ramzan commented:

- A genuine poet.
- Trendsetter.
- A shining Star of the Adbi Landscape of Kashmir.
- Voice of wit.
- Deeply rooted in the traditions of his native land.
- A unique and beautiful voice.
- A source of attraction and inspiration for all.
- Custodian of quality poetry.
- A man with firm grip on Kashmiri Language words and sentences used in his poems and essays.
- A multifaceted personality: poet, writer, critic, translator and above all a good person.

Biographic Profile

- Name: Abdul Rasheed Najar
- Pen Name: Shahnaz Rasheed
- Parentage: Khawaja Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Najar
- Date of Birth: 27-6-1958
- Place of Birth: Nowpora, Sopore
- Present Address: Green Park, Noor Bagh Bypass, Sopore

Academics

- Foundational and Primary Education: Govt. Middle School Nowpora (Sopore)
- Matriculation Examination: Govt. Higher Secondary School Sopore
- Graduation: Govt. Degree College Sopore — 1978
- Postgraduation: M.A. (Political Science Subject) from University of Kashmir
- First Appointment: 1982 — As Sr. Assistant in JK Legislative Council



Promotions

- Translator
- Watch and Ward Officer
- Under Secretary
- Dy. Secretary
- Superannuation: June, 2016

Professional Profile

Shahnaz Rasheed is a distinguished Kashmiri poet, writer and translator whose literary contributions span poetry, drama, fiction, criticism and translation. His work is widely acknowledged for its depth, metaphysical character and significant influence on modern Kashmiri literature.

Literary Contributions

Poetry

Doud Khatith Guldanan Manz (Pain behind the flower vases)

First poetry collection, regarded as a trend-setting milestone in modern Kashmiri poetry.

Door Pahan Dewaran Manz (Partway within the walls)

Second poetry collection.

Asmaan Vethi Paataalan Manz (The Skies fell into the Abyss)

Third poetry collection, representing the poet's mature metaphysical existential vision.

Drama

Shahnaz Rasheed authored, directed and staged two Kashmiri plays:

- Qatil Kus
- Waqtuk Namrood

Fiction

Urdu Novel: Zakhmi Panchi — 1986

Translations

Shahnaz Rasheed translated into Kashmiri an English monograph on the life of 17th century Telugu poet Vermana (Assigned by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi).

Translated into Kashmiri the full poetic collection "Lambi Barish" (Long Spell of Rain) by the renowned Urdu poet Balraj Komal (Assigned by Sahitya Akademi), New Delhi.

demi), New Delhi.

Participation and Representation

- Shahnaz Rasheed represented Kashmiri Language at the National Symposium of Poetry, Jaipur (2002).
- Represented Kashmiri Language at the multilingual poetic symposium organised by the National Book Trust of India (NBT) in 2007.
- Invited by Sahitya Akademi to present his poetry before distinguished audience in Srinagar — 2010.
- Participated in multilingual poetry reading programmes at Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi, in which poets from Northern and North-Eastern states of India participated.
- Regular participant in literary conferences, seminars, translation workshops and symposiums across and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

Awards and Honours

- Khilat-e-Hajini — 2024 (Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari Hajin)
- Warq-i-Tehseen Be-Yadi Ali Mohammad Shahbaz awarded by AMK
- Nund Reshi Samman awarded by Sa Ma Pa
- Fazil Kashmiri Award
- "Poet of Outstanding Calibre" by Gulshan Publishers, Srinagar — 2007. Award presented by Jinab Ghulam Nabi Azad, the then Chief Minister of JK.

Felicitated by several literary and cultural organisations including:

- Daayira Adab, Delina Baramulla
- Gulshan Cultural Forum, Kashmir
- Naagraad Adbi Sangam, Jammu
- Jhankar Musical Group, Sopore

Other Literary Activities

Shahnaz is actively involved in cultural preservation, literary mentorship and promotion of Kashmiri poetry and prose.

Shahnaz frequently contributes to National level conferences and seminars on Kashmiri Culture, Literature and Language.

Shahnaz has firm grip on Kashmiri, Urdu and English Languages.

Bottomline

Shahnaz Rasheed is a distinguished Kashmiri poet, writer and translator whose literary contributions span poetry, drama, fiction, cultural criticism and translation. His work is widely acknowledged for its depth, metaphysical character and significant influence on modern Kashmiri Literature.

Shahnaz has played a pivotal role in promoting and propagating Kashmiri Language, Literature and Culture.

"Live long our 'Adbi Rose'. Ameen."

The author is a Retd. DIET Principal Former Principal, JK Sainik School, Manasbal Vice President, Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari Hajin Senior Member, Wahab Cultural Society Hajin Hajin, Bandipur

Labkhal: Where Every Step Feels Interactive



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Doodhpathri, nestled in the heart of Budgam district, is a lush and vibrant gem of the Kashmir Valley. With its breathtaking landscapes and cool breeze even during the peak of summer, it feels like spring in the midst of the season's heat—a true escape into serenity. The majestic Pir Panjal Range opens its arms in summer, revealing countless trekking routes and breathtaking natural wonders.

As the snow melts, mountains that once appeared distant and inaccessible come alive with vibrant colours. The brown and green shades of the towering peaks, covered with pine and fir forests, create a spectacular panorama. Every corner of this region invites nature lovers, photographers, and adventure enthusiasts.

Personally, I find every season in Kashmir pleasant and enchanting, but summer holds a special place for trekkers. Unlike winter, when heavy snowfall limits access, summer brings the freedom to

explore, climb, and connect with the mountains. Tourist destinations such as Pahalgam, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Yousmarg, Doodhpathri, and Tosamaidan come alive from June to September as trekkers and visitors flock to these valleys. In Doodhpathri, popular trekking routes such as Diskhal, Ashtaar, Daani Deer, and Marg offer unforgettable experiences.

Exploring Labkhal: A Hidden Treasure

Today, I would like to introduce Labkhal, a lesser-known yet extraordinarily beautiful Bahak (summer pasture) in the Pir Panjal Range.

As you walk towards Labkhal, the melodious chirping of birds fills the air like the gentle strings of a guitar. Cattle graze peacefully across the lush meadows, blending perfectly with the surrounding landscape. Traditional mud huts (Kothas) stand like natural sculptures, while crystal-clear spring water flows through the pasture, offering a refreshing taste of nature.

Labkhal lies to the south of the famous Shaliganga River. After crossing the river and turning left, a trek of about one and a half hours through dense forests leads visitors to this peaceful paradise. It can also be reached via Pal Maidan and Triken Bahak before arriving at Labkhal.

Gujjar, Bakarwal, Pahari, and

Chopan Communities: The Soul of the Mountains

During the summer months, the upper reaches of Kashmir become home to the Gujjar, Bakarwal, Pahari, and Chopan communities. These hardworking and hospitable people migrate with their livestock to the high-altitude meadows. They bring cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats, and even poultry to the Bahaks, where they spend the summer in temporary mud-and-wood shelters.

For centuries, these communities have lived in harmony with nature. Their Bahaks are legally recognised grazing areas that sustain their traditional way of life. Beyond supporting their families, they also serve as dedicated guardians of the forests by reporting illegal logging, monitoring environmental damage, and assisting forest officials in conservation efforts.

What Do These Communities Need?

Despite their invaluable contribution, these communities continue to face several challenges.

The glacial water available in these high-altitude pastures is extremely cold and unsuitable for regular domestic use. There is an urgent need for mobile toilets to improve sanitation and prevent the spread of diseases. Solar-powered lighting systems would also greatly improve their quality of life by

providing light during the night and helping them care for their livestock.

These are not luxuries—they are basic necessities that would improve living conditions while supporting sustainable tourism.

Suggestions and the Way Forward

To strengthen the livelihoods of the Gujjar, Bakarwal, Pahari, and Chopan communities while promoting responsible tourism, the following measures should be considered:

Provide essential facilities in the Bahaks, including clean drinking water, sanitation, and solar lighting.

Employ local community members as trained trekking guides, allowing visitors to benefit from their extensive knowledge of the terrain and local ecology.

Promote eco-tourism models that ensure both local communities and visitors benefit while protecting the fragile mountain ecosystem.

These mountain guardians are the unsung heroes of Kashmir's forests. Supporting them means preserving the culture, natural beauty, and ecological heritage of remarkable places like Labkhal and Doodhpathri for generations to come.

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HT SATURDAY-GOSSIP

Has the Bread Arrived?



■ YOUSUF MIR

This story reflects a changing rural society where, in the name of progress, people are slowly drifting away from self-reliance, tradition, and their roots. Through the lives of a father and son, it raises a quiet question: Is modern convenience truly development, or has it taken away the essence of life itself?

Dawn had not yet fully broken. Sahil had woken up early. His thoughts were on his son Haider's university examination.

As he was leaving for the mosque to offer the Fajr prayer, Haider called out from behind.

"Abu, if you don't mind, could you bring some bread on your way back? It will

save me some time."

Sahil smiled and stepped out of the house.

Back home, the family prayed for Haider's success and wished him well.

After the prayer, Sahil went straight to the village shop to buy bread. But what he saw there surprised him.

Quite a number of men and women were waiting anxiously outside the shop. Everywhere, the same question echoed:

"Has the bread arrived?"

The shopkeeper gave the same reply again and again.

"The baker hasn't baked any bread today. There is no bread available in any shop in the village."

Sahil stood silently, watching the scene unfold before him.

He remembered a time when fresh bread was baked in every home each morning. Now an entire village stood helplessly waiting for a loaf of bread.

After waiting for some time, he returned home empty-handed.

"No bread, son," he said.

Haider picked up his bag and smiled.

"It's alright, Abu. I'll eat when I return."

A few moments later, he left for his

examination.

When the door closed behind him, a strange emptiness settled inside Sahil.

He walked into the courtyard and sat down.

It was the same courtyard that had once been the heart of a self-sufficient household. A cow used to stand tethered in one corner, chickens pecked grain in another, and daily life moved with a quiet rhythm of its own.

As he sat there, an old memory returned.

There had been a time when their cow had stopped giving milk. Some family members had suggested selling it since it was becoming a burden.

His father firmly refused.

"As long as I am alive, this cow will not leave this house. It is part of this family. I will never allow my daughters or daughters-in-law to depend on others for milk."

At the time, Sahil had thought his father was simply being stubborn.

Today, he understood that his father had been protecting something far more valuable than a cow. He had been protecting self-reliance.

Another memory surfaced.

One late evening, long after darkness had fallen, Sahil's old friend Ghulam Rasool arrived unexpectedly at their home.

Without hesitation, the family began preparing a meal. One of the chickens raised in the courtyard was brought out, and food was prepared immediately. The guest was welcomed with warmth and dignity.

No one had to rush to the market.

No one had to wait for supplies.

Everything they needed was already at home.

The memory faded, and Sahil found himself thinking of his late wife.

She had been more than a homemaker. She had been the soul of the household. She cared for the cow, fed the chickens, looked after the kitchen garden, and managed countless responsibilities that kept the family independent.

Life had been simple, yet complete.

Now times had changed.

Convenience had increased, but self-reliance had diminished.

Everything now depended on the market, and when the market stopped, life itself seemed to stop with it.

Sahil remained seated in the courtyard for a long time.

The memories of the past continued to flow through his mind.

Gradually, a truth became clear to him.

Once, people fulfilled many of their needs with their own hands.

Now they had become dependent on others for even the simplest necessities.

He looked up at the sky.

The voices of birds drifted gently through the air.

A quiet resolve took shape within him.

If life gave him another opportunity, he would rebuild a small foundation of self-sufficiency in his home: a cow, a few chickens, and a modest kitchen garden.

He wanted the coming generations to understand that progress does not mean abandoning one's roots. True progress lies in moving forward while keeping those roots strong.

There was no longer any question in Sahil's heart.

Only a quiet certainty remained.

The author is a regular contributor of Daily Newspaper Headlines Today

World of Books and Books of the World



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

There are places in the world where books breathe like living beings, where the scent of old paper mingles with the fragrance of tea and the murmur of human voices. For me, College Street in Kolkata has always been such a sacred geography—a pilgrimage of printed words, a boulevard of ideas, a living museum of memory. Yet, when I walked through the narrow lanes of Srinagar and found myself surrounded by bookshops tucked between the Dal Lake's shimmering calm and the shadowed mountains of Kashmir, I felt a strange déjà vu. The bookshops of Kashmir reminded me of College Street—not in scale or noise, but in spirit, in the quiet dignity of people who still believe that books can heal, connect, and endure. In Kolkata, College Street is a river of intellect. Its pavements overflow with booksellers who know their customers by name, who can locate a rare edition from a pile that looks like chaos but is, in truth, a map of human curiosity. The air there is thick with the smell of ink and dust, and every conversation is a debate—Tagore versus Eliot, Marx versus Freud, poetry versus politics. I grew up walking those lanes, brushing against the ghosts of scholars and revolutionaries, inhaling the democracy of thought that College Street represents. It is not merely a marketplace; it is a metaphor for Bengal's mind.

Charles Lamb's essay 'The Superannuated Man' carries within it the soft melancholy of a man suddenly detached from the familiar streets of London. Lamb's London is not merely a city; it is a living companion. Its alleys, bookstalls, taverns, and smoky corners form the emotional geography of his life. When he writes of retirement, he writes of exile—from the very streets that shaped his imagination. The London he evokes is intimate, textured, and deeply human: a city where booksellers greet you like old friends, where the smell of old paper rises from second-hand stalls, and where literature seems to breathe through the bricks of Fleet Street and the Strand. Lamb's nostalgia is not for employment but for the everyday poetry of urban life, for the bookshops that stood like sanctuaries amid the noise of horse-carriages and the clatter of early modern London. Walking through New York decades later, I felt a similar tug of emotion, though the city is vastly different in scale and temperament. New York's bookshops—whether the iconic Strand Bookstore with its "18 miles of books," the quiet corners of McNally Jackson, or the charming used-book stalls near Union Square—carry a

spirit that unexpectedly echoes Lamb's London. The streets are louder, the crowds more hurried, the architecture more vertical, yet the bookshops retain a human warmth that softens the city's steel edges.

In New York, I saw readers sitting on the floor between shelves, lost in worlds far removed from the city's relentless pace. I saw old men browsing poetry as if time had paused for them. I saw young students clutching second-hand volumes with the same reverence that Lamb once felt for his London treasures. The comparison between Lamb's London and my New York is not one of similarity in appearance but of similarity in sentiment. Lamb's London bookshops were havens of companionship, places where the mind could wander freely. New York's bookshops, though surrounded by skyscrapers and neon lights, offer the same refuge. Both cities understand that books create a parallel universe within the urban chaos. Lamb's London streets were lined with modest shops where booksellers knew the taste of their regulars. In New York, though the scale is larger, the intimacy remains: a bookseller recommending Baldwin or Whitman with the same affection Lamb might have received from his London acquaintances.

What binds the two cities is the enduring culture of reading. Lamb mourned the loss of his daily walks through London's literary lanes because they were part of his identity. In New York, I felt that same sense of belonging while wandering through aisles of used books, touching spines worn by countless hands. The bookshops of both cities remind us that literature is not confined to libraries or classrooms; it thrives in the everyday rhythm of urban life. Lamb's London and my New York share a quiet truth: that cities become soulful when their streets are lined with books, and when readers continue to seek refuge in printed words despite the rush of modernity.

Kashmir's bookshops, on the other hand, are quieter, more introspective. They stand like sanctuaries amid the turbulence of history. In Lal Chowk, Residency Road, or near the University of Kashmir, I found small stores where books were stacked like prayers. The shopkeepers spoke softly, often with a poet's restraint. They offered books on Sufi mysticism, Kashmiri folklore, Persian poetry, and modern political thought. I remember one elderly bookseller who told me, "In Kashmir, books are our peace." His words carried the weight of centuries—of poets like Lal Ded and Habba Khatoon, of mystics who turned pain into verse, of generations who found solace in reading when the world outside trembled. There is a peculiar similarity between the two places. Both Kolkata and Kashmir have lived through conflict—one intellectual, the other existential. Yet both have chosen the book as their weapon of resistance. In College Street, the revolution was of ideas; in Kashmir, it is of endurance. The bookshops in both places are more than commercial spaces—they are shrines



of resilience. When I saw a young Kashmiri student buying Faiz Ahmed Faiz's *Dast-e-Saba*, I thought of the countless Bengali students who once bought *Gitanjali* or *Chandalika* with trembling hands, believing that poetry could change the world.

The architecture of these bookshops tells its own story. In Kolkata, the shops are open-fronted, spilling onto the street, inviting chaos and conversation. In Srinagar, they are enclosed, intimate, almost protective. The books are arranged with care, as if each volume were a fragile relic. Yet, in both places, there is the same reverence—the same belief that knowledge must be preserved even when everything else is uncertain. I saw a young boy in Kashmir flipping through a book on Rabindranath Tagore's philosophy, and I smiled at the irony: Tagore, who wrote of universal humanity, finding a reader in a valley often divided by politics. College Street has its own rhythm—the clatter of trams, the chatter of students, the aroma of coffee from the Indian Coffee House. Kashmir's rhythm is slower, more meditative. The Dal Lake reflects the sky like a mirror, and the bookshops seem to echo that stillness. Yet, beneath the calm, there is a pulse—a quiet determination to keep learning, to keep dreaming. In both places, books are not luxuries; they are lifelines. I remember entering a small shop near the Bund in Srinagar. The owner, a middle-aged man with silver hair, was reading Rumi. He looked up and said, "Sir, books are our way of remembering who we are." His shop was filled with volumes on history, religion, and poetry. I picked up a collection of Kashmiri short stories translated into English. The stories spoke of longing, exile, and hope—the same emotions that fill the pages of Bengali literature. I realized then that the human heart, whether in Kolkata or Kashmir, beats to the same rhythm of

yearning.

College Street taught me that books can be arguments; Kashmir taught me that books can be prayers. In Kolkata, the book is a weapon of intellect; in Kashmir, it is a balm for the soul. Yet both are acts of courage. To sell books in a world that scrolls endlessly on screens is to believe in the slow miracle of reading. To buy books in a place where uncertainty shadows every dawn is to believe in the permanence of thought. There is also a shared aesthetic—the beauty of imperfection. In College Street, books are often second-hand, their pages yellowed, their covers torn. In Kashmir, many books bear the marks of time and travel. But those imperfections are what make them human. They carry fingerprints, annotations, and the faint scent of history. I found a copy of *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran in a Srinagar shop, its margins filled with handwritten notes in Urdu. It felt like holding a conversation across generations. Both places remind me that reading is not a solitary act—it is communal. In Kolkata, readers gather at the Coffee House to argue about literature and politics. In Kashmir, readers gather in silence, sharing the comfort of words. The difference is in tone, not in essence. The book remains the bridge.

When I walked through the streets of Srinagar, I saw young people carrying books under their arms—students, poets, dreamers. It reminded me of my own youth in Kolkata, when we carried books as badges of identity. A book was not just an object; it was a declaration of who we were. In Kashmir, I sensed the same pride. Despite the challenges, the youth there read voraciously—English novels, Urdu poetry, scientific journals. Their curiosity is a quiet rebellion against despair. The connection between College Street and Kashmir's bookshops is also emotional. Both are places where memory lives. In Kolkata,

every shop has a story—of a writer who once visited, of a banned book that was secretly sold, of a reader who found love through literature. In Kashmir, every bookshop is a testament to survival. They have endured curfews, conflicts, and closures, yet they remain open, like lanterns in the dark. I often think of the booksellers themselves. In College Street, they are philosophers disguised as traders. They can quote Shakespeare and Tagore with equal ease.

In Kashmir, booksellers seemed to me to be the guardians of culture. They spoke softly, but their eyes shone with conviction. One bookseller told me, "We sell peace, not paper." That sentence stayed with me. It captured the essence of what both places represent—the belief that words can heal wounds that weapons cannot. There is a poetic symmetry between the two cities. Kolkata, with its intellectual fervor, and Srinagar, with its spiritual melancholy, both understand the sanctity of the written word. In both, literature is not an ornament but a necessity. The bookshops are the arteries through which the lifeblood of culture flows. As I left Srinagar, I carried with me a few books—a collection of Kashmiri poems, a translation of Rumi, and a slim volume on Sufi philosophy. They felt like souvenirs of wisdom. When I returned to Kolkata and walked again through College Street, I realized that the two worlds were not separate—they were reflections of each other. Both are places where the human spirit refuses to be silenced.

In fine I may say, what binds College Street and Kashmir's bookshops is not geography but grace. It is the grace of people who believe that reading is an act of faith. It is the grace of words that survive even when cities fall silent. It is the grace of knowledge that transcends borders and languages. Kashmir reminded me of College Street because both are sanctuaries of thought in a world that often forgets to think. They are reminders that civilization is not measured by skyscrapers or technology but by the quiet persistence of those who still turn pages. When I think of those bookshops now—the ones by the Dal Lake and the ones by the tramlines of Kolkata—I see them as twin flames. One flickers in the mountains, the other in the plains, but both illuminate the same truth: that books are the last refuge of freedom. And so, I salute the booksellers of Kashmir and Kolkata alike—the keepers of wisdom, the dreamers of peace, the custodians of memory. In their humble shops, amid the scent of paper and ink, the world still whispers its most beautiful secret: that knowledge, like love, endures.

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Speaker Legislative Assembly inaugurates renovated facilities, new lifts at MLA Hostel Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today inaugurated the newly installed lifts and other upgradation/renovation works executed at new hostel block of MLA Hostel, Srinagar.

The inauguration marks a significant step towards upgrading the infrastructure and improving the facilities available to Members of the Legislative Assembly. The renovation works have been undertaken with the objective of enhancing convenience, accessibility and overall comfort for the occupants.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker emphasized the importance of maintaining and modern-



izing public infrastructure to ensure efficient service delivery and better amenities. He stated that the MLA Hostel serves as an important facility for the legislators and, therefore, its upkeep and modernization must receive due attention.

The Speaker expressed satisfaction over the completion of the

works and said that the installation of modern lifts and execution of renovation works would greatly benefit the legislators and other stakeholders by providing a safer, more comfortable and user-friendly environment.

He underscored the need for regular maintenance of government infrastructure and directed

the concerned authorities to ensure that all facilities at the MLA Hostel are maintained in a proper and efficient manner. He also stressed the importance of timely execution of developmental and renovation works so that public assets continue to serve their intended purpose effectively.

The Speaker reiterated the commitment to improve the infrastructure and public facilities and said that such initiatives contribute significantly towards enhancing the working environment and convenience of public representatives.

Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit, Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Central Kashmir, Chief Engineer M&HE Srinagar besides Executive Engineers and other officials were present on the occasion.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar inaugurates newly created Advocates' Clerks Room at High Court Complex Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

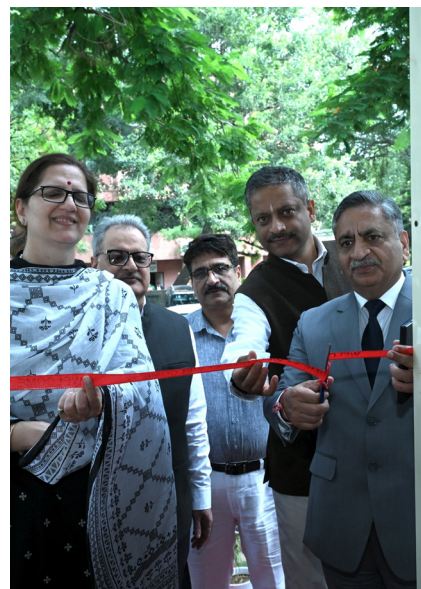
JAMMU, JULY 10: In a significant step towards strengthening the infrastructural facilities at the Jammu Wing of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and acknowledging the dedication and crucial support extended by the Advocates' Clerks to the legal fraternity in the day to day functioning of the Courts, Chief Justice (Acting), Justice Sanjeev Kumar, today inaugurated a newly created Advocates' Clerks Room at the High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri and Justice Sanjay Parihar.

Besides M.K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who is also holding the additional charge of Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice and other Officers of the Registry, the event was attended by Nirmal Kotwal, President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu and senior members of the Bar Association.

The representatives of the Advocates' Clerk Association, J&K High Court, including its President, Mohinder Singh Nag, along with his office bearers, were also present.

On the occasion, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, expressed his satisfaction over the new facility exclusively meant for the Advocates' Clerks.



He also emphasized the need for their digital literacy, more particularly, owing to their active involvement in e-filing of petitions. He also issued directions for formulation of comprehensive module for imparting training to the Advocates' Clerks in all aspects of court proceedings.

On behalf of the Advocates' Clerk Association, J&K High Court, Mohinder Singh Nag, President of the Association, conveyed sincere appreciation to the Chief Justice, the companion Judges and the President of the Bar Association for fulfilling the long-pending demand of the Advocates' Clerks through the establishment of the dedicated Advocates' Clerks Room.

JKLFC extends relief to borrowers under Settlement Scheme-2026; six NPA accounts settled, ₹3.36 cr interest waived

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 9: The Settlement Committee of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC) met under the chairmanship of its Managing Director to consider settlement of seven Non-Performing Asset (NPA) loan accounts under the Settlement Scheme-2026 (SS-2026).

The Committee approved settlement proposals in respect of six NPA loan accounts involving a total settlement amount of approximately ₹84.43 lakh, subject to the borrowers depositing the approved settlement amounts within the stipulated period and fulfilling all the provisions of the Scheme.

The Board of Directors, in its 247th meeting held on 31st December 2025, had approved introduction of the Settlement Scheme-2026 (SS-2026), which was subsequently notified by the Corporation vide Order No. 155 dated 12th February 2026. The scheme came into force with immediate effect and shall remain in operation up to 30th September 2026.

The Scheme has been introduced as a One-Time Settlement (OTS) mechanism to facilitate recovery of long-pending Non-Performing Assets by providing eligible borrowers an opportunity to liquidate their outstanding loan liabilities on concessional terms, thereby improving recoveries and reducing the Corporation's NPA portfolio.

The Managing Director emphasized that the scheme is an important initiative to recover long-pending dues, facilitate closure of stressed loan accounts and safeguard the financial interests of the Corporation. He directed all the Branch Heads and District Officers to expedite identification of eligible cases and ensure prompt processing and submission of settlement proposals.

The Corporation reiterated its commitment to strengthen its recovery mechanism and improve the quality of its loan portfolio through effective implementation of the Settlement Scheme-2026.

The eligible borrowers are advised to avail the benefits of the Scheme before its expiry on 30th September 2026.

Power Shutdown by KPDCL

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV GIS Tengpora Court line will be observed due to which power supply to Batamalo, Moominabad, Court Complex and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 11 July 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Lassipora-Pulwama Ckt II (Buildtech) line will

be observed due to which power supply to Koil, Tengpona, Muchpona, Tenghar, Pinglena, Gandipora, Gangoo, Prichoo, Covid Hospital and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 02 PM on 14 July 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Sangam-II line will be observed due to which power supply to Panzgam, Chakoora, Gulzarpora, K-koot, Charsoo, Hari and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 02 PM on 15 July 2026.

District Admin Baramulla conducts 3-Day Field Outreach under VVP-II

District Officers conduct 24-Hour Village Stays in Vibrant Villages to assess grassroots development

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JULY 10: In an initiative aimed at strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring effective implementation of development programmes in the border areas, the District Administration Baramulla successfully conducted a 3-day intensive field outreach under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II).

During the outreach programme District Level Officers undertook mandatory 24-hour night stays in the 18 identified

Strategic/Vibrant Villages of the district. The unique initiative, on the directions of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, was designed to provide senior officers with first-hand exposure of public service delivery in the Vibrant Villages by living among the local population and directly engaging with them to understand their aspirations and concerns.

Speaking about the initiative, the DDC said that it was aimed at obtaining a first-hand assessment of the developmental progress

under VVP-II, understanding the aspirations and concerns of the people, and ensuring that future interventions are aligned with the actual needs and priorities of the border communities.

Over the course of the programme, officers stayed overnight in 18 Vibrant Villages across the border blocks of Uri, Boniyar, Bijhama and Paranjeela. During their visits, they conducted extensive inspections of developmental works and reviewed the implementation of various flagship Government schemes.

The officers also assessed the

availability and quality of essential services and evaluated the status of critical infrastructure including roads, electricity, drinking water supply, healthcare, education, mobile connectivity and other public amenities.

Meanwhile, the visiting officers held detailed interactions with Panchayati Raj Institution representatives, Village Level Nodal Officers, frontline workers, youth, women, senior citizens and other members of the local community.

These interactions enabled the administration to gather

valuable grassroots feedback regarding the progress achieved under the Vibrant Villages Programme, identify developmental gaps, and understand the genuine needs and expectations of the people living in these strategically important border villages.

Unlike conventional inspection visits, the overnight stay component allowed officers to experience village conditions during both day and night, helping them assess the effectiveness of public services and availability of other civic facilities from the perspective of the residents themselves.

DIRECTOR FCS&CA JAMMU HOLDS MEETING WITH NARWAL FRUIT MANDI ASSOCIATION

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JULY 10: Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Jammu Rajesh Kumar Shavan today convened a meeting with representatives of the Fruit Mandi Association, Narwal, Jammu,

in his office chamber to address rising public complaints regarding exorbitant fruit prices, particularly bananas, and ensure transparency in the fruit trade.

The Director expressed concern that despite the availability of four to five different varieties and qual-

ity grades of bananas in the market, consumers were being charged almost identical prices. Such practices defeat the principles of fair trade and deprive consumers of their right to purchase commodities at prices commensurate with quality.

DC Reasi reviews preparations for Shravan Mahotsav-2026 at Shiv Khori Shrine

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, JULY 10: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek, who is also the Vice Chairman of Shiv Khori Shrine Board today chaired a meeting with officers of various departments to review and finalize arrangements for the proposed celebration of Shravan Mahotsav-2026 at Shiv Khori Shrine, Ransoo.

The meeting discussed the detailed agenda of activities scheduled from July 30 to August 24, 2026, aimed at promoting spiritual, cultural and devotional engagement during the holy month of Shravan. The programme includes weekly Kavay Yatra, Shiv Katha, Bhajan Sandhya and concluding religious ceremonies at Shiv Khori Shrine. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the arrangements to be made by the concerned departments and stressed the need for coordinated efforts to ensure smooth conduct of the Mahotsav and convenience of pilgrims. He directed all departments to complete their preparations well in advance and maintain close coordination throughout the event.

As per the proposed schedule, Kavay Yatra will be organized on August 3, 10, 17 and 24 from Ransoo Base Camp to Shiv Khori Bhawan, followed by Rudrabhishek and Hawan. A nine-day Shiv Katha programme is proposed from August 16 to 24, while the concluding Bhajan Sandhya and devotional programme will be held on August 24. The DC reviewed arrangements related to security, traffic management, medical facilities, sanitation, drinking water supply, uninterrupted power supply, road maintenance, fire safety and public awareness. The Police Department was asked to ensure foolproof security arrangements and deployment of adequate personnel during the Mahotsav.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to provide adequate medical facilities, including deployment of doctors, medical staff, ambulances and oxygen support at Shiv Khori Bhawan and Ransoo. The Jal Shakti Department was asked to ensure adequate drinking water supply along the pilgrimage track and at key locations, while the Power Development Department was instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply and arrange backup power support wherever required.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department was directed to deploy fire tenders at Ransoo and conduct inspections of fire safety equipment at langar sites. He further directed the Motor Vehicle Department to regulate transportation facilities, prevent overcharging and display approved fare rates at conspicuous places.

Army's Humanitarian Initiative Brings Healthcare to Remote Monabal Village

Residents Hail Indian Army's Free Medical and Veterinary Outreach

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

LANGATE, JULY 10: As part of its continued outreach to tribal communities, the Indian Army (Langate camp) organized a Free Medical-cum-Veterinary Camp at Monabal village in the Langate area of Kupwara district, benefiting thousands of residents from the village and adjoining areas.

The camp aimed to provide essential healthcare services to people living in remote areas while also ensuring veterinary care for livestock, a vital source of livelihood for the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities. Men, women, children, and elderly residents received free medical check-ups, consultations, medicines, and health screenings from a team of Army doctors and medical staff.

Simultaneously, veterinary experts provided treatment, vaccination, and deworming services for sheep, goats, cattle, and other livestock. The programme



also included awareness sessions on seasonal diseases, personal hygiene, preventive healthcare, and scientific animal husbandry practices.

The initiative witnessed an

overwhelming response, with thousands of people availing themselves of the free services. Residents expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for bringing much-needed medical and vet-

erinary facilities to their doorstep, particularly in a remote region where access to such services is often limited.

Army officials reiterated their commitment to continuing such

humanitarian initiatives in the future to improve the well-being of tribal communities and further strengthen the bond between the Army and civilians.

Locals also appreciated the Indian Army's multifaceted role beyond its security responsibilities. They observed that the Army has consistently extended assistance during natural disasters and emergencies while regularly organizing cultural heritage festivals, sports tournaments, and youth engagement programmes. These initiatives have provided opportunities for local youth to showcase their talent at district, state, and national levels, promoting social integration and positive community development.

The medical-cum-veterinary camp concluded with a message of unity, compassion, and collective responsibility, reaffirming the Indian Army's commitment to humanitarian service and inclusive development in the remote areas of North Kashmir.



DR TASADUK HUSSAIN ITOO

PHYSICIAN

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MAcadMed (UK)

FELLOW, INTERNATIONAL DIABETES FEDERATION
(IDF FELLOW, BELGIUM)

MEMBER, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
(ACP, USA)

ACADEMIC LIFE MEMBER, RESEARCH SOCIETY FOR THE
STUDY OF DIABETES IN INDIA (RSSDI)

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SHORT TERM E-TENDER | NIT NO: E-14 OF 2026-27

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders In two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturers/authorized distributors/dealers/workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following electromechanical equipment works:

S.No	Name of work	T.D Cost (in Rs)	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	E/M	Validity of offer	Time
1	Electro-mechanical repairs work to be carried out at lift irrigation scheme Ijara Phase 1st	200/-	4.99	9980/-	120 days	30 days

Programme Head: CDF of Hon'ble MLA Fund

Whether Accorded / Position of Funds: AAA: Order No: 102-DDC of 2026 Dated: 01-07-2026

Tender ID No: 2026_IFC_315400_1

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 10-07-2026 (04:00 pm).

The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 10-07-2026 (06:00 pm) to 20-07-2026 (6:55 pm). The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the time and date, in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue. The complete bidding shall be online.

Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla on 21-07-2026 at 13:00 pm after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened on the same day.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

No: MIDB/CC-02/1643-42 | Dated: 10-07-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

DIPK: 3088/26 | Dated: 10-07-2026

J&K Govt notifies framework for evaluation of books, academic material in educational institutions

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: In view of recent concerns regarding books available in institutional libraries and the procurement of educational material, the School Education Department and Higher Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir have issued comprehensive circulars. The action has been taken in pursuance of the directions of the government. The circulars prescribe a structured institutional framework for the academic evaluation, content verification and periodic review of books and other academic resources

across all schools, colleges and universities in the Union Territory.

The framework is aimed at strengthening the institutional mechanisms governing the evaluation, recommendation, circulation, retention and periodic review of educational material. It seeks to ensure that the academic resources available in educational institutions possess established academic merit, factual authenticity, pedagogical relevance and educational value, while remaining consistent with the Constitution of India, the laws in force, the National Education Policy, the applicable regulatory framework and the

curricular standards prescribed by the competent authorities.

Under the framework, all the government and recognised private schools and universities functioning under the administrative jurisdiction of the respective departments and public libraries have been directed to undertake a comprehensive Academic and Content Audit of books, reference material, journals, research publications, dissertations, theses, digital repositories and other educational resources available in their libraries and academic units, irrespective of the year of procurement, adoption or inclusion.

Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

Email: amitabhman.721013@jk.gov.in

SHORT TERM E-TENDER | NIT NO: E-15 OF 2026-27

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders In two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturers/authorized distributors/dealers/workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following electromechanical equipment works:

S.No	Name of work	T.D Cost (in Rs)	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	E/M	Validity of offer	Time
1	Providing and Fitting of 100 Hp OISD Starter with allied electromechanical works to be carried out at LIS Kansipora	100/-	2.82	5640/-	120 days	30 days

Programme Head: District Capex Budget

Whether Accorded / Position of Funds: AAA: Order No: 121-DDC of 2026 Dated: 08-07-2026

Tender ID No: 2026_IFC_315407_1

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 10-07-2026 (04:00 pm).

The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 10-07-2026 (06:00 pm) to 30-07-2026 (6:55 pm). The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the time and date, in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue. The complete bidding shall be online.

Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla on 31-07-2026 at 13:00 pm after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened on the same day.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

No: MIDB/CC-02/1643-49 | Dated: 10-07-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

DIPK: 3087/26 | Dated: 10-07-2026

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Execueive Engineer R&B Division Sopore

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No: 39 of RnB-Sopore of 2026-2027 e-tendering | Dated: 10.07.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	T.D Cost (In Rs)	E/M	Position of TS
1	Improvement / Upgradation of School Building at GMS Sempora	2.983	200/-	5970/-	EE/R&B/Sopore 38 of 2026-27 dated: 10.7.2026
2	Construction of Toilet Block at PS Raj Mohalla Warpora , Zone Dangerpora.	1.98	200/-	4000/-	EE/R&B/Sopore 39 of 2026-27 dated: 10.7.2026
3	Improvement / Upgradation of School Building at BMS Janwara Zone Dangerpora	3.00	200/-	6000/-	EE/R&B/Sopore 40 of 2026-27 dated: 10.7.2026
4	Improvement / Upgradation of School Building at BMS Watlab Zone Dangerpora	4.936	200/-	9875/-	EE/R&B/Sopore 41 of 2026-27 dated: 10.7.2026

Time for completion of work: 60 Days

Class of Contractor: DEE

Project Authority: DDC Baramulla.

Position of funds: Available
Dated: 08.07.2026

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	10.07.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10.07.2026 to 20.07.2026
3	Bid Submission start date	10.07.2026
4	Bid submission End date	20.07.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	21.07.2026 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division. Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released after submission of a performance security of 5% of the quoted cost which will be released after completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b). Geotag Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

Unbalanced Bid:- In case bid of the successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender receiving authority) vide Principal Secretary to Government Finance department's circular issued under endorsement No: DF-Code/ 441/ 2021-02-158 dated" 8.8.20025.

a. Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/ security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

b. Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

c. The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

d. The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance security shall be taken only after approval of next higher authority.

The additional performance security shall be released only after successful completion of work.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jketenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority).

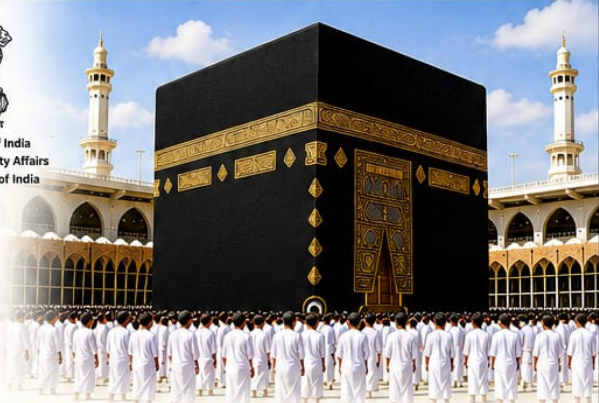
5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT

No: 3534-43 | Dated: 10-07-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore

DIPK: 3126/26 | Dated: 10-07-2026



HAJ 2027 (1448 H) IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

1

PASSPORT VALIDITY

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

2

COVER / GROUP

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

3

COVER HEAD

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

4

MOBILE NUMBER & WHATSAPP

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

5

FORM SUBMISSION

- Fill the form yourself.
- Do not let anyone else fill the form using your mobile number.
- Do not share your OTP with anyone.

6

NOMINEE

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

7

BANK DETAILS (ACCOUNT HOLDER MUST BE COVER HEAD)

- Account must be in the name of the Cover Head.
- Provide correct & active bank account details.
- Account must be active.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR HAJ – 2027 (1448 H)

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



JOIN VIA WHATSAPP LINK

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

YA



JOIN OUR OFFICIAL WHATSAPP GROUP

For Haj 2027 Updates

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Aapki Tayyari – Aapka Aaram – Hamari Zimmedari

Space Devoted by Headlines Today, Purely in Public Interest



