



Narco terrorists survive on blood money: LG Sinha

'I stand before you not only as your Lieutenant Governor but as family member who shares your pain, struggles'

» 'Nasha Mukt J&K' campaign has broken financial backbone of terrorism

» By halting drug trade, we cut off lifeline of terror networks

» Under PM Modi, HM Shah, NMBA launched in 2020 marked turning point

Umairsar Gul Ganaie

Kulgam, Jun 01: Asserting that narco-terrorists survive on blood money, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the ongoing 'Nasha Mukt J&K' campaign has broken the financial backbone of terrorism.

The Lieutenant Governor, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) led 'Drug-Free J&K Padyatra' in South Kashmir's Kulgam District



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

today and addressed a public meeting at Laroo Bus Stand. "This people's movement has connected every heart across Jammu Kashmir with a shared purpose to make their village, their town drug-free," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "This campaign is striking

directly at the financial backbone of terrorism. Every rupee spent on drugs fuels extremist violence, and narco-terrorists survive on that blood money. By halting the drug trade, we cut off the lifeline that sustains terror networks."

"I want people of Jammu

Kashmir to remember that this is not only a public-health struggle, but also a fight for national security. When we choke off drug smuggling, we weaken those who seek to destabilize our nation, spill the blood of innocent people of J&K, and divert our youth | More on P6

CM Omar seeks transportation of Haj pilgrims' baggage on same flights to J&K

Writes to Civil Aviation Minister

KNO Desk

Srinagar, Jun 01: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has written to Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, seeking urgent intervention to ensure that the baggage of Haj pilgrims is transported along with them on the same flights returning to Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the Chief Minister, in a letter to the Union Minister, highlighted the inconvenience being faced by Haj pilgrims due to delays in the transportation of checked-in baggage from Saudi Arabia to Srinagar.

According to the letter, many pilgrims, particularly elderly Hajis, have expressed concern and disappointment over the existing arrangement under which their baggage is being routed separately and transported by road from



Ahmedabad because of operational constraints and ongoing maintenance works at Srinagar Airport.

"It is learnt that due to ongoing maintenance works and operational constraints at Srinagar Airport, the checked-in baggage of the pilgrims could not be transported on the same flights carrying them back to Jammu & Kashmir," the Chief Minister wrote.

He said the delay has caused considerable inconvenience to | More on P6

MoMA clarifies: NOTAM, runway work behind curbs

KNO Desk

The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) on Monday issued a clarification regarding the baggage restrictions imposed on Haj pilgrims returning to Srinagar, stating that the measures were necessitated by runway maintenance and operational limitations at Srinagar Airport.

In a post on X, the Ministry, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that a NOTAM issued for Srinagar Airport, coupled with ongoing runway maintenance work, had resulted in temporary runway length restrictions. This, it said, compelled authorities to impose payload limitations on aircraft operations in the interest of flight safety. The Ministry | More on P6

First batch of Haj pilgrims to arrive in Sgr today

'144 in first flight; operations to continue till June 16'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

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

J&K Haj Committee Chief Executive Officer Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Hajj return operations for pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will continue till June 16. He said 4,641 pilgrims from Jammu | More on P6

Uninterrupted LPG, petrol, diesel supplies ensured across J&K: CS

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 01: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Monday reviewed the availability and stock position of essential commodities across Jammu and Kashmir with a particular focus on petroleum products, LPG and other critical supplies required for public consumption and the upcoming peak tourism and pilgrimage season.

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

Deputy Commissioners and SSPs attended the meeting through video conferencing.

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



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

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

Highlighting | More on P6

6.67 lakh households voluntarily submit census details in J&K

Jammu & Kashmir tops UTs in self-enumeration: Amit Sharma

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Jun 01: In a record of sorts, as many as 6.67 lakh households in Jammu and Kashmir have voluntarily submitted census details through the self-enumeration portal before the commencement of Houselisting Operations, which began on Monday in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing media today, Amit Sharma, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director Census Operations for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, as per the news agency—Kashmir



News Observer (KNO), said that the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has emerged as the leading Union Territory and ranks 8th among states in the country in | More on P6

Can J&K, Ladakh's power grids withstand 5.5% power reserve margin?

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Jun 01: The official Planning Reserve Margin (PRM) for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh stands at just 5.5%—leaving little to no buffer against sudden power demand spikes or generation outages.

The official documents available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that "The Planning Reserve Margin (PRM) for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has been assessed at 5.5%.

It also said that the projected and contracted capacity is in compliance with the stipulated Renewable Purchase Obligation



(RPO) targets. The projections have been made in accordance with the reliable studies that have been conducted based on the projected capacity for the year

2025-36.

According to the official documents, the study assesses the Planning Reserve Margin (PRM) required by the UT to account for the uncertainties, ensuring that demand can be reliably met throughout the year.

Official documents also said that the analysis confirms that the projected capacity meets the reliability criteria specified in the National Electricity Plan (NEP), with the Loss of Load Probability (LoLP) and Normalised Energy Not Served (NENS) remaining within the permissible limits of 0.2% and 0.05%, respectively as specified in the National | More on P6

Boy drowns in Nigeen Lake

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Jun 01: A boy drowned to death while bathing in Nigeen Lake near Nigeen Club area of Srinagar on Monday afternoon, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a rescue team comprising SDRF Nigeen and others launched a rescue operation soon after receiving information about the incident.

He said the boy was retrieved from the water and shifted to SDH Hazratbal (Habbak), where doctors declared him brought dead. | More on P6

Repeated hailstorms, erratic weather have crushed harvest hopes, say orchardists

Claim thousands of families pushed towards financial distress; seek comprehensive relief package

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jun 01: Kashmir's horticulture sector, the backbone of the Valley's rural economy, is reeling under the impact of repeated hailstorms, gusty winds, and erratic weather conditions that have caused extensive damage to fruit orchards across several districts.

Growers and traders have expressed deep concern over mounting losses, warning that the livelihoods of lakhs of families dependent on horticulture are at stake.

The latest spell of severe weather struck on the evening of May 30, when intense hailstorms accompanied by strong winds battered large parts of South Kashmir, particularly Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam districts. Several horticulture belts in central and north Kashmir also witnessed widespread destruction, leaving orchardists worried about the fate of this year's fruit crop.

Growers, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said weather conditions have become increasingly unpredictable, with



clear afternoons often giving way to violent storms during the evening hours. Orchard

owners said that hailstones and powerful winds have damaged fruit-bearing trees at

a crucial stage of crop development, resulting in significant losses.

The damage follows a series of similar weather events witnessed over the past two months. Earlier, severe hailstorms affected horticulture-rich areas of Rafiaband, including Watergam, Lasser, Dangiawacha, Dandoosa, Hadipora and adjoining villages. Extensive damage was also reported from Sopore, Bandipora, Ganderbal and several orchard belts of Baramulla district, including Sangrama, Wagura, Kreeri, Pattan, Kandi

and Tangmarg.

The repeated weather-related disasters have sparked panic among orchardists, many of whom depend entirely on fruit cultivation for their livelihood. Growers say that continuous losses have not only reduced their expected income but have also pushed many families deeper into debt.

The Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers-cum-Dealers Union, Srinagar, an elected umbrella body representing fruit growers' associations across the Valley, has expressed serious concern over the situation and

urged the government to intervene immediately.

The Union said that despite repeated representations, no comprehensive compensation package has been announced for the losses suffered by fruit growers due to hailstorms and strong winds. It also lamented the absence of a functional crop insurance mechanism and a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), both of which could provide much-needed financial security to farmers during natural calamities.

"The horticulture sector has become an | More on P6

J&K High Court accords Full Court Reference to Chief Justice on his elevation to Supreme Court of India

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: In a solemn and dignified ceremony, a Full Court Reference was held in the Court Room of the Chief Justice at the Srinagar Wing of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to honour Chief Justice, Arun Palli, on his elevation as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The Full Court Reference, as per an official statement, was convened in accordance with the long-standing conventions and cherished institutional traditions of the High Court.

The Reference was attended by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohd Akram.

Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice Shahzad Azeem along with the spouses of the Judges of the High Court.

The proceedings were also attended by former Chief Justices, former Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh,

Chief Secretary, UT of J&K; Director General of Police of UT of J&K; Judicial Member of Central Administrative Tribunal, Srinagar Bench; other senior officers of the civil administration of UT of J&K, including the Commissioner/Secretary Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Senior Additional Advocate General, Jammu as well as Srinagar; Deputy Solicitors

General of India at Jammu and Srinagar; the President, Kashmir Advocates Association, Srinagar; Senior Advocates; Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar; Judicial Officers and officers of the Registry of the High Court. Besides, the officers and officials and Advocates of the High Court from Jammu Wing joined the proceedings through virtual mode.

The farewell address was delivered by the Mohsin Qadri, Senior Additional Advocate General, Srinagar, who highlighted the distinguished judicial career, scholarship, administrative acumen and commitment of Justice Arun Palli to the cause of justice. The

Senior Additional Advocate General observed that the tenure of Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was marked by vision, integrity, accessibility and a steadfast commitment towards strengthening the justice delivery system, promoting institutional efficiency and upholding the highest traditions of the judiciary.

The President, Kashmir Advocates Association, Srinagar, in his address, expressed deep appreciation for the humility, judicial wisdom, accessibility and unwavering dedication of Justice Arun Palli to the rule of law. He conveyed best wishes of the legal fraternity on elevation of Justice Arun Palli to the Supreme Court of India.

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

clarity of thought and commitment to judicial excellence.

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

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

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

SMC Commissioner inspects NCAP Works along NH-44

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Faz Lul Haseeb, on Monday conducted an extensive inspection of various sites along the NH-44 Western Highway Corridor to review the progress of works being executed under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aimed at mitigating air pollution and improving the Air Quality Index (AQI) across one of the busiest traffic corridors in the city.

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

During the inspection, the Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the works executed

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

Stressing the need for coordinated action, the Commissioner instructed all stakeholder departments to work in close collaboration to reduce vehicular dust emissions, improve roadside aesthetics, and strengthen efforts towards achieving the objectives of the National Clean Air Programme. He further directed the concerned officers to expedite all pending works and ensure strict adherence to prescribed air quality standards.

IGNOU June 2026: Term-end examinations commence across Kashmir, Ladakh

Over 38,000 learners appearing at 37 examination centres

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 1: The June 2026 Term-End Examinations of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online Programmes commenced Monday across Kashmir Division and the Union Territory of Ladakh. The examinations, being conducted in both pen-and-paper and Computer Based Test (CBT) modes, will continue till July 21, 2026.

The IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar, as per PIB statement, is conducting the examinations at 37 examination centres established in Government Degree Colleges across Kashmir and Ladakh. A total of 38,562 students are appearing in 2,06,570 sittings during the examination session.

The University has activated the online link for downloading hall



been instructed to carry their hall tickets along with valid IGNOU Identity Cards to the examination centres. Mobile phones and other electronic gadgets are prohibited inside examination halls.

Regional Director, A. H. Rizvi, stated that necessary arrangements have been put in place to ensure smooth and transparent conduct of examinations. He appreciated the support extended by the local administration, security agencies, postal authorities, Principals and examination superintendents of Government Degree Colleges in facilitating the examination process across Kashmir and Ladakh. For examination-related assistance, learners may contact IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar on phone number 0194-3102403 during office hours or through email at admissionrcsrinagar@ignou.ac.in.

tickets of eligible learners. Examination schedules and instructions have been made available on the hall tickets issued to students.

Learners registered for Practical and Laboratory courses, including BLIS programmes, have been advised to contact the Regional Centre Srinagar for details regarding examination venues and schedules. IGNOU has clarified that no request for change of examination centre will be entertained. Students have

WMDA, civil defence organise disaster response training programme in Manasbal

More than 40 participants from different trades including attended programme

KT NEWS DESK

MANASBAL (GANDERBAL), JUNE 01: Wular-Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) in collaboration with Civil Defence Department, Srinagar organised a special training programme for basic stakeholders aimed at enhancing their disaster preparedness, emergency response and public safety awareness.

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

More than 40 participants from different trades including shikarawallas, boat operators, sanitation workers, WMDA field staff etc attended the programme and actively took part in various practical



and theoretical sessions related to disaster management, first aid, fire safety, rescue operations and emergency response techniques.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Chishti underscored the need for training the tourism stakeholders in disaster preparedness for facilitating visitors during emergency times. He thanked Civil Defence Department, Srinagar for conducting the training programme and emphasized the importance of

community-based disaster preparedness. He hoped that such training programmes would impart essential life-saving skills to these stakeholders whom he termed as basic responders in the event of any eventuality.

Rahi Riyaz Ahmed, Divisional Warden Civil Defence Srinagar and TOT Kashmir, highlighted the vital role of Civil Defence volunteers in safeguarding lives and property during natural and man-made disasters. He urged participants

to utilize the knowledge gained during the training and spread awareness within their respective communities.

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

DC Srinagar chairs meeting of revenue officers

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR JUNE 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday chaired a review meeting of senior Revenue Officers at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the progress on key revenue matters and delivery of revenue related services.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar all Tehsildars and other concerned.

At the outset, the DC reviewed the status of various

revenue-related initiatives and commended the dedicated efforts of Officers and field functionaries in accelerating the digitisation process and ensuring the timely completion of assigned targets and emphasized the need to sustain the momentum and ensure the timely completion of the remaining tasks and reforms within the prescribed timelines.

During the meeting, the DC was informed that Srinagar district comprises 137 villages, each having its own Jamabandi record, all of which shall be uploaded on the designated portal. He was further informed that to ensure accuracy and transparency, the digitised records were taken to the villages and read out in public. Registers shall also be maintained in each village to record grievances raised by residents, thereby ensuring community participation in the verification process.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA
E-mail: xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender (Short term)

e-NIT No:	MHDH/TS/2026-27/eNIT/03
Date:	01/06/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bid in Two Cover system on items wise basis from registered/reputed experienced firms for the below mentioned work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	SITC of Toe type Wheel mounted platform for existing 62.5 kVA DG Set of yatra (62.5kVA).	2.683	200.00	5370.00	15 days	Accorded	Accorded

- Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.ijktenders.gov.in from 01/06/2026 (1800hrs)
- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 02/06/2026 (1000hrs) to 08/06/2026 (1400hrs) in two covers.
- Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 08/06/2026 (1600hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
- The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

DIPK-1725/26
DATED: 01-06-2026

No: - MHDH/TS/323-30
Dated: -01/06/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER
MINI-SECRETARIAT KULGAM
Tel: 01931-467195 email: ceokulgam-accts@jk.gov.in, web: www.ceokulgam.in

Subject: Final Selection List of Class IV/MTS post issued under Order No. 22 CEOK of 2026, Dated: 13.05.2026 in light of LPA No. 109/2020 and issuance of Final Notice thereof.

NOTICE

Whereas this office issued the Final Selection List of Class IV/MTS posts advertised vide Notice No. CEO/K/NT/01/14/2048-50, Dated: 04-08-2014 in compliance to the judgement orders passed in LPA No. 109/2020 titled UT of J&K and others Vs Maria Nazir and others read with Govt. Order No. 14-JK(Edu) of 2026, Dated: 15.04.2026 issued under order no. 22 CEOK of 2026, Dated 13.05.2026.

Whereas the selectees were directed to report this office within seven days for submission of online CID Verification Roll and other requisite documents.

Whereas only 10 candidates out of 15 in selection list reported this office and CID Verification was generated online in their favour.

Whereas 02 CID Verifications were received by this office and accordingly appointment orders were issued in their favour while as 08 are under process.

Whereas this office vide Notice No. CEO/K/Estt-NT/1471-77/2026, Dated: 22.05.2026 issued the 2nd notice to the following candidates for submitting their documents and reporting this office for their appointment as Class IV but as on date have failed to report this office despite of 02 notices served to them.

Now the Final Notice is being issued to the following candidates to report this office within a period of seven (07) days for submission of requisite documents and generation online CID Verification failing which the claim of the said candidates will be rejected outrightly without any further notice and the candidates in waiting List as per roster will be taken and their appointment as Class IV will be considered.

Kindly note this is the final notice and no further reminder and notice will be served.

S.No	Name	Parentage	Residence	D.O.B	Category	Qual	Matriculation (out of 50)		10+2 (out of 10)		Interview (out of 40)	Grand Total of Merit	Changes, if any		
							MO	MM	Points	MO				MM	Points
SELECT LIST OF CANDIDATES															
1	MARIA NAZIR	NAZIR AHMAD MIR	KULGAM	18-09-1995	OM	10+2	467	500	46.70	437	500	8.74	31	86.44	
2	MOHD AARIF DAR	AB HAMID DAR	HARDU HANGER	06-03-1994	OM	10+2	422	500	42.20	500	750	6.67	33	81.87	
3	IRSHAD AHMAD NAIK	BASHIR AHMAD NAIK	ASNOOR	10-12-1994	OM/RBA	10+2	387	500	38.70	330	500	6.60	32	77.30	Category changed from RBA to OM/RBA.
4	ISHFAQ NAZIR ALIE	NAZIR AHMAD ALIE	D.H.PORA	01-01-1996	RBA	10+2	376	500	37.60	319	500	6.38	32	75.98	
5	RAVI KUMAR	VED PARKASH	JANIPORE JAMMU	23-12-1990	SC	10th	200	500	20.00	0	0	0.00	33	53.00	

No: CEO/K/Estt-NT/1643-49/26
DIPK-1718/26
DATED: 01-06-2026

Ab Gani Bhat
Chief Education Officer

Heat Maps Send Travelers to Edge Maps

● Tourists head to cooler border regions as temps rise

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Jun 30: As soaring temperatures continue to grip the plains, tourists are increasingly heading to the cooler border regions of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing fresh activity to some of the remote frontier destinations.

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

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

"We have seen a good number of tourists visiting Gurez in recent weeks. Hotels, guest houses and homestays are receiving more inquiries and bookings," said 38-year-old



Ishfaq Ahmad, a resident of Gurez.

He said residents have been actively helping visitors and promoting the valley's tourism potential. "Gurez has immense potential as a tourist destination. Better infrastructure and connectivity will help attract even more visitors," Ahmad said. In Kupwara district,

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

of Keran.

He urged the government to focus on improving road connectivity and tourism infrastructure in remote areas.

Visitors described the border destinations as among the most picturesque places in Kashmir. Anan Ahmad, 29, a tourist

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

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

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

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

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

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

CM Omar holds Raabita public outreach meet



KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Jun 01: Several public representatives and delegations on Monday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at his Public Services and Outreach Office (Raabita) here and discussed a range of constituency-specific and sectoral issues.

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

MLA Bandipora, Nizam Ud Din Bhat, also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various

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

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

Also, MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, also led a delegation of the Jal Jeevan Mission Contractors' Association, who met the Chief Minister

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

CM inaugurates additional accommodation block at Circuit House Church Lane

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Jun 01: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday inaugurated the newly constructed additional accommodation block at Circuit House, Church Lane, Srinagar, aimed at enhancing hospitality infrastructure and improving facilities for visiting dignitaries and guests.

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

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

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

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

The accommodation units have been aesthetically designed with a blend of modern interiors and traditional Kashmiri architectural elements. The standard rooms feature wallpapered walls, carved rubberwood bed-back panels, Khatamband ceilings and laminated flooring. The suites have been furnished with premium interior finishes, including laminated wall panels, MDF slat

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

CS reviews solarisation of Govt buildings progress

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Jun 01: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday chaired a review meeting of the Science & Technology Department to assess the initiatives undertaken for promotion of clean energy and the progress achieved in solarisation of government buildings across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Chief Executive Officer, JAKEDA; Director, Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC); and other senior officers of the department.

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



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

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

He remarked that large-scale solarisation, coupled

with the development of small and medium hydro-power projects, has the potential to transform the energy landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, given the immense renewable energy potential available across the Union Territory.

Highlighting the need for inclusive and sustainable energy solutions, the Chief Secretary called for exploring alternative cooking energy options for people residing in remote and far-flung areas who continue to depend on conventional fuel sources. He also stressed the importance of expediting efforts towards

formulation and implementation of the Renewable Energy (RE) Policy and promotion of Compressed Biogas (CBG) initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.

Reviewing the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), the Chief Secretary urged the council to devise a focused and actionable strategy in collaboration with institutions such as the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) for promoting food processing,

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Monika Dhama assumes Principal Commissioner IT role in Srinagar

PIB

Srinagar, Jun 01: Monika Dhama assumed the Charge of Principal Commissioner of Income Tax on Monday in Srinagar. An officer of 2001 batch of Indian Revenue Service, she has served in important and diverse positions including policy making position at Department of Economic Affairs, corporate and salary assessment charges within the Income Tax department and a distinguished tenure as the lead trainer of newly inducted civil servants at LBSNAA, the Apex training Academy for Civil Services.

In the existing organisational pecking order, Dhama is the highest ranked Officer of Income Tax Department in the region that covers large jurisdictional expanse of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh.

She has been posted at Srinagar by the Government of India strategically to work closely with all stakeholders, including taxpayers, tax professionals, trade and industry bodies, to further strengthen a fair, transparent, and taxpayer-friendly tax administration in the Region.

Dhama was formally welcomed by the officers and the officials of the department at Srinagar and in her first interaction, she underscored the importance of the significant and the latest transformations in the department including the use of technology in enforcement of law, faceless processes, and ease of compliance.

She also reiterated the department's focus on Voluntary compliance that remains the cornerstone of the tax system, and encouraged the officers to work towards strengthening the culture of trust and cooperation between taxpayers and the Department.

Dhama emphasized that special attention will be given to grievance redressals, taxpayer outreach programmes, awareness initiatives, and stakeholder consultations so that concerns and problems faced by the public are adequately and expeditiously addressed.

An alumini of London school of economics Ms. Monika Dhama holds a Masters degree in Public Policy and across her bureaucratic career has been a strong votary for preservation of local cultural spaces. Having held the important position as Additional Director General Training, Directorate of Training, New Delhi, Ms. Monika Dhama has also promised to focus on the skill development of the staff in order to enable their professional and personal growth in the dynamic atmosphere of public services.

'Sheruwali' operation enters 10th day in Rajouri

YOGESH

Jammu, Jun 01: Security forces' massive joint search operation 'Sheruwali' to trace terrorists in Jammu's Rajouri district continued for 10th running day today.

An official said that intensive efforts are underway to track terrorist hideouts and strengthen security in the dense forest region.

The operation is being carried out by the Indian Army in coordination with other security agencies, with surveillance and anti-terror measures continuing in the sensitive border belt, officials said, as quoted by White Knight Corps X. Amid the ongoing operation, a senior Army commander visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) to review the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness, officials said on Monday.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

IG Kashmir VK Birdi set to proceed on central deputation

Appointed as IG, CRPF

KNO

Srinagar, Jun 01: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir zone, VK Birdi is set to proceed on central deputation.

According to Ministry of Home Affairs, the competent authority has approved the appointment of Vidhi Kumar Birdi as Inspector General, Central Reserve Police Force.

"The undersigned is directed to refer to the subject mentioned above and to convey approval of the Competent Authority for appointment of Shri

Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IPS (AGMUT:2003) as Inspector General (Level-14 in the pay matrix) in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) against existing vacancy, as per usual terms and conditions of central deputation," reads office memorandum of MHA, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

As per the MHA's office memorandum, Birdi may be relieved immediately to enable him to take up his new assignment at the Centre—(KNO)



NOTICE

This is to inform general public that in Aadhaar Card of my Son bearing No.5314 3048 7368, his name has been mistakenly mentioned as Hifzul Amaan. Now, I want to apply for Change of his name from Hifzula Amaan to Muhammad Amaan Khan.

If anybody have any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within seven (07) days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Shafat Ahmad Khan
F/O Muhammad Amaan Khan
R/o Dawood Colony Soura
Srinagar, J&K
Pin code 190011.

EDITORIAL

Kashmir Is Witnessing A Literary Awakening

The third edition of the Kashmir Literature Festival has concluded, but its echoes should not fade quickly. In a region often reduced to headlines of conflict and politics, the festival offered something far more valuable: a space for ideas, dialogue, and creative expression. The growing participation and larger turnout this year are proof that Kashmir is hungry for literature, for intellectual engagement, and for platforms that celebrate its rich cultural heritage beyond the usual narratives.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, while inaugurating the festival, said that writers shape societies more than institutions do. He is right. A single novel can influence generations. A poem can capture pain that political speeches cannot. A book can preserve a language and a way of life. The Kashmir Literature Festival is doing precisely this. It is bringing together retired diplomats, military veterans, academics, poets, and students under one roof to discuss not just literature but history, education,

geopolitics, and the future of this region. The sessions on books drew an enthusiastic response, proving that regional literature still has a deeply engaged readership. Musical performances added cultural flavour, reminding everyone that art and literature are inseparable. What makes this festival significant is not just the presence of big names but the growing number of young people attending. Students, aspiring writers, and literature lovers are showing up. They are listening. They

are asking questions. They are taking books home. This is how a literary culture is built. Not through government orders, but through sustained community engagement. However, one festival a year is not enough. Kashmir needs more such initiatives. Schools must organise regular literary weeks. Colleges should host poetry recitations and book discussions. Libraries need to be revived and modernised. Publishers should be encouraged to bring out works in Kashmiri, Urdu, Dogri, and other local

languages. The government and private organisations must work together to create a year-round calendar of literary events. The Kashmir Literature Festival has shown that the appetite for ideas exists. Now, the challenge is to feed it regularly. Let this festival not remain an annual event alone. Let it inspire a movement. Let every district, every college, and every reader become a part of Kashmir's literary awakening. The pen is mightier than the sword. It is time Kashmir wielded it with pride.

37 Statutory Bodies Stand Between India's Exporters And Buyers. Dismantle Them

To hit aggressive \$2 trillion trade targets, India needs to dismantle outdated trade councils and trust raw market competition.

Sudhanshu Neema and Madhav Chadha

A few days ago, Japan banned Indian mangoes for the first time in 20 years. Since 2010, the European Commission has maintained a continuous emergency measure on every shipment of Indian aquaculture products. According to Commission Decision 2010/381/EU, every Indian seafood product must be tested before leaving port in India, and EU member states must then retest 50 per cent of arriving consignments. Even with this double screening in place, the Commission's 2018 audit and subsequent rapid alerts flagged the presence of banned antibiotic residues. Across the Atlantic, the United States Food and Drug Administration's import-refusal records show more than 25,000 rejected Indian consignments over the past decade. For a country that markets itself as the next factory of the world, these numbers are a humiliating revelation.

India has still set a target of \$2 trillion in total exports by 2030-31, up from \$860 billion in FY 2025-26. Meeting that target requires a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of more than 18 per cent over the next five years. Last year, India managed 4.22 per cent. Over the past 13 years, the CAGR for merchandise and services exports combined has averaged 4.85 per cent. Some of last year's underperformance can be attributed to US tariffs and turmoil in the Middle East, but that would not explain the long-term trend.

How can this be? India has 37 statutory and quasi-statutory bodies whose stated purpose is to promote exports. Fourteen export promotion councils sit under the Department of Commerce, covering engineering, gems and jewellery, leather, pharmaceuticals, textiles, plastics, chemicals, services, project exports, sports goods, handicrafts, oilseeds, silk, and apparel. Five commodity boards govern tea, coffee, rubber, tobacco, and spices. Statutory authorities oversee marine products (MPEDA), agricultural and processed foods (APEDA) and coir. The Export Inspection Council (EIC) handles the formidable task of inspecting goods before they leave Indian ports. With decades of promotion, India



should have become an export powerhouse before countries like China.

An illusion of 'promotion' The pitch is appealing for export promotion entities—they develop markets, certify quality, help small exporters reach global buyers, and protect India's international reputation. In practice, however, these bodies often add mandatory layers of registration, licensing, inspection, and fees that every exporter must bear before a single container leaves the country's shores. The time and cost burdens of these requirements fall most heavily on smaller firms exploring new markets, pricing them out before they have sold a single unit abroad.

Before a marine exporter ships a single container of shrimp, the paperwork takes months. First, an Import-Export Code from DGFT, then register at the customs port for an AD Code, and apply for ICEGATE access. After that, apply separately to the Marine Products Export Development Authority for the Registration cum Membership Certificate

and exporter status (MT/ME/RTME). Register each processing plant, cold store, handling facility, and conveyance with MPEDA individually; each may require an inspection. Get EIA approval from the Export Inspection Council and secure an FSSAI license. The process is not over yet; registration of every farm, hatchery, and breeding centre must be completed with the Coastal Aquaculture Authority. Every registration is a separate queue, a separate fee, a separate process, and none of them coordinate or share data with the others.

These prerequisites are in addition to other general licensing and formal requirements, such as having a registered firm, PAN, GST, and licences under the Shops and Establishments Acts, as well as other mandatory documentation for some processes, such as a worker hygiene & sanitation plan for aqua farms or cold storage units. These bodies impose real costs on exporters that compound India's already significant competitiveness disadvantage.

India's exporters face higher costs, longer dwell times at ports, and additional mandatory documentation due to a complex web of compliance requirements. This effectively makes Indian firms less competitive and efficient than those in competing nations such as Ecuador, Vietnam, and Indonesia. The mandatory registration and inspection regimes of MPEDA, APEDA, and EIC function less as quality guarantees and more as barriers to entry in international markets that protect incumbents and generate revenue, without improving actual export outcomes.

What about quality and national reputation?

Defenders of the export-control architecture justify such competing and contradictory bodies as necessary for the national reputation. Proponents of this claim argue that a cadre of experts is needed to safeguard the quality of "Made in India." But the EU emergency measure that has run uninterrupted for 15 years, and 25,000+ FDA refusals speak for themselves.

Despite 37 dedicated bodies, the reputation of Indian goods has not improved. What it has done instead is make Indian exporters unreliable partners. Buyers never know which documents will expire, which licences will not be renewed, or whether the product will clear the Indian port at all, leading them to explore other more reliable supply chains.

The quality of Chinese goods was shoddy two decades ago, and the term "Chinese" was used as a synonym for poor-quality products in India. Solar panels, consumer electronics, and auto components that were unreliable in 2005 now dominate the global markets. Export councils did not deliver that upgrade; it came from relentless competition, exposure to demanding global buyers, and the disciplining force of market feedback mechanisms—subpar goods do not get repeat orders.

Quality is a by-product of competitive pressure and learning, not of councils that could improve it by inspecting and licensing. India's promotion bodies have done a great disservice to exporters; they have insulated Indian businesses from the feedback loops

that would force genuine improvement over time and make us more competitive.

Stop 'promotion' to export more The way forward is not another reform committee, a new portal, or a digitised version of the same licences and registrations. India must eliminate all "promotional" bodies that impose any additional cost on exporters. At best, these bodies should become voluntary, member-funded industry associations with no regulatory oversight or authority to delay shipments.

The mandatory certification must be replaced with a voluntary third-party conformity assessment. There is no denying that some country-specific imports require quality certification; the exporter could obtain it from an NABL-accredited laboratory and share the results directly. India is already a full member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and other instruments that allow for such mutual recognition. A laboratory report of product quality from an accredited lab in India is accepted in 100+ countries without involving promotional entities. The infrastructure for a credible, market-driven quality signalling already exists, but is bypassed by a system that insists on inspecting and certifying every container.

The taxpayer-funded "promotion" in the form of trade fairs, brochures, market development funds, and gatekeeping done by 37 entities must stop if the government is serious about the \$2 trillion annual exports goal. Indian exporters do not need the government to introduce them to foreign buyers in the 21st century. They need the government to get out of the way so they can access markets, learn, improve, and become internationally competitive.

We must remember that a good product does not require a dedicated body to promote it—it sells.

Sudhanshu Neema is a Delhi-based lawyer and economist. Madhav Chadha, an alumnus of Ashoka University, is a policy research analyst at a prominent Delhi-based think tank. Courtesy: The Print

How To Deal With Disappointment – By An Expert In This Misunderstood Emotion

Annette Clancy

When disappointment strikes, is your instinct to try to shake it off, forget about it and move on? My research and experience of many workplaces suggests this might be exactly the wrong response.

My interest in the science of disappointment began more than 15 years ago as a workplace consultant. I was struck by how often clients described episodes that left them feeling disappointed as deeply personal and unsettling experiences – and by how little research there was to help me respond meaningfully. That prompted me to do a PhD on the subject.

Disappointment often reflects a gap between expectation and reality. It can involve grieving a future we had already begun to live in our minds.

My subsequent research with colleagues revealed a telling pattern. In the workplace, disappointment is frequently generated at a systemic level by unrealistic targets – yet lands on individuals as a sense of personal failure.

In many walks of life, it is commonly dismissed as an unwanted and unhelpful emotion. But our research tells a different story. Disappointment can be an important

fuel for creativity. It surfaces what we truly desire, clarifies what matters to us, and points us toward what we are not yet willing to accept.

Whether in our professional or personal lives, disappointment is a signal worth learning to read. Here are some ideas for when you next come up against it.

1. Don't get ahead of yourself When we are waiting on a significant decision – a job offer, test result or relationship turning point – our emotional response is prepared long before the answer arrives. The same outcome can feel entirely different depending on what we anticipated would happen. The wider the gap between expectation and reality, the greater the disappointment.

2. Beware the success trap In the workplace, severe disappointment in not getting a job or missing out on a promotion can stem from the loss of a working future we had already begun to imagine. If that future does not materialise, we grieve it – even if it never fully existed.

3. Success can quietly raise the bar for future failure. One of our respondents illustrated this dynamic neatly. Exceed your work target by 10% one year, they observed, and your

manager is unlikely to reward you with a lighter load the next. Rather, the target is raised again, making falling short more likely – and the disappointment more acute because of your past success.

The same pattern can play out in social situations. Think of a friend who often picks up the bill. Over time, a generous gesture becomes expected behaviour. Then, on the one occasion they don't pay, this becomes a moment of disappointment that people notice and remember. That disappointment is not proportionate to what actually happened, but to the gap with what was expected.

Disappointed Bayern Munich fans after their team was knocked out of the Champions League by Paris Saint-Germain.

Disappointed Bayern Munich fans after their team was knocked out of the Champions League by Paris Saint-Germain. Moritz Müller/Alamy

3. Try not to blame yourself (or anyone else) People rarely experience disappointment in a neutral way. Rather, they tend to interpret it through one of two familiar patterns.

The first is internal: "I am the problem." This assumes they did not try

hard enough or were simply not good enough. Disappointment is treated as a sign they are a flawed or bad person.

The second interpretation is external. The fault is with others who did not recognise the person's value and did not live up to expectations. The instinct is to blame and get angry with them.

Our research on disappointment in organisations shows both responses miss the point. Blaming ourselves or others can be a way of avoiding something harder to confront: that expectations are unrealistic or based on inaccurate assumptions.

4. The Ikea effect Environments shape expectations. In workplaces, many people are encouraged to aim high and improve continuously. Organisations often promote ideals of progress, achievement and fulfilment.

These ideals can be motivating, but they can also create a perfect scenario that reality struggles to match. From this perspective, disappointment can be a structural feature of systems that rely on high expectations and idealised outcomes.

But there's a personal aspect too. Research on what psychologists call "the Ikea effect" shows the more effort we invest in something, the

more we value it – rather like a flat-pack piece of furniture that we have built ourselves. At work, we routinely pour time, energy and identity into projects, roles and relationships. So, when things don't go as hoped, we are losing something very personal.

And because failure at work is often witnessed by colleagues and managers, the stakes feel higher. The loss can become entangled with how others see us, and how we see ourselves.

Left unexamined, such feelings can calcify into something more damaging than the original disappointment: a diminished appetite for risk, a reluctance to invest fully in what comes next, and a growing suspicion that doing so is simply not worth it.

5. Be realistic, not idealistic Moving from trying to eliminate disappointment to tolerating it can make it less destabilising and more informative. As a manager, this might mean developing the habit of noting, at the outset of a project, what a realistic rather than an ideal result would look like.

Similar patterns can appear in relationships too, where expecting things to feel perfect all the time can make an otherwise good relationship seem lacking. Research consistently shows that

naming difficult emotions reduces their intensity, and that workplaces where disappointment can be discussed honestly tend to be psychologically safer, more creative and better at learning from setbacks than those where such feelings are expected to be quietly moved past.

6. Accept disappointment, don't dismiss it

Disappointment is uncomfortable because it confronts us with limits: to what we can control, to what organisations can deliver, or to what relationships can provide. An understandable instinct is to try to move past this quickly.

But a more constructive approach is to reflect on where our expectations come from, how they are formed, and whether they can be moderated in ways that benefit us. If disappointment is a signal that our expectations and reality are out of alignment, then understanding this may be one of the most important forms of resilience we can develop.

Annette Clancy is Assistant Professor of Management, School of Art History & Cultural Policy, University College Dublin. Courtesy: The Conversation

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

SANJY 2026

Div Com, IGP review arrangements at Bhagwati Nagar, Tawi River Front & Railway Station

KT News Desk

JAMMU, JUNE 01: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti on Monday chaired a meeting with HODs and nodal officers at Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas to review arrangements and preparations for annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026.

MD JPDCL, DIG JSK Range, DIG Traffic Jammu Zone, Commissioner JMC Jammu, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, ADC Jammu, MD JKRTC, Director Tourism, SSP Jammu, SSP Security, SSP Traffic, Director Health, Chief Engineers of executive Agencies, Joint Director Information, RTO Jammu and other officers attended the meeting.

The Divisional Commissioner, as per an official statement, took stock of the ongoing preparations and works undertaken by different departments to provide a convenient and hassle-free



stay to the pilgrims at the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas before they depart to Baltal and Pahalgam base camps.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed repair and renovation works targeted to be completed by June 15. He directed stakeholder departments to install additional water coolers, backup generator sets, German hangars and water taps in langar areas. He further called for

augmentation of Cloak room facility, sanitation and illumination within the premises, besides ensuring availability of doctors, ambulances and sufficient stock of medicines at the base camp. The accommodation for security personnel was also reviewed.

He also called for preparing a duty roster for officials of line departments who shall remain available at the Yatri Niwas Control Room for providing immediate

services, whenever needed.

It was informed that this year the Token Centre for on-spot registration and RFID shall be established at Tawi River Front, relieving the traffic and crowd issues at Railway Station. To facilitate smooth registration, the Divisional Commissioner directed for making adequate arrangements of drinking water, German hangars, barricading for queue management and Toilet facilities at the Tawi River front. He also directed for providing vehicles to ferry the pilgrims between Tawi Riverfront and the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas.

Further directions were issued for installing Display Boards and Signages to guide pilgrims about the direction and distance to the tourist attraction places within and around Jammu City. Provision of hourly Bus service on the identified routes is also being made to facilitate pilgrims wishing to visit tourist spots and go for sightseeing.

The IGP Jammu directed the concerned officers for making proper arrangements for paramilitary companies. He called for seamless coordination between the security forces and administration for timely completion of all the necessary preparations for smooth conduct of SANJY 2026.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner and IGP visited Tawi River Front and Railway Station. The Div Com asked Director Health Services to set up a 5-bed medical facility at Tawi riverfront. He further called for formulating a plan for parking of vehicles bringing the pilgrims. A separate Nodal Officer shall be designated for Tawi River Front Token Centre, he informed.

Directions were also issued for formulating a meticulous traffic regulation plan and beautification of the entire Jammu city to give it a vibrant and festive look during the period of Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026.

Tanvir Sadiq reviews arrangements for Annual Urs of Hazrat Khawaja Habibullah Nowshehri Hubbi (RA)

KT News Desk

Srinagar, 01 June: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq Monday paid obeisance at the revered shrine of Hazrat Khawaja Habibullah Nowshehri Hubbi (RA) in Nowshehri and reviewed the arrangements being put in place for the annual Urs, which will be observed on Friday later this week.

During the visit, Sadiq, as per a party statement was accompanied by senior officers from various departments, including Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Roads and Buildings (R&B), Public Health Engineering (PHE), Urban

Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), City Drainage, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), and the Health Department.

Taking stock of the preparations, Sadiq directed all concerned departments, shrine management authorities, and Waqf officials to work in close coordination to ensure seamless arrangements for the devotees expected to participate in the Urs observance.

He stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness, ensuring uninterrupted water and power supply, proper sanitation, adequate healthcare facilities, traffic management, and availability of essential commodities during the religious occasion.

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

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 1: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Monday chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of Mandis and Kissan Ghars established within and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

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

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

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

Reviewing the functioning of agricultural mandis, Javid Dar instructed the officials to conduct a thorough verification of shop allotments to ensure that the allottees are utilizing the premises strictly in accordance with the prescribed norms and guidelines. He stressed that any misuse of public assets or deviation from the intended purpose of allotments must be identified and addressed promptly.



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

Calling for protection and optimal utilization of public assets, Javid Dar directed the concerned departments to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to safeguard the government properties and ensure that these assets are used for welfare of the farming community. He also sought a comprehensive and long-term plan for decongestion and modernization of the Sopore Fruit Mandi, aimed at improving the operational efficiency, streamlining trade activities and creating better facilities for the growers and traders.

The Minister underscored the need for coordinated efforts among all the stakeholder departments to strengthen the agricultural marketing infrastructure and create a robust ecosystem that supports the farmers from production to marketing.

Among others present in the meeting were Director Horticulture (Planning & Marketing), Jammu and Kashmir, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, Managing Director, J&K Horticultural Produce

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

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: The School Education Department, government of Jammu and Kashmir has rebutted the news item titled "MoE released only 20% Samagra grants to SED" published in Greater Kashmir dated 30th May, 2026.

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

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

As per Government of India norms, the Ministry of Education releases funds in phased instalments based on utilisation certificates, expenditure pattern, available balances and compliance. During 2025-26, the MoE, GoI released Rs. 1102.00 crore to J&K under Samagra Shiksha. The released funds have been utilised in full with 100% achievement of targets. Therefore, comparing the total approved outlay with the first instalment released during the year does not reflect the complete financial position.

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

Vocational Education and Civil Works and Infrastructure Development.

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

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

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

The School Education Department reiterated its commitment to the effective implementation of all components under Samagra Shiksha as per the approved plan with full financial prudence and efficiency. It clarified that the progress of educational initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir has not been hampered due to any funding constraints.

Govt creating new opportunities in tourism despite challenges: Satish Sharma

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 1: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Monday highlighted the immense opportunities being created by the government in the tourism sector, stating that Jammu and Kashmir continues to emerge as a promising destination for investment, entrepreneurship and employment despite facing geographical and climatic challenges.

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

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

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



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

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

"The resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the proactive policies of the government are together creating an ecosystem where investment, innovation and tourism can flourish. Our objective is not only to increase the tourist

footfall but also to ensure that the benefits of tourism reach every section of society," he said.

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

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

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

Speaker convenes meeting with Assembly Committee Chairmen, emphasizes accountability, strict discipline

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Monday convened a high-level meeting with the Chairmen of various Assembly Committees to apprise them of their functions and outline their core responsibilities for ensuring robust governance.

Surjeet Singh Slathia, (Chairman Committee on Public Accounts), Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi (Chairman, Committee on Estimates), Mir Saifullah (Chairman, Committee on Public Undertakings), Ali Mohammad Sagar (Chairman, Committee on Government Assurances), Nizam-ud-din Bhat (Chairman, Ethics Committee), Justice

Retd. Hasnain Masoodi (Chairman, Committee on Privileges), Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (Chairman, Committee on Subordinate Legislation) and Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah (Chairman, Committee on Petitions) were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Speaker, as per an official statement, underscored the pivotal role of Assembly Committees in enforcing the executive accountability. He emphasized that this is achieved through rigorous, detailed and non-partisan scrutiny of government policies, public expenditure and proposed legislation.

To streamline the operations and enhance the efficiency of parliamentary oversight, the Speaker issued several key



directives aimed at ensuring accountability of the executive.

The Speaker took a firm stance on absenteeism, stating that the members must not absent themselves consecutively from two or more sittings of a Committee. Any such unauthorized absence will be dealt with strictly in accordance

with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly.

He said that a minimum gap of 15 days shall be maintained between two consecutive meetings in order to provide adequate time to the Assembly Secretariat as well as the concerned government departments to efficiently

process, prepare and furnish the agenda items, reply thereto and related materials for the meetings.

To ensure thorough scrutiny, the Speaker stressed that only one government department be taken up for examination during a single sitting by any particular Committee. Besides,

Committee deliberations must remain strictly confined to the scheduled agenda points to ensure focused and productive outcomes, he added.

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

The Speaker asserted that a Circular should be issued by the General Administration Department to all the departments with regard to implementation of the recommendations/Observations contained in the reports laid on the

table of the House from time to time impressing upon them to strictly adhere to the Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in J&K Legislative Assembly. He added that the agenda work load shall be provided by CAG.

The Speaker concluded the meeting by urging all the Chairmen to lead their respective committees with dedication, ensuring that the legislative oversight mechanism remains a powerful instrument for public welfare and transparent governance.

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Secretary GAD M. Raju, Secretary JKLA Manoj Pandita along with senior officers from Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs and Assembly Secretariat.

4 drug peddlers arrested, contraband substances seized: Police

KNO

Srinagar, Jun 01: In a continued effort to curb the menace of drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police achieved a significant success by apprehending 04 drug peddlers in Baramulla and Handwara and recovering contraband substances from their possession.

According to a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a police party during naka checking operation conducted at Babreshi Crossing intercepted a Scooty bearing registration number JK15C-1139. During search, 17 grams of Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. The accused identified as Shahid Ahmad Lone son of Nazir Ahmad Lone resident of Bathipora Naidkhai, Sumbal. Similarly, a police party of Police Station Baramulla intercepted two suspicious individuals at Jani Chowk, Khawajabagh. Upon search, 487.5 grams of opium pods were recovered from their possession. The accused have been identified as Amandeep Singh, son of Amarjeet Singh resident of Khawajabagh, Baramulla, and Muzain Tanveer son of Tanveer Ahmad Hajam, resident of Khawajabagh, Baramulla.

In Handwara, police apprehended a drug peddler during naka operation at Waskoora Crossing area falling within the jurisdiction of Police Station Handwara. During the subsequent personal search, officers recovered Spasmo-Proxyvon Plus contraband substance from his possession, exposing his involvement in illegal narcotics trafficking. The accused has been identified as Aijaz Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Ramzan Bhat resident of Kralgund Handwara.

All the accused were arrested and shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigation has been set into motion to unearth further links in the narcotics network.

Secretary RDD & PR reviews sanitation preparedness for SANJY-2026

Emphasises clean, safe and dignified pilgrimage experience for Yatris

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 01: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Monday reviewed sanitation infrastructure and waste management arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026 at a high-level meeting attended by senior officers from the concerned departments and district administrations.

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

Officials informed that the Directorate of Rural Sanitation is deploying 5,618 sanitation units, including 4,707 toilets and 911 baths, while district administrations will install an additional 723 toilets, taking the total sanitation infrastructure to 6,341 units.

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



service.

He added the objective is to make the Amarnath Yatra a "Swachh Yatra" by ensuring clean routes, hygienic sanitation facilities, and efficient

waste management systems for pilgrims.

The Secretary directed executing agencies to expedite ongoing works and ensure that all facilities are fully operational

well before the commencement of the Yatra. He also emphasized timely mobilization and verification of the sanitation staff being deployed for sanitation operations, maintenance, cleaning and waste management.

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

The Secretary also directed designated Nodal Officers to closely monitor infrastructure deployment and promptly address any bottlenecks. Highlighting environmental concerns, he called for scientific disposal of animal carcasses, proper management of mule dung and biomedical waste, and advance placement of sanitation equipment, including at the Holy Cave area.

Emphasizing workforce welfare, he directed executing agencies to ensure timely provision of food, adequate clothing and medical assistance to sanitation workers operating in challenging terrain and weather conditions, noting that their well-being is critical to the success of sanitation operations.

Three chargesheeted in Srinagar land fraud case

KNO

Srinagar, Jun 01: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of the Crime Branch J&K has filed a chargesheet before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar in connection with a land fraud case involving the alleged sale of the same parcel of land to multiple buyers through separate registered sale deeds.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said the chargesheet in FIR No. 03/2024 under Sections 420, 468, 167 and 120-B RPC was filed against three accused persons for their alleged involvement in the fraud.

He said the case pertains to the fraudulent sale of a parcel of land located at Khushipora, HMT Srinagar, to multiple purchasers through separate sale deeds.

"Investigation revealed that accused Mehraj-ud-Din Khanday, son of Ghulam Ahmad Khanday, and Shabir Ahmad Khanday, son of Ghulam Ahmad Khanday, both residents of Khushipora Abanshah, Srinagar, in connivance with the then Patwari (now deceased), had allegedly executed multiple sale deeds for the same piece of land," the spokesperson said.

He said the accused used fabricated and manipulated revenue records to deceive purchasers and secure unlawful gains.

Upon completion of the investigation, the chargesheet was presented before the court for judicial determination, officials said.

"The Crime Branch advised the general public to remain vigilant against economic fraudsters and report such incidents directly to SSP EOW Srinagar, Abdul Waheed Shah. Victims of economic fraud can also submit complaints through the official channels of the Crime Branch," the spokesperson added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Narco terrorists

from the path of progress," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that for many years Jammu Kashmir endured attacks on the society by narco-terrorists. "Under the leadership of PM Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Nasha-Mukt Bharat Initiative launched in 2020 marked the turning point," he added.

"This campaign (Nasha Mukt J&K) belongs to the people. Parents, teachers, religious leaders and young volunteers have stood shoulder to shoulder with the administration. The road ahead is long. The fight against drugs will take sustained effort, constant alertness and unity. We must remain steadfast. We must encourage our young people, protect our families and strengthen our communities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

I STAND BEFORE YOU AS A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY

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

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

IN 51 DAYS WE CARRIED COORDINATED OPERATIONS

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

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

WILL ENSURE YOUTH ARE FREED FROM GRIP OF ADDICTION

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

The Lieutenant Governor said rehabilitation infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir would be expanded and assured that modern de-addiction and rehabilitation centres would be established in every district at the earliest. "The rehabilitation centres have to be expanded and the best facilities must be made available in every district as soon as possible," he said.

LG Sinha said the administration has framed a rehabilitation policy after consultations with experts from across the country to ensure proper treatment, emotional support and social reintegration for recovering addicts.

"In order to save the lives of those affected

by addiction, both emotional and material support are necessary and every possible effort has to be made," he said. (KNO)

CM Omar seeks

pilgrims and their families, especially as it affects long-standing religious and social traditions associated with Hajj.

The Chief Minister further stated that pilgrims usually distribute Zamzam water, dates and other religious offerings among relatives, neighbours and well-wishers immediately upon returning home, and the delay in baggage delivery has disrupted these practices.

"In view of the above, I seek your kind intervention for transportation of baggage of the Haj pilgrims returning to J&K safely and concurrently with the pilgrims on the same flights," Omar Abdullah said in the letter.

He added that timely and secure transportation of baggage would help avoid hardships being faced by the pilgrims and preserve the sanctity of items carrying religious and sentimental value.

The Chief Minister also sought early and favourable consideration of the matter from the Union Civil Aviation Minister.

Earlier, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) had clarified that the baggage restrictions were necessitated due to runway maintenance and operational limitations at Srinagar Airport.

The Ministry had stated that owing to a NOTAM and temporary runway length restrictions at Srinagar Airport, return Haj flights operated by Akasa Airlines for Srinagar were being routed via Ahmedabad.

Under the arrangement, pilgrims are being allowed to carry up to 35 kilograms of check-in baggage up to Ahmedabad, while only 5 kilograms of check-in baggage per pilgrim is permitted onboard on the Ahmedabad-Srinagar sector. The remaining baggage is being transported separately by road to Srinagar. (KNO)

MoMA clarifies:

stated that to avoid disruption to Haj flight schedules and minimise inconvenience to pilgrims, return Haj flights operated by Akasa Airlines for the Srinagar embarkation point have been routed via Ahmedabad.

Under the arrangement, pilgrims will be permitted to carry up to 35 kilograms of check-in baggage up to Ahmedabad. However, on the Ahmedabad-Srinagar sector, only 5 kilograms of check-in baggage per pilgrim will be allowed onboard, while the remaining 30 kilograms will be transported separately by road to Srinagar. The cabin baggage allowance will remain unchanged.

"These arrangements have been necessitated solely by airport operational constraints and aviation safety requirements," the Ministry said, adding that the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Haj Committee of India, and J&K Haj Committee are coordinating with all stakeholders to ensure the safe and smooth return of pilgrims.

The clarification comes days after several Haj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir expressed concern over the reduced baggage allowance and the separate transportation of luggage from Ahmedabad to Srinagar.

Earlier, J&K Haj Committee Chief Executive Officer Dr. Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi had told KNO that the restrictions were linked to the runway maintenance work at Srinagar Airport and the NOTAM issued for the period from April to October.

He said that while pilgrims are normally entitled to 40 kilograms of check-in baggage and 7 kilograms of hand baggage, operational constraints this year forced airlines to reduce load capacity on Srinagar-bound flights.

Dr. Qureshi also assured that the remaining luggage of pilgrims would be transported

safely to Kashmir within a few days, while Zamzam water had already reached Srinagar for distribution at the airport. (KNO)

First batch of Hajj

& Kashmir performed Hajj this year, including 2,583 males and 2,058 females.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.67 lakh households

self-enumeration under Census 2027.

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

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

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

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

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

Uninterrupted LPG,

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

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

He urged the district administrations to intensify awareness generation among farmers regarding the 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan', a flagship initiative aimed at reducing excessive

dependence on nitrogen-based fertilizers such as urea and encouraging the use of balanced NPK fertilizers containing nutrients in appropriate proportions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Can J&K, Ladakh's

Electricity Plan (NEP).

Pertinently, KNO has reported that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to face a four percent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) increase in electricity requirement and six percent increase in peak electricity demand for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36.

The official documents in this regard reveal that it has considered electrical energy requirement projections as per J&K State Load Dispatch Center (SLDC).

The documents further reveal that the SLDC has projected that the annual electrical energy requirement of the UT is likely to grow at a CAGR of 4 percent while the peak electricity demand for the utility is likely to grow at a CAGR of 6 percent for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36.

In April this news agency reported that Jammu and Kashmir has indicated that a power load requirement of up to 7 Gigawatts (GWs) by the coming five years needs to be considered in the winter season—signaling major infrastructure upgrades to avoid seasonal blackouts.

However, the officials have conservatively trimmed the load requirement to 5 GW by the financial year 2029-30. (KNO)

Boy drowns in

The deceased was later identified as Nazil Shakeel Bhat, son of Shakeel Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Nowhatta area of Srinagar.

Meanwhile, cognizance of the incident has been taken up. (KNO)

Repeated hailstorms

increasingly risky occupation due to recurring weather disasters. Orchardists are suffering huge losses every year, yet there is no effective safety net to protect them from financial ruin," the Union said in a statement.

The growers' body warned that if timely relief measures are not introduced, the consequences could extend beyond individual farmers and impact the Valley's broader rural economy. "Thousands of families are struggling to recover from successive crop losses. The situation demands urgent attention before it develops into a larger economic crisis," it added.

Horticulture remains one of the most important sectors of Jammu and Kashmir's economy. The sector contributes nearly eight per cent to the Union Territory's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and directly or indirectly supports around 7.5 lakh families. It also serves as a major source of employment for rural youth and sustains a vast network of traders, transporters, labourers and allied industries.

In view of the repeated destruction caused by hailstorms and strong winds, the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers-cum-Dealers Union has appealed to the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister to take immediate measures to safeguard the interests of growers.

Among its key demands, the Union has sought the declaration of the recurring hailstorm incidents as a national disaster, immediate implementation of a comprehensive crop insurance scheme for the horticulture sector, and the reintroduction of the Market Intervention Scheme to protect growers from market fluctuations and crop losses.

The growers have also demanded a reasonable compensation package for orchard owners affected by the devastating hailstorms during April and May this year. Additionally, they have sought free distribution of hail-protection nets to orchardists and waiver of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans taken by economically distressed fruit growers.

Growers say that immediate government intervention is essential to protect one of the region's most vital economic sectors and prevent further hardship for thousands of farming families already grappling with repeated losses. (KNO)

India, Australia underscore maritime freedom and supply chain security in high-level talks

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 1: India and Australia on Monday underscored the importance of freedom of navigation, overflight and unimpeded maritime trade amid disruptions in energy supply chains following the West Asia crisis as well as concerns over China's increasing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific.

These issues figured prominently during wide-ranging talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles in New Delhi.

The two ministers affirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation with regional partners to help maintain a free, open, peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific while emphasising the strategic importance of defence industrial collaboration and engagement between India and Australia.

Following the talks, Singh and Marles announced that the two countries would begin developing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the provision of defence articles and defence services as the next step in deepening defence industrial collaboration.

"The ministers discussed advancements in bilateral maritime security cooperation and efforts to finalise the Joint Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap," a joint statement said. It said Singh and Marles agreed



to progress the collaborative maritime domain awareness activities by maritime patrol aircraft and explore opportunities to enhance undersea domain awareness.

"The ministers affirmed the importance of enhancing cooperation with regional partners to help maintain a free, open, peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific," according to the statement.

"The ministers underscored the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight, and their strong support for unimpeded trade in the region and other lawful uses of the sea consistent with international law, particularly the 1982 United

Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)," it said.

Singh and Marles also underlined the strategic importance of India-Australia defence industrial collaboration and engagement and welcomed Canberra's first defence trade mission to India.

They agreed to explore further exchanges, including through the Joint Working Group on Defence Industry, Research, and Materiel.

The two ministers welcomed the growing strategic convergence between Australia, India, Japan and the United States in the Indo-Pacific and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing collaboration on maritime domain awareness to increase

interoperability among the partners.

Singh and Marles expressed strong support for the Quad Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC) initiative, to be implemented initially in the Indian Ocean Region as well as through subject matter expert exchanges and tabletop exercises.

In a social media post, Singh described his meeting with Marles as "excellent". "Together we reviewed the full range of bilateral defence cooperation and discussed ways and means to enhance it further. The India-Australia Defence Partnership is poised to make steady progress in the years to come,"

PM Modi holds talks with Myanmar President Aung Hlaing

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held wide-ranging talks with Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing focusing on boosting bilateral cooperation in trade, connectivity, border security and defence.

Aung Hlaing is currently on a five-day trip to India. The visit comes less than two months after he became the president following Myanmar's parliament elections.

The elections were held in December and January after years of protests against the ruling military-junta that seized power in a coup on February 1, 2021 overthrowing the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Deepening the bonds of friendship and cooperation, PM @narendramodi greets President U Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar upon his arrival at the Hyderabad House for bilateral talks," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on social media.

Myanmar is one of India's strategic neighbours and it shares a 1,640-km-long border



with a number of northeastern states including militancy-hit Nagaland and Manipur.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Sunday met Aung Hlaing and discussed key issues relating to bilateral ties.

The Myanmar leader is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising several cabinet ministers, senior

officials and business leaders.

Aung Hlaing was earlier scheduled to visit New Delhi to participate in the International Big Cat Alliance Summit on June 1, which has been deferred.

The Myanmar leader will also travel to Mumbai on June 2 for business and industry interactions and site visits.

SC refuses to accept plea to conduct NEET-UG retest in CBT mode



PTI

New Delhi, Jun 1: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to accept a plea seeking the conduct of the NEET-UG 2026 re-test on June 21 in computer-based test mode, saying the National Testing Agency is already faced with too many problems.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Arvind Kumar, which posted the plea by RJD MP Sudhakar Singh and others for hearing on July 27, refused to order the conduct of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET-UG, in computer-based test (CBT) mode instead of the existing pen-and-paper method.

On May 12, the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the NEET-UG held on May 3 for medical admissions amid allegations of paper leak.

The CBI is currently investigating the matter, and a retest is scheduled for June 21.

"There is no question of conducting the re-examination in CBT mode. They (the NTA) are already having too many problems. The examination was cancelled, and now it is being re-conducted. Either we dismiss this petition now or after the vacation," the bench told advocate Satyam Singh Rajput, appearing for the petitioners.

At the outset, Rajput said they are not pressing any other prayer but only one related to conducting the re-test in CBT mode.

The bench said that similar matters were earlier dismissed by the court.

Rajput then submitted that the re-examination is being conducted physically, insisting that it be held in the CBT mode.

Justice Narasimha told the counsel to understand the current pressure on the NTA.

On May 29, the top court had observed that it should not disappoint the youngsters while stressing that the real problem relating to the medical entrance examination would not stop till "actual accountability arises".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had told the apex court that the government was seriously concerned about the concerns of the youths and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was personally supervising the situation so that "there is no lacuna".

Mehta also said that some new mechanisms have been put in place for the NEET-UG retest on June 21.

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas, including one seeking a direction to replace or restructure the NTA with a robust and autonomous body to conduct the medical entrance examination.

Venkita Mohana becomes second woman to be directly elevated to SC from Bar

PTI

New Delhi, Jun 1: Senior advocate Venkita Subramani Mohana, who was appointed a judge in the Supreme Court on Monday, has become only the second woman in the country to be directly elevated to the apex court from the Bar after Justice Indu Malhotra in 2018.

Mohana will be one of the two serving women judges in the Supreme Court alongside Justice B V Nagarathna, who has been a judge in the top court since August 31, 2021.

Justice Nagarathna will also become the Chief Justice of India for more than a month in 2027.

Mohana, 59, graduated from the Coimbatore Law College in 1988 and has been practising since then. The Supreme Court designated her as a senior advocate in 2015.

She has appeared in several high-profile cases, including matters related to permanent commission for women officers in the armed forces, senior citizens' property rights, and the Karnataka hijab ban case.

Mohana will be the 12th woman judge in the history of the Supreme Court, and the second to be elevated directly from the Bar. She will retire in June 2031.

Justice M Fathima



Beevi was the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court in 1989. She was elevated after serving as a high court judge.

At one point, when Justice Indu Malhotra was a judge, the Supreme Court had three women judges, with Justice R Banumathi and Justice Indira Banerjee being the other two.

Malhotra was sworn in as a top court judge directly from the Bar on April 27, 2018. She retired in March 2021.

There are presently two other judges in the top court who have been elevated directly from the Bar - Justices P S Narasimha and K V Viswanathan.

Mohana's appointment is significant from a gender-representation perspective.

Once the five new judges appointed to the top court on Monday take oath and assume charge, the Supreme Court will formally have 37 judges.

Alongside Mohana,

Justice Shree Chandrashekar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court; Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court; Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court; and Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, were elevated as top court judges on Monday.

Last month, the government promulgated an ordinance amending a law to increase the sanctioned strength of the apex court from 34 to 38, including the Chief Justice of India.

While there were already two vacancies, after the sanctioned strength was increased, a total of six posts became vacant in the apex court.

With the five appointments made on Monday, the Supreme Court now has one vacancy.

On May 27, the Supreme Court Collegium had recommended the five names.



PTI

Bhopal, Jun 1: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday said that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will soon be implemented in the state, urging the public to submit their suggestions on a newly launched dedicated consultation portal.

Yadav, in a statement to the media, said that a six-member committee, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, will gather opinions from religious leaders on implementing the UCC in the state. "As on today, there is no need

for religious, social, or familial differences; there is a need to move towards the UCC, and I urge the public to share their suggestions on the website," he said.

Whether it is divorce cases involving women, family traditions, or various religious practices, there is no need for legal and social differentiation, he said.

The chief minister further noted that states such as Uttarakhand and Gujarat have already adopted frameworks for the code, and Madhya Pradesh will also follow suit.

The panel, led by retired Supreme Court Judge Justice Ranjana Prasad Desai, is currently touring various districts to gather input from stakeholders across all communities, he said.

"After compiling its report, the committee will submit a draft bill. The state government is keen to implement the Uniform Civil Code as soon as possible," Yadav said.

Appealing to citizens, social groups, and religious organisations to actively participate in the process, the chief minister said, "A website has been launched regarding the UCC. I urge the public to share their suggestions."

TMC expels two MLAs for 'anti-party' activities

PTI

Kolkata, Jun 1: The Trinamool Congress on Monday expelled two of its MLAs, Sandipan Saha and Ritabrata Banerjee, for alleged anti-party activities.

The expulsion order came minutes after Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari told a press conference at the state secretariat that the two had filed complaints in connection with the 'fake signature' case in the state assembly, where the TMC endorsed Shobande Chattopadhyay as the Leader of Opposition.

"It has been brought to the notice of the All India Trinamool Congress through its competent authority that, despite having been elected as candidate nominated by the AITC, you have repeatedly failed to attend meetings convened by the authorised leadership of the party and have made yourself involved in anti-party activities," a communication addressed to the two MLAs said.

"It has also been observed that you have engaged in activities and made statements



that are prejudicial to the interests of AITC," the communication signed by the party vice president, Chandrima Bhattacharya, added.

After due consideration of the matter, the communication stated, the "competent authority of the AITC has decided to expel you from the (primary) membership of the party with immediate effect."

No social media, negative news helped crack exam: JEE Advance topper Shubham Kumar

PTI

Kota, Jun 1: Not giving in to negative news and abstaining from social media helped Gaya native Shubham Kumar top the joint entrance exam, or JEE, one of the country's toughest entrance exams. According to results announced Monday morning, Shubham topped JEE-Advance-2026, scoring 330 out of 360.

Shy of a mark, Gurugram resident Kabeer Chillar secured the second rank all-India, securing 329.

Both attended classes at Kota's

Allen Career Institute.

Talking to PTI, Shubham credited his success to his parents, faculties in Kota and his hard work.

"I had been toiling hard for the entrance exam for two years, so it was natural to expect good marks," said the 18-year-old who came to Kota as a class 11 student two years ago.

Shubham's father, Shiv Kumar, is a hardware businessman in Gaya, Bihar, while his mother Kanchan Devi, is a homemaker.

Although Kota has often hit the headlines for multiple cases

of suicides by students, Shubham said he chose to ignore the negative news and media coverage, and rely on the ecosystem of the city which sees thousands thronging to it year after year to prepare for several entrances.

A self-imposed social media ban and use of the phone only to connect to his parents and teachers also held him in good stead, Shubham said, adding, he would devote 8-10 hours to study in a day, and could indulge in his hobbies of cricket and badminton only on Sundays.

