

Kashmir Convener



Govt Launches Special Campaign 2.0 to Address Grievances of Family and Super Senior Pensioners

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REC Receives Rajbhasha Deepti Award from Ministry of Power

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DoT Hosts First TTDF Symposium 2025 at IIT Madras

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J&K Bets Big on Hydel Energy as India Puts Indus Water Treaty in abeyance

JAKEDA floats tenders for 35 Hydel projects to generate 60 MW across JK

Shahid Choudhary stresses science-led development and local employment through green projects

Sheikh Saleem

SRINAGAR: A month after India put Indus Water Treaty in Abeyance, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has taken proactive measures to tap water resources for its own benefit by floating bids for 35 small Hydro Projects Across Jammu and Kashmir with a combined capacity of 60 megawatts (MW).

Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) on Wednesday invited online bids for the development of micro, mini, and small hydroelectric power projects across the Union Territory

including 17 projects under the Swiss Challenge Method (SCM) with a capacity of 30.85 MW and 18 projects under IPP mode with a total capacity of 29.20 MW.

On June 12, Union Minister for Power and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar, during his visit to JK, said that the Centre will move ahead with new power projects in Jammu and Kashmir as there are no restrictions after the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) being put in abeyance post Pahalgam Terror attack.

Khattar said that as India has now sovereign claim over its waters, the country will now fully utilize it. "As the IWT continues to remain in abeyance, we are moving forward with new power projects in J&K," he said.

A week after Ministers statement, JAKEDA identified 35 hydro projects in 15 districts of the Union Territory to generate about 60 MW of electricity.



Secretary Science & Technology J&K, Shahid Choudhary, who recently assumed charge said these projects will harness JK's rich

hydropower potential to deliver clean, renewable energy to the people besides fulfilling the local demands.

He said these projects are part of JAKEDA's broader strategy to tap untapped hydro resources and promote distributed renewable energy infrastructure.

He said each district is also being targeted for large scale solar energy projects making Jammu and Kashmir a leader in decentralized and sustainable energy models.

These include 17 projects under SCM including 1.5MW HEP at Narastan Pulwama, 2 MW HEP at Buddhhar Kithar Kishtwar, 1.8 MW at Kithar, 1.0 MW HEP at Kiyar Sirchee, 2 MW HEP at Chatru-Prawra-II, 2 MW HEP at Prawra-I, 2 MW HEP Prawra-II, 2 MW HEP at Suid Dachan and 1.8 MW Upper Hori in Kishtwar district, 0.70 MW at Shutkari and 1.8 MW HEP at

>>>SEEONP-7

In Pahalgam, Tourism Minister Shekhawat hails people's strength, resolve



KC News Network

ANANTNAG: Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat visited the Pahalgam terror attack site on Thursday and said the strength of the people and the "quiet resolve" to not let fear define them represent the "real soul of Kashmir".

Shekhawat, who also visited the ancient Martand sun temple at Mattan in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, promised topmost security for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims.

In a post on X, the minister shared that he was "deeply moved" to meet Sajjad Ahmad Bhatt, who had carried an injured tourist to safety after the Pahalgam attack.

"In a moment of fear and chaos, he chose courage and humanity above all. His selfless act is the real reflection of the spirit of Kashmir — brave, compassionate, and unwavering," he said, and also shared a small video, titled "Meeting the Pahalgam Hero".

Shekhawat, who arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday morning as part of his two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, also met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah a day ago.

On the second day of his trip, he visited the verdant tourist site at Pahalgam in Anantnag district and interacted with locals and tourists.

"A heavy heart but one filled with hope in Pahalgam this noon. Visited the site of the dastardly terror

attack and interacted with locals and tourists who have brought the region back to its lively spirit and everyday rhythm," Shekhawat said in a post on X.

He asserted that the "strength of the people, their unwavering hospitality, and the quiet resolve to not let fear define them. This is the real soul of Kashmir. #IncredibleIndia", and also shared a video clip of his interaction with a group of tourists.

Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir has been badly hit after the April 22 terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead.

A local pony operator and a Nepalese national were also among the victims.

Shekhawat offered prayers at the Mata Kheer Bhawani shrine in Tulamulla and the Naranag temple complex in central Kashmir's Ganderbal on Wednesday.

On Thursday, after visiting the Martand sun temple, the minister appealed to pilgrims to preserve the environment and natural beauty of the valley.

"People should come for the Amarnath Yatra. The Amarnath Yatra is safe, the government of India and the state government are committed, and you

>>>SEEONP-7

CM Omar, Union Minister Shekhawat hold talks to boost tourism in J&K

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday evening held a detailed meeting with Union Minister for Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, to discuss strategic measures for strengthening the tourism sector in Jammu



and Kashmir.

The one-on-one meeting focused on a broad range of initiatives aimed at boosting tourism infrastructure, promoting heritage and cultural sites, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Both leaders underscored the significance of tourism as a key driver

>>>SEEONP-7

Won't Stop Until Our Goals For Youth Are Fully Realised: CM Omar

KC News Network

SAMBA: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the newly constructed college complex of Government Degree College (GDC) Purmandal in Samba district.

In his address, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described the occasion as a proud and fortunate moment, marking a significant milestone for higher education in the region.

The Chief Minister lauded Minister Sakeena Itoo for her consistent efforts and commitment in both the health and education sectors, particularly in the appointment of new doctors and assistant professors, and in the upgradation of schools.

Responding to the memorandum of demands presented by the students, the Chief Minister assured appropriate action, especially regarding the introduction of new academic courses.

He emphasized the critical importance of health and higher education in the sustained development of any society.

"We want Jammu region to evolve into a hub for tourism—especially religious tourism—which will transform the lives of local communities," he said. He also assured that demands related to road development in

the area would be prioritized.

"I will not consider my mission fulfilled until the day students from outside J&K come here to pursue their education. Today, many of our students are compelled to study outside the

students are trained in world-class skills. And we will not stop until our goals for the youth are fully implemented" he asserted.

The Chief Minister also expressed hope that on his next visit, the college will offer more



state, and during global crises, they face great difficulties," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister for facilitating the safe return of students from J&K who were studying in Iran, and assured parents of continued efforts to ensure student safety abroad.

He further committed to upgrading government schools in Jammu and Kashmir to improved standards, underlining the government's dedication to strengthening the education sector.

"Government jobs alone cannot eliminate unemployment. Real change will come when our

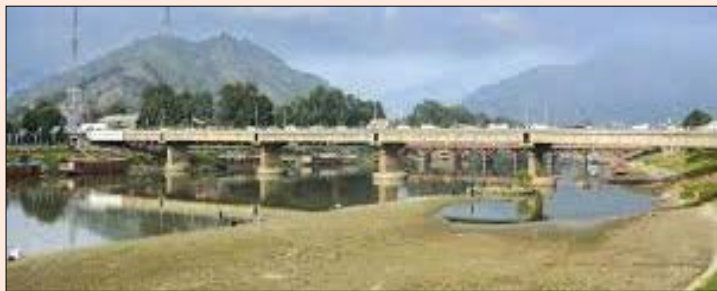
streams and will rank among the top educational institutions of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, CM Omar Abdullah also handed over keys of five buses—donated by J&K Bank under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative—to five Government Degree Colleges in Jammu division.

Commending J&K bank for the initiative, he said J&K Bank plays a vital role in J&K's economy, and he is glad it's also supporting educational infrastructure—initiatives like these will surely benefit students. Speaking at the event, Deputy Chief Minister

>>>SEEONP-7

Sgr sees highest June temp in 20 years at 35.2 degrees



Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: Amid the forecast of an intense heatwave until Saturday, the Kashmir region has witnessed an unexpected rise in the maximum temperature, surpassing decades-old records at three stations.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)—Srinagar, the summer capital of

Jammu and Kashmir, recorded the highest June temperature in the last two decades. The station recorded a maximum temperature of 35.2 degrees Celsius, which was the season's hottest so far.

Independent Weather Forecaster Faizan Arif Keng stated that with 35.2 degrees Celsius, Srinagar has surpassed the previous records of the

>>>SEEONP-7

JK faces 'lopsided power supply, demand'

Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR : Amid soaring temperatures, Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) is facing lopsided power supply and demand—thus pushing thousands to

face the scorching heat wave. An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that there is a power demand of over 3000 Megawatts across Jammu and Kashmir. "From the

>>>SEEONP-7

2nd batch of 500 Kashmiri students to board flights today

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of the escalating war between Iran and Israel, at least 500 students of Kashmir studying in Iran are

likely to board the flights to India from Turkmenistan on Friday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) in this regard said that around 600 Indian students, including 500 from Kashmir, have been safely relocated from Qom to Mashhad, a border city in Iran, as part of the ongoing evacuation efforts.

National Convenor of Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) Nasir Khuehami told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), "This is the second group of

students who were earlier moved to Qom, where they remained for three days. Their evacuation process is currently underway."

"The students are from various institutions, including Islamic Azad University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Shahid Beheshti University. From Mashhad, they are expected to be taken to Turkmenistan, from where they will likely board flights to Delhi tomorrow," he said.

JKSA further said that the association is in constant communication with the Ministry

of External Affairs (MEA) and the Indian Embassy in Iran to ensure the safety and smooth evacuation of the students.

According to JKSA, at least 90 students of Kashmir studying in Iran reached India from Armenia on Thursday.

Besides Kashmiri students, nearly 20 other students from other states have also reached India from the same batch.

Pertinently, the Embassy of India in Tehran on Monday

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CM Omar Abdullah reviews essential services, supplies in Jammu

KC News Network

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu to review the delivery of essential services



and supplies and the steps taken by the Administration during the current summer season in Jammu division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister

Surinder Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Satish Sharma and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, several

virtual mode.

During the meeting, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar briefed the Chief Minister and gave presentation on the functioning of different line departments and their action plan for summer preparedness.

It was informed that JPDC has maintained sufficient buffer stock of transformers and also devised time-slots for power curtailment to prevent overload on grid stations.

He emphasized adherence to the curtailment schedule of PDD with minimum power outages and preventing overheating of power lines and transformers.

The functioning of Jal Shakti and Jammu Municipal Corporation was

>>>SEEONP-7

IGP reviews security arrangements for Muharram



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi today chaired a security review meeting at Conference Hall of PCR Kashmir to review the security arrangements for Muharram, International Yoga Day and other

upcoming events.

The meeting was attended by IG CRPF Srinagar, JD SIB Srinagar, DIsG of Kashmir Zone, CID Kashmir, SSB Srinagar, CRPF South/North Srinagar, BSF, SSS of Kashmir Zone, PCR Kashmir, Traffic City, Railways, Traffic Rural, APCR, CID

>>>SEEONP-7

Govt Launches Special Campaign 2.0 to Address Grievances of Family and Super Senior Pensioners



Convener News Desk

NEW DELHI (PIB): In a major step towards ensuring dignified and timely support to elderly citizens and family pensioners, the Government of India has announced the launch of Special Campaign 2.0 for the redressal of grievances of Central Government family pensioners and super senior pensioners. An official spokesperson said the initiative, led by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), will run from July 1 to July 31, 2025, and aims to fast-track long-pending cases and ensure compassionate

handling of issues affecting these vulnerable segments. The guidelines for the campaign were released by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, during a briefing held on June 18. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Singh highlighted the transformational strides made by the Ministry over the past 11 years and praised DoPPW's proactive role in supporting pensioners. He stressed the need for timely and qualitative grievance redressal, especially for

family pensioners and citizens above 80 years of age, who often face physical, emotional, and procedural challenges. Under this campaign, a total of 2,210 pension grievances have been identified and forwarded to 51 Ministries, Departments, and Organizations for resolution. These bodies have been urged to not only address the cases promptly but also to share success stories and best practices through PIB releases and social media, ensuring wider awareness and transparency. To prepare for the campaign, a high-level meeting chaired by the Secretary (Pension) was held on June 11, bringing together nodal officers responsible for pensioners' grievances across departments. The DoPPW is monitoring progress on a daily basis, and as per current data, more than 25% of the identified cases have already been resolved, signaling an encouraging start even before the campaign's official launch. The initiative is being widely promoted under the hashtag #SpecialCampaignFamilyPension2.0, and reflects the government's broader commitment to women's empowerment and the welfare of senior citizens through efficient, people-centric governance. The Special Campaign 2.0 is not just about closing files—it's about restoring dignity and delivering justice to those who have served the nation, and to the families they leave behind. (PIB)

DoT Hosts First TTDF Symposium 2025 at IIT Madras

Convener News Desk

CHENNAI (PIB): The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), inaugurated the three-day Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Symposium 2025 at the IIT Madras Research Park on Wednesday. An official spokesperson said the landmark event aims to bolster collaboration between academia, startups, and industry in the domain of next-generation telecom R&D, with the goal of making India a global telecom innovation hub. The symposium was inaugurated by Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Telecom, alongside Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director of IIT Madras; Shri Gulzar Natarajan, Additional Secretary (Telecom); Dr. Parag Agarwal, DDG (TTDF); and Prof. R.K. Ghanti of IIT Madras. Also present were senior officials from the Department of Telecommunications and representatives from startups, MSMEs, research bodies, and academic institutions. The TTDF, launched by DoT to foster indigenous telecom technology development and bridge the digital divide in remote and rural areas, has already sanctioned more than 120 projects with a total funding exceeding 500 crore. Over 187 crore has been disbursed so far, supporting Indian academic institutions, startups, MSMEs, and research organizations in developing critical telecom solutions. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mittal said the symposium marks a pivotal moment in India's innovation journey. "This is an opportunity to leapfrog in telecom innovation," he said, adding that the government's

consistent efforts over the past decade have laid a strong foundation for technological transformation. He urged stakeholders to collaborate effectively to maximize shared resources and announced the development of a dedicated portal for seamless sharing of R&D assets and knowledge. One of the key announcements at the event was the launch of the Multicore Fiber Testbed Project, a major step towards strengthening India's optical communication infrastructure. Jointly developed by IIT Madras and STL Technologies, the testbed includes 4.07 km of underground and 1.2 km of aerial cable with both standard single-mode and multicore fibers. The facility is open to academia and industry for testing interoperability and developing use cases within the multi-core fiber (MCF) ecosystem. Prof. Kamakoti expressing gratitude for the substantial support from the DoT, noting that IIT Madras has received numerous TTDF-funded projects over the last two years. He emphasized the need for

effective deliverables from institutions and researchers to complement the government's trust and investment. Shri Gulzar Natarajan highlighted that TTDF is not merely a funding mechanism but a strategic initiative aimed at achieving sovereign capability in telecom, which is critical to national security, economic development, and social progress. He called for harnessing collective strength and fostering a culture of co-innovation that is both impactful and execution-focused. The symposium has brought together over 500 participants, including principal investigators, faculty members, industry experts, and government officials. Technical sessions, project showcases, and synergy-building workshops are being conducted across key emerging areas such as 6G, AI/ML for IoT, satellite communications, and quantum networking. Senior representatives from Bharat 6G Alliance, TSDSI, C-DoT, COAL, and top telecom firms are actively participating in the deliberations.



Rajkot Turns Legacy Waste Dumpsite into 20-Acre Urban Forest

Convener News Desk

RAJKOT: In a landmark transformation under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), the city of Rajkot has successfully converted a decades-old dumpsite laden with 16 lakh tonnes of legacy waste into a thriving 20-acre urban forest, offering a powerful example of sustainable waste remediation and urban ecological restoration. In a statement issued by Press Information Bureau (PIB), an official spokesperson said the shift towards scientific waste management gained momentum with the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014, followed by the Solid Waste Management Rules in 2016, which emphasized the goal of "zero waste to landfill". With SBM-U 2.0 strengthening this vision through initiatives like "Lakshya

Zero Dumpsite", several cities have taken up the challenge to reclaim degraded lands and eliminate legacy waste. Among them, Rajkot stands out with its transformation of the Nakrawadi dumping site. The city, which generates around 700 tonnes of municipal solid waste daily, had historically disposed of all its waste at this site. Over the years, this resulted in the accumulation of approximately 16 lakh tonnes of waste, posing a severe environmental and public health hazard. In response, the Rajkot Municipal Corporation initiated a comprehensive dumpsite remediation project. A detailed waste assessment survey was carried out, and advanced machinery was deployed to process and segregate the waste into refuse-derived fuel

(RDF), semi-compost, and inert materials. While RDF was sent to the Jamnagar waste-to-energy plant, inert components were shifted to a secured landfill facility. Meanwhile, over 50,000 tonnes of semi-compost were utilized on-site to level the land and enrich the soil. To restore the area as a green space, approximately 2.35 lakh native and fast-growing trees were planted using the Miyawaki afforestation technique. A 12 km pipeline was laid to connect the site to the Gauridada Sewage Treatment Plant, ensuring a consistent supply of treated wastewater for irrigation. Additionally, water harvesting ponds were created to aid groundwater recharge, while drip and sprinkler irrigation systems were introduced to promote water-efficient horticulture.

REC Receives Rajbhasha Deepthi Award from Ministry of Power

Convener News Desk

NEW DELHI: REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) and leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) under the Ministry of Power, has been conferred the Rajbhasha Deepthi Shield Award for outstanding implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Government of India during the year 2023-24. An official spokesperson



of the organisation said the prestigious award was presented at a meeting of the Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Power, held in New Delhi. He said the award was received by REC CMD Shri Jitendra Srivastava and Executive Director (Official Language) R.P. Vaishnav from the Union Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal. This award has been given to REC for the excellent implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Government of India in the year 2023-24. On this occasion, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power Shripad Yesso Naik, Secretary of the Ministry of Power Shri Pankaj Agarwal and heads and representatives of all offices and undertakings under the Ministry of Power, Hon'ble members of the Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Power and other dignitaries were present. During the meeting, the Power Minister also released REC's Hindi magazine "Urjaayan", further strengthening the organization's dedication to linguistic and cultural promotion through official language initiatives.

SMCS(M) GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE HYDERPORA SRINAGAR

Email: gdcyhyderpora@gmail.com
GDC/HPC/25/254 Dated:- 19-06-2025

ADMISSION NOTICE

UG NON-CUET 2025-26

It is for the information of all the desirous students for seeking Admission in FYUGP NON-CUET 2025-26 that the admission portal has been opened by Higher Education Department w.e.f 16-June-2025 and will remain open up to 07-July-2025 at GDC Hyderpora Srinagar. The desirous students shall apply through online SAMARTH portal <https://jkadmission.smarath.ac.in> and choose their preference as Govt. Degree College Hyderpora. Opening Date 16-06-2025 Closing Date 07-07-2025 For any guidance, please contact
1. Prof. (Dr.) Murtaza Ali (Convener Admission Committee) 7006681339
2. Prof. Nissar Ahmad (Co-Convener Adm. Committee) 7006816440
3. Mr. Faheem Maqbool (Member Admission Committee) 7780938829
Further, all the desirous students shall continuously watch our College Website:

**Sd/- Principal
GDC Hyderpora
Srinagar**

DIPK-2729/25

Dated:- 19-06-2025

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT YOUTH SERVICES & SPORTS OFFICER KULGAM

Fax No:-01931260198 Email address dyssokul@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Dated:- 19-06-2025

Quotations are invited from local Hoteliers of Kulgam District for providing Boarding and Lodging facilities at Boys Hr. Secondary School Kulgam for residential camp for Orientation / Refresher Course of in service field staff scheduled to be organized w.e.f 28-06-2025 to 08-07-2025. The requirements for 70 participants are as per following details.

1. Complete Bedding & Furnishing & Allied facilities.
2. Breakfast including Bread and 02 eggs/Halwa/Cholapuri.
3. Morning Tea with Bread.
4. Lunch comprising of Rice, Dal, Mixed vegetables and Salad.
5. Evening Tea with Jammed Bread.
6. Dinner:- Rice, with Meat/Chicken/Dal/and vegetables.

The Quotations along with the rates shall reach this office (Mini Secretariat DC Office Kulgam Room No. 96) by or before 25-06-2025 upto 02:00PM. The rates shall be firm at inclusive of all taxes.

No:- DYSSO/Kul/Acty/1220

Sd/-

**District Youth Services
& Sports Officer Kulgam**

DIPK-NB-833/25

Dated:- 19-06-2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) Division. Budgam

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE-II

Raja Zahid Abdullah Wani (MTS)
S/o Mohammad Abdullah Wani
R/o. R.C. Pora Tehsil Pahalgam

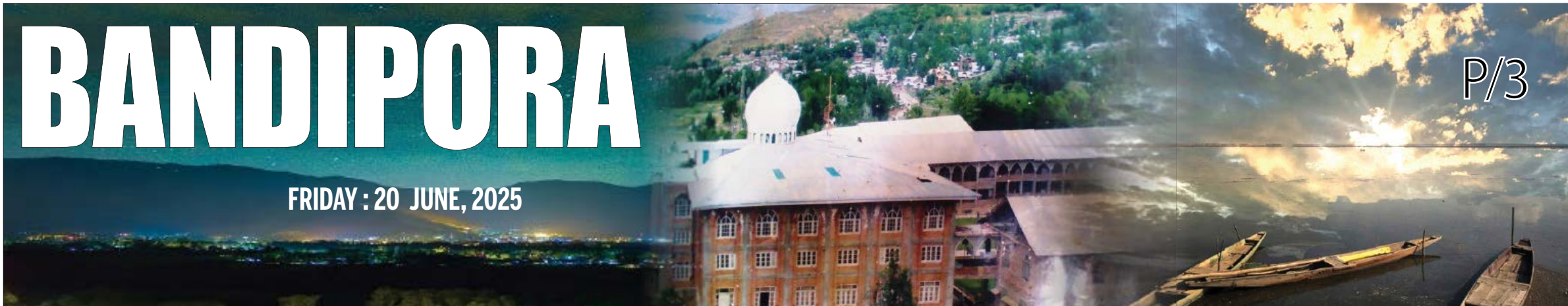
During Re-organization, you were transferred and posted to (R&B) Division Budgam by worthy Chief Engineer PWD(R&B) Department Kashmir vide Order No. CE PWD(R&B) K-138 (ADM) of 2023 Dated:- 06-10-2023. Whereas, the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Vailoo has forwarded your attendance report for the month of 10/2023 & 11/2023 and as per attendance report you were on earned leave w.e.f. 05-10-2023 to 05-12-2023 and accordingly you have joined in this Division on 06-12-2023. Whereas, the undersigned has checked the attendance on 20-12-2023 at 11:00 AM, you were found absent from duty w.e.f. 11-12-2023 to 20-12-2023 and accordingly an explanation was called against you vide this office letter No. EE/BUD/Estab/11742-43 Dated:- 20-12-2023, but you did not bother to reply to the same. Then again vide No. 12005-12006 Dated:- 27-12-2023 and you were directed to explain your position within 02 days positively, after which you cited the reasons of long distance from your home to the office which is unacceptable, besides you assured to be punctual in future and requested that the period of absence be treated as leave. Again, on 12-01-2024 & 13-01-2024, you were found unauthorizedly absent from the duties and the same was communicated to you vide this office Letter No. EE/BUD/Estab/12827-28, dated: 29-01-2024, and to the Office of the Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Budgam with the request to initiate disciplinary action against you. The said office, vide No. SE/BUD/4376-77, dated: 02-02-2024, directed you to report to the same office on 05-02-2024 in order to explain your position, with the directions to the undersigned to withhold your salary for the month of January 2024. Whereas on 20-02-2024 you requested the undersigned for release of withheld salary citing health issue of yourself as well as your parents as the cause of absence from duties and assured to remain punctual and dispose off your duties with moral kindness. Subsequently the undersigned released the withheld salary in your favor and you were transferred to Sub-Division Budgam vide this office Letter No. 112-MBD of 2021, dated: 11-03-2024 for performing further duties. The Assistant Executive Engineer Sub-Division Budgam, vide her office No. SBD/4-56, dated: 16-04-2024 informed the undersigned as well as you that you have remained absent from your duties from last fifteen (15) days without any information. Besides you have not picked any call during that period and the officer relieved you back to the divisional office on 16-04-2024. However, the undersigned suggested the officer to call a fresh explanation from you instead of relieving you from the duties. Whereas, again vide her office No. SDB/520, dated: 03-07-2024, the Assistant Executive Engineer Sub-Division Budgam forwarded the recommendation for relieving you from the Sub-Divisional office as submitted by the JE, under whom you were working who had stated that you do not attend to the assigned duties. Again vide her office No. SDB/684, dated: 24-07-2024, the Assistant Executive Engineer Sub-Division Budgam submitted that you have not resumed the duties for unknown reasons and that the officer has called several explanations from you vide her office No.s SDB/539-41, dated: 04-07-2024 and No.s SDB/616-17, dated: 18-07-2024, however you have not respond. Subsequently the undersigned issued a Charge Sheet against you vide this office No. 3459-62, 30-07-2024, in order to explain your position within four (04) days positively, while you failed to submit the same. Again vide this office Letter No. EE/BUD/Estab/3901-03, dated: 09-08-2024, you were informed that you have failed to explain your position, however you did not respond. On 28-08-2024, you have submitted a joining report to the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Sub-Division Budgam duly forwarded by her vide her office No. SDB/1028, dated: 28-08-2024 wherein you submitted that you were suffering from multiple ailments for the time period from 27-06-2024 to 27-08-2024 (attaching medical prescriptions and the character certificate from the Police Station Ashmuqam) and also requested to be treated on medical leave for the said period and you won't remain absent in future from legitimate duties without a pre-sanctioned leave. The same was considered and a part of pending salary was released in your favor. Whereas again vide No. SDB/1299-1300, dated: 05-11-2024, the Assistant Executive Engineer Sub-Division Budgam called an explanation from you with an intimation to the undersigned, that you have remained unauthorizedly absent from duties for last four (04) days. Again vide her office No.s SDB/1323-24, dated 09-11-2024 & 1366-67, dated 19-11-2024 the officer called another explanation from you citing that you have continuously remained absent from your duties and once again directed you to explain your position. Subsequently, the undersigned also called explanation from you vide No. EE/BUD/Estab/8446-48, dated: 18-11-2024 and a final explanation vide No. EE/BUD/Estab/9212-15, dated: 09-12-2024. The Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Budgam also called a final explanation from you vide his office letter No. SE/BUD/Estt/5979-82, dated: 10-12-2024, directing you to explain your position and report for further duties to his office from 11-12-2024 onwards, however you did not respond to him as well and subsequently the worthy officer, vide No. SE/BUD/6117-19, dated: 16-12-2024 reported that you have not attended the office till that date. Then on 13-01-2025, you had submitted a reply to the explanation, to the office of the Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Budgam, stating that you have developed Neurological issues and that you have been prescribed the drugs which are sleep inducing in nature, because of which your punctuality in disposing off your duties gets hit occasionally. The worthy officer vide No. SE/BUD/6770-72, dated: 13-01-2025, directed you to report to the Divisional office and to be regular in future and comply with all the duties assigned to you. However, you did not bother to report to the Divisional office till date. Again, vide this office Letter No. EE/BUD/Estab/10694-96, dated: 22-01-2025 you were intimated that you did not join your duties despite lapse of considerable time. But you have not turned up to join back your duties or even reply to the queries till date. Whereas the Show Cause Notice was served to you vide this office No. EE/BUD/Estab/11364-68, dated: 18-2-2025 and duly published in the Daily Aftab/Shahanshah/Srinagar-Samachar/Kashmir-Aman, giving you a chance to explain your position within two days positively, but unfortunately you have failed to explain your position and did not join your duties till date. Through the medium of this notice, you are once again directed to explain your position within two days positively, failing which it shall be deemed that you are no longer interested in the government services and accordingly the undersigned will have no alternative but to recommend for your suspension from government services, to the higher authorities and duly publish the same in print as well as electronic media. No/EE/BUD/Estab/

Sd/-

**Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Budgam**

DIPK-2701/25

Dated:- 19-06-2025



FRIDAY : 20 JUNE, 2025

Bandipora Gets Green Signal for Two Vital Road Projects: MLA Nizamuddin Bhat

CONVENER NEWS DESK

Bandipora: MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat on Thursday said the Bandipora constituency has got a green signal for two vital road projects including Chunttimulla to Kudara and Arin to Nadihal road.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson of the legislator said Bhat has once again demonstrated his commitment to rural development by securing government approval for the restoration and renewal coat of macadamization of two key roads under the C&T (Renewal Coat Action Plan 2025–26), as part of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

He said the Chunttimulla to Kudara road has



been approved at an estimated cost of 275 lakh, while the C.A. Khan to Gamroo road – connecting the Arin-Nadihal road with the main road – has been approved at a cost of 47.70 lakh.

These projects, which had remained pending for many years, were first pursued by Nizamuddin Bhat during his earlier tenure as MLA from 2008 to 2014. With the latest approval, long-standing demand of the residents of these areas has finally been fulfilled, turning a long-cherished dream into reality.

He said the approval has brought a sense of relief and happiness among locals, who are now hopeful for better roads, easier travel and smoother daily life in the near future.

Minister Javaid Dar Flags-off E-Bus Service in Sumbal

BHAT ZAHOOOR

Sumbal, Bandipora: In a major boost to eco-friendly public transport in the region, Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Agriculture,



Javaid Dar Thursday flagged off the Srinagar Smart City e-Bus service from Sumbal, Bandipora.

The ceremony was attended by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Sonawari, Advocate Hilal Akbar Lone.

The newly introduced e-Bus service will ply on Route 6B, providing direct connectivity from Hajin and Sumbal in Sonawari to Lal Chowk, Srinagar, under the Srinagar Smart City initiative aimed at promoting sustainable urban mobility.

Speaking to media persons after the flag-off, MLA Hilal Lone hailed the launch as a "milestone in public transport" for Sonawari and expressed optimism that the service will significantly ease travel for residents of remote areas.

He further announced that similar e-Bus services will soon be launched in other Tehsils of Sonawari to ensure wider connectivity to the capital city. "We are committed to extending clean and reliable transport to every corner of Sonawari. This is just the beginning," he said.

The initiative is being seen as a step forward in aligning rural regions with modern transport infrastructure and reducing dependence on fossil-fuel-based vehicles.

Mission YUVA Orientation-Cum-Interaction Programme Held in Bandipora

CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: The District Administration Bandipora Thursday organised an orientation-cum-interaction programme under Mission YUVA for YUVA DOOTs and aspiring entrepreneurs at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

An official spokesperson said the session aimed to streamline application processing and guide youth toward sustainable self-employment.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, chaired the session and urged the YUVA DOOTs to work with motivation and sincerity while dealing with potential entrepreneurs. On the occasion, key components of Mission YUVA including classification of enterprises – Nano, Small, Medium, and Existing – and business categories like Trading, Services, Manufacturing, and Agro-Allied activities were covered.

During the event, the ADC Bandipora encouraged YUVA DOOTs to replicate the training with the same dedication while engaging with entrepreneurs at the grassroots level. He made it clear that applications will be scrutinized strictly as per laid down norms and guidelines.

The programme marks a vital step in effective implementation of Mission YUVA by strengthening outreach and ensuring informed support to youth entrepreneurs across the district.

Bandipora's Beloved 'Jinnah Sahib' Passes Away

CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: Bandipora Town plunged into mourning on Thursday following the demise of one of its most respected and beloved businessman, Muhammad Yousuf Wani – widely known as "Jinnah Sahib."

A resident of Muslimabad locality, Wani Sahib passed away after a brief illness, leaving behind a legacy marked by compassion, generosity, and tireless service to society.

He got his nick name from the firm name, "Jinnah Radios" where he spend all his life servicing radios and other electronic gadgets at the heart of the Bandipora town in Gulshan Chowk.

The news of his passing sent shockwaves through the town, drawing hundreds of mourners to his residence to pay their final respects. The outpouring of grief reflected the profound emotional connection he had nurtured with the people of Bandipora. His absence, many say, has created an irreplace-

able void in the social fabric of the region.

Condolences poured in from across the political, literary, social, and business communities. The Jammu and Kashmir People's



Democratic Party (PDP) expressed deep sorrow over the loss, calling it not just a tragedy for Bandipora but for the entire Kashmir Valley. In a heartfelt statement, PDP's Bandipora Constituency In-Charge and Social Media Head, Syed Tajamul Islam, described

Wani Sahib as a wise, compassionate, and visionary figure whose contributions will be remembered for generations.

"He was not merely a businessman; he was a father figure to many – one whose life was driven by collective good," Tajamul said, noting that Wani's insights and unwavering commitment to public welfare had left a lasting impact on the region.

Tajamul also extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, particularly Wani's son, Mohammad Sharif Wani, the Managing Director of Raj Doodh Security Placement Services and PDP Town In-Charge for Bandipora. He praised Sharif Wani for carrying forward his father's noble legacy with the same spirit of humility and service.

"Bandipora has lost a noble soul. His absence will be deeply felt across all walks of life," Tajamul added. "Wani Sahib's life was a symbol of selflessness, and his impact is etched in the hearts of all those he touched."

MLA Nizamuddin Bhat Condolences Demise

BANDIPORA: MLA Bandipora, Nizam-ud-din Bhat, expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Mohammad Yousuf Wani, popularly known as Jinnah Saheb, a respected and well-known figure from Muslimabad locality of Bandipora.

Describing the deceased as a man of humility, generosity, and unwavering commitment to social service, Bhat said that Jinnah Saheb's passing is an irreparable loss to the community. "He was a man whose doors were always open for the needy, and whose

contributions to society will be remembered for a long time," Bhat said in his condolence message.

The former legislator extended his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for strength and patience for them to bear the loss. He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. Locals, too, mourned the passing of Jinnah Saheb, remembering him as a noble soul who earned the love and respect of all sections of society. Several residents and community elders gathered to offer condolences and pay their last respects.

The funeral prayers were held at Muslimabad and attended by a large number of mourners from across Bandipora.

Year On, Gousia Colony's Drainage Work Remains Incomplete Despite Full Payment Released

MUHEEB MALIK

SRINAGAR: The residents of Gousia Colony (Lane B) in Yayil Rawalpore, situated in the heart of Srinagar city, are reeling under administrative



apathy as key drainage work remains incomplete even after one year. Shockingly, full payment for the project has reportedly been released without any physical verification of work, with at least six pipes missing from the ground reality.

Eyewitnesses and locals allege that not only was the drainage left unfinished, but the contractors also lifted even the soiling material that was initially laid at the site – a blatant case of misuse and possible embezz-

lement of public funds. The road, meant to be graded and eventually macadamized, remains in a muddy, unmotorable state.

"This isn't just poor execution; it is sanctioned decay. Even villages in border districts have better lanes today," said a local resident who has been raising the issue with the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) for over 12 months.

Despite multiple grievances submitted and promises made by concerned departments, no action has followed on the ground. With drainage choked, roads ungraded, and infrastructure degrading, Gousia Colony stands as a painful example of how Smart City funds can be misused under the nose of authorities.

"We urge the Hon'ble Chief Minister of J&K and the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor to take serious note of this," the residents said in a joint appeal. "The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) must take cognizance of this case and ensure accountability of the contractors and executing agencies involved."

They said It's time to ensure that development doesn't just reach drawing boards and payment files, but actually touches the ground where people walk, live, and suffer.

Bandipora's Congress Committee Calls on JKPC President in Srinagar

Srinagar: A delegation from the Congress Committee Bandipora met Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPC) President Tariq Hameed Karra at the party headquarters, Congress Bhawan Srinagar, on Tuesday.



A party spokesperson in Bandipora said the meeting chaired by Karra, focused on strengthening the party's organizational structure in Kashmir and enhancing its grassroots presence across Bandipora and adjoining areas. Senior party leaders and committee members discussed the current political landscape and deliberated on strategies to energize the party base at the block and booth levels.

The interaction underscored the Congress party's commitment to reconnecting with the people on key public issues and preparing for upcoming political challenges in the region.

CEO Bandipora Launches Inclusive School Enrollment Drive at Madwan

Bandipora: Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora, Ab Rashid Mir, on Thursday inaugurated a dedicated Enrollment Drive for Out-of-School Children (OoSC) and Children With Special Needs (CWSN) at Cluster Head Higher Secondary School (HSS) Madwan in Zone Hajin.

An official spokesperson said the initiative aims to bring marginalized children into the fold of formal schooling, in line with the goals of the Right to Education (RTE) Act and National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

He said the launch event was attended by the Cluster Head, Zonal Education Officer Hajin, members of the District-Level Coordination Team, teachers, and a large number of enthusiastic parents and community members.

The programme began with the on-the-spot admission of five children at HSS Madwan, setting a symbolic and hopeful tone for the district-wide drive. The CEO-led team then visited several schools across the cluster, where an additional 15 out-of-school and special needs children were enrolled.

To encourage and motivate the new learners, each admitted child was welcomed with garlands and gifted essential school supplies, including learning kits.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Ab Rashid Mir expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, particularly educators and community mobilizers, for their dedicated awareness campaigns that ensured the success of the initiative. He emphasized that enrolling and educating children from marginalized backgrounds is not only a statutory duty but a moral responsibility.

"This programme stands as a testament to our commitment to equity, inclusion, and social justice in the education system," said Mr. Mir. "We are determined to ensure that no child in Bandipora is left behind."

The enrollment drive is part of a broader mission to achieve 100% school enrollment in the district and strengthen inclusive, accessible, and quality education for all children.

Bandipora Hospital Re-invites Applications for Peer Supporters Under NVHCP

Suhail Rather

BANDIPORA: The Office of the Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Bandipora, has issued a re-invitation for applications for the post of Peer Supporters/Educators under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP).

According to the official notice (Ref No.: DHB/24-25/953-954 dated 24-01-2025), applications are being invited for voluntary engagement at Model Treatment Centres (MTCs) and Treatment Centres (TCs) established under the NVHCP.

Medical Superintendent Dr Masarat Wani said the initiative aims to support patients living with Hepatitis B and C by promoting adherence to treatment and follow-up investigations.

He said the applicant must have passed at least 12th grade and possess working knowledge of computers. "Preference will be given to individuals who have had or recovered from Hepatitis B or C."

The candidate must be a resident of Bandipora district, preferably residing near the hospital and should not be employed in any Government or Semi-Government organization and must be willing to work on a voluntary basis.

Officials said the Applicants must be in good health and capable of undertaking routine duties during office hours.

He said Although the role is voluntary, selected Peer Supporters will be given a monthly honorarium of 10,000 as an incentive.

However, officials clarified that the engagement is temporary and can be terminated at any time if performance is found unsatisfactory or if the role is not approved under the Record of Proceedings (RoP).

Dr Wani urged the eligible and interested candidates to submit their applications along with the aforementioned documents at the Programme Management Unit, District Hospital Bandipora, within seven days from the date of the latest notice.

DAJGUA Awareness Camps Continue in Gurez

BANDIPORA: Under the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), the District Administration Bandipora on Thursday organized impactful awareness and benefit saturation camps at MS Badwan and GMS Khandiyal in the remote Gurez valley.

Aimed at deepening outreach in tribal areas, the initiative witnessed enthusiastic response from local communities, including tribal elders, and women. The camps served as vital platforms for spreading awareness about government welfare schemes and ensuring doorstep delivery of essential services to residents of these far-flung habitations.

During the events, different departments including Health, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, and Animal and Sheep Husbandry took part in the event. They facilitated on-the-spot enrolments, scheme registrations, and distributed information on flagship government programmes such as PMAY-G, Ujjwala Yojana, PM-KISAN, pension schemes, and educational scholarships.

These outreach activities are being conducted as part of the 15-day district-wide DAJGUA campaign launched earlier at GHSS Aragam, covering 31 identified tribal villages. The initiative is aimed at achieving 100% saturation of welfare schemes, ensuring that no eligible beneficiary is left behind.



Editorial



Building Homes

The third meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) held on Wednesday, approving 2.35 lakh houses under the PMAY-Urban 2.0 scheme, is more than just a policy milestone—it is a significant step towards fulfilling the dreams of millions of urban poor and middle-income families yearning for dignified housing.

With this, the total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY-U 2.0 stands at nearly 7.10 lakh, underscoring the government's steady commitment to the cause of "Housing for All." This vision, anchored in equity and empowerment, has evolved meaningfully since the original launch of PMAY-U in 2015. Now revamped as PMAY-U 2.0, the scheme aims to cover one crore new urban households, offering pucca homes along with financial stability, dignity, and access to basic urban amenities.

What makes this approval round especially noteworthy is its inclusive approach. Of the newly sanctioned houses, over 1.25 lakh have been allotted exclusively to women, including widows and single women—furthering gender empowerment in the housing sector. Additionally, 44 homes have been allotted to members of the transgender community, setting a rare but much-needed precedent for social equity and inclusion. The scheme also ensures representation of SC, ST, and OBC communities, with over 1.73 lakh houses earmarked for them.

As the urban housing landscape evolves, the call for States and Union Territories to frame affordable housing policies, and to study successful models like that of Maharashtra, is well placed. Encouraging a Transit-Oriented Development (ToD) model—especially near NAMO Bharat stations and metro lines—not only enhances urban mobility but also ensures smart growth and spatial equity in our cities.

However, challenges remain. Unoccupancy of constructed units, delayed beneficiary identification, and project execution lags need urgent resolution. PMAY-U 2.0 is not just about building houses—it is about strengthening the urban social fabric, enhancing quality of life, and giving aspiring families a foundation from which they can dream bigger. It's a chance to correct the urban-rural developmental imbalance, and more importantly, to offer a sense of belonging to those long ignored by the system. The government must now ensure speedy construction, transparent allotment, and robust quality checks so that these approvals translate into real roofs over real heads—without delay or dilution.

Saad’s Journey: From Orphan to Royal Advisor



FIRDUS AHMAD MALIK

Once upon a time, in a quiet little village surrounded by green hills and meadows, there lived a young man named Saad. He had lost both his parents at a very young age and was left to navigate life on

to judge, and always spoke calmly. His suggestions usually turned out to be fair and effective. Even the elders of the village began to recognize that this young man had something special.

One day, a royal messenger arrived in the village with an important announcement. The aging king of the land was searching for a new royal advisor. He wanted someone young, wise, and just—someone who could help lead the kingdom into the future. However, the king had made it clear that the position would not be given to anyone by influence or wealth. Instead, he would select the best candidate based on a series of difficult tests. These tests would challenge

climbed trees in desperation. But Saad remained calm. He observed the movement of the sun, the way the moss grew on the trees, and the direction of the wind. He remembered what he had read about birds and insects, and how nature always leaves clues. Walking steadily and thoughtfully, Saad found his way out of the forest well before sunset. Only three candidates succeeded, and Saad was one of them.

The second test was held the next day in the royal court. This time, each candidate had to listen to several villagers—played by actors—present their problems. The stories were complicated, full of emotions and contradictions. Some claimed theft, others

sealed bags. He placed them in front of the young men and spoke. "In one of these bags," he said, "is a large quantity of gold. In the other is a royal decree stating that the person who opens it must give up all personal wealth and dedicate their life to serving the people as royal advisor. You may choose only one. Choose carefully."

The first candidate immediately reached for the bag with gold. Without hesitation, he opened it, smiled, and walked away with his treasure. Saad, however, paused. He thought about his village, the poor people he knew, the young children with no books, the old farmers with no help. He thought about what it meant to serve, to be trusted with power, and to use it not for personal gain, but for the good of others. Slowly, he opened the second bag. Inside was the royal decree. The king stood up, his eyes shining with admiration, and said, "You have chosen sacrifice over wealth. You have proven that wisdom is not only about the mind, but also about the heart. You shall be the royal advisor."

From that day on, Saad took his place beside the king. He wore no ornaments, lived simply, and always remained humble. He introduced fair policies, improved education, reduced the burden on the poor, and ensured that justice reached even the most distant corners of the kingdom. He never let his position corrupt him, and he never forgot his roots. People began to speak of him with great respect, not just as a royal official, but as a man who led with truth and compassion.

Years passed, and the kingdom flourished under Saad's guidance. Foreign rulers came to seek his counsel, and scholars wrote of his wisdom. Yet, when asked about his greatness, Saad would simply smile and say, "I only listened—to the world, to people, and to my conscience."

Thus, the poor orphaned boy from a forgotten village became one of the most respected men in the land. Not through luck or power, but through patience, knowledge, humility, and the courage to do what was right.

Moral of the Story:

True wisdom lies not just in knowing what is right, but in having the strength and courage to act upon it. Success may not come quickly, but when it does—through honesty, patience, and sacrifice—it leaves a lasting legacy.

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Tradition Isn’t the Opposite of Progress—It’s Its Foundation



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

"Every era has its own challenges, yet the core message/ principles of truth and justice remains steadfast across time. Tradition grounds humanity in timeless wisdom, offering depth and meaning, while modernity pushes boundaries, inspiring new possibilities. The dialogue between the two shapes a rich, inclusive human experience, where the past guides the future."-Author

The synergetic interplay of modernity and tradition is one of the most captivating and enduring dynamics shaping human civilizations. It reflects the tension, harmony, and transformation that arise when the forces of innovation confront the wisdom of heritage. It highlights the dynamic process of synthesis-how modernity and tradition merge, interact, and co-evolve, creating something unique and transformative. In this interaction lies the human struggle to balance progress with rootedness, novelty with continuity, and individuality with collective identity. Across time and contexts, this dialogue between modernity and tradition has produced profound cultural, philosophical, and societal outcomes, offering timeless lessons on resilience, adaptability, and the essence of humanity. This study delves into the nuanced contours of this phenomenon, exploring its manifestations and implications through diverse historical, cultural, and regional lenses.

At the heart of this interaction lies the human condition, with its dual yearning for progress and rootedness. Modernity offers the allure of freedom, technological advancement, and new possibilities, yet it often comes at the cost of alienation, loss of communal bonds, and existential uncertainty. Tradition provides a sense of belonging, moral orientation, and continuity, yet it can also be restrictive, hierarchical, and resistant to necessary change. The challenge for societies is to navigate this delicate balance, preserving what is valuable in tradition while embracing the transformative potential of modernity.

Historical examples reveal the complexity of this interplay. The European Renaissance and Enlightenment periods, often hailed as triumphs of modernity, were deeply rooted in the rediscovery of classical traditions. Philosophers like Descartes and Locke challenged traditional authorities but drew heavily from their cultural and intellectual heritage. Similarly, the Islamic Golden Age showcased a synthesis of tradition and modernity,

as scholars preserved ancient knowledge while pushing the boundaries of science, philosophy, and art. These periods of innovation were not rejections of tradition but reimaginings of it, illustrating that the most profound transformations often arise from engaging with, rather than discarding, the past.



In contemporary societies, this interplay is evident in multiple domains. In governance, traditional frameworks often coexist with modern democratic systems. For instance, Japan's constitutional monarchy blends ancient rituals with modern political structures, maintaining cultural continuity while adapting to the needs of a globalized world. In contrast, the Arab Spring movements highlighted the tensions between modern aspirations for democracy and traditional power structures, revealing the complexity of negotiating change in culturally rooted contexts.

Religion, a cornerstone of tradition, has been particularly affected by modernity. The secularization of public spaces and the rise of scientific rationality have challenged traditional religious authority, leading to debates about the relevance and reinterpretation of sacred texts. Movements like Islamic modernism, spearheaded by thinkers such as Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Muhammad Abduh, Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan, Rashida Rida, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Fazlur Rahman, Ali Shariati, Mahmoud Mohamed Taha, Amina Wadudud and scores of others sought to reconcile faith with reason, advocating for reinterpretations of Islamic jurisprudence in light of modern realities. These efforts demonstrate how tradition can be a source of resilience and renewal when engaged critically and creatively.

Scholars like Al-Farabi, Ibn Khaldun, Sayyid Qutb offer a rich legacy of the synergy between modernity and tradition in Islamic thought alongside with modern thinkers that have been masterfully explored harmonious synergy like Dr. Mu-

hammad Hamidullah, Muhammad Iqbal, Abul A'la Maududi, Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd, and Tariq Ramadan, among others. These intellectual giants have championed the idea that Islam, far from being incompatible with modernity, offers timeless wisdom adaptable to contemporary challenges. Hamidullah

reinterpreted Islamic principles for modern governance, while Iqbal envisioned a revitalized Islamic thought that engaged with modern science and philosophy. Maududi's concept of an Islamic state and Zayd's contextual Quranic exegesis further demonstrate that tradition can evolve without losing its core values. Ramadan's "European Islam" emphasizes how modernity and Islamic identity can coexist. Together, these scholars illustrate that modernity and tradition are not opposites but complementary forces, where Islamic principles can offer profound solutions to contemporary problems, leading to a dynamic interplay that renews and enriches both.

While as R.Guenon, MartinLingus, Huston Smith, Fritjof Schuon, Seyyed Hossein Nasr etc. within the perennial philosophy or traditionalist school are instrumental in fostering a nuanced understanding of Islam that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, resonating with seekers worldwide. While they may be not be conventional "reformers" in the modernist or political sense, their contributions profoundly impact Islamic spiritual and intellectual renewal and cross-cultural understanding. They emphasize universal/metaphysical/mystical/perennial dimensions/ truths underlying Islam and other religions. However they share some parallels with reformers like responses to crises, renewal of thought, reformers of consciousness with global influence.

The interplay also manifests in the cultural sphere. Traditional art, music, and literature have been revitalized through modern mediums, reaching global audiences in unprecedented ways. Indigenous crafts have found new markets through

online platforms, while modern filmmakers draw inspiration from ancient myths and folklore. However, this interaction is not without challenges. The commodification of tradition in a globalized economy often strips it of its original context and meaning, reducing it to a mere aesthetic or commercial product. This raises ethical questions about the preservation and authenticity of cultural heritage in a modern world.

Modernity, for all its promises of progress, has also brought about significant disruptions. Industrialization and urbanization have led to the disintegration of traditional rural communities, while globalization has homogenized cultural expressions, threatening linguistic and cultural diversity. Indigenous societies, in particular, have faced existential threats as modern development encroaches on their lands and ways of life. The struggles of the Maasai in East Africa to preserve their pastoral lifestyle amidst pressures of modernization and land privatization exemplify this tension. Similarly, the plight of Native American communities highlights the ongoing challenges of maintaining cultural identity in the face of historical and modern marginalization.

Yet, tradition has not been a passive victim in this encounter. It has shown remarkable adaptability, often absorbing and reshaping elements of modernity to fit its framework. Traditional medicine, for instance, has integrated modern scientific methods to enhance its efficacy and credibility. Ayurveda in India and Traditional Chinese Medicine are examples where ancient practices have coexisted with and complemented modern medical advancements. This adaptability underscores the resilience of tradition and its capacity to evolve without losing its essence.

At the personal level, individuals navigate the interplay of modernity and tradition in their identities and lifestyles. The phenomenon of cultural hybridity, where individuals integrate traditional values with modern practices, challenges the binary opposition between the two. For instance, diasporic communities often create unique cultural expressions that blend their ancestral heritage with the influences of their adopted societies. This fluidity reflects the human capacity for innovation and the enduring relevance of tradition in shaping contemporary life.

The COVID-19 pandemic offered a unique lens to understand this interplay. While modern technology enabled remote work, online education, and global collaboration, traditional practices of community support, solidarity, and resilience played an equally crucial role in managing the crisis. The resurgence of traditional knowledge in healthcare, such as the use of herbal remedies, highlighted the complementary nature of modernity and tradition. This synergy demonstrates that both paradigms are not inherently contradictory but can coexist and enrich each other.

(To Be Concluded...)

PART I

MYSTIC THOUGHTS

Debating or Dismissing Ghamidi: A Mirror to Muslim Modernity



DR MUHAMMAD MAROOF SHAH

In this backdrop of stormy turbulent weather and flood in full fury and urgent need for survival, we hear, amidst a cacophony of voices, some other voices that do merit our consideration. Ghamidi phenomenon that include path breaking work in fiqh and hadith of Ghamidi (regarding kalam, philosophy and esoteric current in Islam he has not made notable advances and instead invited strong censure from stalwarts of Islamic Tradition) a host of brilliant scholars inspired by him and critically building on him or responding to him – is one though it and moving forward to Ghamidi appears with certain proposals that merit our consideration or examination.

PART II



Iqbal endorses Ibn Khaldun’s view on Mahdi and reinterprets Mahdi ideals. Does his poem on Mahdi constitute a fitna? By that account most of Iqbal’s poetry and almost all of reconstruction is a fitna. Ghamidi isn’t bringing Westernization: we are already westernized as we have become individuals valuing something of quintessentially modern idea of self, use social networks, watch TV, overuse mobiles and laptops, swear by ideology of progress, live in nation states, pay all kinds of taxes, read sciences as fashioned by the West, seek jobs and opportunities for better education there. There are still people who reduce Westernization to jeans and half sleeves. No debating them.



Ghamidi critics suspect his intentions – these risks playing God who alone knows them. They think he is out there to destroy Islamic Tradition – this is too preposterous to merit even rejection. Key criticisms against Ghamidi often are in turn premised on their gross misinformation regarding or misreading of the challenge of modernity. Ghamidi is responding to a crisis of which many of his vociferous opponents aren’t properly aware. His is, evidently, an attempt at engaging with certain aspects of the challenge of modernity, for thinking about what Arkoun calls unthought, for speaking for Islamic or better Abrahamic heritage in a manner that is truly contemporary. All who engage in this task are expected to falter and even some success is commendable. If Ghamidi is judged on the basis of his short beard, how would we judge many of the front rank scholars and intellectuals that contributing to Islamic awakening – Iqbal, Ali Shariati, Syed Qutb, Nursi, Ismail Raji al-Faruqi, earlier Nasr and youthful Moududi, Hasan Askari and Shaykh Abdul Wahid Yaahya and galaxy of the most renowned scholars/Ulama in the Muslim world who didn’t sport what is said to be proper beard? By this account, countless modern Muslim intellectuals, statesmen, writers, scientists who have contributed so much to the development of Islamic sciences in recent history become outsiders. Interestingly, neither Imamul Hind nor Hakeemul Ummat nor Qaidi Azam – three of the most influential personalities to whom so many Muslims attach the suffix Rahmatulahi Allaeh had properly styled or recommended attire of face/dress. If he is judged on the basis of only recommending and not mandating hijab, don’t we throw to the dogs hundreds of practising Islamic women scholars well grounded in Islamic tradition whose dupatta skids permanently? If we dismiss him for his views on music we have to dismiss scores of great names in Islamic tradition from earliest times to such stalwarts as Ibn Hazm, Khawja Nizamuddin Awliya and Abul Kalam Azad and Nasr in modern times? If we dismiss his views on ijma, he has, on his side, a galaxy of scholars traditional and

modern. I wonder what is unique to Ghamidi, in principle, except Sunna-hadith distinction that too has many precedents. The best scholars from Jonatthen Brown to Wahidudin Khan have recognized significance of Ghamidi for discipline of hadith and reconstruction of legal thought respectively. Though quite critical on certain points, sophisticated scholars of Islamic Metaphysics and Spirituality such as Suheyl Umar are his friends/ admirers. It is hard to dismiss, in general, orthodox credentials of Farahi and Islahi whom Ghamidi builds on and doesn’t diverge in fundamental ways from. A galaxy of scholars trained in Classical Islamic sciences has been working with Ghamidi. Ghamidi is



no longer an individual but an institution (Al-Mawrid) that has demonstrated credentials in engaging with tradition. He puts first things first. When asked in religion or politics that Muslims he says it is ilm that will save them. And we know the Quran asserts the link between salvation and ilm or right use of reason so categorically. He states that he wants to be remembered as one who served the cause of ilm. Man is converted when his mind is convinced and heart gives assent. You can’t force conviction. Ghamidi’s arguments often convince far better than those who criticize him. He has to be fought on the level of argument. Fatwas against him help only to increase his popularity. Like Syed Moududi, he has been perhaps the most influential contemporary scholar who speaks so eloquently against modernity’s error regarding God or Transcendence and helps people connect to God. If a dayi is one who presents Deen in such a way that one is hardly left with an argument against it then Ghamidi is one of the most important dayees today. He is guarding a frontier where traditional Ulama can’t tread due to ignorance of modern forms of disbelief. Neither Darwin nor Freud nor Marx were in the days when classical Mutakilmoon wrote. Answers to Modernism written by major Muslim scholars do make significant points but leave much untouched or unengaged and as such modern sages need to be read. Ghamidi is usually treated as a problem and certain dis-solutions by way of refutations of his work constitute Ghamidi criticism. What if it could be shown that he is not a problem? He belongs to the larger Islamic intellectual tradition. He is part of a solution to many important problems. He has helped win so many to the cause of religion or faith in an age of doubt. He strengthens the faith of his readers in God, in the Quran, in the exemplary life of the Prophet. He has helped remove the flies hovering around the noble Prophet SAW. He is respectfully critical of his predecessors. Regarding claiming of Ijmah to as a strategy of foreclosing further debate and discussion, one must point out unambiguous statements from traditionally revered authorities who cautioned against simplistic claims and plead that we say dissident opinion has not reached. If we implement apostate’s punishment today, millions, not thousands of Ex-Muslims, half Muslims, doubters should be executed. And it will make more apostates if such a move happens. And Muslims must de-register from Human Rights conventions. Let us explore how we can move ahead and better face modernity without or with the tools and insights provided by Ghamidi. Muslim women didn’t ask Ghamidi to say goodbye to veil nor did resistance leadership appoint him in any advisory council. The issue is how we remain as Muslim – authentically Muslim without being split personalities or guilt ridden or hesitant. Let us end debate over Ghamidi Rational disagreement with Ghamidi would require deconstructing his central arguments that are unique to him/some of his illustrious predecessors. From emphasis on nazm, giving the Quran the focal rather than the only place as a source of law, methodological privileging of sunna over hadith, openness to religious and political other, interpreting the Quran with the help of other scriptures or giving Abrahamic legacy its due, more critical Ijtihadi spirit in dialogue with Imams of fiqh/hadith, evolving equivalent/alternative spiritual framing of key content of what is called Sufism, to advocating newer hermeneutical moves that appear more rational, more catholic, “demythologizing,” “existential” more this worldly interpretations of myth/narratives in canon, we have a great tradition of debate and discussion from early period on almost all important points supposedly unique to Ghamidi. And we have, unknown to Urdu speaking scholarship and audience that has been his primary audience and critic, great often misread and caricatured currents of thought in Mutazilite, philosophical, (post)modern scholarly and other camps that constitutes the key to apparently newer or unheard of aspects in Ghamidi.

Iqbal endorses Ibn Khaldun’s view on Mahdi and reinterprets Mahdi ideals. Does his poem on Mahdi constitute a fitna? By that account most of Iqbal’s poetry and almost all of reconstruction is a fitna. Ghamidi isn’t bringing Westernization: we are already westernized as we have become individuals valuing something of quintessentially modern idea of self, use social networks, watch TV, overuse mobiles and laptops, swear by ideology of progress, live in nation states, pay all kinds of taxes, read sciences as fashioned by the West, seek jobs and opportunities for better education there. There are still people who reduce Westernization to jeans and half sleeves. No debating them.



Ghamidi is more convincing than most of the popular preachers we watch on TV or YouTube. He is less convincing on matters that concern application of methodology that he defends with far more conviction in principle. He is least convincing on Sufism and criticism of Muslim philosophers. But his enduring contribution that constitutes what we can see as the core of Ghamidi thought is taking a more objective look at modern challenges and reflecting deeply on key sources and having the courage to think and dare to differ in application of Islamic legal thought. He has little to contribute to theology or creedal formulations in general though valuable little in our understanding of religious other and salvation issue and winning over certain kinds of atheists – more sophisticated atheists would remain however unconvinced (but incidentally we have so few of them to contend with) – though much to the task Iqbal thought so central to the survival of Muslims as effective dynamic force – Ijtehad in its broader understanding. Let us evaluate key Ijtihads of Ghamidi and give him what the Prophet gave to anyone who exercises ijtihaad – benefit of doubt. It is hard to approach some key problems modernity poses from the perspectives often rehearsed in popular press or media. Ghamidi provides a possible approach that invites our critical attention. We have been dismissing our great minds from Abu Hanifa to Ghazzali to Ibn Rushd to Ibn Taymiyah to Ibn Arabi to Iqbal on the basis of fitna but that hasn’t stopped history giving its verdict in favour of all of them. All of them have stayed and have been influential. Ghamidi is influential and seems destined to be more influential in future. We can’t stop the movement of history in favour of modes of thought and perception that transcend such binaries as conservative/liberal, religious/secular, bearded/ nonbearded and veiled/unveiled. He is one of the few saner voices in the modern world, a worthy successor of Maududi minus his problematic political thought. His “counter-narrative” has yet to be successfully countered. It is too easy to criticize Ghamidi but enormously difficult to provide alternatives to him on many important issues. Ghamidi is not to be identified with this or that particular view or position (he is ready to change them or may change them) that one may find fault with or accept but name of an idea or set of ideas that call deeper engagement and response from all the concerned. There is a person of Ghamidi who can be praised or reviled but there is an idea of Ghamidi that stares us in the face and that can only be engaged with rather than praised or reviled. Whether Ghamidi is a problem to be fought or an idea to be engaged with and whether our attitude should be writing refutations of him or critical but respectful engagement with what informs him – modern episteme and avowed timelessness and thus certain modernity itself of tradition and thus a blessing or at least blessing in disguise who is stimulating churning and creative adaptation of tradition from mainstream orthodox camp is to be seen. Perception of Ghamidi as a bull in a china house may be valid but the bull has already been there in the form of modernity and Ghamidi is an attempt to tame it, to harness it, to even use it in the field while what is perceived to be fragile china house may not be so fragile to fear the bull. When God promises to guard the Quran from corruption it is implied, I think, tradition of interpreting the Quran as well. Tradition is much larger than any single thinker. We think in tradition; we breathe it. Islam has a history that absorbed even Ismailiees. Ghamidi, if he distorts, will fail. Ghamidi is, generally speaking, not read in context – the context of debate and discussion in Islamic Tradition. And if read, his nuances and subtle moves qualifying his position are often missed. For instance, let me note just one point. Ghamidi pleaded for both beard and hijab on the basis of love for the Prophet (SAW) and tradition though he doesn’t find, like brilliant contemporary scholars, any reason to think that God minds such things or will judge us on their basis. People often forget how wide is the net of compassion – we don’t find God judging



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schools in certain cases. It is impossible to restrict it to some elite group or ulama only and must include critical feedback of experts of various disciplines. We can fight individuals, refute some opinions of scholars of opposite camps, present many arguments that show why we be left undisturbed by these Socratic gadflies. But we can’t fight ideas. Ideas that have intrinsic appeal don’t die despite all the poisons and crucifixions and fatwas of kufr and books written in refutation. We may have various reasons to be wary of Gahmidi but we have no choice but to be wary of those that fight the idea of Ghamidi. One could afford to ignore him but I find him an echo of a strong current in our Tradition. I find him all around the serious academic environs. I find him in the pages of Muslim philosophers, theologians, jurists and even Sufis with whom he seems to have, apparently serious disagreements. I start with a few generalizations that need some but not serious qualifications to put forward my case. What is most important in Ghamidi or what appears radically new has been better articulated in Western languages by formidable scholars. Just consider the key arguments against Ghamidi and you will note how seriously they need to be taken.

(To Be Concluded...)

Public participation essential for effective Govt planning: Speaker AR Rather

BUDGAM: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today emphasized on the crucial role of public participation in ensuring effective and result-oriented development plan formulation.

Chairing a day-long public interaction program at Bugroo Khansahib in Charar-i-Sharief Constituency, the Speaker underscored the importance of engaging the citizens in governance. "Public participation is essential for effective and tangible plan formulation. People must actively take part in government initiatives while the officials should ensure that the public is meaningfully involved in the planning and implementation processes," maintained the Speaker.

Deliberating on the government's commitment to holistic development, the Speaker assured that genuine public demands would be prioritized and addressed through robust developmental planning.

During the event, the local delegations from Bugroo, Kremshore, Dreygam, Lanur, Nambalhar, Arampora, Khasipora and adjoining areas high-



lighted issues related to infrastructure, public services and basic amenities.

The Speaker directed the concerned officers and departmental heads to ensure prompt service delivery and strengthen the existing grievance redressal mechanism. He emphasized the need for responsive and grassroot-focused governance.

"The government is endeavoring hard to take the administration at the doorsteps of the common masses. In this regard, continuous efforts are being made in collaboration with the respective district administrations," he added. The Speaker asserted that decentralization will not only ensure active participation and coordination of the public but also seamless implementation of developmental projects and flagship programmes in all areas. He added that such initiatives where the government reaches the people at their doorsteps to address their genuine issues shall continue till no one is left uncovered.

Javed Rana inaugurates WSSs worth Rs 15.68 cr under JJM in Baramulla

BARAMULLA: In a major stride towards strengthening the rural infrastructure and ensuring safe drinking water for all, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today inaugurated three Water Supply Schemes (WSS) under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Baramulla district.

Among others present were MLA Baramulla Javid Hassan Beigh, MLA Uri Sajad Shafi, MLA Pattan Reyaz Bedar and Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa along with senior officers of Jal Shakti Department, engineers and local representatives.

The three schemes inaugurated included WSS Kitchama, WSS Kanispora and Retrofitting of WSS Khadniyar established with an expenditure of Rs 353.37 lakh, Rs 1065.96 lakh and Rs 149.23 lakh respectively. These schemes have been designed to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) and improve access to potable water in the respective panchayats household thereby

benefitting more than 13000 rural residents.

WSS Kitchama, a gravity-based scheme, covers a population of 2,435 with 314 household tap connections, while WSS Kanispora, a lift-based scheme, will benefit 8,722 people through 1,246 FHTCs. WSS Khadniyar (Retrofitting) caters to 2,224 people with 303 FHTCs.

Speaking on the occasion, Javed Rana said that the Jal Jeevan Mission is a historic initiative by the Government of India to bring piped drinking water to every rural household.

He added that the schemes inaugurated today are a testimony to the government's unwavering commitment towards improving the basic amenities and living standards of people in far-flung and underserved areas.

The Minister emphasized that providing clean and safe drinking water is not just an infrastructure goal but a critical step towards ensuring health, dignity and empowerment of rural communities, especially women. He remarked that with completion of these schemes, thousands of families in Kitchama, Kanispora and Khadniyar will now have direct access to potable water at their doorstep.

He appreciated the engineers, field staff and officials of the Jal Shakti Department for working tirelessly on ground, even in challenging terrain, to make these schemes a reality. He also acknowledged the cooperation in of the local panchayats and community members in facilitating timely implementation.

Javid Dar reviews Muharram arrangements in Sumbal

BANDIPORA: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar today conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements being put in place for Muharram at Sumbal, Bandipora.

While addressing the meeting, the Minister emphasized the need for timely execution of all essential services. He stressed the inter-departmental coordination to ensure peaceful, safe and successful conduct of religious events during Muharram. He directed all the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, adequate health facilities, proper sanitation and traffic management across all major congregation points. He exhorted upon the Fire & Emergency Services to remain on alert and fully equipped throughout the Muharram period.

The Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards extending all necessary support to ensure smooth arrangements at the grassroots level.

During the interaction, various religious leaders and community members put forth their concerns regarding essential services. These included adequate supply of electricity and drinking water, macadamization of roads, installation of Solar Lights, availability and distribution of ration and regulation of religious processions.

The Minister assured that all genuine grievances would be addressed on priority. He directed the officials for continuous monitoring to ensure seamless public service delivery.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Manzoor Ahmad Qadri briefed that a comprehensive plan is being put in place to facilitate peaceful and smooth conduct of religious events. He informed that a control room has been established for round-the-clock grievance redressal and coordination.

Later, Javid Dar inaugurated High-Density Orchard (Mother Block) developed by the Horticulture Department at Shilvat, Sumbal at a cost of 19.69 lakh.

The Minister inspected major Water Supply Schemes at Shadipora and Shilvat developed by the Jal Shakti Department. He was informed that the Water Supply Scheme at Shadipora has been implemented at a project cost of 638.69 lakh while the Shilvat WSS project is worth 656.12 lakh.



DC Srinagar holds introductory meeting with sectoral, district officers

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo chaired an introductory meeting with sectoral and district officers of Srinagar at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here.

While chairing the maiden meeting after assuming the charge, DC directed the Officers to work with utmost dedication and commitment for the welfare of people of the district. He emphasized the swift execution of works under set timelines for holistic development of the district besides, implementation of Government policies and schemes on ground in an effective and timely manner.

DC called on the Officers to be responsive and accessible to people and foster quick decision making abilities in resolving public grievances. He stressed on maintaining close coordination among departments for holistic and well planned development of the district. He stressed them to ensure punctuality & discipline conduct as well.

Pulwama admin organises mega outreach camp at Gulshanpora, Tral

PULWAMA: Continuing its efforts to ensure last-mile delivery of services and welfare measures, district administration Pulwama today organised a mega outreach camp at Gulshanpora, Tral under the nationwide flagship initiative Dharti Aaba Janatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The initiative aimed at empowering tribal communities through awareness and saturation of government schemes, saw enthusiastic participation from locals and multi-departmental engagement on the ground.

A wide range of government departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Mission POSHAN, Forest, and others set up dedicated stalls at the venue to deliver on-the-spot services.

The event was also attended by Member of Legislative Assembly Tral, Rafiq Ahmad Naik and DDC Member, Manzoor Ahmad Ganie, who actively interacted with the public and listened to their concerns and assured them of continued support and coordination for effective implementation of government programmes at the grassroots level.

On the occasion, MLA also distributed Ayushman Bharat Cards, Birth Certificates and other certificates among the beneficiaries, highlighting the government's focus on inclusive welfare delivery and outreach.

Officers including Tehsildar Tral, BDO Arupal and other field functionaries were also present to facilitate real-time registration, enrolment, and awareness dissemination.

The camp recorded a significant turnout and witnessed a surge in enrolments under various government schemes. Special health camps were organised by the Health department to provide basic diagnostic services, free consultations, and focused awareness sessions.

An extensive sickle cell screening drive was also carried out besides educating the community about Sickle cell disease and water-borne illnesses, preventive healthcare, safe drinking practices, and early detection protocols.

Participating departments facilitated registrations under key schemes such as Jal Jeevan Mission (Functional Household Tap Connections), MGNREGA Job Cards, PMAY-G, and PM Ujjwala Yojana among others. Eligible citizens were guided and assisted on-spot to ensure timely and complete coverage under these schemes.

CEO KDA visits Achabal, Chattapal; emphasizes cleanliness

ANANTNAG: Chief Executive Officer, Kokernag Development Authority (KDA), M Rouf Rahman paid a surprise visit to Achabal. He urged the officials to ensure proper sanitation and maintenance in the Achabal Garden and adjoining market areas to enhance the overall experience for tourists, pilgrims, and local residents. CEO highlighted the scenic importance of Achabal in the Kokernag tourism circuit, and emphasized that a clean and well-managed environment plays a key role in attracting more footfall, boosting local livelihoods and promoting sustainable tourism.

Jal Shakti, Agricultural Production Ministers review development projects at Baramulla

BARAMULLA: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and Minister for Agricultural Production, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, co-chaired a comprehensive review meeting in Baramulla.

The meeting focused on assessing the progress on various developmental projects under the District Capex Budget 2024-25, State Plan and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs).

The review aimed to enhance the mechanisms for closer monitoring of public services, ensuring transparency, accountability and expedited project execution at the district level.

The meeting was attended by the MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Beigh; MLA Wagoor-Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Pattan, Riyaz Bedar; MLA Uri, Dr. Sajad Shafi; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa besides HODs and district officers from all the concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Ministers conducted a comprehensive review of sector-wise schemes and sought detailed status reports on individual projects from the Heads of Departments (HODs) of the concerned departments.



The Jal Shakti Minister, issued strict directions to all Heads of Departments (HODs) for ensuring regular site visits to monitor the progress on the ongoing works being done under various developmental schemes.

Javed Ahmad Rana further instructed the concerned department heads to ensure timely execution and completion of all developmental projects while maintaining both quality and accountability throughout the implementation process.

Regarding the pressing issue of drug abuse in the society, Javid Ahmad Dar urged the healthcare services and law enforcement agencies to engage the drug-affected individuals with care and compassion and help them reintegrate into society through counseling, treatment and sustained support.

During the meeting, MLAs from various constituencies of the district put forth key public grievances and developmental demands. These included macadamization of roads in their constituencies, access to potable water and street lighting.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa provided a comprehensive presentation outlining the district's overall developmental landscape highlighting both the financial and physical progress achieved across various sectors.

Furthermore, Deputy Commissioner provided a sector-wise update of the projects undertaken by different departments. He highlighted the district's significant progress, achieving 94 percent in implementation of centrally sponsored schemes and 88 percent of the targeted expenditure for the financial year 2024-25.

Kulgam Admin dedicates Library to students to enrich their knowledge

KULGAM: A library developed by the district administration Kulgam was today dedicated to students here at Kulgam to support their academic pursuits, broaden their knowledge, and foster personal growth.

The facility was dedicated to students in presence of Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam; Mohammad Afzal Parrey; MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami and Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

Addressing the gathering, DDC Chairperson described the facility as more than just a building, referring to it as a temple of knowledge. He highlighted the transformative power of books in shaping individuals and cultivating enlightened communities.

MLA Kulgam in his address emphasized the crucial role of books in shaping thoughts and character, particularly among the youth.

"Books are our closest companions and empower us with knowledge, insight, and the ability to question constructively," he added.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam appreciated the efforts of the R&B department and the Planning Wing in establishing the facility well in time.

Reflecting on his own educational journey, he highlighted the immense value that libraries offer to students. A library is not just a place to read, it is a space to grow, reflect and transform, he said.

He also assured that additional facilities and resources would be incorporated in the library.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students.



Continued From P1...

J&K Bets

Marchoi in Ganderbal district.

In Reasi 2 MW HEP at Sangri-I and 1.4 MW HEP at Badshala. In Anantnag district, 2 MW HEP at Upper Astanmarg, In Kulgam 2MW HEP at Sangam and 2MW HEP at Kongwattan while 2 MW HEP at Khara Doda.

18 projects under IPP have been identified at Anantnag, Kupwara, Baramulla, Budgam, Bandipora, Kishtwar, Ramban, Reasi, Poonch and Ganderbal.

Secretary Shahid Choudhary said the mini hydel projects represent a focussed push by the government to harness clean, indigenous energy sources, generate local employment and reduce carbon dependency. “This initiative reinforces the commitment to energy self-reliance, climate resilience and rural development”.

Successful bidders will sign a 40-year Implementation and Land Lease Agreement with JAKEDA, along with payment of an upfront premium and reimbursement of pre-development costs.

Bidding is open to individual firms and consortiums. Financial eligibility includes a net worth of 1.5 crore/ MW and an average annual turnover of 1 crore/ MW over the past three financial years (FY 2022–25).

Choudhary further elaborating the transformative potential of such initiatives said: “From the Himalayas to the grassroots of innovation, science and technology must lead the way in making J&K a resilient, knowledge-driven society,” he stated.

He outlined the department’s broader vision, including Mini hydel and solar power development, Model solar villages, Promotion of grassroots innovation and student-led science, Tech-enabled governance and sustainability and Strengthening R&D and academic-industry collaboration

“We will work with quiet determination and bold vision to ensure science becomes a movement for opportunity and progress,” Choudhary said, inviting public suggestions and collaboration.

He said the hydro initiative is expected to not only strengthen localized renewable energy generation but also boost rural employment and infrastructure in far-flung areas of the UT.

Officials said the bidding process follows a mandate by the Department of Science & Technology vide Order No. 30-ST of 2021, empowering JAKEDA to implement hydro power projects of up to 10 MW capacity.

Under Clause 8.3 of the “Policy for Development of Micro/Mini Hydro Power Projects-2011,” SCM allows project identifiers the right of first refusal, encouraging innovation and early-stage project development.

Technical eligibility requires prior EPC experience or commissioned capacity under the IPP mode, with clear benchmarks per MW.

The e-bidding process for 18 hydro projects under IPP mode is open from June 11 to July 10, 2025, with technical bids scheduled for opening on July 14.

For 17 Hydro Projects under SCM, last date for submission is 11 July 2025. According to the Tender, Interested parties must pay a non-refundable tender fee of 10,000 per project while the pre-development cost for each Megawatt is Rs 10 lakh.

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In Pahalgam

will not get even a scratch,” Shekhawat told PTI Videos after visiting the temple.

The annual Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to be held from July 3 to August 9.

Shekhawat asserted that Kashmir is safe, adding that tourists should visit the valley not only to enjoy its natural beauty, but also for its rich cultural heritage.

“I appeal to the 140 crore people of India to try to get to know about Kashmir’s heritage and its historical grandeur and divinity, along with its natural beauty,” he said.

To a question on the preservation of famous historical monuments in the valley, the Union minister said some restoration work has been carried out, but there is a need to do more.

“Those monuments that come under the Archaeological Survey of India, the organisation works for their protection, and the state government protects those assets that come under the state archaeology (department).

“I have seen that restoration work has been carried out and it has been carried out very well, but there is a need to work more earnestly on this heritage, which is centuries-old, and we are doing that so that the people of the country take pride in their heritage in the future as well,” he said.

Shekhawat also shared photos of his visit to the Martand temple.

“Visited the majestic Martand Temple, that is a profound reflection of the glory of Kashmir’s civilisational past. Built by the legendary King Lalitaditya, this grand temple dedicated to Surya was one of the earliest and most magnificent sun temples in India,” he said.

The minister also visited the Avanti Swami temple in the Awantipora area of Pulwama district.

“An enchanted morning at the Awantipora temple complex in Kashmir today. These stones that are remains of the mighty temples once built by King Avantivarman in what was once his capital tell tales of the cultural glory of that era.

“With the picturesque Himalayan mountains for a backdrop, these are sites that take one on a journey through time,” he said.

Shekhawat said he reviewed the tourist facilities and upkeep efforts being undertaken there along with officials of the ASI and the district administration.

The Union minister held an interaction with the chief minister on Wednesday evening.

“During my visit to Jammu and Kashmir, I was graciously invited for a dinner interaction by Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah Ji. In a warm and cordial atmosphere, we held a positive and forward-looking discussion on the development of the tourism sector in J&K,” the minister said in a post on X.

He said emphasis was laid on enhancing infrastructure, promoting heritage sites and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities through tourism.

“Such engagements reflect our collective commitment to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a global tourism destination that celebrates its culture, nature, and people,” he added.

A day after the Pahalgam attack, Shekhawat had said his ministry would do the best to “minimise the dent” on tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

In another post on X, the Union minister shared some images of his time spent at Pahalgam and said “the quiet determination of the local hospitality business community to keep Kashmir welcoming and vibrant is truly heartening”.

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CM Omar, Union

of economic growth and cultural exchange in the region.

During the interaction, Union Minister Shekhawat emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts, stating that such engagements reflect “our collective commitment to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a global tourism destination that celebrates its culture, nature, and people.”

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed appreciation for the Centre’s continued support and reiterated the Government of Jammu and Kashmir’s resolve to revive and reimagine the tourism sector to unlock its full potential for inclusive development. (DIPR)

Won’t Stop

Surinder Kumar Choudhary expressed gratitude to CM Omar Abdullah and Minister Sakina Itoo for ensuring the establishment of a GDC in a remote area like Purmandal, calling it a transformative step for the local population.

Minister for Higher Education Sakina Itoo congratulated the local community on the completion of the college building, recalling that the foundation stone was laid by the Chief Minister in 2013.

She informed that over 500 assistant professors have recently been appointed to strengthen the higher education framework in the Union Territory.

Appreciating the launch of five college buses, she reaffirmed the government’s commitment to introducing more subjects and constructing a hostel for students at the college.

“The younger generation must take the lead in fighting societal evils like drug abuse,” she urged.

Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary of the Higher Education Department, Shantmanu, highlighted the major features of the GDC campus, which includes plans for a four-storey academic block, a large playground and landscaped surroundings.

The event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Higher Education Sakeena Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Vijaypur Chander Parkash Ganga, MLA Gulabgarh Er Khurshid Ahmad, Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education Department Shantmanu, ACS to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Director Colleges, Deputy Commissioner Samba and Principal of GDC Purmandal. (DIPR)

2nd batch of

had said that it has made arrangements for evacuation of Indian students and may be permitted to leave the Universities.

The Embassy of India, Tehran in an official communique to different universities said, “We have made arrangements for their evacuation. They may be permitted to leave the University, as being facilitated by the Embassy of India, Tehran. The Embassy of India, Tehran takes this responsibility for this planned movement and security of the Indian students.” (KNO)

IGP reviews

CIK, Security, DC SB Srinagar; SP PC Srinagar, SP CID SBK, SP Telecom and other officers.

At the onset of the meeting, participating officers briefed the chair on the security arrangements planned for the smooth and peaceful conduct of Muharram processions, and other significant events. The security measures related to the management of mourning processions, crowd control, traffic regulation and maintenance of law & order during the period were also discussed. IGP Kashmir also reviewed the arrangements for the International Yoga Day and took stock of the security and logistical preparations for the event.

IGP Kashmir directed the officers to ensure foolproof security arrangements to ensure peaceful conduct of the events. He also directed the officers to increase surveillance upon ANEs and mischief mongers and also increase vigil during night processions. The officers were directed to hold coordination meetings with all the stake holders, seeking their cooperation for the smooth conduct of all the events. He also directed the district heads to devise comprehensive security strategies and route plans in their respective districts so as to prevent any untoward event.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from all the officers to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of the forthcoming events. (PMC)

CM Omar

also discussed with regard to adequate supply of water tankers, water sprinklers, anti smog guns and proper maintenance of water coolers to provide relief to the citizens.

Taking cognizance of the water scarcity issues in some newly populated areas, the Chief Minister directed Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation and Jal Shakti Department to provide relief to the residents immediately with water tanker services.

He further directed for expediting the pace of work on Water Supply schemes nearing completion to alleviate the water supply issues in areas with water shortage.

The Chief Minister further reviewed the forest fire response mechanism of the Forest department and readiness of Fire & Emergency services to tackle any such situation.

It was informed that adequate quantity of medical supplies are maintained by the Health department across the region while advisories on heat related illnesses are also being issued with special focus on vulnerable population and other IEC activities being carried out.

The Chief Minister was also apprised of preparedness of Irrigation & Flood control with regard to desilting of irrigation canals and flood mitigation plan. 24x7 Control Rooms have also been established for the upcoming monsoon season.

The meeting was informed that department of Food & Civil Supplies has maintained sufficient stock available under various schemes.

The Chief Minister also took stock of the broad arrangements put in place for forthcoming Muharram and Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The Divisional Commissioner apprised the Chief Minister about the routes decided for Muharram along with other elaborate arrangements pertaining to power, water supply, health and other essential services for the people participating in Muharram processions across the division.

He also apprised the Chief Minister on the ongoing preparations for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025 with detailed arrangements right from Lakhnappur- the gateway to Jammu Kashmir- to Lambar in Banihal, Ramban. He informed about the RFID, registration centres, lodgement centres, langar facilities, and other key preparations made by the administration for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025.

The Chief Minister asked the concerned officials to provide wide publicity to the cut-off timings for traveling on Jammu- Srinagar National Highway which will be same for the pilgrims and tourists during the period of Shri Amarnathji Yatra. (DIPR)

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Sgr sees highs

last two decades. “It was the hottest June day in the last 20 years since June 25, 2005,” Faizan said. He added that the all-time highest temperature in June was recorded on June 29, 1978.

Faizan said that Qazigund recorded a temperature of 34.7 degrees Celsius, the highest June temperature in 37 years. “This is the third all-time June temperature for Qazigund. The second highest is 35.3 degrees, recorded on June 27, 1988, and the all-time highest is 35.7 degrees, recorded on June 26, 1988,” he added.

Kokernag has also surpassed previous figures, recording the all-time second-highest June temperature after a gap of 27 years, at 33.8 degrees Celsius. A similar day temperature was recorded on June 29, 1999. “The all-time highest temperature in Kokernag stands at 34.9°C, recorded on June 25, 2005,” he said.

Moreover, another independent weather forecaster,

Adil Maqbool, predicted a further rise in mercury, saying the day temperature could touch 35.5 degrees Celsius tomorrow or even 36 degrees in Srinagar and other lower areas of Kashmir. He added that mostly dry and hot weather will continue to dominate until June 21.

Furthermore, Pahalgam recorded a day temperature of 29.6 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara and Gulmarg recorded 33.1 degrees Celsius and 25.9 degrees Celsius, respectively. However, some parts of Jammu division continued to record below-normal temperatures, including Jammu city and Katra, where the mercury settled at 36.5 degrees Celsius and 33.1 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In Banihal, Bhaderwah, and Batote, maximum temperatures of 30.6 degrees Celsius, 31.6 degrees Celsius, and 28.2 degrees Celsius, respectively, were recorded today.

According to the weather forecast, Kashmir is set to witness an intense heatwave for the next two days, followed by heavy rains at isolated places. Generally dry weather with the possibility of brief spells of rain and thundershowers with gusty winds at isolated places is expected until Friday.

Between June 21 and 22, Director of MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that generally cloudy weather with intermittent spells of rain and thundershowers is expected at many places. He added that on June 23 and 24, the weather is expected to remain dry, with a brief spell of light rain and thundershowers at isolated places. From June 25 to 27, generally cloudy weather with the possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places is forecasted.

The MeT has also issued an advisory urging farmers to continue farm operations until June 20. According to the advisory, there is a possibility of moderate to heavy rain with intense showers at a few places, mainly in Jammu division, on June 21 and 22. “Flash floods are expected at a few places, along with landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones,” it added. (KNO)

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JK faces

Jammu division, there is a power demand of more than 1600 MW and in the case of Kashmir division, we are getting a power demand of approximately 1350-1400 MW of power. Currently, we are catering nearly 2800 MWs of power,” the official said.

The official further said: “There is a power deficiency of nearly 150 MW from the Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project wherein we are currently producing only 750 MWs of power. Usually during this season we were producing 900 MWs of power but due to the low water level we are utilizing only five plants out of six and are currently able to generate only 750 MWs.”

He also said that the department was generating a maximum of 900 MW of power from Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project. “A maximum of 900 MWs and minimum of 848 MWs of power is being generated from all phases of this power plant,” he added.

The official said that it was producing 210 lakh units of energy per day from our 13 generation stations.

In Jammu and Kashmir there is a total of nearly 1200 MWs hydel power production capacity of which 900 MW is from the Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project (KNO)

Idea of complete India can’t be imagined through half-baked foreign languages: Amit Shah

SRINAGAR: Asserting that Indian languages are the soul of nation’s identity, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that time has come to reclaim the country’s linguistic heritage.

Speaking at a book launch ceremony in New Delhi, Shah, said that the idea of a complete India cannot be imagined through half-baked foreign languages. “To understand our country, our culture, our history, and our religion, no foreign language can suffice,” he added.

Describing the diverse languages of our country as the jewels of our culture, Shah said, “Without our languages, we cease to be truly Indian.”

Taking a dig at English speaking people, the Union Home Minister said, “In this country, those who speak English will soon feel ashamed—the creation of such a society is not far away. Only those who are determined can bring about change. I believe that the languages of our country are the jewels of our culture. Without our languages, we cease to be truly Indian.”

He said, “To understand our country, our culture, our history, and our religion, no foreign language can suffice.”

“I am fully aware of how difficult this battle is, but I am also fully confident that Indian society will win it. Once again, with self-respect, we will run our country in our own languages and lead the world too,” he said.

Outlining the ‘Panch Pran’ (five pledges), coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah said that these five pledges have become the resolve of 130 crore people of the country.

“Modi Ji has laid the foundation of the ‘Panch Pran’ (five pledges) for the Amrit Kaal. Achieving the goal of a developed India, getting rid of every trace of slavery, taking pride in our heritage, staying committed to unity and solidarity, and igniting the spirit of duty in every citizen — these five pledges have become the resolve of 130 crore people. That is why by 2047, we will be at the pinnacle, and our languages will play a major role in this journey,” he said.

Speaking on the book, Main Boond Swayam, Khud Sagar Hoon’ authored by former civil servant, IAS Ashutosh Agnihotri, the Union Home Minister emphasised that a change is needed in the training of administrative officers. “Rarely are they trained to introduce empathy in our system. Maybe because the British era inspired this training model. I believe that if any ruler or administrator rules without

empathy, then they cannot achieve the real objective of governance,” Shah said.

He also praised literature, saying that it is the soul of our society.

“When our country was consumed in an era of pitch-black darkness, even then literature kept the lamps of our religion, freedom, and culture lit. When the government changed, no one opposed it. But whenever someone tried to touch our religion, culture and literature, our society stood against them and defeated them. Literature is the soul of our society,” he added (PIB)

Iran Israel Conflict

2nd batch of 500 Kashmiri students to board flights today

SRINAGAR: In view of the escalating war between Iran and Israel, at least 500 students of Kashmir studying in Iran are likely to board the flights to India from Turkmenistan on Friday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) in this regard said that around 600 Indian students, including 500 from Kashmir, have been safely relocated from Qom to Mashhad, a border city in Iran, as part of the ongoing evacuation efforts.

National Convenor of Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) Nasir Khuehami told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), “This is the second group of students who were earlier moved to Qom, where they remained for three days. Their evacuation process is currently underway.”

“The students are from various institutions, including Islamic Azad University, Iran University of Medical Sciences,

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Reyaz Ahmad Bhat.
S/O Mohammad Yousuf Bhat.
R/O Kaloosa Bandipora, Ward

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Raja Begum.
W/O Late Ab Aziz Dar.
R/O Laharwalpora, Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No: JK-15 20140008183, my name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Mohd Yousuf Mir, while as my Actual and correct name as per my Aadhaar Card is, Mohammad Yousuf Mir, Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mohammad Yousuf Mir.
S/O Ghulam Mohammad Mir.
R/O. Khyar Bandipora, jammu and kashmir, pin code: 193502.

Bajaj Allianz Unveils Tuhund Khatir- A Health Insurance Tailored for the People of J&K

SRINAGAR: Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of India’s leading private general insurers, has introduced ‘Tuhund Khatir’—a pioneering health insurance product meticulously designed to meet the specific healthcare needs of the residents of J&K. More than just a health plan, Tuhund Khatir is a commitment to the people of J&K, ensuring access to quality healthcare with coverage tailored to the state’s unique medical landscape. Understanding that healthcare challenges, costs, and treatment availability vary across regions, Bajaj Allianz has developed Tuhund Khatir to offer personalised coverage rather than a generic, one-size-fits-all solution. This plan is crafted for the people of J&K, keeping in mind hospital infrastructure and affordability, ensuring that residents get the protection



they need.

Designed with affordability and accessibility in mind, Tuhund Khatir offers extensive coverage with premiums customised specifically for the people

of J&K. The policy is available in both individual and floater variants, making it an ideal solution for individuals and families alike. With flexible sum insured options ranging from INR 5 lakh to INR

20 lakh, Tuhund Khatir ensures that everyone—from young professionals to elderly citizens—can find a coverage option suited to their unique healthcare needs.

The Tuhund Khatir health insurance plan offers extensive coverage, including inpatient hospitalisation, pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses, and day care procedures. It also covers advanced treatments such as robotic surgeries and stem cell therapy, ensuring policyholders receive access to modern medical care. The policy includes organ donor expenses as part of the base cover, alleviating the financial burden associated with life-saving transplants. With a lifetime renewal option, Tuhund Khatir guarantees continuous coverage without age restrictions, providing long-term security for individuals and families.

Afridi, Rizwan and Rauf among top picks at BBL overseas drafts

Pakistan stars Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan and Haris Rauf were the most popular selections at the BBL overseas drafts with Afridi selected No.1 overall on Thursday and seven Pakistan players taken in total.

Nearly every club in the draft would have taken Afridi with their first pick after he nominated for the BBL draft for the first time with availability for the whole season. Brisbane Heat had no hesitation in taking the left-arm quick who will join all-star pace attack alongside Spencer Johnson, Michael Neser and Xavier Bartlett.

Rauf will return to Melbourne Stars who needed to use their retention pick to keep him after Adelaide Strikers tried to poach Rauf with pick No.2.

Rizwan was taken with the fourth pick by Melbourne Renegades despite already having dynamic wicketkeeper-batter Tim Seifert as a pre-signing.

Adelaide Strikers pulled a slight surprise by selecting England left-arm seamer Luke Wood as a platinum pick with pick No.3 after missing out on Rauf. That left fellow Englishman Sam Curran on the table to be selected by Sydney Sixers at pick No.7 while Sydney Thunder retained Lockie Ferguson with pick No.8.

Perth Scorchers and Hobart Hurricanes confirmed pre-signings Finn Allen and Chris Jordan as their platinum players in round one.

Renegades picked uncapped USA allrounder Hassan Khan very high with their second pick at No.11. Khan played one game for Renegades last season and has been a key contributor to San Francisco Unicorns team early in the MLC season, with Unicorns managed by Cricket Victoria's high performance team who also run Renegades.

Shadab Khan was taken by Thunder with pick No.12 who had traded up in the second round to get him. Thunder will be Shadab's fourth different BBL club after playing

three games for Heat in 2017, four with Sixers in 2021-22 and five with Hurricanes in 2022-23.

Rishad Hossain was the only Bangladesh player taken

an NOC.

Hurricanes also selected England legspinning all-rounder Rehan Ahmed in the fourth round to bolster their



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in the draft with Hurricanes picking him with pick No.13. Hossain was selected by Hurricanes last season but was withdrawn from the tournament after he wasn't granted


spin options. Laurie Evans and David Payne return to Scorchers having won BBL titles in Perth previously but both were unable to be retained last season by Scorchers and played at Renegades and Strikers respectively.

Strikers added another popular Pakistan pacer in Hasan Ali with their third-round pick. England keeper-bat Tom Alsop will return to Heat while England legspinner Jafer Chohan will return to Sixers after being a surprise selection last season.

espnccricinfo.com


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