

LG hails SKUAST-K's transformation

Chairs 36th Council Meet; approves agri-innovation lab, startup park, global vet school



RK News Service

Srinagar, Jun 24: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired the 36th University Council Meeting of SKUAST-Kashmir at Lok Bhavan, attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, and other senior officials. The Council approved several institutional reforms, including the upgradation of the Agricultural Research Information System into the Directorate of Information Technology, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell into the Directorate of Quality Assurance, and the establishment of a water treatment plant.

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LG concedes Doda accident deaths

RK News Service

Srinagar, Jun 24: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed grief and anguish over the loss of precious lives in a tragic road accident near Khelani in Doda.

He extended his condolences to the bereaved families and praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. The Lieutenant Governor has directed senior officials to provide all possible support and assistance to those affected by the accident.

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8th Muharram procession draws thousands in Srinagar

Sea of mourners remember Karbala martyrs

3rd year on historic Guru Bazar-Dalgate route

Admin, NGOs set up Sabeels



Ovaise Gul

Srinagar, Jun 24: One of the largest Muharram processions was carried out through the traditional routes of Srinagar for the third straight year on Wednesday, with the mourners in large numbers participating, reciting Noutha and remembering the Karbala martyrs. The administration granted permission to the Yaadgar Hussaini Committee, Guru Bazar, following which the procession was carried out from Guru Bazar here to Dalgate via Budshah Bridge and M A Road. Wearing black clothes, the mourners in groups proceeded

ed towards Dalgate since the wee hours of this morning, during which the Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions were remembered.

The procession from Guru Bazar to Dalgate was being disallowed every year on 8th Muharram for over three decades. It was then allowed in 2024, which witnessed a sea of mourners from different parts of the Valley.

As per the permission, the administration had asked that the procession commence from Guru Bazar at 6:00 am and proceed through Budshah Kadal and M.A. Road towards Dalgate. The order prohibited anti-national or anti-administration activities.

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WATER FOR THE THIRSTY

Little ones keep spirit of Karbala alive

Ovaise Gul

Srinagar, Jun 24: Amid the solemn atmosphere of the 8th Muharram procession along the traditional Guru Bazar-Dalgate route in Srinagar, a heartwarming sight caught the attention of mourners and onlookers alike as dozens of little mourners actively participated in serving water and refreshments to participants.

At several points along the procession route, children aged between 1 and 7 years were seen sitting in the middle of the road carrying water bottles, juice packets and eatables

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AI, drone surveillance deployed for Muharram processions: Police

DGP, IGP, SSP participate in Sabeel; urge mourners to follow advisories

Abid Bashir

Srinagar, Jun 24: An extensive security and facilitation plan, including Artificial Intelligence-enabled monitoring and drone surveillance, has been put in place across Srinagar and other parts

of the Valley to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of Ashura and other Muharram processions throughout the month, Jammu & Kashmir Police said on Wednesday. Senior police officers, including Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin

Prabhat, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone V K Birdi and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Dr GV Sundep Chakraborty, participated in the 8th Muharram procession and distributed water and beverages at various

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Summer vacations in Kmr schools likely from July second week

Atif Qayoom

Srinagar, Jun 24: Summer vacations in Kashmir schools are likely to begin from the second week of July, with the School Education Department closely monitoring the weather situation before taking a final decision, officials said.

Sources in the department said no formal order has been issued so far, but discussions regarding the vacation schedule are underway in view of the rising temperatures which were witnessed in several parts of the Valley.



An official, wishing not to be named, said the government is keeping a close watch on weather conditions and will take a final call during the first week of July. "The Valley witnessed

unusually high temperatures over the last few days. Before that, weather conditions remained largely normal. However, forecasts suggest that temperatures may rise again in the coming days."

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Cloudbursts: The new Himalayan nightmare

J&K records 9 incidents in June alone

July-August most vulnerable: Experts

Abid Bashir

Srinagar, Jun 24: Dark clouds gathering over the mountains of Jammu and Kashmir are no longer seen merely as signs of rain but a nightmare wrapped in cloudbursts. While Jammu region has logged five cloudburst incidents in June, Kashmir has recorded four such incidents. Experts say July and August are also vulnerable months for cloudbursts due to the rise in temperatures.

In the last few years alone, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed repeated cloudbursts and extreme rainfall events, particularly in vulnerable districts such as Ramban, Kishtwar, Doda, Reasi, Kathua and parts of north and south



Kashmir. Roads have been swept away, villages buried under debris and families displaced overnight as sudden floods ripped through mountain settlements.

As per the official data, in Jammu region, five cloudburst incidents were reported in the ensuing month, while Kashmir also recorded three similar happenings,

especially in the north and south Kashmir parts. According to weather experts and disaster management officials, the frequency of extreme weather incidents in the Himalayan belt has shown a worrying rise, especially during the peak monsoon months of July and August.

Data from disaster management agencies and weather records show that several cloudburst-linked incidents have struck Jammu and Kashmir in recent years, causing extensive damage to infrastructure and loss of lives. Last year alone, multiple cloudbursts and flash floods triggered widespread destruction in Ramban and adjoining districts, damaging highways, bridges and residential structures.

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JKRTC fleet shrinks by 59% in 36 years

200 smart buses expected by year-end: MD

Idrees Bukhtiyar

Srinagar, Jun 24: The fleet strength of the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) has witnessed a sharp decline of over 59 per cent during the last 36 years, raising concerns about the availability and quality of public transport services across the Union Territory.

Official data shared by the JKRTC reveals that the corporation had a fleet of 966 buses in 1990. The number gradually declined to 700 in 2006 and further dropped to 580 by 2014-15. The fleet strength continued



to shrink in subsequent years, reaching 505 buses in 2019-20 and 478 in 2020-21. At present, only 394 buses are operational, marking an overall decline of 59.2 per cent from 1990. Officials attributed the reduction in fleet size primarily to the retirement of overaged vehicles and the situation in the 90s, as many buses were damaged then.

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'Vitamin D deficiency widespread in J&K despite abundant sunshine'

Experts warn of bone, immunity risks

Mansoor Peer

Srinagar, Jun 24: Despite being blessed with ample sunshine and scenic open landscapes, Jammu and Kashmir continues to face a widespread yet often overlooked public health challenge—Vitamin D deficiency.

Health experts warn that inadequate exposure to sunlight, changing lifestyles, dietary habits, and harsh winter conditions are leaving a large section of the population vulnerable to low Vitamin D levels, impacting bone health,



immunity, and overall well-being. Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, in an advisory highlighted that Vitamin D deficiency remains common in J&K despite abundant sunshine

because effective exposure to sunlight is often inadequate.

"Long winters, short daylight hours, cold weather, and indoor lifestyles significantly reduce the body's ability to synthesise Vitamin D. The situation worsens during winter months when ultraviolet B (UVB) rays are insufficient for adequate Vitamin D production," he said.

Traditional clothing patterns in the valley also contribute to the problem, as heavy woollen garments commonly worn during much of the year limit skin

exposure to sunlight. Many residents consume insufficient quantities of Vitamin D-rich foods, while access to fortified foods remains limited. Skin pigmentation affects Vitamin D production, with individuals having higher melanin levels requiring longer sun exposure. Obesity and sedentary lifestyles are also important risk factors since Vitamin D gets stored in fat tissue, making obese individuals more prone to deficiency.

Infants and children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women,

J&K's digital building approval system gains traction

867 applications processed in 3 months

Ovaise Gul

Srinagar, Jun 24: Just three months after the digital transition, the Housing and Urban Development Department's (H&UDD) Auto-Scrutiny Building Permission and Change of Land Use (CLU) Portal has witnessed a significant response from citizens and professionals with more than 860 applications submitted through the online system.

Official data available, accessed by Rising Kashmir, reveals that a total of 738 Building Permission



(BP) applications and 129 Change of Land Use (CLU) applications have been received so far, reflecting growing public confidence in the government's digital governance initiatives. According to the data, 118 building permissions have been issued, while 31 applications stand approved, and 45 have been rejected.

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15-year-old student builds energy-efficient water purifier startup

Muhammad Salman Shah's 'Save Water AquaSol' selected under Electropreneur Park 2.0; funding from STPI Noida

Younus Rashid

A Class 9 student from Kashmir is developing a water-treatment startup that aims to purify water from any source while using significantly less energy than conventional systems.

Muhammad Salman Shah, 15, is the founder of Save Water AquaSol, a startup currently in pre-incubation at NewGen IEDC, University of Kashmir. The system is being designed to be source-insensitive.

"It is being built to treat water regardless of where it comes from," Salman told Rising Kashmir. "The energy consumed should be less than a household's monthly electricity consumption, but still enough to purify water for multiple villages at the same time."

Dr Irfana Rashid, Head of NewGen IEDC at the University of Kashmir, described what the startup is working toward. "AquaSol is addressing some of the key limitations of conventional purification systems," she told Rising Kashmir. "Its



core approach combines a modular low-pressure design with an integrated purification process, aiming for high water recovery of up to 90 per cent while consuming significantly less energy than traditional RO systems."

The 80 per cent figure is a design target. The prototype is still being developed, and independent testing has yet to be conducted.

Dr Rashid said the modular architecture is also being designed with practical deployment in mind. "The design is intended

to simplify maintenance, reduce downtime, and allow capacity expansion without major redesign," she said, adding that the goal is to make it suitable for schools, rural communities, disaster-relief operations, and institutional users.

On operating costs, she said the combination of lower power consumption, reduced reject water, and simplified servicing is expected to "translate into lower lifecycle operating costs" compared to existing systems.

AquaSol is funded by STPI Noida through NewGen IEDC,

University of Kashmir. The startup was selected under Electropreneur Park 2.0, a flagship initiative of the Software Technology Parks of India, an autonomous society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. The selection was confirmed in a letter addressed by Vandana Srivastava, Director and CEO of Electropreneur Park, STPI Noida.

Dr Rashid said the support goes beyond funding. "The support of NewGen IEDC in association with STPI under

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DC Budgam reviews preparedness for PPI drive scheduled on Jun 28

• Focus on 100% coverage of children under five

Sindhu Kumbh Day 2: A grand celebration of faith, culture and India's timeless heritage

DC News Service

Budgam, Jun 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to finalise preparations for the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive scheduled to be held on June 28, 2026.

The meeting was attended by the PO ICDS Budgam, CMO Budgam, CEO Budgam, DIO Budgam, all BMOs, ARTO Budgam, and other concerned district officers, health authorities, block-level teams, and officials from supporting departments who are directly involved in vaccination planning, booth management, logistics, supervision, and field execution.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed in detail the district-wide micro-plan for the immunization drive, which included block-wise targets, number of Pulse Polio booths,



manpower deployment, and the overall preparedness of health and field teams.

Officers presented the complete structure of booth arrangements across Budgam district along with the deployment of vaccinators, supervisors, and supporting manpower to ensure the complete functioning of the campaign.

A special focus of the meeting remained on high-risk and hard-to-reach areas, with detailed block-wise presentations. The DC emphasised that all these locations must receive dedicated attention with proper vaccination booths, field supervision, and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that no eligible child is left out.

The meeting also assessed the location and functioning of transit booths, which will be established at busy mobility points such as mar-

ketts, bus stands, and major travel routes to cover children who are on the move during the campaign period.

Officers from the Health Department shared block-wise requirements of vaccine vials, cold chain logistics, printed materials, banners, and other necessary supplies for the smooth execution of the drive.

The DC reviewed the plan for door-to-door verification activities that will follow the booth day, aimed at identifying and vaccinating any missed children.

A detailed schedule of training sessions and workshops for supervisors, vaccinators, ASHAs, AWWs, and other field workers was also presented during the meeting.

The DC directed officials to keep track of all migratory and tribal populations, particularly families moving from one district to another, so that every child under five years of age belonging to these groups is covered under the immunization programme.

He stressed that mobile teams and transit points must work in close coordination to ensure that the movement of such populations does not result in any child being missed during the drive.

The DC stressed ensuring that no child is left out of the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive and directed officers to ensure 100 percent booth staffing, timely reporting, strong monitoring, and an uninterrupted vaccine supply across all blocks.

The DC directed all concerned departments to work collectively for the successful and comprehensive implementation of the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive across District Budgam.



RK News Service

Leh, Jun 24: The second day of the Sindhu Kumbh witnessed a magnificent confluence of faith, spirituality and cultural pride as devotees, spiritual leaders and dignitaries gathered on the sacred banks of the River Sindhu to participate in the revered Sindhu Puja.

The sacred ceremony was conducted with traditional Vedic rituals and prayers, invoking peace, prosperity and harmony for the nation and humanity. The event reflected the enduring significance of the River Sindhu, which has been a cradle of civilization and a symbol of India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage for millennia.

The auspicious occasion was graced by the presence of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Kavinder Gupta; Speaker of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Vasudev Devnani; Deputy Speaker of Tripura Legislative As-

NDMA conducts disaster preparedness exercise for SANJY at Ganderbal



RK News Service

Ganderbal, Jun 24: As part of efforts to strengthen preparedness for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive Table Top Exercise at Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, presided over the session and gave a detailed overview of the district's preparedness measures and emergency response framework for the annual pilgrimage.

Speaking on the occasion, Brigadier (Retd.) P. S. Gurung, Coordinator, NDMA for the mock exercise, emphasized the significance of regular preparedness exercises in strengthening response capabilities and ensuring the safety of devotees undertaking the Yatra.

He said that the exercise was designed to assess the preparedness of various agencies and review coordination mechanisms in place for handling emergencies during the pilgrimage. The initiative, he added, forms part of NDMA's efforts to enhance inter-agency coordination and build a robust response system for any unforeseen situation.

During the exercise, various emergency scenarios, including fire incidents in camps, stampede situations, drowning cases and other potential emergencies, were discussed in detail. Participants deliberated on response protocols, resource mobilisation, communication systems and coordination measures required for effective management of such situations.

Earlier, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Syed Faheem Bihaqi, briefed participants on the district administration's efforts to reduce disaster risks, particularly in vulnerable locations along the Yatra route.

IUST brings academia & industry together at National HR Conclave 2026



RK News Service

Awantipora, Jun 24: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), through its Centre for Career Counselling and Placements (CCCP), in collaboration with Industry Connect under the aegis of the Dean Outreach, hosted HR Conclave 2026 at its Main Campus, Awantipora. The conclave was themed "Youth, Skills and Employment: Bridging Academia and Industry for Sustainable Careers."

The Conclave brought together leading human resource professionals, industry experts, corporate leaders, policymakers, academicians, and students on a common platform to deliberate on workforce readiness and emerging industry expectations.

The conclave commenced with an inaugural session chaired by Prof. Shakil A Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST with Dr. Subi Chaturvedi, Global SVP and Chief Public Policy & Corporate Affairs Officer, InMoBi, and Harish Mahadevan, Vice President-HR, OneCell AI Inc., as the guests of honour.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Romshoo, stressed the role of universities in preparing graduates for future opportunities through innovation, entrepreneurship and industry engagement. He stated, "Universities have a pivotal role in nurturing talent, promoting innovation and creating meaningful

partnerships that translate education into opportunity and impact."

Speaking on the transformative role of technology in shaping careers and economies, Dr. Subi Chaturvedi, said, "Technology is transforming the world of work, and equipping young people with the right skills is essential for inclusive and sustainable growth."

He added that platforms such as the HR Conclave play a crucial role in strengthening industry-academia collaboration and preparing students for the evolving world of work.

Harish Mahadevan, shared insights into emerging workplace expectations and talent requirements in an increasingly technology-driven environment.

He observed, "The workforce of tomorrow will belong to those who combine technical expertise with adaptability, creativity and a commitment to lifelong learning."

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Shameem A. Shah, Registrar, IUST, highlighted the University's commitment to fostering employability and professional excellence among students.

He remarked, "Higher education institutions must foster not only academic excellence but also the skills and competencies that enhance employability and professional growth."

Prof. Sheikh Aiaz Bashir, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, emphasized the need for academic programmes to remain aligned with changing industry demands.

He said, "Industry engagement helps universities remain responsive to emerging trends and ensures that students are equipped with relevant, future-ready skills."

A major highlight of the conclave was the two parallel panel discussions on the theme "Industry Expectations and Workforce Readiness", featuring senior representatives from leading national and regional organisations.

The conclave witnessed participation from an impressive spectrum of or-

KU hosts workshop on strengthening state data cyber security



RK News Service

Srinagar, Jun 24: The J&K Information Technology Department in collaboration with the University of Kashmir and with support from the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Union Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), today organised a UT Level Consultative Workshop on "Strengthening Cyber Security Frameworks for State Data" at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

The workshop was organised as part of the national consultative process being undertaken by NeGD, MeitY, to facilitate stakeholder consultations and develop a comprehensive framework for strengthening cybersecurity, data protection and digital resilience across States and Union Territories.

The inaugural session was attended by Professor Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary Information Technology Department; Asha Choudhary Malhotra, Chief Executive Officer, J&K e-GA; Professor Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, University of Kashmir; Abdul Hafiz Shah, Special Information Technology Department; Shokat Mehmoed Special Secretary; Jaskaran Singh Modi, State Informatics Officer, NIC J&K; Maroof Naeem Qadri, Director IT, University of Kashmir; ASHAD Dar, Director, NIELIT, besides representatives from NeGD, CERT-In (through VC), NIC, J&K Bank, SeMIT, J&K e-GA. Academia and senior officers of various government departments who have also been nominated as CSISOs, ISOs and Technical Experts.

Addressing the participants, Saurabh Bhagat emphasized that cybersecurity has emerged as a critical pillar of digital governance and citizen trust. He highlighted the growing dependence of government institutions on digital platforms for delivery of public services.

National seminar, exhibition mark 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

RK News Service

Srinagar, Jun 24: The North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) on Wednesday organized a national level seminar and exhibition dedicated to the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary



of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji at Mattan, Anantnag. An exhibition of paintings depicting the life, teachings, philosophy and supreme sacrifice of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was also organized on the

occasion which was inaugurated by Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, the participants highlighted the enduring relevance of Guru Sahib's teachings, which continue to inspire the humanity through their message of tolerance, compassion, justice and universal brotherhood.

Two-day international conference 'The Sacred Journey to Shri Amarnath Ji' commences at Anantnag

RK News Service

Anantnag, Jun 24: First of its kind, a two-day International Conference on the theme "The Sacred Journey to Shri Amarnath Ji: A Multi-Dimensional Perspective" commenced on Wednesday at Government College for Women (GCW), Anantnag.

The conference, being organised by District Administration in col-

laboration with the host college, has brought together administrators, faculty from reputed institutions and organisations, eminent academicians, researchers, scholars, students, officials and civil society members.

The inaugural session was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat (Patron of the Conference), Principal GCW,

Kashmir's GI QR Code System Earns National recognition

Technology-driven authentication system strengthens global trust in Pashmina, Carpets & other heritage crafts

RK News Service

Srinagar, June 24 - Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has been conferred with the prestigious SKOCH Award for its innovative GI QR Code Management System, implemented through the Pashmina Testing & Quality Certification Centre (PTQCC) at the Craft Development Institute (CDI) and the NABL-accredited Carpet Testing Laboratory at IICT, Srinagar.

The award recognizes the Department's pioneering use of technology to strengthen product authenticity, quality assurance, sustainability and artisan welfare in the handicrafts sector.

In a statement issued here, a spokesperson of the department said, "The GI QR Code Management System is among the country's first comprehensive QR code-based Geographical Indication



(GI) certification mechanisms for handicrafts". The award was received by Sajid Nazir, Senior Faculty, CDI, on behalf of the Department at a ceremony in New Delhi. The award-winning

system enables buyers to instantly verify the authenticity, origin and quality of products such as Pashmina and Kani shawls, Sozni embroidery, hand-knotted carpets and other GI registered crafts.

By scanning the QR code, consumers can trace a product back to the artisan or institution that created it, ensuring transparency and preventing counterfeiting. The spokesperson said

thousands of handicraft products have already been labelled under the initiative, enhancing consumer confidence, expanding market access and supporting export growth.

Congratulating the technical teams of PTQCC and IICT, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Sh. Mussarat Islam, said the recognition reflects the Department's commitment to preserving Kashmir's rich craft heritage. He added that the QR code system provides direct visibility to artisans, helping them connect with buyers and access niche global markets, thereby improving their economic prospects.

The SKOCH Award is a prestigious national recognition honouring innovative initiatives that promote excellence, good governance, and inclusive development.

Govt Orders Inclusion of Eligible PMAY-G Beneficiaries

Officials told to rectify wrongful exclusions, address grievances on priority

Aarif Rashid

Srinagar, June 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has directed officials across all districts to ensure that genuinely eligible beneficiaries are not excluded from the final beneficiary list under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) 2.0 and to address all related grievances on a priority basis.

In a communication issued to the Directors of Rural Development Departments of Jammu and Kashmir divisions, Secretary to Government, Mohammad Aijaz, emphasized the need for strict adherence to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, regarding the finalization of the Permanent Wait List (PWL) under PMAY-G 2.0.

The directive follows reports and representations from several dis-

tricts highlighting concerns over the exclusion of deserving households from the final beneficiary list. According to the communication, some eligible beneficiaries were reportedly rejected or deleted due to inadvertent errors and deficiencies during the survey and verification process.

The Secretary has asked all Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs) to ensure that the deletion of ineligible households is carried out strictly in accordance with the Ministry's guidelines issued vide D.O. No. M-12018/02/2019-RH(M&T) (Part) (e-390818) dated May 13, 2026.

Officials have also been instructed to identify, examine and rectify cases where genuinely eligible beneficiaries may have been wrongly rejected or removed from

the list. Furthermore, all grievances and public representations regarding exclusion from the PMAY-G 2.0 beneficiary list are to be addressed promptly, with corrective measures taken wherever necessary.

The government has warned that any omission, rejection or deletion of an eligible beneficiary resulting from negligence, inadequate verification, lack of due diligence or administrative oversight will be viewed seriously. The officers or officials responsible for such lapses will be held personally accountable and may face action under the relevant rules.

The communication stresses that the matter should be treated as 'Most Urgent' and accorded top priority to ensure that no deserving household is deprived of the benefits envisaged under the flagship rural housing scheme.

Postgraduate Medical Diploma Courses to End From 2027-28

Medical colleges asked to convert diploma seats into MD/MS programmes

Mansoor Peer

Srinagar, Jun 24: To standardize postgraduate medical education across the country, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has announced that all Post Graduate (PG) Diploma courses in medical colleges and institutions will be phased out and converted into Post Graduate Broad Specialty Degree courses (MD/MS) from the academic year 2027-28 onwards.

As per a public notice issued by Postgraduate Medical Education Board (PCMEB) under NMC, the Academic Year 2026-27 will be the final year for admissions to PG diploma courses. No fresh admissions will be permitted to such courses from the Academic Year 2027-28, after which the diploma programs will

cease to function.

The commission stated that several medical colleges across the country are currently running both PG Diploma and MD/MS courses in the same specialties, while some institutions continue to offer only diploma programs.

The NMC observed that many of these institutions already possess adequate infrastructure, faculty strength, clinical material and other resources required for conversion of diploma seats into degree seats.

The move has been taken to enhance the quality and recognition of specialist medical training, align postgraduate qualifications with contemporary educational standards and optimize the utilization of existing institutional capacities.

Srinagar, June 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday reviewed measures to promote reuse of treated wastewater and strengthen sustainable water management under the Jal HI AMRIT initiative of AMRUT 2.0.

A meeting of the Water Resource Recovery Cell (WRRCC) was held under the chairpersonship of Commissioner/Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Mandeep Kaur, to discuss strategies for water circularity, resource recovery and wider use of treated wastewater for non-potable purposes.

During the meeting, officials informed that J&K is implementing AMRUT 2.0 through water supply, sewerage and water body rejuvenation projects. Under its Jal HI AMRIT component,

Govt Pushes Reuse of Treated Wastewater

Srinagar, Jammu to explore dedicated treated wastewater networks

RK News Service



aimed at upgrading Sewerage Treatment Plants through incentive-based funding. Jammu and Kashmir has secured incentives worth Rs 10.50 crore so far.

The government has initiated installation of SCADA systems, tertiary treatment facilities and other interventions to improve wastewater treatment quality and encourage reuse.

The meeting was informed that the Water Resource Recovery Cell has been constituted to

facilitate inter-departmental coordination for effective utilisation of treated wastewater. Members include representatives from Agriculture, Horticulture, Industries and Commerce, Municipalities, Jal Shakti, Irrigation and Flood Control, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Forest Department and industrial bodies.

Chairing the meeting, Mandeep Kaur stressed that treated water meeting prescribed standards should be utilised for

irrigation of parks and gardens, industrial processes, construction activities, automobile cleaning, kitchen gardens and reducing dependence on potable water for non-drinking purposes.

The Jal Shakti Department and Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) were advised to explore projects for developing an exclusive network for supply of treated wastewater to parks and gardens in Srinagar. A working group was also proposed for Jammu to prepare a comprehensive plan for productive use of treated wastewater.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from various departments, including JKPC, municipal corporations, agriculture, horticulture, industries and engineering wings.

Gulmarg Gondola Set to Resume Today

Aatif Qayoom

Srinagar, June 24: After remaining closed for more than a month, the Gulmarg Gondola is likely to resume operations today, bringing much needed relief and excitement to tourists, local residents, and businesses associated with Kashmir's tourism industry.

The reopening of the world famous cable car service comes as welcome news for thousands of visitors who travel to Gulmarg every year, particularly during the summer season. For many tourists, a trip to Gulmarg feels incomplete without a ride on the Gondola, which offers breathtaking views of lush meadows, pine forests, and the majestic Aharwar mountains.

Officials associated with the Cable Car Corporation said preparations for the resumption of services have been completed and that the

corporation is hopeful of technical operations after necessary procedures were carried out following the recent technical issue.

The Gondola service was suspended after a technical glitch left nearly 300 tourists stranded mid air. All passengers were rescued safely, and the government subsequently ordered an inquiry into the incident. Officials said the inquiry committee's report, clearing the way for the expected reopening.

The shutdown had a visible impact on tourist activity in Gulmarg. Local hoteliers, restaurant owners, guides, pony operators, and shopkeepers reported a decline in visitors during the closure period. Many tourists who arrived in the famous hill resort expressed disappointment upon learning that the Gondola service was not operational.

Four Feared Dead as Vehicle Falls Into River in Drass

One Body Recovered, Search Continues

Umar Raina

Srinagar, June 24: A tragic road accident occurred near Marpochoh Bridge in the Drass area on Tuesday evening when a Fronx vehicle (Registration No. LA01/4920) travelling from Sonamarg to Kargil reportedly plunged into river, leaving four occupants, including two young women, feared dead.

According to sources, the incident came to light after family members lost contact with the occupants. While three mobile phones were found switched off, one phone continued to ring without being answered, prompting relatives to alert the police.

Dras Police, civil administration officials, and rescue teams rushed



to the spot and discovered tyre marks leading towards the river. During the search operation, the body of a 35-year-old man, identified as Agha Syed Baqir, son of Syed Muslim of Linkerchey, was recovered from the riverbank.

The three remaining missing persons have been identified as Sajjad

Hussain (26), son of Haji Mahmood Hussain; Hasmia Bano (23), daughter of Mahmood Hussain; and Saira Bano (23), daughter of Mohammad Ali, all residents of Gato Linkerchey. Rescue efforts continued until 2 a.m. but were suspended due to darkness and resumed on Wednesday morning. Police sources said he

and Deputy Commissioner Drass Imtiyaz Ahmad Kacho are personally supervising the operation. However, strong river currents have hampered efforts to trace the vehicle and the missing persons. A case has been registered under FIR No. 20/2026 under Section 281 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Meanwhile, in a separate incident in the Barnabug Poshkar area of Kangan in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, a man allegedly ended his life by jumping into the hydro power canal. Following information from family members, Kangan police and SDRF teams launched a search operation and recovered the body after strenuous efforts.

IUST Holds HR Conclave to Bridge Academia-Industry Gap

Idrees Bukhtiyar

Srinagar, June 24: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, on Wednesday organised the HR Conclave 2026, bringing together leading human resource professionals, industry experts, policymakers, academicians and students to deliberate on workforce readiness and emerging industry expectations.

Organised by the Centre for Career Counselling and Placements (CCCP) in collaboration with Industry Connect under the aegis of the Dean Outreach, the conclave was themed "Youth, Skills and Employment: Bridging Academia and Industry for Sustainable Careers."

The inaugural session was chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo and attended by



Dr. Subi Chaturvedi, Global Senior Vice President and Chief Public Policy & Corporate Affairs Officer at InMobi, and Harish Mahadevan, Vice President, HR, OneCell AI Inc., as guests of honour. In his keynote address, Prof. Romshoo underscored the crucial role of universities in preparing students for future opportunities through innovation, entrepreneurship and strong industry engagement. He said educational institu-

tions must nurture talent, promote innovation and build meaningful partnerships that transform education into opportunities and impact.

Speaking on the transformative influence of technology on careers and economies, Dr. Chaturvedi highlighted the need to equip young people with relevant skills to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.

She said platforms such as the HR Conclave help strengthen industry-

academia collaboration and prepare students for the rapidly evolving world of work.

Harish Mahadevan shared insights into changing workplace dynamics and talent requirements in an increasingly technology-driven environment. He noted that future success would depend on a combination of technical expertise, adaptability, creativity and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Addressing the gathering, Registrar Prof. Shameem A. Shah reiterated IUST's commitment to enhancing student employability and professional excellence. He stressed that higher education institutions must focus not only on academic achievement but also on developing competencies that support career growth and employability.

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Forest Rights Act Cases Must Follow Prescribed Norms: Govt

Minister Rana calls for collective efforts to ensure effective implementation of public welfare initiatives

RK News Service

Anantnag, Jun 24: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmed Rana on Wednesday reviewed the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in Anantnag and directed officials to strictly follow prescribed procedures while processing related cases.

Observing concerns over implementation, he emphasized the need to ensure due diligence and adherence to established norms to ensure transparency and protect the rights of all stakeholders.

The Minister chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the status of developmental works and public welfare initiatives being implemented in Doorn constituency.

MLA Doorn, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majed Bhat and district officers of Jal Shakti, Forest and Tribal Affairs Departments besides other concerned departments attended the meeting.

The Minister reviewed the progress of various developmental projects being executed in the constituency and directed the officers to expedite the ongoing works while ensuring quality and adherence to timelines.

During the meeting, the Minister announced the establishment of an Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Ahlan Breng, saying the initiative would significantly enhance the access to quality education for students from tribal and other marginalized communities in the area.

Noting that Anantnag district has a sizable tribal population, Javed Rana emphasized that it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure better educational facilities for tribal and



underprivileged sections of society. He said that education is a key driver for socio-economic transformation and empowerment, and reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthen educational infrastructure in tribal-dominated and remote areas to ensure inclusive and equitable development.

The Minister said that the Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah remains steadfast in its commitment towards the welfare and upliftment of tribal communities.

It is taking concerted measures to provide quality education and improved learning opportunities to students belonging to these

sections, he added. Reviewing the functioning of Jal Shakti, Forest and Tribal Affairs Departments, Javed Rana called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination to ensure optimum utilisation of resources and effective implementation of developmental programmes.

The meeting also reviewed the status of flood protection and irrigation-related works being executed in Doorn constituency, with emphasis on timely completion of ongoing projects and strengthening infrastructure to safeguard the agricultural land and ensure efficient irrigation facilities.

Javed Rana directed the officers to implement all decisions and instructions in letter and spirit and maintain transparency, accountability and efficiency in governance.

The meeting also discussed various constituency-specific developmental issues and strategies for their early resolution.

Senior officers apprised the Minister of the progress achieved under various schemes and programmes in Doorn constituency.

Assembly Panel Stresses Protection of MLAs' Privileges

Chief Secretary asked to ensure compliance

RK News Service

Srinagar, Jun 24: A formal meeting of the Committee on Privileges of the Legislative Assembly was held on Wednesday at the Assembly Secretariat under the chairmanship of MLA Justice (Retd) Hsain Masoodi.

Legislators Showkat Hussain Ganie, Khurshid Ahmad, Zafar Ali Khattana, Vilay Kumar, Rajeev Kumar along with officials from Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting.

The Chairman highlighted the significance of the Committee on Privileges, drafted as an important committee of the House entrusted with safeguarding the privileges, dignity

and authority of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. He emphasized the need for expeditious disposal of the pending cases before the committee and called for timely redress of all matters referred to it.

The members deliberated in detail on various issues concerning the functioning of the committee. They underscored the importance of strengthening its role in upholding the privileges of the House. They also offered valuable suggestions for improving the effectiveness and functioning of the committee.

The Committee instructed the members to ensure strict adherence to and protection of the privileges of the Members



of the Legislative Assembly. It emphasized that any breach of privilege of a MLA shall be viewed seriously and that necessary measures shall be taken to prevent such instances.

The Committee also took

up three privilege motions referred to it and issued notices in all the cases. The concerned officials have been directed to remain present before the committee during its next meeting scheduled for July 8, to facilitate the examination and disposal of the matters.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the committee's commitment to safeguard the privileges of the House and ensure prompt redress of all pending cases.

Govt Reviews Transport, Supply Plans for SANJY

Minister stresses coordination for smooth pilgrimage



RK News Service

Anantnag, Jun 24: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science & Technology, ARI & Trainings, and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today convened a review meeting at Pahalagam to take stock of the preparedness and arrangements of transport services, supply of essential commodities, other critical services for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the district administration and departments, including Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Pahalagam, Deputy Director FCS&CA, Assistant Directors FCS&CA Anantnag and Kulgam, Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) of Anantnag and Kulgam, officers of the Motor Vehicles Department, Assistant Executive Engineers of PDD and PHE besides other concerned officers associated with the transport regulation, essential supplies and service delivery during the Yatra period.

The review meeting focused on the preparedness of departments entrusted with ensuring smooth transport operations, uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, consumer facilitation and provision of other critical services for successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The Minister took a department-wise assessment of the arrangements being made and sought updates on the action plan, preparedness timeline and field-level coordination mechanisms.

During the meeting, the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, briefed the Minister on the transportation arrangements being put in place for smooth movement of pilgrims and service providers associated with the Yatra.

The Minister was informed about the regulation of passenger transport, availability and deployment of vehicles, route management, traffic facilitation and co-ordination between the Motor Vehicles Department and local administration to ensure seamless mobility along the Pahalagam axis during the Yatra period.

& Consumer Affairs Department also briefed the Minister on the availability and supply position of essential commodities required during the Yatra.

Reviewing the preparedness of the departments under his charge, Satish Sharma stressed that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is one of the most significant annual pilgrimages and requires meticulous planning, timely execution and close coordination among all concerned departments. He said that the success of the Yatra depends not only on major infrastructural and logistical arrangements but also on the efficiency of routine public service delivery, particularly in the areas of transportation, essential supplies and consumer support.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure that all arrangements relating to transportation, essential supplies and service facilitation are completed well in advance so that the pilgrimage proceeds in a smooth, orderly and hassle-free manner. He stressed that availability of adequate transport, uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, proper regulation of passenger movement, and responsive consumer support systems are central to ensuring a comfortable and safe experience for the yatri.

(Read full text on www.risingkashmir.com)

Bukhari Seeks Lifting of Trekking Ban in J&K

Says restrictions hurting adventure tourism, seeks LG's intervention



RK News Service

Srinagar, Jun 24: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday urged the administration to lift restrictions on trekking, hiking and camping activities along high-altitude routes in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the curbs are affecting adventure tourism and impacting livelihoods.

In a statement, Bukhari appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to consider revoking the ban in the interest of the tourism sector and local communities dependent on it. He said the restrictions have limited the region's adventure tourism potential and affected hundreds of local youth who work as trekking guides and support staff.

king activities are largely seasonal and conducted during a limited period each year, making the current season important for tourism-related earnings. He added that lifting the restrictions would support local businesses, generate employment and enable visitors to experience Jammu and Kashmir's trekking routes and natural landscapes.

Sakeena Pushes Timely Completion of Health Infrastructure

Reviews SSH, GMC & Pahalgam hospital projects



RK News Service

Srinagar, Jun 24: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Wednesday reviewed the progress on construction of OPD Complex of Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Srinagar and Multi Facility Centre (MFC) of Government Medical College Srinagar as well as additional 50-bedded hospital building at SSH Pahalgam here at Civil Secretariat.

MLA Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani; Principal GMC Srinagar; Director Health Services Kashmir; Director Finance; Director Planning Health and Medical Education and other senior officers of health and medical education department were also present in the meeting.

During the review meeting, the Minister took stock of the progress achieved on each project. She directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of all pending civil works within the stipulated timelines.

Emphasizing accountability in execution of public projects, the Minister said that these ini-

tiatives are being undertaken with public funds and are aimed at improving the healthcare services for the people. She asserted that any delay in completion of such projects adversely affects the public welfare and, therefore, must be avoided.

Reviewing the construction of the 50-bedded additional building at Pahalgam, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to finalize the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and commence the remaining works without delay. She observed that Pahalgam is one of the most prominent tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir and also serves as the base camp for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. She stressed the need for a well-equipped healthcare facility in the area to cater to both residents, visitors as well as devotees.

The Minister set a target of March 2027 for completion of the hospital building and directed the concerned agencies to ensure that the facility is made fully functional and operational.

Earlier, Director Health Services Kashmir informed the meeting that the project involves an

estimated cost of Rs 19.90 crore, out of which civil works worth Rs 12.40 crore have already been tendered. He added that the hospital, once operational, will provide a range of essential healthcare services and facilities to the people of the area.

While reviewing the Multi-Tasking Facility Centre (MFC) of GMC Srinagar, the Minister directed that all civil works be completed by the end of July 2026. She also instructed the concerned officers to pursue necessary approvals from the Government of India for installation of additional facilities and infrastructure required for the centre.

Reviewing the progress of works related to the Super Speciality Hospital and other healthcare infrastructure projects, the Minister reiterated that delays in the healthcare sector are unacceptable and called for close monitoring of all ongoing projects.

She directed the Health Department to maintain regular oversight of project implementation. She asked for ensuring that infrastructure is developed strictly in accordance with healthcare requirements and approved standards. She also stressed the need for proper planning, co-ordination and adherence to guidelines in the execution of all health sector projects to ensure timely completion and optimal utilization of resources.

Bukhari Condolences With Lt G M Shah's Family

RK News Service

Srinagar, Jun 24: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday visited the residence of late Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah at Magamul Bagh in Srinagar and offered condolences on the demise of Shah's wife.

Accompanied by a delegation of party leaders, Bukhari met the bereaved family and expressed sympathy with them, particularly with the sons of the

deceased - Dr. Imtiyaz Shah, Ishfaq Shah and former MLA Ifrah Shah.

During the visit, the delegation prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with the family during their time of grief.

According to a party statement, Bukhari also prayed for strength and patience for the bereaved family to bear the loss.

Several party leaders accompanied the Apni Party president during the condolence visit.

FORM No. STK-6 PUBLIC NOTICE

(Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Registrar of Companies) Rules, 2016)

Public: BOC/PAC/STK/2024/282/2026-27/545 Reference: Date: 17/06/2026

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (5) companies in the Jammu and Kashmir state under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S. No.	Work Item	On
1	AC1753162	UD1410020220P1016515
2	AC1753963	UD140120225P1017128
3	AC1782277	UD2020020220P016949
4	AC3661187	UD3999902024P015495
5	AC3705495	US190902020P1011446

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of their name(s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within a year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of a dormant company (ies) but the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (1) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of their name(s) from the register of companies.

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off of name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Intn Tinkay Deputy Registrar
CBC 071233/11/0238/2627
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

FOR THE SUPPLY OF TRANSFORMER AND ON BEHALF OF THE President of India invites E-Tenders who are willing to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date of 16.07.2026 at 15.00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (In Rs.)	Date & Time for submission of tender	Earliest Monev of tender (In Rs.)	Completion period (Months)	Opening of tender (In Rs.)	Website Particulars
7190-TDR-ZR-2025-26	POH of 03 Nos. Traction Transformers of CEUT/ST (01 No.) 1,19,82,899.61	Upto 16.07.2026 2,38,700	15.00 Hrs	Twelve (12) Months	16.07.2026 After 15.00 Hrs	www.ipps.gov.in	

Similar Nature of work for above Tender No. 7190-TDR-ZR-2025-26:

1. OEM of the Transformer. OR (ii) Any Manufacturer who has satisfactory performance of 30 months from the date of commissioning of the Transformer of the same or higher rating in respect of MVA & KV both, to Indian Railways / Central PSU / State PSU / Metro / DFCCIL, as on the date of Tender opening (excluding the date of opening).

2. CEEMR's letter No. 230-Elect/TDR/73 dt. 24.09.2025 in reference to Point No.-1, 2 of Rf's. Bids/Letter No. 2003/Elect/03165111 (Vol. I) E-230334, dt. 22.09.2025).

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (In Rs.)	Date & Time for submission of tender	Earliest Monev of tender (In Rs.)	Completion period (Months)	Opening of tender (In Rs.)	Website Particulars
7200-TDR-ZR-2025-26	Work for implementation of Cyber Security in existing SCADA 2,19,73,503.27	Upto 16.07.2026 4,39,500	15.00 Hrs	Twelve (12) Months	16.07.2026 After 15.00 Hrs	www.ipps.gov.in	

Similar Nature of work for above Tender No. 7200-TDR-ZR-2025-26:

1. Railway Board / RDSO guidelines for eligibility criteria to be followed. OR (ii) Interfacing of Numerical Relays to SCADA system through serial communication port based on IEC protocol. (Ref: Point No. 2.8.8.2 of Rf's. CEEMR's letter No. 181-Elect/TDR/73 dt. 24.09.2025 in reference to Point No.-1, 2 of Rf's. Bids/Letter No. 2003/Elect/03165111 (Vol. I) E-230334, dt. 22.09.2025).

No. 7190 & 7200-TDR-ZR-2025-26, Dated: 24.06.2026

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217/26

Battle of Karbala: A Timeless Legacy of Sacrifice, Justice and Humanity

The tragedy of Karbala continues to inspire millions with its enduring message of truth, patience, compassion and standing firmly against injustice



ABID BASHIR

The Battle of Karbala remains one of the most profound and emotionally significant events in Islamic history. More than fourteen centuries later, its message continues to inspire millions of people across the world, transcending sectarian, cultural and geographical boundaries. The tragedy of Karbala is not remembered merely as a historical battle fought in the deserts of Iraq in 680 CE; rather, it is seen as a timeless symbol of courage, justice, sacrifice and unwavering commitment to truth.

The battle took place on the 10th day of Muharram in the year 61 Hijri near the banks of the Euphrates River in Karbala, present-day Iraq. At the heart of the event was Imam Hussain (AS), the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who stood against oppression and injustice despite knowing the immense hardships and sacrifices that awaited him and his small group of companions.

Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) chose principles over power and truth over

compromise. His stand was not driven by personal ambition or worldly gain, but by a deep sense of moral responsibility. Historians and scholars across generations have viewed Karbala as a struggle to preserve ethical values, human dignity and justice in society. One of the most powerful aspects of Karbala is the extraordinary courage displayed by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions. Despite being heavily outnumbered and facing severe deprivation, including lack of water in the scorching desert heat, they refused to surrender their principles. Their patience, resilience and faith under extreme hardship transformed Karbala into an enduring moral lesson for humanity.

The sacrifices made in Karbala were immense. Members of Hazrat Imam Hussain's (AS) family, close relatives and loyal companions laid down their lives. Yet the spirit of Karbala teaches that material strength alone cannot define victory. True victory lies in standing for justice even in the face of overwhelming odds.

The message of Karbala continues to hold deep relevance even in modern times. It teaches humanity to uphold truth regardless of circumstances, to resist injustice peacefully and courageously, and to remain patient under hardship. Karbala reminds people that silence in the face of oppression weakens society, while moral courage

strengthens it.

Another important lesson of Karbala is compassion and humanity. Even amid suffering, Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) upheld dignity, kindness and ethical conduct. The tragedy teaches the values of sacrifice for the greater good, helping the needy and standing beside the oppressed.

For Muslims around the world, Muharram is therefore not merely a period of mourning, but also a time for reflection, compassion and self-accountability. The remembrance of Karbala encourages people to examine their own conduct and ask whether they stand with truth, fairness and humanity in their daily lives.

The message of Karbala also carries universal relevance beyond religion. It speaks to all societies about the importance of resisting injustice, protecting human dignity and standing firm against oppression. Leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi openly acknowledged being inspired by Imam Hussain's sacrifice and perseverance. Gandhi once remarked that he learned from Hussain how to achieve victory while remaining oppressed.

Another enduring lesson from Karbala is the importance of patience and moral character during adversity. Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) demonstrated dignity and compassion even in the most difficult moments. Historical accounts highlight how he treated others with

kindness and upheld ethical conduct despite the suffering endured by his camp.

The role of women in Karbala also remains deeply significant. Hazrat Zainab (AS), the sister of Imam Hussain (AS), displayed immense courage and strength after the tragedy. Her resilience and powerful voice ensured that the message of Karbala reached future generations. Her example continues to inspire women across the world with lessons of patience, dignity and leadership.

Karbala further reminds humanity about the dangers of division, intolerance and misuse of authority. The values associated with Karbala — truthfulness, sacrifice, honesty, courage and compassion — remain essential for building peaceful and just communities.

In Kashmir and many other parts of the world, Muharram processions and gatherings reflect not only grief and remembrance but also social solidarity and collective reflection. Sabeels offering water and food, charity initiatives and acts of public service during Muharram symbolise the humanitarian spirit associated with Imam Hussain's teachings.

Importantly, the message of Karbala promotes unity, peace and mutual respect. Scholars repeatedly emphasise that the true spirit of Muharram lies in understanding the ethical and hu-

manitarian lessons of sacrifice and righteousness rather than focusing on divisions.

Today, in a world often marked by conflict, inequality and moral uncertainty, the lessons of Karbala remain deeply relevant. The battle teaches that individuals must never lose hope while standing for justice and humanity. It reminds people that moral courage can leave a lasting impact far greater than worldly power.

More than 1,400 years have passed since the sands of Karbala witnessed one of history's greatest sacrifices, yet the message continues to resonate across generations. The name of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) remains synonymous with dignity, truth and resistance against injustice.

Karbala ultimately stands as a timeless reminder that principles should never be abandoned for convenience and that humanity's highest values are preserved through sacrifice, patience and unwavering faith in truth.

That is why the message of Karbala continues to live not only in history books or religious gatherings, but also in the hearts of millions who see in it a universal call for justice, compassion and moral courage.

(Author is the Senior Special Correspondent at Rising Kashmir and can be reached at: abid@rising-kashmir.com)

“The Qur'an in South Asia: Hermeneutics, Qur'an Projects, and Imaginings of Islamic Tradition in British India”

By foregrounding South Asian exegetical traditions, Bashir not only enriches our understanding of Qur'anic thought but also compels us to rethink the tafsir's global history

BOOK REVIEW

MUHAMMAD YASEEN GADA

The book investigates the common scholarly binary of “traditionalist” and “modernist” tafsir, arguing instead for continuities between pre-modern and modern Qur'anic thought. Kamran Bashir situates South Asian exegesis in local, colonial, and global contexts, challenging portrayals of modern interpretations as ruptures from the Islamic intellectual heritage. His attempt to explain “why Muslims interpreted the Qur'an as they did” (p. 5) is perhaps one of the profound questions modern scholars of the Qur'an have long struggled with and continue to do so.

For instance, Johanna Pink, a professor of Islamic Studies at the Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg, Germany, also deals with this issue in her recent book, *Muslim Qur'anic Interpretations Today: Media, Genealogies and Interpretive Communities* (2019), when she wrote, “[b]efore asking how Muslims today are interpreting the Qur'an, we should ask why they do it” (p.15). Several other scholarly works also deal with modern interpretations of the Qur'an through other approaches and methodologies, but these studies offer significant revelations about Muslim interpretive tendencies of the Qur'an in the Modern context, which are commendable.

The book under review is organized into eight thematic chapters, framed by substantial introduction. Bashir's central aim is to question the assumption that modern tafsir in South Asia emerged as a radical break from pre-modern exegetical traditions. He identifies five problematic assumptions in much scholarship on modern Qur'anic interpretation: (1) that modern tafsir is purely a modern product disconnected from the past, (2) that it overemphasizes literalism, (3) that it excessively foregrounds the Qur'an's literary qualities, (4) that it relies on reason in unprecedented ways, and (5) that tafsir can be neatly categorized into rigid typologies (pp. 7–8). To counter these assumptions, Bashir situates South Asian exegetical practices within the intellectual, political, and religious milieu of British India. He argues that continuities between pre-modern and modern tafsir traditions are more pronounced than usually recognized.

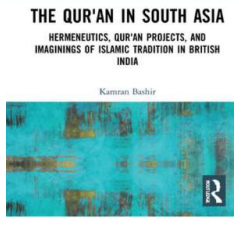
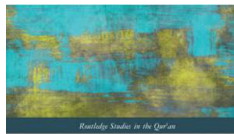
In order to explore continuities in the Quranic interpretations, Bashir delineates 1857 as a pivotal moment in the intellectual understanding of Muslim

scholarship of the Qur'an, marking a shift from pre- to post-Mutiny exegetical traditions. Before 1857, he notes, South Asian tafsir was mostly written in Arabic, drawing heavily on classical commentaries such as al-Baydawi (d. 1319) and al-Jalalayn (d. 1505). Moreover, key principles such as *nazm* (textual coherence) and *rahi' al-ayat* (interconnectedness of verses) are emphasized, while mystical interpretations and Hanafi legal frameworks shape much exegetical writing even before modern times. Bashir underscores that many interpretive techniques later considered “modern” were already visible in these pre-modern works (pp. 23–24).

He also highlights the intellectual legacy of Shah Wali Allah (1703–1782), whose reflections on Qur'anic sciences influenced debates on *nashk* (abrogation), *asbab al-nuzul* (occasions of revelation), and *mutashabih* into the modern era. Post-1857 tafsir, Bashir shows, was deeply shaped simultaneously by colonial encounters, missionary polemics, Orientalist critiques, intra-Muslim theological disputes, and Hindu reformist challenges (pp. 43–67). Bashir situates South Asian tafsir within the broader global currents of Islamic revivalism, reformist thought, pan-Islamism, and anti-colonial resistance, demonstrating how these movements influenced Qur'anic hermeneutics in the region.

Despite these evolving contextual pressures, he contends that Muslim scholarly responses—manifested in commentaries and translations—retained strong continuities with pre-colonial exegetical methodologies. Notably, the advent of print technology played a pivotal role in facilitating the mass production and dissemination of tafsir works, particularly in Urdu, thereby democratizing access to Qur'anic interpretation and reshaping religious discourse in colonial India. Against this backdrop, Bashir examines what he called as “Qur'an Projects” of three key figures: Sayyid Ahmad Khan (d. 1898), Ashraf 'Ali Thanawi (d. 1943), and Hamid al-Din Farahi (d. 1930).

Sayyid Ahmad Khan is presented as both rooted in tradition and innovatively responding to modern intellectual challenges. His commentary sought to reconcile revelation with science and reason, reinterpreting terms like *malak* (angel) as “abilities,” and reading Adam's creation metaphorically. Bashir stresses Khan's continuity with classical tafsir but acknowledges his bold “wholesale revisiting” of the exegetical heritage (p. 94), which many considered radical deviation from mainstream interpretive Quranic thought. Ashraf



‘THE QUR’AN IN SOUTH ASIA’ IS A RICHLY RESEARCHED AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING CONTRIBUTION TO QUR’ANIC STUDIES AND SOUTH ASIAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY. THIS VOLUME WILL BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO SCHOLARS OF QUR’ANIC HERMENEUTICS, ISLAMIC INTELLECTUAL HISTORY, AND COLONIAL SOUTH ASIA

‘Ali Thanawi's Bayān al-Qur’ān is described as a firmly traditionalist work that upheld principles like *nazm*, *rahi' al-ayat*, and *mutashabih*.

Unlike Khan, Thanawi rejected non-traditionalist paths, though he still adapted his tafsir to address modern concerns. Bashir portrays him as bridging past and present without compromising orthodoxy. Hamid al-Din Farahi advanced a distinctive hermeneutic centered on *nazm*, intertextuality, and rigorous philology. His reinterpretation of *Sūrah al-Tin*, in which al-tin and al-zaytun symbolized sacred geographies rather than fruits, illustrates his philological method (pp. 184–185). Bashir frames Farahi's marginalization of *hadith* as less radical than it may appear, although this claim is debatable. Farahi's influence on Amin Ashraf Islahi (1904–1997) and Javed Ahmad Ghamidi (b.

1952) underscores his enduring impact.

Through these case studies, Bashir demonstrates that South Asian tafsir was not a rupture but a dynamic interplay of tradition, adaptation, and contextual responses. The juxtaposition of Khan, Thanawi, and Farahi is particularly effective. By pairing Khan's rationalist hermeneutics with Thanawi's traditionalism and Farahi's philological rigour, Bashir highlights the interpretive diversity of South Asian Qur'anic projects.

That said, certain claims invite critique. Bashir's effort to situate Sayyid Ahmad Khan within classical heritage is not entirely convincing. Khan's radical reinterpretations of many Quranic verses and words, such as angels, Adam (AS), and miracles, strain continuity. Bashir's assertion that Khan was “deeply rooted in his tradition” (p. 95) underplays rupture. Likewise, Bashir arguably minimizes Farahi's radical interpretive approach. His reliance on philology and scepticism toward *hadith* mark a notable departure from mainstream tafsir tradition. To claim this was “far from being radical” (p. 190) overlooks the disagreement around Farahi's hermeneutics, later reflected in debates over *Islahi* and Ghamidi.

In a broader perspective, the interpretive methodologies of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and the Farahi school, indeed, represent a critical departure from classical tafsir, rooted in principles that are fundamentally at odds with the traditional exegetical legacy. Khan's framework was built upon a radical triad: believing the law of offer as a universal and unchangeable truth, boldly rejecting the understanding of the Qur'an inherited by the Muslims, and declaring *hadiths* that conflicted with this rationalist reading as unreliable.

While the Farahi school adopted a more nuanced tone, it was noticeably influenced by this foundational approach. The shared tendency to explain miracles through natural causes—despite formal differences—and the similarities in handling specific Quranic verses like *Sūrah al-Tin* (chapter 104) and the *Huruf Muqatta'at* at disjointed letters appearing at the beginning of certain Quranic chapters) reveal, in many instances, a common interpretive methodology between Farahi and Khan. In essence, both schools position a rationalist, *fiyah*-based framework as the ultimate arbiter of scripture, thereby re-formulating, rather than continuing, the traditional hermeneutic tradition. Their work, therefore, must be classified as a distinctly modern enterprise in Quranic interpretation.

Moreover, Bashir's analysis enters a well-established scholarly debate concerning modernity's impact on tafsir. He aligns his work against the “rupture” thesis, which he notes is prevalent in studies of modern Islam. He further supports this by citing Johanna Pink's earlier scholarship, which describes the late 19th century as a “rupture” and a “radical departure from the tradition of Qur'anic exegesis” (pp. 215–216). However, this engagement with Pink's work falls short.

In her more recent study (2019), Johanna Pink notably refines this position, asserting that while “significant transformations and innovations occurred,” “no clear dividing line between ‘premodern’ and ‘modern’ exegesis” can be drawn and thus “there was never a complete rupture” (p. 38) between the periods. The omission of Pink's latest work, though published before Bashir's book, ignoring the Qur'anic “projects” of other schools of thought in South Asia leaves a notable gap in the book's engagement with contemporary historiography on modern Quranic interpretation.

That said, Bashir's analysis is informed by his methodological and intellectual training and alignment with a well-known European revisionist tradition of Qur'anic studies, which explicitly explains Bashir's drive to deconstruct binaries like “traditionalist”/“modernist” and to emphasise hermeneutical continuities. Consequently, this suggests his effort to normalise figures like Khan and Farahi—by downplaying their radical breaks. However, this same lens can lead to a relative marginalisation of the internal theological perspectives that often defined these exegetes as radical within their own tradition.

Despite these critiques, The Qur'an in South Asia is a richly researched and thought-provoking contribution to Qur'anic studies and South Asian intellectual history. This volume will be of particular interest to scholars of Qur'anic hermeneutics, Islamic intellectual history, and colonial South Asia. By foregrounding South Asian exegetical traditions, Bashir not only enriches our understanding of Qur'anic thought but also compels us to rethink the tafsir's global history.

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Associated Press

dollars once unfrozen

Grossi says inspections are



The accord "says explicitly that the nuclear activities that are going to be carried out with regards to the nuclear mate-

Those inspections are key for the deal, which calls for Iran's stockpile of uranium to be "downblended" from highly enriched levels.

Kazem Gharibabadi, an Iranian deputy foreign minister,

The IAEA has been allowed to visit other nuclear sites in Iran since the 12-day war in 2025, such as the Bushehr nuclear power plant. But without accessing the enrichment sites, the IAEA says it is unable to verify the status of Iran's stockpile or check the cascades of centrifuges used to enrich uranium. Both Iran and the IAEA say Tehran hasn't been enriching uranium, but nonproliferation experts worry that the Islamic Republic may be moving its stockpile to undeclared areas.

Israel launched an airstrike Wednesday that killed two people in southern Lebanon, the country's state-run news agency said. It was Israel's first airstrike on Lebanon since the latest ceasefire took effect on Saturday. Israel's defense minister said Wednesday that the US had not demanded that Israel withdraw from Lebanon and maintained that Israel will remain there as long as Hezbollah poses a threat to its troops and residents. Hezbollah has refused to halt attacks unless Israel commits to withdrawing.

"We are not withdrawing, and as of this moment - and this is a diplomatic achievement

Marco Rubio in Middle East. Gross's remarks came as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio traveled in the Persian Gulf for a three-nation tour, beginning with a closed-door meeting and private working lunch in Abu Dhabi with Emirati President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the State Department said Wednesday. A photo later released by the State Department showed Michael Boullos, the husband of President Donald Trump's daughter Tiffany, attended the meeting.

of an International Students Cell.

Musculoskeletal effects include bone pain, back pain, muscle weakness, leg pain, fatigue, increased risk of falls and fractures, osteomalacia in adults, rickets in

