

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir
@LokBhavanJandK

We will ensure our youth are freed from the grip of addiction, return to the mainstream of society, and become the strength that will lead Jammu Kashmir toward a brighter tomorrow, the Lieutenant Governor said.

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Demands Swift Action

CM Flags Hajj Pilgrims' Baggage Transit Issue With Union Civil Aviation Min



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has written to Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, seeking urgent intervention to facilitate the timely and concurrent transportation of baggage belonging to Hajj pilgrims returning to Jammu and Kashmir from Saudi Arabia.

In his communication, the Chief Minister highlighted the difficulties being faced by returning Hajj pilgrims due to delays in the transportation of their checked-in baggage. He noted that owing to ongoing maintenance works and operational constraints at Srinagar Airport, the baggage of pilgrims is reportedly being routed separately

and transported by road from Ahmedabad, resulting in considerable delays in its delivery.

The Chief Minister observed that many of the pilgrims are elderly and have undertaken the sacred pilgrimage after years of devotion, preparation and aspiration. He said the delay in receiving their baggage has caused inconvenience and disappointment to the pilgrims and their families.

Emphasizing the religious and social significance attached to the contents of the baggage, Omar Abdullah pointed out that pilgrims traditionally distribute Zamzam water, dates and other offerings among relatives, neighbours and well-wishers immediately upon their return. The **P-06**

Drug Abuse Fuels Terrorism, Says LG

Says Over 1,000 Peddlers Arrested In 51-Day Anti-Narcotics Drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sending out a strong message against the growing drug menace, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the fight against narcotics is not merely a public health campaign but a crucial battle for national security, asserting that every rupee spent on drugs strengthens terror networks.

Addressing a public gathering after leading the Drug-Free J&K Padyatra in Kulgam, he highlighted the administration's intensified crackdown on narco-terrorism and drug trafficking across the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor said that this people's movement has connected every heart across Jammu Kashmir with a shared purpose to make their village, their town drug-free.

"This campaign belongs to the people. Parents, teachers, religious leaders and young volunteers have stood shoulder to shoulder with the administration. The road ahead is long. The fight against drugs will take sustained effort, constant alertness and unity. We must remain steadfast. We must encourage



our young people, protect our families and strengthen our communities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that 51-days ago people of Jammu Kashmir kindled a spark of change and with massive participation of the people that spark in Jammu Kashmir has become a fierce flame of hope, courage and resolve.

"This campaign is striking directly at the financial backbone of terrorism. Every rupee spent on drugs fuels extremist violence, and narco-terrorists

survive on that blood money. By halting the drug trade, we cut off the lifeline that sustains terror networks.

I want people of Jammu Kashmir to remember that this is not only a public-health struggle, but also a fight for national security. When we choke off drug smuggling, we weaken those who seek to destabilize our nation, spill the blood of innocent people of J&K, and divert our youth from the path of progress," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor in his address highlighted that for

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many years Jammu Kashmir endured attacks on the society by narco-terrorists. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the guidance of Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Nasha-Mukt Bharat Initiative launched in 2020 **P-06**

Day 10
Operation 'Sherwali' Continues In Rajouri



YOGESH

JAMMU: Security forces' massive joint search operation 'Sherwali' to trace terrorists in Jammu's Rajouri district continued for 10th running day today. An official said that intensive efforts are underway to track terrorist hideouts and **P-06**

Govt Creating New Opportunities In Tourism Despite Challenges: Satish Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Monday highlighted the immense opportunities being created by the government in the tourism sector, stating that Jammu and Kashmir continues to emerge as a promising destination for investment, **P-06**

CS Reviews Progress In Solarisation Of Government Buildings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a review meeting of the Science & Technology Department to assess the initiatives undertaken for promotion of clean energy and the progress achieved in solarisation of government buildings across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Chief

Executive Officer, JAKEDA; Director, Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC); and other senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary undertook a comprehensive review of the solarisation programme being implemented across government establishments and emphasized the need for close coordination among the Science & Technology **P-06**

Reviews Availability Of Essential Commodities Across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday reviewed the availability and stock position of essential commodities across Jammu and Kashmir with a particular focus on petroleum products, LPG and other critical supplies required for public consumption and the upcoming peak tourism and pilgrimage season.

The review meeting besides ACS, APD, **P-06**

'J&K Tops UTs In Self-Enumeration' 6.67 Lakh Households Voluntarily Submit Census Details In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a record of sorts, as many as 6.67 lakh households in Jammu and Kashmir have voluntarily submitted census details through the self-enumeration portal before the commencement of Houselisting Operations, which began on Monday in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing media, Amit Sharma, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director



Census Operations for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, said that the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has emerged as the leading Union Territory and ranks 8th among states in the country in self-enumeration under Census 2027. "More than **P-06**

First Batch Of Hajj Pilgrims To Arrive In Srinagar Today

144 In First Flight; Operations To Continue Till June 16: CEO

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The return phase of Hajj-2026 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir will commence today, June 02, with the first flight carrying 144 pilgrims scheduled to land at Srinagar International Airport.

J&K Haj Committee Chief Executive Officer Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, said the Hajj return operations for



pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will continue till June 16.

He said 4,641 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir performed Hajj this year, including 2,583 **P-06**

Tourists Head To Cooler Border Regions As Temps Rise

Gurez, Tulail, Keran, Bangus, Uri Witness Fresh Tourist Activity

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: As soaring temperatures continue to grip the plains, tourists are increasingly heading to the cooler border regions of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing fresh activity to some of the remote frontier destinations.

Tourist arrivals have picked up in Gurez and Tulail valleys in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, as well as Keran and Bangus in Kupwara and Uri in Baramulla district, with visitors seeking relief from the heat and an opportunity to experience the region's natural beauty.



Known for their lush meadows, rivers, mountains and relatively cooler climate, these destinations have witnessed a steady increase in footfall over the past few weeks, providing a boost to local businesses and tourism-related activities. "We have seen a good

number of tourists visiting Gurez in recent weeks. Hotels, guest houses and homestays are receiving more inquiries and bookings," said 38-year-old Ishfaq Ahmad, a resident of Gurez.

He said residents have been actively helping visitors and promoting the valley's tourism

potential. "Gurez has immense potential as a tourist destination. Better infrastructure and connectivity will help attract even more visitors," Ahmad said.

In Kupwara district, tourists have also been flocking to Keran and the sprawling Bangus Valley, drawn by the cool weather and scenic landscapes. "The arrival of tourists is encouraging for people here as many families depend directly or indirectly on tourism for their livelihood," said 52-year-old Ghulam Mohammad, a resident of Keran.

He urged the government to focus **P-06**

FUEL & LPG SUPPLIES IN J&K ARE NORMAL

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Avoid panic buying.

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WMDA, Civil Defence organize disaster response training programme at Manasbal



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MANASBAL: Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) in collaboration with Civil Defence Department, Srinagar organized a special training programme for basic stakeholders aimed at enhancing their disaster preparedness, emergency response and public safety awareness.

The training programme was inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer, Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority, Dr Ahsanul Haq Chishti in presence of Rahi Riyaz Ahmed, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Srinagar and TOT Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad and Showkat Ahmad, Instructors of Civil Defence Srinagar.

More than 40 participants from different trades including shikarawallas,

boat operators, sanitation workers, WMDA field staff etc attended the programme and actively took part in various practical and theoretical sessions related to disaster management, first aid, fire safety, rescue operations and emergency response techniques.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Chishti underscored the need for training the tourism stakeholders in disaster preparedness for facilitating visitors during emergency times. He thanked Civil Defence Department, Srinagar for conducting the training programme and emphasized the importance of community-based disaster preparedness. He hoped that such training programmes would impart essential life-saving skills to these stakeholders

whom he termed as basic responders in the event of any eventuality.

Rahi Riyaz Ahmed, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Srinagar and TOT Kashmir, highlighted the vital role of Civil Defence volunteers in safeguarding lives and property during natural and man-made disasters. He urged participants to utilize the knowledge gained during the training and spread awareness within their respective communities.

During the training programme, Ajaz Ahmad and Showkat Ahmad, Instructors of Civil Defence Srinagar, conducted various training sessions and practical demonstrations. They stressed the importance of timely response, teamwork, and preparedness in minimizing the impact of disasters and emergencies.

NIT Srinagar hosts seminar on strengthening social harmony through higher education

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A seminar on "Fostering Social Harmony through Community Participation in Higher Education Institutes: A Discourse" was organized at the New Guest House, NIT Srinagar, by the Department of Physics in collaboration with Vidya Bharti Uchcha Shiksha Sansthan, Jammu Kashmir Ladakh Prant.

The seminar brought together academicians, researchers, and students to deliberate on the role of higher educational institutions in promoting social harmony, community participation, and value-based education.

The programme featured insightful lectures by Prof. J. N. Balia, Sunil Sharma, G. G. Sawhney, Rajeev, and Vijay Sharma, who emphasized the need for stronger engagement between educational institutions and society to foster inclusivity, mutual respect, and collective responsibility.

More than 30 participants, including faculty members, research scholars, and students from NIT Srinagar, the Central University of Kashmir, and the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Amantipora, attended the seminar.

In his message, Director



NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, said that institutions of higher learning have a crucial role in nurturing socially responsible citizens and fostering a culture of inclusivity and mutual respect. He emphasized that academic excellence must be complemented by community engagement and ethical values to contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rahman, said that higher educational institutions serve as important platforms for promoting dialogue, understanding, and social cohesion. He stressed the need for greater collaboration between academia and society to address contemporary challenges and strengthen the spirit of collective responsibility.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. J. N. Balia highlighted the transformative role of higher education

in shaping socially conscious citizens. He said educational institutions must go beyond imparting knowledge and actively cultivate values such as empathy, tolerance, civic responsibility, and national integration. He noted that meaningful community engagement can help bridge social divides and promote harmony.

Dr Sunil Sharma emphasized the importance of fostering strong partnerships between educational institutions and local communities. He observed that students should be encouraged to participate in outreach programmes, volunteer activities, and community development initiatives, enabling them to develop leadership qualities while contributing to societal well-being.

Addressing the gathering, Dr G. G. Sawhney underscored the significance of value-based education in addressing con-

temporary social challenges. He said institutions have a responsibility to nurture ethical leadership, mutual respect, and a spirit of cooperation among students. He called for creating inclusive academic environments where diversity is respected and celebrated.

Mr Rajeev stressed that higher educational institutions can serve as catalysts for social transformation by promoting active citizenship and community participation. He said collaborative engagement between academia, civil society, and local communities can help address social concerns while fostering a sense of collective responsibility among youth.

In his remarks, Dr Vijay Sharma said that social harmony is built through continuous dialogue, trust, and shared values. He encouraged students and scholars to actively contribute to community welfare initiatives and use

their knowledge and expertise for the betterment of society.

He added that institutions become powerful agents of social cohesion when academic learning is integrated with social responsibility.

The speakers collectively highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts, community participation, and value-based education in building a harmonious and progressive society. They also highlighted the need for sustained engagement between educational institutions and communities to address emerging social challenges.

The seminar concluded with an interactive session during which participants shared their views and experiences on strengthening social cohesion through academic institutions. The discussions focused on practical strategies to enhance institutional outreach programmes, promote inclusivity, and encourage community-driven development.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Vijay Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, and Dr. Harveer Singh Pali, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, NIT Srinagar.

Census 2027

Pulwama admin commences House Listing, Housing Census (HLO)

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: District Administration Pulwama Monday commenced the House Listing & Housing Census (HLO) Phase of Census 2027 across the district.

The month-long exercise shall continue from 01 June to 30 June 2026, during which enumerators will undertake door-to-door visits to collect information.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom who is also the Principal Census Officer, informed that all necessary preparations for the smooth conduct of the Census operations have been completed. He said that a total of 1089 House Listing Blocks (HLBs) have been constituted across urban and rural areas of the district to facilitate systematic and comprehensive coverage of all households.

The Deputy Commissioner further informed that 13 Charge Officers have been designated for supervision of the Census operations. Besides, 1158 Enumerators and 210 Supervisors have been



deployed across the district and provided with all requisite Census material for carrying out the field exercise.

He said that the enumerators shall visit every household during the notified period to undertake house listing activities and collect information in the prescribed formats.

To ensure hassle-free implementation of the Census operations, the district administration has also deployed Field Trainers and a Master Trainer who shall provide technical support and on-ground guidance to Enumerators and Supervisors and address any issues arising during the course of field work.

Dr. Qayoom empha-

sized that Census is a vital national exercise and accurate information provided by citizens plays a significant role in planning for infrastructure, education, healthcare, housing and other public services.

Appealing to the residents of the district, the Deputy Commissioner urged them to extend full cooperation to the Census staff and provide accurate information to facilitate successful completion of the exercise.

Meanwhile, the district has witnessed enthusiastic participation in the Self-Enumeration process under Census 2027, with over 66,000 households having completed Self-Enumeration which is among the highest in the UT.

100 Day Nasha Mukta JK Campaign District Admin Anantnag continues crackdown on drug peddlers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Continuing the crackdown and punitive action against Drug Peddlers and NDPS Act violators under the 100 Days intensified Nasha Mukta J&K Campaign, the District Administration Anantnag, in coordination with the Police department, Monday carried out a significant demolition drive at Batengu, Anantnag.

During the joint operation, revenue authorities supported by a police team demolished one illegal structure/shop raised on State Land under Khasra No. 1156 in Estate Batengu.

The demolished structure was found to be linked with one person involved in a case under the NDPS Act. The revenue department also ensured the retrieval of the encroached State Land through this joint action.

Meanwhile, the District Administration has reiterated its firm commitment to maintaining a zero-tolerance policy against drug peddlers, narcotics networks, and unlawful encroachments.



Officials stated that such sustained actions will continue under the 100 Day Campaign with the focus to break supply chain of drugs in the district.

Dismantling the illegal structures raised by the drug peddlers and persons involved in narcotics trade and taking strict punitive action against them is an important facet of this campaign, they emphasised. The administration has also warned that strict action will be taken against persons found involved in similar illegal activities in future.

...Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

Essay Writing Competitions, Awareness Programmes held across B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Various educational institutions across district Bandipora on Monday organised essay writing competitions, pledge ceremonies and awareness programmes under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote healthy lifestyles among students.

Activities under NMBA were conducted at High School Panar, High School Koragbal and H/S Ketson, where different awareness and pledge programmes were organised to educate students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of leading a healthy and responsible life.

An Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Youth Responsibility" was organised at PM SHRI High School Odina under the banner of



NMBA. Students enthusiastically participated and expressed their views on the role of youth in building a drug-free, healthy and progressive society.

Similar essay writing competitions were organised at HSS Nowgam, HSS Quilmuqam, HSS Gadakhud, HS Kanzalwan, HSS Sumbal, GHS Nadihal and BHSS Alooos under the NMBA campaign. Students actively participated and highlighted the importance of youth engagement, awareness and preventive action in controlling drug abuse and promot-

ing a healthy society. At HSS Quilmuqam, students and staff also participated in a pledge ceremony reaffirming their commitment towards building a drug-free and responsible society.

HSS Gadakhud organised an essay writing competition titled "Responsibility of Youth in Drug Abuse Control". Around 20 students participated in the competition and highlighted the role of youth as guardians of a drug-free society. Winners of the competition were awarded certificates of appreciation by the Principal.

GDC B'pora, Ajas organize Anti-Drug, Anti-Tobacco Awareness Programmes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Under the banner of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), the NSS Youth Club of HKM Degree College Bandipora organized an Anti-Drug Pledge Taking Ceremony under the convenership of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Convener, NCORD Cell.

Students and NSS volunteers participated enthusiastically and took a pledge to remain free from drugs and to spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse in society.

The programme aimed to strengthen the commitment of youth towards a drug-free lifestyle and encourage them to play an active role in combating the menace of drug addiction. The event successfully conveyed the message of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and inspired students to become responsible citizens dedicat-



ed to building a healthy and drug-free society.

Under the banner of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the Red Ribbon Youth Club in collaboration with the Literary Youth Club organized an Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Role of Social Institutions in Curbing Drug Menace." The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students, who expressed their views on the crucial role played by educational institutions, families, religious organizations, community groups, civil society, and

government agencies in preventing substance abuse and promoting healthy lifestyles among the youth.

Through their essays, the participants critically examined the social, psychological, and economic factors contributing to drug addiction and suggested various preventive measures based on awareness, counselling, community engagement, and policy interventions. The competition provided students with an opportunity to reflect on one of the most pressing social challenges of contemporary society and encouraged

them to think creatively and responsibly about solutions.

The event successfully promoted awareness, critical thinking, and social responsibility among students while reinforcing the collective commitment to building a healthy, informed, and drug-free society.

Government Degree College Ajas observed World No Tobacco Day under the banner of 100 Days Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) campaign. The programme was organised with the objective of creating awareness among students regarding the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The event witnessed the participation of students, faculty members, and volunteers of the college. On the occasion, the Coordinator, Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) highlighted the

serious health, social, and economic consequences of tobacco use and emphasized the importance of collective efforts in building a tobacco-free society.

As part of the programme, the Coordinator administered a pledge against tobacco use, wherein students and faculty members resolved to refrain from tobacco consumption and to spread awareness about its harmful effects among their families, friends, and communities. The pledge was joined by other faculty members of the college, who encouraged students to adopt healthy habits and become ambassadors of positive social change.

The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of the institution's commitment to the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and to fostering a healthy, responsible, and aware student community.

Dir Agri reviews implementation of "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" across Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir Monday reviewed the implementation of the month-long "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" during a meeting with all Chief Agriculture Officers of Kashmir Division.

The campaign is being conducted from 1st June to 30th June, 2026 with the objective of promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices among the farming community.

During the review meeting, the Director assessed the preparedness and action plan of all districts and emphasized the need for effective grassroots-level outreach to ensure the successful implementation of the mission.

He impressed upon the officers to intensify activities related to the promotion of



Natural Farming, judicious and balanced use of fertilizers, soil sampling, and dissemination of Soil Health Cards among farmers. He also stressed the importance of creating awareness regarding soil health management and conservation of agricultural land for sustainable crop production.

The Director directed the field functionaries to conduct extensive awareness programmes, demonstrations, farmer interactions, and educational campaigns involving farmers, students, and other stakeholders throughout

the campaign period. He emphasized that the active participation of educational institutions and youth would play a vital role in spreading awareness about soil conservation and sustainable farming practices.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, the Director said that the campaign aims to safeguard soil fertility, reduce indiscriminate use of chemical inputs, and encourage environmentally sustainable agricultural practices for long-term productivity and food security.

CM engages with public representatives, stakeholders on constituency, sectoral issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Several public representatives and delegations Monday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at his Public Services and Outreach Office (Raabita) here and discussed a range of constituency-specific and sectoral issues.

Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Ladakh, Haji Mohammad Hanifa, called on the Chief Minister along with delegations representing employees of the Power Development Department serving in Ladakh and members of the Private School Association of Kargil. The delegations raised issues concerning their respective sectors. The Chief Minister assured them that their concerns would be taken up with the relevant authorities for appropriate action.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam Ud Din Bhat, also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various developmental and public welfare issues concerning



his constituency. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured appropriate consideration.

MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, called on the Chief Minister along with a delegation of civil society members from Hazratbal. The delegation expressed gratitude for resolving the long-pending issue of the construction of the Sub-District Hospital at Habak, Hazratbal. They also discussed other developmental concerns and sought continued support for ongoing initiatives in the area. The Chief Minister appreciated their feedback and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening public ser-

vices and infrastructure.

Also, MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, also led a delegation of the Jal Jeevan Mission Contractors' Association, who met the Chief Minister and sought resolution of its pending issues. The Chief Minister assured the delegation that their concerns would be examined and addressed in accordance with established procedures.

MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, met the Chief Minister and discussed various developmental requirements and public issues pertaining to his constituency. The Chief Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring equitable development across

all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairperson of the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE), Prof. Minu Mahajan, also called on the Chief Minister and briefed him on various matters relating to the functioning of the Board and the conduct of professional entrance examinations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Reiterating his Government's commitment to responsive and people-centric governance, the Chief Minister assured all the delegations and public representatives that the genuine issues raised during the meetings would receive due attention and appropriate follow-up.

Speaker convenes meeting with Assembly Committee Chairmen

Emphasizes accountability, strict discipline

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Monday convened a high-level meeting with the Chairmen of various Assembly Committees to apprise them of their functions and outline their core responsibilities for ensuring robust governance.

Surjeet Singh Slathia, (Chairman Committee on Public Accounts), Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi (Chairman, Committee on Estimates), Mir Saifullah (Chairman, Committee on Public Undertakings), Ali Mohammad Sagar (Chairman, Committee on Government Assurances), Nizam-ud-din Bhat (Chairman, Ethics Committee), Justice Retd Hasanain Masoodi (Chairman, Committee on Privileges), Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (Chairman, Committee on Subordinate Legislation) and Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah (Chairman, Committee on Petitions) were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Speaker underscored the pivotal role of Assembly Committees in enforcing



the executive accountability. He emphasized that this is achieved through rigorous, detailed and non-partisan scrutiny of government policies, public expenditure and proposed legislation.

To streamline the operations and enhance the efficiency of parliamentary oversight, the Speaker issued several key directives aimed at ensuring accountability of the executive.

The Speaker took a firm stance on absenteeism, stating that the members must not absent themselves consecutively from two or more sittings of a Committee. Any such unauthorized absence will be dealt with strictly in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly.

He said that a minimum gap of 15 days shall be maintained between two consecutive meetings in order to provide adequate time to the Assembly Secretariat as well as the concerned government departments to efficiently process, prepare and furnish the agenda items, reply thereto and related materials for the meetings.

To ensure thorough scrutiny, the Speaker stressed that only one government department be taken up for examination during a single sitting by any particular Committee. Besides, Committee deliberations must remain strictly confined to the scheduled agenda points to ensure focused and productive outcomes, he added.

The Speaker exhorted that the General Administration Department in

coordination with the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department should ensure close coordination among various departments and the Assembly Secretariat for making the functioning of the Committees effective, meaningful and result oriented.

The Speaker asserted that a Circular should be issued by the General Administration Department to all the departments with regard to implementation of the recommendations/Observations contained in the reports laid on the table of the House from time to time impressing upon them to strictly adhere to the Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in J&K Legislative Assembly. He added that the agenda work load shall be provided by CAG.

Secretary RDD & PR reviews sanitation preparedness for SANJY-2026

Emphasises Clean, Safe and Dignified Pilgrimage Experience for Yatris

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Monday reviewed sanitation infrastructure and waste management arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026 at a high-level meeting attended by senior officers from the concerned departments and district administrations.

The meeting reviewed the installation of prefabricated toilets and baths, manpower mobilization, waste management measures and utility support along the Baltal and Pahalgam routes.

Officials informed that the Directorate of Rural Sanitation is deploying 5,618 sanitation units, including 4,707 toilets and 911 baths, while district administrations will install an additional 723 toilets, taking the total sanitation



infrastructure to 6,341 units.

Stressing that the Yatra is a sacred spiritual journey, the Secretary called upon all stakeholders to perform their duties with dedication and a spirit of service. He said Shri Amarnath Yatra ji is not merely a pilgrimage but a sacred journey of faith, demanding our utmost commitment to cleanliness, dignity and service.

He added the objective is to make the Amarnath Yatra a "Swachh Yatra" by ensuring clean routes, hygienic sanitation facilities, and efficient waste management systems for pilgrims.

The Secretary directed executing agencies to expedite ongoing works

and ensure that all facilities are fully operational well before the commencement of the Yatra. He also emphasized timely mobilization and verification of the sanitation staff being deployed for sanitation operations, maintenance, cleaning and waste management.

Reviewing departmental responsibilities, he stressed close inter-departmental coordination to ensure uninterrupted availability of water, electricity, desludging services, and other essential utilities at all camp locations.

The Secretary also directed designated Nodal Officers to closely monitor infrastructure deployment and promptly address any bottlenecks.

HC accords Full Court Reference to CJ on his elevation to Supreme Court

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a solemn and dignified ceremony, a Full Court Reference was held in the Court Room of the Chief Justice at the Srinagar Wing of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to honour Chief Justice, Arun Palli, on his elevation as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The Full Court Reference was convened in accordance with the long-standing conventions and cherished institutional traditions of the High Court.

The Reference was attended by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice Shahzad Azeem along with the spouses of the Judges of the High Court.

The proceedings were also attended by former

Chief Justices, former Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Chief Secretary, UT of J&K;

Director General of Police of UT of J&K; Judicial Member of Central Administrative Tribunal, Srinagar Bench; other senior officers of the civil administration of UT of J&K, including the Commissioner/Secretary Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Senior Additional Advocate General, Jammu as well as Srinagar; Deputy Solicitors General of India at Jammu and Srinagar; the President, Kashmir Advocates Association, Srinagar; Senior Advocates; Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar; Judicial Officers and officers of the Registry of the High Court. Besides, the officers and officials and Advocates of the High Court from Jammu Wing joined the proceedings through virtual mode.

The President, Kashmir Advocates Association, Srinagar, in his address, expressed deep appreciation for the humility, judicial wisdom, accessibility



and unwavering dedication of Justice Arun Palli to the rule of law. He conveyed best wishes of the legal fraternity on elevation of Justice Arun Palli to the Supreme Court of India.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar delivered the farewell address and reflected upon the illustrious judicial career, exceptional leadership and invaluable contribution of the Chief Justice to the institution. He recalled the profound impact of Justice Arun Palli's stewardship on the administration of justice and the functioning of the High Court. He lauded his dedication, humility, clarity of thought and commitment to judicial excellence.

Responding to the farewell addresses, Chief Justice Arun Palli, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the companion Judges, members of the Bar, Judicial Officers, officers and officials of the Registry and all stakeholders for their cooperation, affection and support during his tenure. He fondly reflected upon his association with the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and emphasized the importance of preserving the cherished traditions, values and independence of the institution. He also placed on record his appreciation for the contribution of the Bar and the dedication of the officers and staff of the High Court in ensuring effective administration of justice.

The proceedings of the Full Court Reference were conducted by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Lastly, Justice Arun Palli was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour by the security personnel as a mark of profound respect.

CM inaugurates additional accommodation block at Circuit House



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday inaugurated the newly constructed additional accommodation block at Circuit House, Church Lane, Srinagar, aimed at enhancing hospitality infrastructure and improving facilities for visiting dignitaries and guests.

The project has been executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department under the Capex budget at a cost of ₹781.34 lakh.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Member Legislative Assembly Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad (Pardesi), Secretary Hospitality & Protocol Avny Lavasa, Director Hospitality & Protocol Ashwani Kumar and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The newly added facility is a

three-storeyed structure comprising a basement, ground floor and two upper floors. The block houses 18 accommodation rooms, including 12 standard rooms and six suites, designed to provide comfortable and modern lodging facilities.

The building has been equipped with several contemporary amenities, including a 13-passenger OTIS lift, central heating system, air conditioning, three linen/store rooms and a ramp facility to ensure accessibility for differently-abled persons.

The accommodation units have been aesthetically designed with a blend of modern interiors and traditional Kashmiri architectural elements. The standard rooms feature wallpapered walls, carved rubberwood bed-back panels, Khatamband ceilings and laminated flooring.

Javid Dar reviews functioning of Mandis, Kissan Ghars within, outside J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Monday chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of Mandis and Kissan Ghars established within and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Minister took a detailed appraisal of the facilities, occupancy, services extended to the farmers and issues faced in the operation of these Kissan Ghars. He emphasized that Kissan Ghars are vital infrastructure for providing affordable accommodation and support services to the farming community visiting for official work, training or market linkage activities.

Stressing the need for improved infrastructure, Dar directed the concerned officers to undertake immediate renovation and upgradation of Kissan Ghars located in New Delhi and Kolkata to ensure better accommodation and essential facilities for the farmers visiting these centres



for trade-related activities.

The Minister observed that Kissan Ghar serves as an important support system for the farming community by providing affordable lodging and logistical assistance during the marketing of crops and horticultural produce. He emphasized that strengthening these facilities would contribute significantly towards enhancing farmers' access to national markets and improving their overall trading experience.

Reviewing the functioning of agricultural mandis, Javid Dar instructed the officials to conduct a thorough verification of shop allotments to ensure that the allottees

are utilizing the premises strictly in accordance with the prescribed norms and guidelines. He stressed that any misuse of public assets or deviation from the intended purpose of allotments must be identified and addressed promptly.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards strengthening the agricultural marketing infrastructure, the Minister said that sustained efforts are being made to develop and modernize the mandis across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Poonch, Akhnoor and Jammu, with the objective of providing farmers with better market access and enhanced trading opportunities.

J&K govt rebuts report on Samagra Shiksha fund release, cites 100% utilisation of grants

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department, government of Jammu and Kashmir has rebutted the news item titled "MoE released only 20% Samagra grants to SED" published in Greater Kashmir dated 30th May, 2026.

The Department, in an official communique, has clarified that the report presents only a partial picture of the financial position under Samagra Shiksha in J&K and may create an impression that educational activities in the Union Territory have been adversely affected due to non-release of funds. The factual position, however, needs to be viewed in a broader financial and administrative context.

The Department stated that the Project Approval Board (PAB) approves Rs. 1593.60 Cr (fresh) under the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) 2025-26, which only sets the ceiling or outlay for implementation of activities during the year. The PAB approval is not equivalent to immediate fund release.

As per Government of India norms, the Ministry of Education releases funds in phased instalments based on utilisation certificates, expenditure

pattern, available balances and compliance. During 2025-26, the MoE, Gol released Rs. 1102.00 crore to J&K under Samagra Shiksha. The released funds have been utilised in full with 100% achievement of targets. Therefore, comparing the total approved outlay with the first instalment released during the year does not reflect the complete financial position.

Highlighting the UT's performance, the Department said that Jammu and Kashmir has consistently implemented major interventions under Samagra Shiksha, including PM SHRI Schools, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, ICT and Smart Classrooms, Inclusive Education, Girls' Education, Vocational Education and Civil Works and Infrastructure Development.

The Ministry of Education has acknowledged the progress achieved by J&K during recent review meetings and during the visit of the Secretary, Government of India, Department of School Education & Literacy to J&K. The PAB has also appreciated the academic improvements and implementation progress in the Union Territory.

The Department further

underlined that J&K has demonstrated strong utilisation capacity. The Ministry has specifically appreciated the UT's academic improvements and implementation efficiency, which establishes that the School Education Department possesses the capacity to utilise funds effectively whenever releases are made. As an example, under PM SHRI Schools, J&K utilised approximately Rs. 194.53 crore out of Rs. 200.11 crore available funds, demonstrating strong financial and physical progress, in addition to other key components and interventions.

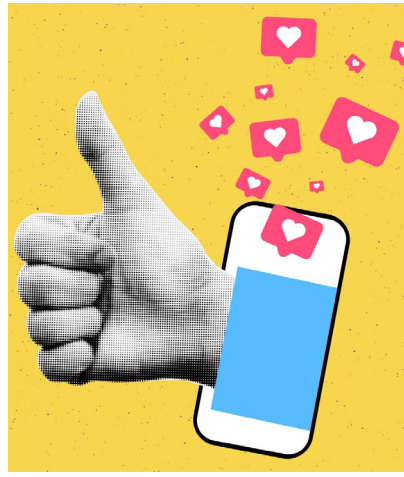
The Department told that the inference drawn in the news report, based on a percentage comparison of a single instalment against the total PAB approval, does not present the complete picture. Fund releases under Samagra Shiksha are governed by a structured, norms-based mechanism linked to utilisation and compliance. The J&K UT has fully utilised the funds released so far and has met 100% of its targets while the educational activities across the Union Territory have continued without disruption.

EDIT

Why Your Social Media Feed Isn't Public Opinion



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH



The greatest strength of democracy is public opinion. This public opinion is not formed on a single day or during an election, but is shaped by a long process of ongoing dialogue, debate, discussion, social experiences, political consciousness, and citizen participation in society. In a democratic system, informed judgment by citizens, the exchange of diverse views, and respect for dissent are considered crucial. For a long time, the basis for shaping public opinion in India was direct dialogue, public meetings, social organizations, newspapers, books, educational institutions, and mass movements. However, this landscape has rapidly changed since the digital revolution. Today, social media is no longer merely a medium of communication, but has emerged as the most influential force in shaping public opinion. At such a time, the question becomes crucial: is public opinion now being determined more by social media trends and algorithms than by the independent thinking of citizens?

India is the world's largest democracy and also one of the world's largest digital consumer groups. Billions of people use Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube, WhatsApp, and other digital platforms every day. From news to political views, a large segment of society now obtains their primary information from these platforms. This change is not only technological but also extremely significant from a social and political perspective. While previously, citizens formed opinions on an issue by reading newspapers, listening to debates, or discussing them locally, the process of opinion formation has now become largely dependent on digital platforms. Social media algorithms have become central to this process.

Algorithms are technical mechanisms that determine which content a user will see and which will not. They select content by analyzing a user's preferences, activities, search history, and online behavior. Technically, their purpose is to keep users on the platform longer, as the economic model of digital companies is based on this. However, from a democratic perspective, this process raises serious questions. If citizens are only shown content that matches their preconceived beliefs, will they be able to become aware of diverse views? If algorithms begin to decide which issues are important, will democratic debate remain free?

Today, trending on social media is consid-

ered a key indicator of a topic's popularity. Once a hashtag is shared millions of times, it becomes a topic of national discussion. Sometimes, it appears that what's trending represents public sentiment. However, trends don't necessarily reflect the broader public opinion. Trends are often created by organized digital campaigns, political propaganda, paid promotional strategies, or even bot networks. Therefore, it's important to understand that digital visibility and genuine public support aren't always synonymous.

The distinction between grassroots political participation and digital activism is also important in this context. India's democratic history is replete with numerous examples of direct public participation. During the freedom movement, people went to jail, engaged in satyagraha, and took personal risks for social change. In subsequent decades, numerous movements also directly organized citizens. These movements built dialogue, trust, and collectivism among people. In contrast, digital activism is often limited to symbolic participation. Sharing a post, supporting a hashtag, or changing a profile photo is easy, but it does not always translate into real social intervention. As a result, a new form of political participation has evolved, characterized by greater visibility and relatively less direct social commitment.

A significant impact of social media algorithms is the creation of so-called "echo chambers" and "filter bubbles." When a person views or likes a particular type of content, algorithms begin to show them more of that type of content. Gradually, that person finds themselves in a digital environment where they primarily see views they already agree with. This reduces ideological diversity and increases intolerance toward opposing views. The success of democracy depends on citizens' willingness to listen and understand different viewpoints. However, if algorithms divide citizens into ideologically distinct camps, the quality of democratic discourse is bound to suffer.

The growing trend of political polarization in India can also be seen in this context. Various political groups are active in their own digital communities on social media. Content shared within these communities often reinforces a particular viewpoint and presents opposing views with suspicion, ridicule, or hostility. This can lead to a tendency toward conflict rather than dialogue in society. Disagreement is natural and necessary in a democracy, but when disagreement takes the form of hostility rather than dialogue, democratic culture begins to weaken.

The issue of fake news and disinformation is also deeply linked to social media algorithms. Algorithms promote content to which people respond quickly. Often, emotional and sensational content spreads faster than factual and balanced content. This is why false news, half-truths, misleading videos, and fabricated claims spread so quickly on social media. On numerous occasions in India, fake news has fueled social tension, communal conflict, and public confusion. Misinformation has also been used in electoral politics to influence voter opinion. When citizens' decisions are based on disinformation rather than factual information, the quality of democracy is bound to be adversely affected.

Social media has also completely transformed political communication. Previously, political parties had to rely on rallies, meetings, posters, and traditional media to reach the public. Now, they can reach citizens directly through their mobile phones. This convenience is positive for democracy as it accelerates the flow of information. However, it has also led to the development of new strategies such as micro-targeting. Digital platforms collect vast amounts of data about user behavior. Based on this data, different political messages can be sent to different groups. This makes political campaigning more effective, but reduces transparency. Citizens often have no idea whether the messages they are seeing are also visible to others. The ideal of democracy is public and open discourse, whereas micro-targeting can make political discourse fragmented and private.

However, it would be unfair to view the impact of social media and algorithms only negatively. These platforms have also provided many positive opportunities. Marginalized groups, women, youth, rural communities, and underrepresented communities have found new platforms to express themselves. Many social issues that previously lacked adequate coverage in mainstream media have become the subject of national debate through social media. Digital media has further democratized access to information and given citizens the opportunity to directly interact with those in power. Many public interest campaigns have garnered widespread support through social media. The positive role of digital platforms in natural disasters, social movements, and public awareness campaigns cannot be underestimated.

The problem arises when technology platforms themselves become the arbiters of democratic discourse. In a democracy, it should be up to citizens and institutions to decide which issues are important, not the algorithms of a private company. But in practice, what often happens is that topics that gain greater visibility algorithmically become the center of public debate. This can lead to the neglect of important issues that are not digitally attractive but are of immense social importance. Topics such as rural distress, labor rights, the quality of education, public health, and local governance are often drowned out by a sea of entertaining or controversial content.

The biggest challenge facing a democracy like India is how to embrace the benefits of digital technology while also controlling its negative impacts. Government regulation alone will not suffice. Promoting digital literacy is essential so that citizens can critically evaluate information. Media literacy and fact-checking education should be encouraged in schools and universities. Social media companies must also increase the transparency and accountability of their algorithms. Clear rules are needed for political advertising and digital campaigns to ensure the fairness of democratic processes. Independent media, civil society, and educational institutions must also play an active role in this direction.

Ultimately, it's essential to understand that democracy cannot be driven solely by technology. Technology can be a tool for democracy, not a substitute for it. Social media can connect citizens, but it cannot replace genuine social connections and grassroots participation. Sharing a post and actively participating in a movement are two different things. Trending a hashtag and bringing about lasting change in society are also not the same. The true power of democracy still lies in informed citizens, independent thinking, public dialogue, and collective participation.

When trends begin to influence public opinion, citizens' responsibility increases even more. They must understand that not all viral content is true, not every trend represents public sentiment, and not every digital debate is a democratic discussion. Democracy is protected not only by institutions but also by conscious citizens. Therefore, in the digital age, it is essential that citizens use technology, but not be controlled by it. If we can do this, social media will become a means of strengthening democracy; otherwise, there remains the danger that one day public opinion will be determined not by the independent consciousness of citizens, but by trends created by algorithms. This is the greatest democratic challenge of our time.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Respecting The Spirit Of Hajj

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent letter to the Union Civil Aviation Minister on a problem that might look like simple airport logistics on paper, but feels deeply personal to the people experiencing it. He called attention to the ongoing delays in getting Hajj pilgrims' baggage back to them—an issue that deserves urgent attention.

Every year, thousands of Muslims embark on the sacred Hajj pilgrimage. For most, it is a once-in-a-lifetime journey that requires years of saving, waiting, and spiritual preparation. After such a profound and often exhausting experience, especially for older pilgrims, coming home should be a time of pure relief. Returning safely with their belongings is a vital part of closing this sacred chapter.

Right now, operational constraints and maintenance work at Srinagar Airport mean that checked bags aren't making it onto the same flights as the pilgrims returning to Jammu and Kashmir. Instead, their luggage is being routed separately, leading to stressful delays.

While construction and logistical hiccups happen, it is completely understandable why these families are upset. Pilgrims don't just pack clothes; they travel home carrying holy Zamzam water, dates, and deeply meaningful tokens to share with family, friends, and neighbors who gather to welcome them. Sharing these blessings the moment they step through the door is a cherished tradition. Without them, the homecoming feels incomplete, causing unnecessary anxiety and disappointment for families eager to celebrate.

That is why the Chief Minister's appeal to the Union government isn't just bureaucratic, it's compassionate and necessary. Ensuring that a pilgrim's baggage travels with them isn't just about convenience; it's about respecting the dignity and sanctity of their journey. It shows these citizens that their traditions and peace of mind matter. This situation underscores a bigger need for better teamwork between aviation authorities and Hajj organizers. Moving forward, smarter planning and clearer communication can prevent these bottlenecks so future pilgrims don't have to face the same stress.

A journey as monumental as the Hajj deserves a smooth, respectful conclusion. As officials work to untangle the current baggage delays, the ultimate goal should be simple: make the journey home just as seamless and reverent as the pilgrimage itself.

Dachigam National Park – Kashmir's Living Wilderness In A Changing World

MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Just 22 kilometers from the heart of Srinagar lies one of India's most remarkable natural sanctuaries — Dachigam National Park, a 141-square-kilometer expanse of forested slopes, alpine meadows, and clear mountain streams nestled in the Zabarwan Range. This park, whose name means "ten villages" in Kashmiri, was established over a century ago to protect the water catchment of the Dal Lake. Today, it stands as the last refuge of the critically endangered Kashmir stag, or Hangul, and as a living symbol of the fragile harmony between people and nature in the valley.

Dachigam is not just a wildlife reserve; it is an ecological lifeline. Stretching from an altitude of around 1,700 meters to over 4,200 meters above sea level, the park's landscape transforms dramatically from lower temperate forests of oak, walnut, and birch to high-altitude coniferous woods and alpine grasslands. Its rich diversity of habitats supports a wide array of species that have adapted to these steep altitudinal gradients and varying climates. Every turn of its narrow trails reveals a different ecosystem — cascading streams, dense canopies, snow-fed cliffs, and serene meadows alive with birdsong.

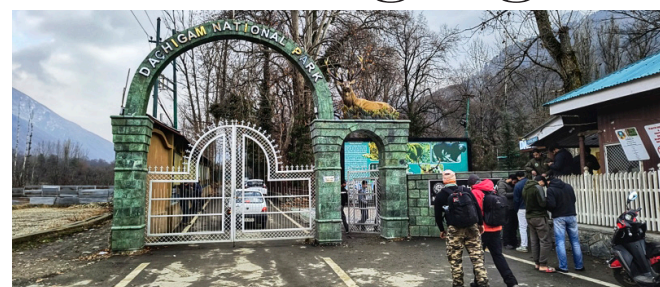
The Hangul, with its elegant antlers and reddish-brown coat, is the crown jewel of Dachigam's biodiversity. Once found across the entire Kashmir Valley, its population declined drastically due to habitat loss, poaching, and human encroachment. By the late 20th century, the Hangul had vanished from almost all its historical ranges, surviving only within Dachigam. Recent census reports conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Protection Department indicate that the Hangul population now stands at around 260 individuals. While this number marks a slight increase from earlier years, it remains

alarmingly low for a species once regarded as the pride of Kashmir's forests. Conservationists now regard Dachigam as the last stronghold of the Hangul, a species teetering on the edge of extinction.

The park's importance extends far beyond this single species. Dachigam's forests are home to the Himalayan black bear, leopard, serow, musk deer, and the elusive snow leopard, which occasionally roams its higher ridges during harsh winters. Over 150 species of birds have been recorded here, including the Himalayan monal, koklass pheasant, blue magpie, and crimson tragopan. Streams running through the park harbor brown trout and other aquatic life, sustaining an intricate food web that keeps the ecosystem in balance. During spring and summer, Dachigam bursts into colour with wildflowers carpeting its meadows and slopes, attracting pollinators and adding to its scenic charm.

Despite its protected status, Dachigam faces mounting ecological pressures. Urban expansion from Srinagar's outskirts has encroached dangerously close to its boundaries, bringing with it pollution, noise, and waste. Studies conducted in 2023 revealed a troubling 7 percent reduction in forest cover within the park since the 1960s, alongside a threefold increase in built-up areas around its periphery. Grazing by livestock in the buffer zones, unregulated tourism, and the spread of invasive plant species have further strained its fragile ecosystems. What was once an isolated wilderness now stands as an island of green amidst growing human activity.

These environmental stresses also threaten the water systems that Dachigam was originally established to protect. The park's upper streams feed into the Dagwan and Marsar rivers, which flow down to sustain the Dal Lake — the heart of Srinagar's ecology and tourism. Any degradation within Dachigam directly impacts the quality and quantity



of water that nourishes the city and its people. In that sense, the park's conservation is not only a matter of wildlife protection but of human well-being and urban sustainability.

Efforts to safeguard Dachigam and its inhabitants have intensified in recent years. The Hangul Conservation Project, led by the Department of Wildlife Protection in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, focuses on habitat management, anti-poaching surveillance, and population monitoring. During sensitive breeding and rutting seasons, entry into the park is temporarily suspended to minimize disturbance to wildlife. The most recent closure took place in September 2023, ensuring that the Hangul's breeding period proceeded without human interference. Such measures highlight the delicate balance between conservation and public access.

The government has also introduced controlled visitor permits through an online booking system. Visitors can now access designated trails and educational facilities under strict supervision. This approach seeks to promote eco-tourism — tourism that educates and inspires without harming the environment. For researchers, students, and nature enthusiasts, Dachigam offers a living classroom to observe the intricate relationships between species, habitats, and human actions. However, officials emphasize that the park cannot accommodate mass tourism; its preservation depends on restraint and respect.

One of the major conservation

strategies now under consideration is the creation of the Greater Dachigam Landscape, a connected ecological corridor linking the park to neighboring forest divisions such as Overa-Aru, Wangat, and Sindh Valley. These areas once formed the Hangul's migratory routes before fragmentation confined the species to Dachigam. By restoring connectivity, conservationists hope to allow gene flow between isolated populations and reduce the risks of inbreeding and disease. Such landscape-level planning represents a modern approach to wildlife management that looks beyond the boundaries of a single protected area.

Dachigam also holds deep cultural and emotional significance for the people of Kashmir. For generations, its slopes have been a source of pride, its forests a symbol of natural abundance. Yet this pride must now translate into collective responsibility. The health of the region itself. If Dachigam's forests fall silent, so too will the streams that sustain Srinagar's lakes and farmlands. Conservation, therefore, is not merely an environmental duty but a moral and social imperative.

The challenges are real and growing. Climate change has begun to alter snowfall patterns and vegetation cycles, affecting both plant and animal behavior. Warmer winters shorten hibernation periods for bears and disrupt the breeding patterns of deer. At the same time, rising tourism and urbanization increase human presence in sensitive zones, amplifying stress on

the park's limited resources. These issues demand scientific management, sustained funding, and active community engagement — not sporadic interventions.

For local residents living near Dachigam, sustainable livelihoods are key to reducing pressure on natural resources. Eco-guiding, handicrafts, regulated tourism services, and environmental education programs can provide economic alternatives that align with conservation goals. When communities become stakeholders rather than bystanders, protection becomes more effective and enduring.

Today, as the world grapples with biodiversity loss, Dachigam stands as both a warning and a beacon. It warns of what can happen when neglect and exploitation overtake care and stewardship. Yet it also offers hope — that with awareness, science, and community effort, fragile ecosystems can still recover. The slow but steady rise in the Hangul population, however modest, proves that nature responds positively when given space and protection.

Dachigam is not merely a park on a map; it is a living, breathing system that connects the mountains to the valley, the forests to the city, and the wild to the human spirit. Its preservation demands more than regulations — it requires respect, restraint, and recognition of its priceless value. Every visitor, policymaker, and citizen has a role to play in ensuring that this sanctuary endures.

The quiet rustle of leaves, the flowing streams, and the distant call of the Hangul remind us that true progress lies not in expansion, but in coexistence. If Kashmir is the paradise on earth, then Dachigam is its living heart — beating with the rhythm of nature, fragile yet eternal, waiting to be protected for generations yet to come.

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

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Beyond Fear: How Early Action Can Save Lives From Cancer

DR. DODUL MONDAL

Cancer is no longer a rare disease. With rising cases across the world, almost every family today knows someone affected by cancer. According to global estimates, millions of new cancer cases are diagnosed every year, and the numbers continue to rise steadily. Despite advances in treatment, fear, myths, delayed diagnosis, and lack of awareness still remain major challenges in cancer care.

Cancer is not a single disease but a condition in which cells in the body grow uncontrollably. Normally, cells grow, divide, and die in a balanced manner. Cancer develops when this natural process is disturbed and abnormal cells continue to multiply without control. These cells can form a lump or tumor and may spread to other parts of the body if not treated on time.

One important thing people must understand is that not every tumor is cancerous. Some tumors are benign, meaning they grow slowly and usually remain confined to one place without spreading. Cancerous or malignant tumors, however, can invade nearby tissues and spread to distant organs. This is why any swelling, lump, or unusual symptom should never be ignored. Early medical evaluation is essential.

Several factors can increase the risk of developing cancer. One of the biggest contributors is tobacco use, including smoking and chewing tobacco products such as gutka, khaini, and zarda. Tobacco is strongly linked to cancers of the mouth, throat, lungs, and food pipe. Excessive alcohol consumption, obesity, poor diet, lack of exercise, prolonged sun exposure, environmental pollution, and certain infections can also increase cancer risk.

Family history also plays an important role in some cancers such as breast cancer, ovarian cancer, colon



cancer, and uterine cancer. Having a close family member with cancer does not mean a person will definitely develop the disease, but it may increase the risk. In such situations, timely counselling and regular screening become important.

Lifestyle choices significantly influence cancer risk. A diet rich in processed and junk food, combined with physical inactivity, can contribute to obesity and increase the chances of developing certain cancers. On the other hand, regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, eating fresh fruits and vegetables, and avoiding tobacco can help lower the risk substantially.

Cancer symptoms can vary depending on the organ involved, but there are certain warning signs people should pay attention to. Persistent lumps or

swelling, unexplained weight loss, unusual bleeding, long-standing cough, difficulty swallowing, changes in bowel or bladder habits, non-healing ulcers, or changes in moles should always be medically evaluated. Early-stage cancers often produce mild symptoms, which is why people tend to ignore them until the disease progresses.

Diagnosis of cancer involves several tests, but biopsy remains the most important and confirmatory investigation. In a biopsy, a small tissue sample is taken from the suspected area and examined under a microscope. Imaging tests such as CT scans, MRI, PET scans, and blood investigations may also be required to determine the extent of the disease and plan appropriate treatment.

Cancer treatment has advanced sig-

nificantly over the years. Depending on the type and stage of cancer, treatment may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, or a combination of these approaches. Modern cancer care is highly personalised, and treatment decisions are usually taken by a multidisciplinary team of specialists.

Many people panic when they hear terms like "Stage IV" or "advanced cancer." However, advanced cancer does not always mean there is no hope. With modern therapies, many patients continue to live longer and maintain a good quality of life. Early diagnosis, proper staging, and timely treatment play a major role in improving outcomes.

Awareness remains one of the strongest weapons against cancer. Ignoring symptoms, relying on unqual-

Cancer is not a single disease but a condition in which cells in the body grow uncontrollably. Normally, cells grow, divide, and die in a balanced manner. Cancer develops when this natural process is disturbed and abnormal cells continue to multiply without control.

ified practitioners, or delaying medical consultation can reduce treatment success. Any persistent symptom or unexplained lump should be assessed by a qualified medical professional or cancer specialist.

Cancer care today is far more advanced than before, and many cancers are treatable or even curable if detected early. The focus should not only be on treatment but also on prevention, healthy lifestyle choices, regular screening, and timely medical attention. Early action can save lives.

(The author is the Principal Director Radiation Oncology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, Delhi)

Drug-Free J&K: A Collective Mission For Prosperous Society

AZHAR NASEER

The true strength of any nation lies in its youth. When young people are educated, healthy, and guided by strong moral values, society progresses and prospers. However, when they fall victim to drug

Drug addiction destroys physical health, weakens mental stability, and erodes moral character. A talented young person who could contribute positively to society often loses direction due to substance abuse. Dreams are shattered, families suffer, and communities bear the burden of increasing crime, unemployment, and social instability.

addiction, the consequences extend far beyond the individual, affecting families, communities, and the future of the nation. Today, drug abuse has emerged as one of the most serious social challenges, demanding immedi-



ate and collective action.

Drug addiction destroys physical health, weakens mental stability, and erodes moral character. A talented young person who could contribute positively to society often loses direction due to substance abuse. Dreams are shattered, families suffer, and communities bear the burden of increasing crime, unemployment, and social instability. Therefore, the fight against drugs is not merely a law enforcement issue. It is a social, moral, and humanitarian responsibility.

The 100 Day Nasha Mukta Campaign launched under the guidance of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha is a ray of hope for a healthier, safer, and more prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. This initiative reflects a strong commitment to protecting the younger generation from the dangers of drug addiction and building a society based on health, awareness, and opportunity.

The campaign has witnessed remarkable efforts from both the

Civil Administration and the Police Administration. Awareness programs, seminars, workshops, and community outreach activities have been organized across various districts to educate people about the harmful effects of drugs. These efforts have helped spread awareness among students, parents, and the general public, encouraging them to become active participants in the mission against drug abuse.

Jammu and Kashmir Police deserve special appreciation for their dedicated role in combating this menace. Through sustained operations against drug traffickers, public awareness drives, and close engagement with local communities, the police have demonstrated their commitment to safeguarding society. Their efforts extend beyond enforcement, serving as a source of guidance and support for vulnerable sections of the population.

The Civil Administration has also played a commendable role by coordinating various departments and

institutions to strengthen the campaign. Educational institutions, health departments, youth organizations, and community groups have joined hands to spread awareness and promote healthy lifestyles. Such coordinated efforts are essential for achieving long term success.

While government agencies have taken significant steps, the success of this campaign ultimately depends on public participation. Every responsible citizen has a role to play in creating a drug free society. Parents must maintain close communication with their children. Teachers should guide students towards positive values and productive activities. Community leaders, social activists, writers, and intellectuals must use their influence to spread awareness and inspire change.

Islam also strongly condemns all forms of intoxicants. The teachings of Islam clearly emphasize the protection of human intellect, health, and dignity. Every intoxicating substance that impairs judgment and causes harm is

forbidden. The Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him, stated that every intoxicant is prohibited. This guidance serves as a powerful reminder that staying away from drugs is both a social responsibility and a moral obligation.

Drug addiction not only damages the body but also affects mental and emotional well being. It often leads to depression, anxiety, isolation, and the breakdown of family relationships. The economic burden on families and society further highlights the need for preventive measures and early intervention.

Literature, education, sports, and cultural activities can play a vital role in protecting young people from addiction. When youth are encouraged to engage in constructive pursuits, they are less likely to fall into destructive habits. Books, creativity, sports, and skill development programs can become powerful tools in building resilience and confidence among young people.

Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards a future filled with opportunities in education, employment, entrepreneurship, and social development. To realize this vision, it is essential to ensure that the youth remain healthy, focused, and free from the grip of drugs. A prosperous society can only be built on the foundation of healthy and responsible citizens.

The 100 Day Nasha Mukta Campaign is more than an awareness drive. It is a collective movement aimed at securing the future of generations to come. Its success is not solely the responsibility of the Civil Administration or the Police Administration. It is the shared responsibility of every citizen who dreams of a safer and better society.

Let us unite in this noble cause. Let us pledge to reject drugs, spread awareness, support vulnerable individuals, and contribute to building a healthier future. Together, we can create a Jammu and Kashmir where every young person has the opportunity to thrive and where the menace of drugs has no place.

A Drug Free Jammu and Kashmir is not just a vision. It is an achievable goal that requires determination, cooperation, and collective action from all sections of society.

The author can be mailed at naseerahmedtantray1989@gmail.com

CM Flags Hajj Pilgrims'

delay, he said, has adversely affected these cherished customs and traditions associated with the Haj pilgrimage.

Seeking the Union Minister's intervention, the Chief Minister urged that arrangements be made to ensure the safe and simultaneous transportation of pilgrims' baggage along with them on the same flights to Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed hope that an early and favourable consideration of the matter would help alleviate the hardships being faced by returning pilgrims and preserve the sanctity of items carrying deep religious and sentimental significance.

Drug Abuse Fuels

marked the turning point.

"I stand before you not only as your Lieutenant Governor but as a member of your family who shares your pain, your struggles, and your dream of a safe, empowered and drug-free Jammu Kashmir. In 2021, I pledged a fear-free and drug-free Jammu Kashmir so that the shadows of drugs and terror that once loomed over our youth can be banished entirely. I can say with confidence today that the chains that once trapped our youth in the dark web of drugs are breaking apart, link by link, day by day.

Over the past 51 days we have carried out extensive, coordinated operations against narco-terrorists and drug traffickers. With a whole-of-government approach we are dismantling networks that had become entrenched. Raids have targeted drug smugglers and drug peddlers in villages and towns, supply chains have been broken, and narco-terrorists have been exposed," the Lieutenant Governor said.

It is pertinent to mention that 923 FIRs have been registered against drug traffickers in the last 51 days. More than 1,000 drug smugglers and peddlers have been arrested, over 55 traffickers have been detained under PIT-NDPS provisions, 668 driving licenses have been cancelled, and recommendations have been made to revoke 124 passports. The Lieutenant Governor said that the fight against drugs is not limited to raids and arrests but the administration is also working on breaking the supply chain, generating public awareness and working towards the dignified rehabilitation for those suffering from addiction.

"We will ensure our youth are freed from the grip of addiction, return to the mainstream of society, and become the strength that will lead Jammu Kashmir toward a brighter tomorrow," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Operation 'Sherwali'

strengthen security in the dense forest region. The operation is being carried out by the Indian Army in coordination with other security agencies, with surveillance and anti-terror measures continuing in the sensitive border belt, officials said, as quoted by White Knight Corps X.

Amid the ongoing operation, a senior Army commander visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) to review the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness, officials said on Monday.

Lieutenant General P. K. Mishra, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps, accompanied by the GOC of the Ace of Spades Division, assessed the ground situation during his visit.

The Corps Commander interacted with troops deployed at forward locations and commended them for maintaining high morale, professionalism and dedication under challenging operational conditions, officials said, citing White Knight Corps X.

He reviewed measures undertaken to strengthen surveillance, enhance precision strike capabilities and improve preparedness to meet emerging warfare requirements.

The Army Commander expressed satisfaction with the formation's operational readiness and steps taken to maintain a robust security posture along the LoC.

Reaffirming the Indian Army's commitment to safeguarding the nation's borders, he emphasised the need for continued vigilance and operational excellence to ensure effective domination of the LoC, officials added, as per White Knight Corps X—(KNO)

Govt Creating New

entrepreneurship and employment despite facing geographical and climatic challenges.

Addressing the participants at the Jammu Kashmir Business Conclave 2026, the Minister said that the government is committed to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a vibrant hub of tourism-driven economic growth by creating a conducive environment for businesses, startups and local entrepreneurs.

He observed that while the region has historically faced harsh weather conditions and other challenges, these factors have not deterred the government from pursuing an ambitious development agenda. Instead, sustained investments in infrastructure, digital connectivity, hospitality, transportation and tourism facilities are opening new avenues for economic activity and livelihood generation across Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma emphasized that tourism remains one of the strongest pillars of the region's economy, with immense potential to generate employment for youth, empower local communities and promote sustainable development. He said that focused interventions by the government have led to the expansion of tourism beyond traditional destinations, encouraging the visitors to

explore emerging tourist circuits, rural tourism destinations and adventure tourism opportunities.

The Minister said that the government's emphasis on technological innovation and digital governance is further strengthening the tourism ecosystem. Through enhanced digital services, improved connectivity and the integration of technology into tourism promotion, Jammu and Kashmir is becoming increasingly accessible to visitors and investors alike.

Highlighting the role of young entrepreneurs, Sharma said that the government is encouraging innovation and startup culture by providing support mechanisms that enable youth to transform ideas into successful enterprises. He stressed that tourism-linked sectors such as hospitality, handicrafts, transport services, information technology and adventure sports offer significant opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs.

"The resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the proactive policies of the government are together creating an ecosystem where investment, innovation and tourism can flourish. Our objective is not only to increase the tourist footfall but also to ensure that the benefits of tourism reach every section of society," he said.

The Minister further stated that the government remains focused on building modern infrastructure, promoting skill development and leveraging technology to create sustainable employment opportunities. He reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir's natural beauty, cultural richness and growing infrastructure make it one of the most attractive destinations for tourism and business investments in the country.

Calling upon the industry leaders, investors and entrepreneurs to explore the vast potential of Jammu and Kashmir, Satish Sharma expressed confidence that the region will continue to witness robust growth and emerge as a model of inclusive and sustainable development in the years ahead.

The conclave was attended by the policymakers, industry experts, business leaders and entrepreneurs to discuss the emerging opportunities and strategies for accelerating economic growth.

CS Reviews Progress

Department, Power Development Department (PDD) and district administrations to ensure smooth and timely installation of smart meters. He observed that effective metering is essential for realizing the full benefits of solar energy generation and optimizing energy savings.

Dulloo further directed the department to extend necessary assistance to government departments in finalizing Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), enabling efficient utilization and management of the energy generated through solar installations.

He remarked that large-scale solarisation, coupled with the development of small and medium hydropower projects, has the potential to transform the energy landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, given the immense renewable energy potential available across the Union Territory.

Highlighting the need for inclusive and sustainable energy solutions, the Chief Secretary called for exploring alternative cooking energy options for people residing in remote and far-flung areas who continue to depend on conventional fuel sources. He also stressed the importance of expediting efforts towards formulation and implementation of the Renewable Energy (RE) Policy and promotion of Compressed Biogas (CBG) initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.

Reviewing the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Council, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), the Chief Secretary urged the council to devise a focused and actionable strategy in collaboration with institutions such as the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) for promoting food processing, skill development and other innovation-driven entrepreneurial ventures. He emphasized that stronger linkages between academic institutions and government agencies can play a significant role in fostering innovation-led economic growth and employment generation in the region.

Giving an overview of the department's activities, the Commissioner Secretary, S&T, Babila Rakwal informed the meeting that JAKEDA is spearheading a range of initiatives including solarisation of government buildings, solar-powered agriculture pumps under PM-KUSUM, establishment of model solar villages, development of solar parks, promotion of rooftop solar systems, decentralized renewable energy devices and small hydroelectric projects across the Union Territory.

She further divulged that significant progress has been achieved under the flagship programme for solarisation of government buildings. Under the CAPEX mode, rooftop solar projects covering around 8,000 government buildings with a target capacity of 70 MW are being implemented, while another 175 MW capacity is being developed under the RESCO model adding that 3,000 government buildings have already been solarised and work is progressing rapidly on the remaining identified structures.

Reviewing the achievements recorded during the previous financial year, the CEO, JAKEDA, PN Dhar informed that over 2,200 solar agriculture pumps were installed, nearly 9,000 solar home lighting systems distributed in remote and tribal areas, 140 solar high mast lights established, around 8,000 solar street lights installed and more than 16,000 biomass cook stoves provided to households in underserved regions. These interventions have substantially improved access to clean energy while reducing dependence on conventional fuels.

The meeting further noted that under the PM-KUSUM scheme, 4,841 solar agriculture pumps have been installed and made operational against 5,000 sanctioned pumps, registering a completion

rate of about 99 percent. The initiative is helping farmers reduce diesel consumption and lower irrigation costs while ensuring reliable access to water for agriculture.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the progress on the Model Solar Village programme under which one village in each district has been identified for development as a renewable energy model. On the hydro power front, the meeting was informed that seven small hydroelectric projects with a cumulative capacity of 35.25 MW have already been commissioned in the Union Territory.

Additionally, a robust pipeline of hydro projects is under various stages of allotment, development and execution, with over 115 MW capacity expected to be added in the coming years.

The department also apprised the Chief Secretary about proposals for establishment of solar parks at identified locations in Jammu, development of a pilot solar-wind hybrid power project, installation of solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations and a proposed 100 MW Solar Power Park coupled with a 20 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which would be the first project of its kind in Jammu & Kashmir.

Reviews Availability Of

Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA and Commissioner Secretary, Information; Commissioner Secretary, Education Departments was attended by the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir along with senior officers of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, representatives from OMCs and other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioners and SSPs attended the meeting through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the need for maintaining uninterrupted supplies of all essential commodities, including petroleum products, LPG and fertilizers, across Jammu and Kashmir. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that LPG meant for domestic consumers is not diverted for commercial use and called for strict monitoring to prevent any such irregularities.

He also stressed the importance of completing the e-KYC process for all eligible beneficiaries to enable them to continue receiving subsidies without interruption. The Chief Secretary further underscored the need for extensive awareness campaigns across all districts so that consumers are adequately informed about the benefits and requirements of e-KYC registration.

The Chief Secretary also called upon the district administrations to regularly assess the stock position of essential commodities in residential institutions, hospitals and other critical establishments. Additionally, he instructed the Deputy Commissioners to review the availability of essential supplies for migratory labourers residing at various project sites and workplaces across the Union Territory so that no section of society faces any inconvenience.

Highlighting the importance of supporting economic activity and public welfare, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to ensure timely payments to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma gave a detailed overview of the availability of fertilizers across both the divisions and informed the meeting that the department is ensuring their rational and equitable distribution.

He urged the district administrations to intensify awareness generation among farmers regarding the 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan', a flagship initiative aimed at reducing excessive dependence on nitrogen-based fertilizers such as urea and encouraging the use of balanced NPK fertilizers containing nutrients in appropriate proportions.

He further highlighted that the campaign promotes sustainable agricultural practices through greater adoption of organic farming methods and the use of organic manure to improve soil health and ensure long-term agricultural sustainability. He also sought the support of the district administrations in identifying and eliminating the sale and use of spurious and substandard insecticides from the market, noting that such products have adverse impact on agricultural productivity and crop health.

Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat, briefed the meeting about the department's monitoring mechanism covering 40 essential commodities across the Union Territory. He informed that the prices of these commodities remained largely stable across districts with only marginal variations observed from previous trends. He also apprised the meeting of the inspections carried out by the department and the enforcement actions initiated against violators found indulging in profiteering, overcharging and other market irregularities.

In Jammu Division, the Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar apprised that the available stocks and supplies in transit are sufficient to cater to the requirements of consumers. He revealed that the Division presently has stocks of petrol, diesel, LPG, kerosene and ATF, with additional consignments already in transit, ensuring uninterrupted availability of these commodities.

The meeting was further informed that commercial LPG supplies in Jammu Division continue to remain stable. Against the total demand generated from hospitality establishments and industrial units, a substantial quantity of cylinders has already been supplied, while the remaining demand is being met through a continuous replenishment process. The Department has maintained close coordination with oil marketing companies to ensure timely deliveries and prevent any supply disruptions.

Giving the details about in Kashmir Division,

the Divisional Commissioner, Anshul Garg, apprised that adequate stocks of petrol, diesel and LPG are available across the Valley. The stock position, supplemented by supplies in transit, is sufficient to meet consumer demand comfortably. He informed the meeting that the supply chain remains stable and there has been no indication of any shortage or disruption in any district.

The Chief Secretary was also briefed about the availability of commercial LPG at major tourist destinations including Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Srinagar. It was informed that regular interactions are being held with stakeholders from the hospitality sector and no shortage of LPG has been reported at any tourist destination.

Moreover it was highlighted that the Department has made advance arrangements to cater to the increased demand arising from tourist inflow and the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Emphasising the importance of maintaining seamless supplies of essential commodities, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments, Divisional/District administrations and law enforcement agencies to continue close monitoring of stock positions and strengthen coordination with oil marketing companies and distributors. He stressed the need for proactive planning to ensure that consumers, tourists and pilgrims do not face any inconvenience during the peak season.

6.67 Lakh Households

6.67 lakh households in J&K voluntarily submitted their census details through the official self-enumeration portal," he said.

Described the response to the self-enumeration phase as highly encouraging, Sharma said that 667517 households in J&K and 7009 households in Ladakh completed self-enumeration before the start of houselisting operations.

He added that enthusiastic participation was witnessed across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir, with Pulwama, Jammu, and Kulgam recording particularly strong responses.

He further informed that Houselisting Operations (HLO) commenced today in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Highlighting the scale of preparations for Census 2027, Sharma said that Houselisting block demarcation and geo-tagging activities have been virtually completed across both Union Territories, with more than 23600 houselisting blocks demarcated in Jammu & Kashmir and 567 blocks in Ladakh.

He said more than 27000 census kits have already been dispatched across Jammu & Kashmir, while around 800 kits have been distributed in Ladakh, ensuring that field functionaries are fully equipped for the commencement of houselisting operations—(KNO)

First Batch Of Hajj Pilgrims

males and 2,058 females.

"A total of 3,952 pilgrims, including 21 women without Mehram, will return through the Srinagar Embarkation Point during the scheduled arrival operations," he said.

Dr Qureshi said that among the pilgrims arriving through Srinagar, 3,631 belong to Jammu & Kashmir, while 321 pilgrims from Ladakh and one pilgrim from Punjab will also arrive via the Srinagar Embarkation Point.

The first return flight scheduled for tomorrow will carry 144 pilgrims, including 74 male and 70 female Hajjis, he informed.

The CEO said 1,061 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir are also scheduled to arrive through other embarkation points across the country, including 1,010 pilgrims through Delhi, 49 through Mumbai and two through Bangalore.

All necessary arrangements have been put in place at Srinagar Airport for the reception and facilitation of the returning pilgrims.

"Transport arrangements, medical facilities, assistance counters and distribution of Zamzam water have already been arranged for the pilgrims arriving at Srinagar Airport," Dr Qureshi said.

The return flights are commencing amid ongoing concerns regarding baggage restrictions imposed due to operational limitations at Srinagar Airport caused by runway maintenance works and temporary runway length restrictions under the existing NOTAM—(KNO)

Tourists Head To Cooler

on improving road connectivity and tourism infrastructure in remote areas.

Visitors described the border destinations as among the most picturesque places in Kashmir.

Adnan Ahmad, 29, a tourist from Srinagar visiting Gurez, said the valley offered everything needed to become a major tourism destination.

"The weather is pleasant, the scenery is stunning, and the environment is peaceful. With better facilities, more people would choose to visit Gurez," he said.

Shazia Khan, 34, a tourist from Delhi who recently visited Bangus Valley, said the region offered a welcome escape from the intense heat prevailing in many parts of the country.

"The cool climate, green meadows and hospitality of residents made the experience memorable. These places deserve greater attention from tourists," she said.

Officials said tourist movement has been increasing steadily across Gurez, Tulail, Keran, Bangus and Uri as visitors continue to seek cooler destinations during the ongoing heatwave.

For residents of these frontier villages, the growing tourist footfall is bringing renewed optimism and helping strengthen local economies during the summer season—(KNO)

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DC Srinagar chairs meeting of revenue officers

Stresses swift, timely delivery of revenue services

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday chaired a review meeting of senior Revenue Officers at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess tehsil-wise progress on key revenue matters and delivery of revenue related services.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadi Fareed, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar all Tehsilars and other concerned.

At the outset, the DC reviewed the status of various revenue-related initiatives and commended the dedicated efforts of Officers and field functionaries in accelerating the digitisation process and ensur-



ing the timely completion of assigned targets and emphasized the need to sustain the momentum and ensure the timely completion of the remaining tasks and reforms within the prescribed timelines.

During the meeting, the DC was informed that Srinagar district comprises 137 villages, each having its own Jamabandi record, all of which shall be uploaded on the designated portal. He was further informed that to ensure accuracy and transparency, the digitised records were taken to the villages and read out in

public. Registers shall also be maintained in each village to record grievances raised by residents, thereby ensuring community participation in the verification process.

While reviewing the implementation of the online portal, (jkzameensudar.jk.gov.in), the DC stressed the need for the timely redressal of grievances registered on the portal and directed Officers to clear any pendency at the earliest. He also emphasized the uploading of complete Jamabandi records in PDF format.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the status of the PM SVAMITVA Scheme and sub-parcelization of mother maps. He directed the concerned officers to ensure completion of targets under these initiatives in a time-bound manner.

The DC further urged the officers to continue working with dedication and professionalism to strengthen public confidence in the Revenue Administration and ensure efficient, transparent and citizen-centric service delivery within the PSGA timelines across the District.

YSS Dept rebuts 'salary denial' allegation on PET Bilquis Mir; cites missing official records

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, J&K, has rebutted the news report regarding alleged denial of salary to Physical Education Teacher Bilquis Mir for over two years, terming the claims factually incorrect and misleading.

According to a rebuttal issued here today in this regard, the department said that it is necessary to place the correct factual position on record to prevent misinformation.

The Department clarified that the salary release is not arbitrary and requires mandatory verification of the Service Book, Last Pay Certificate (LPC), pay fixation details, admissible pay and recoveries, if any. After receiving the interim order dated 05.02.2026 of the Central Administrative Tribunal, the case was immediately processed. However, the Principal, BHSS Nowpora, Srinagar, the concerned Drawing and Disbursing Officer, reported that Bilquis Mir's Service Book, LPC and other essential service records had not been received despite her joining the institution. Without these records, salary cannot be processed under financial rules. The Department has since initiated steps to obtain the requisite records from the concerned authorities,



including the Anti-Corruption Bureau, in compliance with law and Tribunal directions.

The Directorate stressed that issues under examination extend beyond salary. Bilquis Mir's service record shows instances requiring scrutiny, including participation in activities and foreign visits without prior permission, continued representation of the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association (IKCA) at official and non-official fora without competent authority approval and matters under the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971. While these are not cited as grounds for withholding admissible salary, they are under departmental examination. The Department noted that repeated attempts are being made to project a one-sided narrative in media and social media instead of allowing the legal and administra-

tion processes to conclude.

On service matters, the Department stated that Bilquis Mir, appointed as PET in July 2009, has not undergone or completed the mandatory http://B.P.Ed. training required under her appointment terms. During deputation to the J&K State Sports Council from July 2013, later extended in 2015, she was promoted as Junior Coach with pay enhancement and was designated In-charge Executive Director, Water Sports Centre in 2019 in her own pay and grade, without parent department concurrence.

The Department also received an ACB reference indicating her involvement in illegal promotions during deputation and recommending recovery of Rs. 12,46,928/- as excess salary drawn from 09.07.2014. Though criminal proceedings were quashed by the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, violations of service condi-

tions and receipt of inadmissible benefits remain under examination.

Despite repatriation as PET, she continues to represent IKCA without prior permission, attracting Rule 21(2) of the J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971. She also undertook multiple foreign visits without prior permission/NOC. Requests for travel permission could not be processed at times due to non-submission of mandatory online property returns. Participation in international events without sanctioned leave and permission is under examination under Conduct Rules.

A Show Cause Notice dated 11.07.2025 has been issued to Bilquis Mir to explain why action under service rules should not be initiated. A fact-finding Departmental Committee is currently inquiring into various service-related issues concerning her.

The Directorate reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, fairness and rule of law. The matter is under examination at various levels and is sub-judice before the competent judicial forum. The suggestion of deliberate inaction or arbitrary conduct by the Department is not supported by the official record. All further action will be strictly as per law, service rules and judicial directions.

ACB arrests forest guard for accepting Rs 15,000 bribe

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (J&K ACB) on Monday said it has trapped and arrested Forest Guard of Forest Division Marwah, in district Kishtwar for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 15,000. He has been identified as Vaseem Ahmad Hap. Travel Guides & Travelogues

As per the statement, a written complaint was received by ACB alleging that the accused demanded a bribe of ₹20,000 from the complainant for expediting the release of security deposits related to allotted works. After negotiations, the accused allegedly agreed to accept Rs 15,000 as illegal gratification.

Unwilling to pay the bribe, the complainant approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau seeking legal action against the accused official.

Upon receipt of the complaint, ACB conducted a discreet verification which established the prima facie demand of bribe by the accused public servant. Consequently, FIR No. 07/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Cor-

ruption Act, 1988 was registered at Police Station ACB Central, Jammu, and investigation was initiated. Drug awareness campaign

During investigation, a trap team was constituted by ACB. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant namely Vaseem Ahmad Hap S/o Manzoor Ahmad R/o Hidayal, Kishtwar, presently posted as Forest Guard and looking after accounts work in the office of Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division Marwah, re-handled while demanding and accepting Rs 15,000 from the complainant. The accused was immediately arrested on the spot, and the bribe amount was recovered from his possession in the presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team, statement said.

Subsequently, searches were conducted at the residential premises of the accused government employee in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses. Kashmir news portal

Further investigation in the case is underway, statement added.

SMC Commissioner inspects NCAP Works along NH-44

Reviews measures to strengthen Air Quality Management



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Faz Lul Haseeb, Monday conducted an extensive inspection of various sites along the NH-44 Western Highway Corridor to review the progress of works being executed under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aimed at mitigating air pollution and improving the Air Quality Index (AQI) across one of the busiest traffic corridors in the city.

The visit was undertaken to assess the implementation and maintenance of ongoing and completed NCAP interventions designed to curb dust pollution, enhance environmental sustainability, and bring air quality levels within the prescribed standards.

During the inspection, the Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the works executed under NCAP and evaluated the effectiveness of dust suppression and pollution mitigation measures being undertaken along the highway corridor. He emphasized the importance of timely completion of all ongoing works and directed the concerned agencies to ensure sustained maintenance of completed projects for achieving long-term environmental benefits.

Stressing the need for coordinated action, the Commissioner instructed all stakeholder departments to work in close collaboration to reduce vehicular dust emissions,

improve roadside aesthetics, and strengthen efforts towards achieving the objectives of the National Clean Air Programme. He further directed the concerned officers to expedite all pending works and ensure strict adherence to prescribed air quality standards.

The Commissioner also held detailed discussions with the officers regarding future strategies for strengthening air quality management initiatives along NH-44. He underscored the significance of increasing urban green cover and directed the concerned departments to explore the possibilities of large-scale plantation drives and landscape enhancement measures along the corridor, keeping in view the holistic and sustainable development of the city.

Reaffirming SMC's commitment towards environmental protection and sustainable urban development, the Commissioner emphasized that focused efforts under NCAP will continue to be strengthened to ensure cleaner air, healthier surroundings, and an improved quality of life for the residents of Srinagar.

The inspection was attended by the Joint Commissioner (Works), SMC, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), SMC, and Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B), Project Division-I, Srinagar, who briefed the Commissioner on the status of various interventions being undertaken under the programme.

Srinagar Airport to Shut Twice Weekly for Runway Repairs



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Srinagar International Airport will remain closed for flight operations every Monday and Tuesday from July to September this year to facilitate major runway repair and resurfacing works, officials said on Monday.

Airport Director Javed Anjum confirmed that passenger flight operations will be suspended twice a week from July 1, following formal communication regarding the scheduled maintenance programme.

He said, "Due to runway repair works, passenger flight operations will remain suspended every Monday and Tuesday during July, August and September."

The revised closure plan replaces an earlier proposal that had suggested suspending operations on Saturdays and Sundays between August 1 and October 15.

The change comes amid

ongoing maintenance work on the runway, which has already impacted airport operations in recent months, including logistical challenges related to the transport of baggage for returning Haj pilgrims.


Earlier, a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Indian Air Force had restricted operational hours at Srinagar Airport until July 31, limiting flight movements to between 8 am and 5 pm to facilitate repair work. Jammu and Kashmir government

Despite operational constraints, flight activity has largely remained stable, with the airport currently handling around 35 to 40 arrivals daily. Airlines are operating in line with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)-approved summer schedule.

Authorities have informed airlines of the revised closure plan, and carriers are expected to adjust their timetables accordingly during the three-month maintenance period. (JKNS)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I FIRDOUS AHMAD DAR S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD DAR R/O CHATTERHAMA HAZRATBAL SGR have changed name of my daughter from AYZAL FIRDOUS (old name) to BARZAH FIRDOUS (new name). In future my ward will be known as BARZAH FIRDOUS for all purposes. I want the same change to be updated in her Aadhar card bearing no 973832917218. In this regard, if anybody has any sort of objection/s he/she may contact the concerned deptt. within a period of 7 days. No objection will be entertained afterwards.



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No: ITI /Sgr/248-54 Dated: 30-05-2026

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR THE SESSION 2026-27-28

Online applications are invited from the desirous candidates seeking admission at Govt ITI Srinagar Campus I (Baghi Dilawar Khan) and Campus II (Zainakote) for Academic Session 2026-27/28 in various Engineering/ Non-Engineering trades having minimum age of 14 years as on 1st September 2026 with no upper age limit w.e.f 30-05-2026 to 15-06-2026, in the courses offered below against Free and Self-financing seats as detailed below:

A) Trades Offered at ITI Srinagar Campus I (Baghi Dilawar Khan)

S.NO.	Name of Trade	Duration of Course Two Year/ One Year/ 6 months	Entry Qualification	Whether NCVT/ SCVT	Scheme Normal/ Self Finance
1	Electrician	02 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
2	Fitter	02 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
3	Electrician	02 Year	10th	NCVT	Self Finance
4	Information & Communication Technology System Maintenance	02 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
5	Computer Operator & Programming Assistant	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
6	Welder	01 Year	8th	NCVT	Normal
7	Mechanic Diesel	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
8	Plumber	01 Year	8th	NCVT	Normal
9	Stenographer Secretarial Assistant (English)	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
10	Front Office Assistant	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal (WW)
11	Fashion Design & Technology	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal (WW)
12	Data Entry Operator	06 Months	10th	NCVT	Normal (WW)
13	Computer Operator & Programming Assistant	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Self Finance
14	Wood Carving Artisan	01 Year	10th	SCVT	Heritage Craft Course
15	Papier Mache Artisan	01 Year	10th	SCVT	Heritage Craft Course

B. Trades offered at ITI Srinagar Campus II (Zainakote)

1	Electronics Mechanic	02 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
2	Draughtsman Mechanical	02 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
3	Dress Making	01 Year	8th	NCVT	Normal
4	Computer Operator & Programming Assistant	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
5	Computer Hardware & Network Maintenance	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
6	Digital Photographer	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
7	Health Sanitary Inspector	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
8	Tourist Guide	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Normal
9	Stenographer Secretarial Assistant (English)	01 Year	10th	NCVT	Self Finance
10	Plumber	01 Year	8th	NCVT	Self Finance
11	Solar Technician (Electrical)	01 Year	10th	SCVT	Model ITI
12	IOT Technician (Smart City)	01 Year	10th	SCVT	Model ITI
13	Smart Phone Technician cum App Tester	06 Months	10th	SCVT	Model ITI

The desirous candidates have to fill up the online admission forms available at ITI admission Portal Viz. (<https://www.jkdsd.in/itiadmissions>), the link is also available on the official website of Directorate of Skill Development J&K viz www.jkdsd.in. The last date for applying online is 15th of June 2026. The candidates have to fill up the complete details which include basic details of the student like Name, Parentage, qualification etc on the online portal and will have to upload the following documents:

- Marks Certificate of qualifying Examination
- Date of Birth Certificate
- Category Certificate (SC/ ST1/ ST2/ Ex-Serviceman/ OBC/ PWD/ EWS) if any
- Aadhaar Card
- Domicile certificate should be produced at the time of admission in the ITI
- Fee @Rs.100/- per three trades in which he/she is seeking admission is to be paid at ITI Srinagar Campus I (Baghi-dilawar Khan) and Campus II (Zainakote) only and thereafter the receipt of the same is to be uploaded on the portal.

The candidates after finalizing the profile and application form online will be required to deposit the print out of the system generated application form at ITI Srinagar Campus I (Baghi-dilawar Khan) and Campus II (Zainakote) only along with Fee @ Rs. 100/- per three trades in which he/she is seeking admission and self attested photocopies of above mentioned required documents.

Moreover, all the guidelines are available on ITI Admission Portal. In case any technical issue arises kindly mail on (sysadmin-dsd@jk.gov.in).

DIPK-1712-26 Principal (Senior Scale)
DT: 01/06/2026 ITI Srinagar

IPL 2026: Virat Kohli's fastest fifty powers RCB to back-to-back titles



SIANS

AHMEDABAD: Powered by Virat Kohli's fastest half-century in the IPL, Royal Challengers Bengaluru sealed back-to-back IPL title triumphs by completing a clinical chase of 156 and beating Gujarat Titans by five wickets in front of their passionate fans at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

Kohli smashed a 25-ball fifty and remained unbeaten on 75 off 42 balls – laced with nine fours and three sixes, also his highest score in the IPL playoffs. He also continued his remarkable streak – RCB have not lost a game since 2025 whenever he has scored a fifty.

Supported by Venkatesh Iyer's brisk 32, Kohli's masterly innings ensured the defending champions never lost grip of the chase and finished the job with authority to claim successive IPL crowns. Both sides had entered the final eyeing their second IPL title and aiming to join the elite club of Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders as multiple-time champions.

RCB, who won their maiden trophy in Ahmedabad in 2025, have now become only the third team after MI and CSK to

successfully defend their title, while extending the streak of Qualifier 1 winners lifting the trophy to nine seasons. The win also means Josh Hazlewood remains unbeaten in white-ball finals while Krunal Pandya has emerged victorious in every IPL final he's played in.

GT, champions in 2022 at the same venue, were undone by disciplined RCB bowling and the scheduling grind of playing their third game at a third venue in six days, having reached Ahmedabad only on Saturday night due to inclement weather.

Washington Sundar's fighting fifty gave GT a total of 155/8, but Rasikh Salam Dar's three-for and early strikes from Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar kept them in check. Kohli's landmark knock then turned the final into a one-sided affair, reaffirming his reputation as the man for the big occasion.

With this clinical triumph in Ahmedabad, RCB have not only defended their crown but also cemented their place among the league's most successful franchises, apart from having the rare honour of holding both

WPL and IPL titles at the same time.

RCB's chase of 156 began with Kohli and Venkatesh Iyer tore into Gujarat Titans' new-ball attack. Kohli unfurled a flurry of wristy flicks (one of which went for a jaw-dropping six) and pulls against Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj, and race 28 off just 10 balls in just four overs, while Iyer smashed 32 off 16 deliveries despite battling a right knee niggle.

The pair brought up RCB's fifty inside 21 balls – the fastest in an IPL final – and ensured the asking rate was never a concern from the get go. Iyer eventually lobbed a pull to mid-on off Siraj and Rabada, who had conceded 37 in his first two overs, eventually dismissed Devdutt Padikkal cheaply when he sliced to third man.

But by then, the damage had already been done by RCB. Rajat Patidar joined Kohli and kept the tempo high by pulling Siraj for six, before swivelling off Jason Holder for four. Kohli, meanwhile, continued to keep going despite GT trying some mind games through Sai Sudharsan's chatter. But GT struck right after first time-out when Patidar holed out to long-on off Rashid Khan, who

trapped Krunal Pandya plumb lbw in the same over.

With Tim David joining the boundary hitting act, Kohli got his fifty in 25 balls after pulling Arshad Khan though short mid-wicket for a boundary, despite struggling with cramps in his right leg. Though David gave a feather edge behind off Arshad Khan after GT got the decision in their favour via review, Kohli and Jitesh Sharma hit exquisite fours to take RCB closer.

Kohli then survived a caught out decision on 63 as replays showed the ball touched the ground while Gill was trying to take the diving catch at mid-on. Fittingly, Kohli finished off the chase by pulling Arshad in the gap between mid-on and mid-wicket before smacking him over long-on for six to spark jubilant celebrations in the RCB camp and their loyal fans after clinching the IPL title once again.

Brief Scores: Gujarat Titans 155/8 in 20 overs (Washington Sundar 50 not out, Nishant Sindhu 20; Rasikh Salam Dar 3-27, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2-29) lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru 161/5 in 18 overs (Virat Kohli 75 not out, Venkatesh Iyer 32; Rashid Khan 2-25) by five wickets

ICC Board approves trialling use of pink balls in Tests to tackle bad light, legside wides; consultation with head coach during drinks break

SIANS

AHMEDABAD: The International Cricket Council has approved trialling the use of a pink ball in all Test matches when there is a threat of weather interruption so that play is not affected by bad light, and to continue under lights while also researching lighting technology for match officials and venues to reduce lost play due to poor light, with ICC co-funding R&D projects alongside Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). It has also accepted the Chief Executives Committee's suggestion for enabling match officials to access Hawk-Eye data when considering reporting an illegal bowling action.

The ICC Board also approved updates to the Playing Conditions to allow head coaches or their designees to consult with teams during scheduled drinks intervals. It has also made it mandatory to have 15-minute intervals in T20i matches and requires batters to be ready at the resumption of play.

The ICC Board also approved permanent adoption of the legside wides trial and all remaining MCC Laws of Cricket changes effective 1 October 2026.

Updates to the Classification of Official Cricket, confirming that teams in the CWC Challenge League remain eligible to play other List A limited overs matches during each Challenge League tournament cycle, were also approved.

maximise play in case of anticipated bad light.

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ICC moves Women's Champions Trophy 2027 to Feb, approves Emerging Nations Trophy and T20 World Cup qualification pathway



SIANS

AHMEDABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday made a major change to the schedule of the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027. The tournament will now take place from February 14 to 28, 2027, instead of June-July. This decision is part of several measures to strengthen women's cricket worldwide. The Board also approved a new Women's Emerging Nations Trophy and set the qualification pathway for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2028.

The Women's Champions Trophy will debut in February, providing a new window in the international calendar. This change is expected to help with scheduling and ensure better conditions for the tournament.

In another important development, the ICC confirmed it will launch the Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2026, fea-

turing ten teams to give greater international exposure to developing nations. The tournament will have five Full Member countries and five Associate Member teams, chosen based on rankings and past T20 World Cup qualifications. This initiative aims to widen competition in women's cricket and support emerging nations.

ICC Chairman, Mr Jay Shah, said, "Our discussions in Ahmedabad have reinforced the ICC's commitment to governance, administration, and the growth of cricket globally. From women's cricket and emerging nations to the management of franchise competitions, today's discussions and decisions aim to ensure that cricket remains fair, competitive, and exciting for fans worldwide."

The ICC Board also approved the qualification system for the Women's T20 World Cup 2028, which will be hosted by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), with India's matches held at a neutral venue.

IPL 2026: 'Grateful to have won 5 trophies in 11 years, pretty special for me,' says Krunal after RCB's title win

SIANS

AHMEDABAD: Royal Challengers Bengaluru all-rounder Krunal Pandya described the franchise's successful IPL title defence as a reward for years of patience and planning, while also celebrating his own milestone of winning a fifth IPL trophy.

Having played a key role in RCB's rise over the past two seasons, Krunal admitted that each championship occupies a special place in his career and that comparing them is nearly impossible.

"Every IPL trophy is special. There's no doubt about it. It's like having kids, right? You can't pick. Similar with IPL trophies because everything is so hard-earned," Krunal said after the win.

The experienced all-rounder reflected on his personal achievement after lifting the IPL trophy for the fifth time in 11 seasons, as he said, "I'm so glad and grateful that in 11



years, to have five trophies, it's pretty special for me."

While players received much of the attention during RCB's title-winning run, Krunal was quick to acknowledge the work done behind the scenes. He credited the franchise's management and coaching staff for assembling a squad capable of winning consecutive championships.

"I mean, obviously, a lot of credit goes to the support staff, right? Mo Bobat, Andy Flower, Dinesh Karthik, Malolan, Omi

(Omkar Salvi). I mean, the way they prepared before the auction also last year and the way they set the team, right? The balance of it," Krunal stated.

According to Krunal, Bengaluru's success was built long before the first ball of the season was bowled.

"So, again, I mean, sometimes half of the battle is won in the auction. I guess they did a pretty good job. And then eventually, it was on us to go out and deliver. And yeah, I mean, glad

that we were able to, you know, have a hold on the trophy back-to-back," the all-rounder added.

For the 35-year-old, however, the achievement extends beyond the dressing room. Krunal said the back-to-back triumphs carry special significance for a fanbase that waited 18 seasons to witness the franchise's first title.

"Yeah, definitely. Again, all those 18 years of waiting and then winning two back-to-back trophies. This is for the RCB fans. Wherever we have gone, they have supported us," he said.

He also reserved a special mention for longtime RCB stalwart Virat Kohli, who finally experienced title success in 2025 before helping the franchise defend its crown this season.

"And obviously for Virat, it's been pretty special. Right after 18 and 19 seasons, having two back-to-back trophies. So yeah, it's amazing," he concluded.

Gukesh, Divya suffer losses as Norway Chess title race intensifies

SIANS

OSLO: Round six of Norway Chess produced another dramatic day of chess with all three games in the tournament ending decisively.

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen scored an important victory against tournament leader Alireza Firouzja. Playing with the white pieces, Carlsen gradually increased the pressure in a tense strategic battle before converting his advantage in the later stages. The win brings the Norwegian star closer to the lead and hands Firouzja his first classical defeat of the tournament.

Wesley So claimed a crucial victory over Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu in a long encounter. So handled the complications confidently and converted his chances in the endgame to secure the full three points. The victory moves the American grandmaster into the top of the standings.



The third decisive result came when Vincent Keymer defeated reigning World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju. Keymer maintained the initiative for much of the game and capitalized on his opportunities to score a valuable victory against the World Champion.

Following round six, Wesley So leads Norway Chess, with Alireza Firouzja remaining close behind as the battle for first place remains wide open.

Norway Chess Women delivered another tense round in Oslo, featuring one decisive classical result and two Armageddon deciders.

Reigning Women's World Champion Ju Wenjun scored the only classical victory of the day, defeating Divya Deshmukh in a long struggle. Ju gradually improved her position and converted her advantage in the endgame to secure an important win.

Bibisara Assaubayeva

and Humpy Koneru ended their classical game in a draw after a closely contested battle. Assaubayeva later prevailed in the Armageddon game, earning the valuable extra points and reclaiming sole possession of first place.

Anna Muzychuk and Zhu Jiner also ended in a draw after a balanced encounter. Zhu Jiner went on to win the Armageddon game, securing the additional points.

Movies Schedule

TUESDAY, 2ND JUNE

BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+) Hindi – 11:45 AM, 03:00 PM	PATI PATNI AUR WOHO DO (UA16+) Hindi – 04:30 PM
CHAND MERA DIL (U/A16+) Hindi – 10:55 AM, 01:45 PM, 07:00 PM	OBSESSION (A) English – 11:30 AM, 02:15 PM
THE GREAT GRAND SUPERHERO ALIENS KA AAGMAN (U) Hindi – 06:15 PM	DHURANDHAR: THE REVENGE (A) Hindi – 05:00 PM

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