

POONCH TODAY

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Lieutenant Governor reviews arrangements for pilgrims at Baltal Base Camp

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Omar Abdullah's much-awaited cabinet expansion: Will Poonch Haveli get its first cabinet minister in over three decades?

MLA Ajaz Jan's supporters expect positive response

SALIL RAINA
(POONCH TODAY NEWS)
POONCH

As Chief Minister of the J&K UT, Omar Abdullah is likely to go after its much-awaited cabinet expansion; the question arises: will the Poonch Haveli constituency get its first cabinet berth in the last more than three decades of J&K politics? It is pertinent to mention here that Surankote and Mendhar constituencies got a cabinet berth a number of times, but the Poonch Haveli constituency was denied the same for more than three decades. In the last six assembly elections, including a 2007 by-election, NC (Jan family) won the seat four times, while PDP and Congress won the seat one time each.



But unfortunately, Congress, PDP, and NC ignored the Poonch Haveli con-

stituency and gave cabinet berths in favour of the Surankote and Mendhar

constituencies. In the 2024 assembly elections, young Ajaz Jan created history by taking 41,807 votes with a 42% plus vote share, but despite taking a record number of votes never taken by anyone in the history of Poonch elections, Jan, who is representing the Poonch Haveli constituency, was not blessed with a cabinet berth. The Jan family dominated the Poonch Haveli politics for nearly three decades and won the constituency four times. Late G.M. Jan took 16,150 votes in the 1996 assembly elections with a 39.62% vote share. In the 2002 assembly elections, the late G.M. Jan, in a straight contest with the then Congress candidate, the late Yashpaul Sharma, got 27,364 votes with 47.41% of the vote share, while

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Not Chief Medical Officer Poonch, but powerful lower-rung employees are running the health department by hitting big financial shots

Health department Poonch becomes a toll plaza centre

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The health minister of J&K has, a number of times, said that the health-care system in entire J&K is robust and all-out efforts have been made to strengthen the system on the ground, but the health department of Poonch has other things to say, as some powerful lower-rung employees are running the department behind the curtains and used to commit big financial frauds in several lakhs to crores. The Chief Medical Officer Poonch, who reportedly has the backing of the health minister, has no control, as the department is running



through these powerful and blue-eyed lower-rung employees. Those posted in other sections have been working in the CMO office. Sources in the depart-

ment told “POONCH TODAY” that experienced and dedicated officials were sidelined, and tainted ones have been given important chairs to ensure that the share from different schemes reaches the bosses on time. Some employees who joined the department at one place have spent their whole service on the same post, and it shows that the experienced employees have no takers in the department, while those expert in scripting fudged bills get important posts to feed top bosses also. On the other hand, the operation theatre has also become a toll plaza where every poor patient has to grease the palms

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A photograph of a construction site. In the foreground, there is a large pile of dark, rounded stones. In the middle ground, a yellow forklift is positioned on the left, and a blue excavator is on the right, both working on a large pile of green material. In the background, there are several buildings and a hillside.

of Nangali Bridge during the 2014 flood was an example of illegal mining. Locals allege that unauthorised mining activities have not been effectively curbed in certain areas. However, no official inquiry or investigation report confirming these allegations has been made public so far. Another issue highlighted by residents relates to the alleged operation of a stone crusher in the Chandak area. According to those raising the concern, the

unit has continued to function despite repeated complaints. Residents have maintained that enforcement should be carried out uniformly and that all operators should be treated equally under the law, irrespective of political or social influence. People have urged the district administration to enhance transparency by publishing details of licensed stone crushers, valid mining permits, inspections conducted and enforcement action taken against violators. They have also called for stronger monitoring mechanisms to prevent illegal mining and protect environmentally sensitive areas. The district administration had not issued any public response to the specific allegations at the time this report was filed. The allegations remain unverified, and no official findings establishing any violation have been released. Citizens have demanded a comprehensive, impartial and transparent inquiry into the matter, stating that effective enforcement of environmental and mining regulations is essential to safeguard public resources, maintain ecological balance and uphold public confidence in the rule of law. Locals believe that a transparent investigation and public disclosure of its findings would help address public concerns and strengthen trust in the administration.

Omar Abdullah's much...

Not Chief Medical...

have been sidelined, and those known for hitting the financial deals have been given everything. A few days back, the director of health services visited the Poonch district and, on camera, appreciated the efforts of the department under the back channel compulsion, but the sources inside the department told "POONCH TODAY" that the director was fully aware of various loopholes in the department, but the said officer was taken into confidence well in time through a third powerful party from the top to say positive things about the department. "POONCH TODAY" is in possession of various GEM purchasing documents which show that huge blow was given to the government exchequer. Items claimed to be purchased on paper are not existing on the ground. On paper, the department purchased huge amounts of medicine in crores, but their whereabouts are not known, as these powerful lower-rung employees played a mischievous role in such open frauds. The list of frauds in the department scripted by the top chairs is endless, and only a high-level enquiry could bring some facts into the public domain. Those top officials who have played a mischievous role over the years by murdering the government funds under various schemes need to be brought to justice to end this hidden mafia rule in the department which is meant to provide efficient health services to the patients. The poor state of affairs in the department is that after the retirement of a senior eye specialist, the government has failed to post an eye specialist in the Poonch district for long, as there are thousands of eye patients in the district who have become a target of Kashmir-based doctors through their agents operating in the Poonch district to run after their bread and butter in a handsome manner. Will the J&K government rise from its slumber over the horrible state of affairs in the health department of Poonch?

After Massive Jammu Rally, NC Takes Statehood Battle to Delhi; Omar Leads Intensified Campaign for Restoration of J&K Statehood

POONCH TODAY NEWS

JAMMU

Buoyed by the overwhelming response to its massive Statehood Rally held in Jammu on Sunday, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) has announced a major protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, intensifying its campaign for the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The party has termed the Delhi demonstration as the next phase of its democratic movement to remind the union government of its repeated commitment to restore statehood. The announcement comes just days after thousands of NC workers and supporters gathered in Jammu, where Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, ministers, legislators, and senior leaders strongly reiterated that the restoration of statehood remains the party's foremost political priority. Addressing the gathering in Jammu, Omar Abdullah emphasised that the demand for statehood is linked to the democratic aspirations and constitutional rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the centre to honour its commitment and restore the constitutional status promised to the people. Omar reiterated that the National Conference would continue to pursue the issue through peaceful and democratic means. He maintained that the party's struggle for statehood would continue until Jammu and Kashmir regains



its full constitutional status. He appealed to party workers to remain united and strengthen the democratic movement. Following the successful Jammu rally, the National Conference has now decided to take the issue to the national capital. Senior party leaders said the proposed protest at Jantar Mantar will witness the participation of legislators, ministers, district presidents, office bearers, youth leaders, and workers from across Jammu and Kashmir. The party leadership said the demonstration would be peaceful and conducted within the framework of

the Constitution. Despite facing tough moments after the death of Dr Mustafa Kamal, CM Omar Abdullah is likely to attend the Jantar Mantar protest as per the pre-decided schedule. According to NC leaders, the objective is to draw the attention of the union government and the nation towards the long-pending demand for the restoration of statehood, which they describe as essential for strengthening democratic governance and ensuring greater administrative accountability. The centre has, on several occasions, stated that statehood to

Jammu and Kashmir will be restored at an appropriate time after the completion of the ongoing democratic process. However, the absence of a definite timeline has continued to remain a major political issue, prompting regional parties, particularly the National Conference, to intensify their campaign. Political observers believe the NC's decision to follow the Jammu rally with a protest at Jantar Mantar reflects the party's strategy of keeping the issue of statehood at the centre of national political discourse. The move is expected to draw the attention of political parties, constitutional experts, and civil society groups from across the country. Party leaders have appealed to workers from both the Jammu and Kashmir regions to participate in the Delhi protest in large numbers while maintaining discipline and the peaceful character of the demonstration. They said the movement is aimed at securing what they describe as a long-awaited democratic commitment. With Sunday's show of strength in Jammu setting the tone for the next phase of the campaign, the National Conference has made it clear that its demand for the restoration of statehood will remain at the forefront of its political agenda. All eyes are now on the proposed Jantar Mantar protest, which is expected to emerge as one of the party's biggest political mobilisations on the issue in the national capital.

Smart Border Management Essential to Meet Emerging Security Challenges: Amit Shah

POONCH TODAY NEWS

POONCH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the other day, said that the adoption of advanced technology for securing India's borders has become a necessity in view of the evolving security challenges confronting the country. While chairing a high-level review meeting on border security, Shah said the Government of India is working towards establishing a smart border management system by integrating modern technology with conventional security mechanisms to strengthen surveillance and enhance the operational capabilities of security forces. He said technologies such as drones, thermal imaging cameras, ground sensors, artificial intelligence-based surveillance systems and integrated command and control centres are being deployed to maintain continuous vigil over sensitive border areas. These measures, he said, would enable security agencies to detect suspicious activities at an early stage and ensure a swift



response to potential threats. Emphasising the importance of infrastructure development, the Home Minister said the government is giving priority to improving roads, communication networks and other essential facilities in border regions. Better infrastructure, he observed, would facilitate faster movement of security personnel and improve opera-

tional efficiency in remote and difficult terrain. Shah lauded the Border Security Force (BSF) and other security agencies for their dedicated service in safeguarding the nation's borders under challenging conditions. He reiterated the government's commitment to providing security forces with modern equipment and the latest technological support

to enhance their effectiveness. Highlighting the need for coordinated efforts, Shah stressed closer cooperation among intelligence agencies, security forces and state administrations to effectively tackle infiltration, narco-smuggling, arms trafficking and other cross-border crimes. He said real-time intelligence sharing and coordinated surveillance are vital

for strengthening the country's border security framework. The Home Minister's remarks assume significance for border districts, including Poonch and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir, where strengthening surveillance, improving border infrastructure and ensuring quicker response mechanisms have remained key priorities. Reaffirming the Centre's commitment to national security, Shah said India remains committed to maintaining peace and stability while ensuring that there is no compromise on the security and integrity of its borders. He said continuous efforts are being made to build a modern, technology-driven border management system capable of effectively addressing future security challenges. Security experts believe that the increased use of advanced surveillance technology, improved infrastructure and enhanced coordination among security agencies will further strengthen India's border security architecture and improve preparedness against emerging threats.

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The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed, officers of the district administration, police, line departments, members of the Shri Budha Amarnath Management Committee and prominent citizens of Mandi.

POONCH TODAY NEWS
SRINAGAR

Compared to previous years, a significant number of pilgrims arrived without prior registration. We have successfully facilitated their journey through the necessary protocols, ensuring a smooth process. Every effort is being made to ensure that all pilgrims return home with a positive experience. I am confident that in the coming days, devotees arriving from every corner of the country will carry back fond memories of their pilgrimage.

A Wake-Up Call

Environmental protection is no longer separate from economic development. Clean air, healthy ecosystems, and sustainable natural resources are essential for long-term prosperity and public health. India's future will depend not on where it stands in a global ranking, but on how determined it is to improve the quality of its environment for the generations to come.

The next flashpoint in global geopolitics



Tensions in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait are magnifying after the ongoing Gulf War, as Chinese coastguards have introduced new sea patrols off Taiwan's eastern coast. China's claims over the entire South China Sea are in violation of an UNCLOS ruling in 2016, which was re-endorsed by the West last week but rejected by China. For Beijing, Taiwan is an inalienable and vital component of its One China policy. China has maritime disputes with seven ASEAN countries but enjoys cordial relations with all; North Korea is its only good-weather friend. China has long delayed accepting a South China Sea code of conduct first sought by ASEAN in 2003,

Stung by its failure to keep open the Hormuz Strait, the US is taking no chances in ensuring freedom of passage across the Malacca Strait. On April 14, 2026, the US and Indonesia, the key watchkeeper of the waterway, announced a major defence cooperation partnership, strengthening their military ties. After renaming the US Department of Defence as the Department of War, it has reverted from the US Indo-Pacific Command to the old nomenclature, US Pacific Command – deleting “Indo” – and undertaken several defence and security projects with allies and partners in safeguarding the Malacca Strait. Indonesia’s vast archipelago sits astride the Malacca Strait and other vital sea routes of the world. The narrowest portion of the Malacca Strait is the 2.8 km Phillips Channel near Singapore, which is a vulnerable point. Contingency plans for keeping it free of disruption are available and are being augmented by the new entity “ASEAN Maritime Centre for Protection of Strait of Malacca and South China Sea from Encroachment by Major Powers”, set up in May 2026. This will be similar to the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region at Gurugram, India.

The writer, a retired Major General, served as Commander, IPKF (South), Sri Lanka, and was a founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, now the Integrated Defence Staff; Views presented are personal.

Closed tourist destinations likely to reopen after Amarnath Yatra: CM Omar

POONCH TODAY NEWS
SRINAGAR

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday exuded hope that the tourist destinations closed following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack would reopen after the Amarnath Yatra ends,

Talking to reporters after launching the official merchandise for the Kashmir Marathon 2026, Omar, as per the news agency, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured him during a security review meeting in Jammu that the remaining tourist destinations would be reopened during the summer season.

"You will recall that during the Assembly session in Jammu, the Home Minister chaired a meeting on security and development where he assured that the remaining tourist destinations, including Aharbal, Sintan Top, parts of Doodhpathri and some areas of Gulmarg, would be reopened. I hope that once the Amarnath Yatra concludes and the forces deployed for the pilgrimage are redeployed, these places will be opened," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government is working to diversify tourism by promoting differ-



ent segments instead of relying on a single model.

"A marathon is an event in itself. Organising a marathon does not automatically mean destination weddings or conferences will follow. Every form of tourism has its own identity and potential," he said.

He said the government wants to build unique tourism identities for different destinations, with Gulmarg known for skiing and the Gondola, Pahalgam for white-water rafting and angling, and Sonamarg and Doodhpathri for their distinct attractions.

KASHMIR MARATHON, JAMMU HALF MARATHON TO BECOME NATIONALLY RECOGNISED SPORTING EVENTS

CM Omar said the government intends to develop the Kashmir Marathon and Jammu Half Marathon into nationally recognised sporting events.

Drawing a comparison with the Ladakh Marathon, he said runners from almost every state and Union Territory travel to participate in that event, expressing hope that the Kashmir Marathon would also attract participants from across the country.

"Kashmir is safe, comfortable and welcoming. People who come here to participate in the marathon will return as ambassadors of Kashmir," he said, while encouraging people, including journalists, to take part in the event.

Asked about political developments related to the National Conference, the Chief Minister declined to comment, saying the interaction had been organised to discuss the marathon.

"This is not a National Conference press conference. We have a major party programme

tomorrow where all political questions will be answered," he said.

On religious tourism, CM Omar said the ongoing Amarnath Yatra has witnessed an overwhelming response, with more pilgrims arriving than the number registered, making it challenging for the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board to adhere to the Supreme Court-mandated daily ceiling on the number of pilgrims allowed on the track.

He also said the Kheer Bhawani Mela witnessed a significant rise in participation this year compared to last year, with around 10,000 devotees staying overnight and over 30,000 visiting the shrine during the fair.

The Chief Minister said religious tourism continues to grow across both Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated that while the government does not interfere in the management of pilgrimages, it provides all necessary support through infrastructure development, inter-departmental coordination and tourism-related funding.

"Our responsibility is to support the Shrine Boards. Tourism is the nodal department for pilgrimages, and every department has a role in ensuring smooth conduct of these

events," he said.

CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS BECOMING INCREASINGLY VISIBLE IN I&K

Replying to a question on climate change, Omar described it as a global challenge whose effects are becoming increasingly visible in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are struggling with unprecedented summer heat. Earlier, snow remained visible on the mountains even during summer and lasted much longer during the Amarnath Yatra. Today it disappears much earlier. Climate change is a reality, and the world must first acknowledge it before it can be addressed," he said.

He said the problem cannot be tackled by Jammu and Kashmir or India alone and called for collective global action, noting that industrialised nations also have a major responsibility in addressing the crisis.

On the National Conference's programmes, Omar said the party would hold its event on Saturday, where he would respond to political questions, including those related to support from other parties. He also said another programme is planned for July 20, subject to administrative permission—(KNO)

IRCS J&K organises drug de-addiction and CPR awareness programme at Mendhar under 100-Day Nasha Mukht Campaign

POONCH TODAY NEWS
POONCH

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Jammu & Kashmir in collaboration with the District Red Cross Society Poonch, today organised a Drug De-addiction Awareness and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Awareness Programme at Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Mendhar, as part of the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Campaign launched under the guidance of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme aimed to educate students on the harmful effects of drug abuse, promote a healthy and drug-free lifestyle and equip participants with life-saving skills through CPR training.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Mendhar Imran Kataria and Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Mendhar attended as chief guests and appreciated the initiative, urging students to stay away from drugs, adopt healthy lifestyles and contribute towards building a drug-



free society. The SDM highlighted the social and health consequences of drug addiction and appealed to students to become ambassadors of the

campaign by spreading awareness within their families and communities.

A special team from IRCS Jammu, comprising Dr Rita

Kumari (Medical Officer), Vironica Marwah (Field Officer), Ashok Chandel (Head Assistant) and Surinder Kumar (Helper) conducted the aware-

ness sessions. Dr Kumari delivered a practical demonstration on CPR, explaining correct techniques and noting that timely CPR can significantly improve chances of survival before professional medical assistance arrives. Ms Marwah spoke on the objectives, principles and humanitarian services of IRCS and encouraged students, teachers and members of the public to enroll as Red Cross members and participate in humanitarian and community service initiatives.

Principal of Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) Mendhar Saleem Hus-sain Shah addressed the students, highlighting the importance of staying away from drug abuse and contributing to society through humanitarian service.

A large number of students, teachers and local residents attended and participated in the interactive sessions, pledging to spread awareness about drug de-addiction and life-saving first aid practices in their communities.

Chief Secretary assesses status of arrangements for ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

Directs for comprehensive audit of facilities across both routes

POONCH TODAY NEWS
SRINAGAR

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the arrangements put in place for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 and issued directions for further strengthening the facilities and services being provided to the pilgrims to ensure the safe, smooth and hassle-free conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Civil Administration, Shrine Board, and security establishment, including Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of Police, CAPFs, BRO/BEACON, Heads of Departments, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners/SSPs of Anantnag and Ganderbal; Director Information; besides other concerned officers.

Reviewing the progress of the Yatra, the Chief Secretary took note of the extensive arrangements made and their further augmentation in view of the unprecedented response from pilgrims this year. It was informed that the pilgrimage



has witnessed an overwhelming turnout since the commencement of yatra this year.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on the recommendations presented by the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari based on the reports of various committees constituted to assess the status of arrangements on the ground. The discussions focused on identifying additional measures required to make the arrangements more robust, reliable and responsive to the needs of the pilgrims.

The meeting reviewed the status of infrastructure and

facilities at Yatra camps, langars and along both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes. It was highlighted that the recommendations include complete tiling of the pilgrimage track up to the Holy Cave Shrine to enhance the safety of pilgrims, widening of narrow stretches of the track and bridges at vulnerable locations to prevent overcrowding, construction of retaining walls in landslide-prone areas, augmentation of rain shelters and waiting sheds, installation of iron barricades for effective queue management, and ensuring adequate availability of palkis and stretchers for prompt evacuation during med-

ical emergencies.

The meeting also comprehensively reviewed the availability of essential public amenities across the Yatra camps and holding areas. These included adequate toilet and bathing facilities, uninterrupted drinking water supply, regular sanitation and cleanliness of camps, scientific waste management, and efficient functioning of food and medical facilities.

Moreover the need for installation of additional digital display boards for dissemination of advisories, strengthening fire fighting infrastructure, and enhancing disaster preparedness through adequate mitigation equipment and emergency response mechanisms was also discussed.

During the meeting concerned heads of the departments presented updates regarding the facilities created by their respective departments and informed the meeting about the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations made by the committees.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, along with the Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag and Ganderbal, apprised the meeting of the overall conduct of the Yatra and the arrangements made on the ground.

Emphasising the need for continuous monitoring and timely corrective action, the Chief Secretary directed all the line departments to constitute dedicated audit teams to undertake regular inspections of facilities and infrastructure along both the Yatra routes. He instructed these teams to identify any deficiencies or implementation gaps and ensure their immediate rectification.

Stressing the importance of seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments and agencies, the Chief Secretary called for prompt resolution of issues through effective inter-agency coordination. He asserted that there should be no scope for delays, complacency or lackadaisical approach in the discharge of responsibilities, reiterating that the safety, security and convenience of every pilgrim remain the highest priority of the administration.

Amarnath Yatra living symbol of aspirational Jammu Kashmir: LG Sinha

POONCH TODAY NEWS
BALTAL

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that Amarnath Yatra is a living symbol of aspirational Jammu Kashmir and it is woven into the very soul of this land.

According to the details available with the news agency LG Sinha today visited the Baltal base camp and reviewed the arrangements for the pilgrims of Baba Amarnath.

The Lieutenant Governor inspected Base Camp Hospital, on-spot registration counters, tents and other facilities, along with the senior officials and directed all line departments to ensure seamless inter-departmental synergy for a hassle-free and memorable pilgrimage experience.

LG Sinha while chairing a meeting to review the arrangements said, "The comfort of devotees must remain the highest priority. From registration to accommodation, from smooth movement to darshan, every step of the journey should be seamless and free of any obstacles. The Shrine Board and every department involved are united in their dedication to making this spiri-



tual journey a safe, seamless, and deeply memorable experience for all."

The Lieutenant Governor said that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is not only transforming the spiritual lives of devotees but also uplifting the lives of the people of Jammu Kashmir. He interacted with service providers, sanitation workers, doctors, and the volunteers who tirelessly run the langars.

“Their spirit of selfless service is truly inspiring. This year’s larger crowds are also bringing new opportunities and positive economic change for local traders and service providers,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also stated that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a living symbol

of aspirational Jammu Kashmir. "It is woven into the very soul of this land, and preserving its sanctity and cleanliness is our collective duty," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the authorities to take strict legal action against anyone involved in overcharging pilgrims or executing fraudulent registrations. Whether it is a service provider, a government employee, or an individual associated with any institution, make no exceptions. Register a case immediately, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized a comprehensive audit of all sanitation arrangements. He ordered officials to ensure an uninterrupted, 24/7

water supply.

The concerned officers also briefed the Lieutenant Governor about the arrangements related to security, sanitation, healthcare, accommodation, water and power supply and other essential services. It was informed that an effective feedback mechanism has been put in place and immediate steps are being taken to address issues highlighted by pilgrims.

During the review meeting, it was also informed that the number of RO water installations along the yatra track has been increased to ensure adequate availability of clean drinking water for pilgrims.

INTERACTS WITH PILGRIMS

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the yatris and enquired about the facilities extended to them. The pilgrims appreciated the arrangements made by the line departments, administration, Shrine Board, police, army, security forces and other stakeholders for their smooth pilgrimage.

"I invite all devotees of Baba Barfani to come, experience the darshan of Lord Shiva, and let this pilgrimage be a journey of self-discovery and spiritual joy," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Speaking to media persons, Lieutenant Governor said: “Today marks the eighth day of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, and so far, around 1,70,000 pilgrims have paid their obeisance at the holy cave. J&K administration, Police, Army, Security Forces, Shrine Board, and all other stakeholders have worked in complete synergy to ensure that the pilgrimage is hassle-free.

Compared to previous years, a significant number of pilgrims arrived without prior registration. We have successfully facilitated their journey through the necessary protocols, ensuring a smooth process. Every effort is being made to ensure that all pilgrims return home with a positive experience. I am confident that in the coming days, devotees arriving from every corner of the country will carry back fond memories of their pilgrimage.

100-bed hospitals, located at Baltal and Chandanwari, have been fully operational, handling an average of 1,300 to 1,400 OPD patients daily. These hospitals are playing a critical role in safeguarding the health of both the pilgrims and the dedicated personnel deployed along the routes.

Coordinated action critical for maintaining robust security grid: DGP Prabhat

POONCH TODAY NEWS
SRINAGAR

Asserting that coordinated action and the timely dissemination of actionable intelligence remain critical for maintaining a robust security grid, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday reviewed the overall security environment and the effectiveness of the multi-tier security arrangements put in place for the safe and peaceful conduct of the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra.

Chairing a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir with senior officers from the Army, CAPFs, intelligence agencies, and the Jammu & Kashmir Police, DGP Prabhat, according to the news agency reiterated the importance of synergy among security forces and called upon all participating agencies to work in close coordination, ensuring seamless intelligence sharing, real-time information exchange, and joint operational planning to achieve better operational outcomes.

The meeting was attended by GOC 15 Corps, BB Cantt Srinagar; Spl. DG Coordination J&K; Spl. DG CRPF J&K; ADGP CID J&K; AX SIB J&K/L; IGSp of



Kashmir Zone, Security J&K, Railways J&K, Traffic J&K & CID J&K, IGs of BSF Ftr Hqrs Kashmir, CRPF KOS, NHW ITBP, and CRPF Srinagar; Commissioner SB; Addl. Commissioner SB Srinagar; GOC CIF (K) Shariefabad Srinagar; GOC CIF (V) Awantipora; GOC 19 Inf Div Baramulla; GOC 28 Inf Div Kupwara; all Range DIGs of Kashmir Zone; DIGs of SSB Srinagar, CRPF (South) Srinagar, CRPF (North) Srinagar, and ITBP Srinagar; Dy. GOC 31 Sub Area, BB Cantt Srinagar; SSP PCR Kashmir; all

District SSPs of Kashmir Zone; Col GS (IS) 15 Corps; DPT J&K; SP Cargo Srinagar; and other senior officers.

Senior officers presented detailed assessments of the security measures currently in place and shared updates on field-level preparedness across the Kashmir Valley.

DGP Nalin Prabhat emphasized that coordinated action and the timely dissemination of actionable intelligence remain critical for maintaining a robust security grid. The DGP instructed

all agencies to intensify anti-terror operations across the Valley and maintain relentless pressure on terrorist networks and their support structures.

DGP Prabhat directed officers to keep a close watch on terrorist aides and other anti-national elements and to take timely preventive and legal action, wherever required, in accordance with the law.

The DGP further emphasized the importance of area domination, enhanced night domination, and increased surveillance

in vulnerable areas to deter any attempt to disturb peace and public order.

DGP Prabhat also directed the establishment of effective naka checkpoints at sensitive locations across the Valley to strengthen access control, improve surveillance, and facilitate the interception of suspicious movement.

The DGP laid special emphasis on strengthening security at vulnerable stretches of the Yatra route, key transit points, and other strategically significant locations.

DGP Prabhat also called for enhanced security oversight of the National Highway and railway infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted movement and the overall safety of yatris.

The Director General of Police also instructed field officers to conduct regular operational briefings for deployed personnel. The DGP directed officers to intensify public awareness initiatives at base camps and transit locations by educating pilgrims about safety guidelines and precautionary measures.

DGP Prabhat reiterated the need for sustained coordination, operational preparedness, and proactive policing among all security agencies.

POONCH TODAY NEWS
AKHNOOR

Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Akhnoor, Mohammad Yaqoob, Assistant Executive Engineer Sunil Baogia, along with officers and officials of the Urban Local Bodies Department, were also present on the occasion.

POONCH TODAY NEWS
SRINAGAR

Residents expressed satisfaction over the developmental initiatives and appreciated the MLA's regular interaction with the public. They said the newly sanctioned road projects and improved educational infrastructure would significantly enhance connectivity, educational standards, and the overall quality of life in the area. Senior officers from the Public Works Department, Education Department and other line departments, local BJP leaders, panchayat representatives, and a large number of residents were present during the programme.

District admin Rajouri organises mega Awareness Programme-cum-Workshop on POSH Act 2013

POONCH TODAY NEWS
RAJOURI

District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department and District Legal Service Authority, today organised a Mega Awareness Programme-cum-Workshop on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act, 2013) to spread awareness about the legal provisions of the Act and promote a safe, dignified and harassment-free work environment.

The programme was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Ravi Kumar Sihag.

Among others present were Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Mohammad Jahangir Khan; District Social Welfare Officer Abdul Raheem, Advocates Ashfaq Lone and Deepakshi from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), officers from different departments, employees and other stakeholders.

At the outset, DSWO Abdul Raheem delivered a detailed presentation on the objectives and key provisions of the POSH Act, 2013. He elaborated on the rights of women at the work-



place, the responsibilities of employers, the constitution and role of Internal Committees, complaint redressal mechanisms, timelines prescribed under the Act and the legal safeguards available to victims of workplace sexual harassment. He emphasised that awareness of the law is essential to ensuring dignity, equality and justice for every working woman.

Addressing the gathering, the ADC highlighted the significance of the POSH Act in safeguard-

ing the rights, dignity and safety of women in workplaces. He said that every institution and organisation has a moral and legal responsibility to provide a secure, respectful and inclusive working environment where women can perform their duties without fear of harassment or discrimination.

The ADC stressed the need to sensitise all employees about the provisions of the Act so that awareness translates into responsible behaviour and

mutual respect at workplaces. He urged all departments to organise similar awareness programmes at regular intervals and ensure that the message of workplace safety reaches every employee. He also called upon the participants to act as ambassadors of awareness by disseminating information about the Act within their respective offices and communities.

The ACR also addressed the gathering and underscored the importance of creating safe, respectful and gender-sensitive workplaces. He emphasised that awareness of the provisions of the POSH Act, 2013, coupled with collective responsibility and institutional accountability, is essential for preventing workplace harassment and ensuring a secure and dignified working environment for all employees. He urged participants to actively disseminate awareness about the Act and contribute towards fostering a culture of equality, respect and mutual trust in every workplace.

Advocate Ashfaq spoke about the legal framework of the POSH Act, explaining the rights of aggrieved women, the procedure for filing complaints and the legal safeguards available under the Act. Advocate

Deepakshi sensitised the participants on the importance of gender equality, workplace ethics and the need to foster an environment of dignity, mutual respect and zero tolerance towards sexual harassment. She encouraged employees to remain aware of their rights and responsibilities and to contribute towards building safe and inclusive workplaces.

The composition, roles and functioning of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and the Local Complaints Committee (LCC) under the POSH Act, 2013 were explained in detail. The procedure for filing complaints, mechanism for inquiry and redressal and safeguards available to aggrieved women were elaborated upon. It was highlighted that every establishment employing ten or more persons is mandated to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee, while the Local Complaints Committee serves as the designated redressal mechanism for establishments where an ICC has not been constituted or where the complaint is against the employer. Participants were sensitised about these institutional mechanisms to ensure timely, fair and confidential redressal of grievances.

Baldev Billawaria reviews development works, hears public grievances in Gangyal

POONCH TODAY NEWS
JAMMU

J&K BJP general secretary & former Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria conducted an extensive tour of Ward No. 56 in the Gangyal area today to interact with local residents, understand their concerns, and inspect the progress of ongoing developmental works being undertaken in the locality.

During his visit, Billawaria met with residents from different parts of the ward and patiently listened to their grievances and suggestions regarding civic amenities. The inhabitants highlighted several issues, including the need for improved sanitation, better drainage facilities, repair of internal roads, regular water supply, street lighting, and enhanced cleanliness in public spaces. Residents also requested the early completion of pending development projects to improve the quality of life in the area.

Addressing the gathering, Billawaria assured the people that every genuine issue raised by them would be taken up with the concerned government departments and municipal authorities for prompt resolution. He reiterated that public



service remains the foremost priority of the Bharatiya Janata Party and emphasized that continuous interaction with citizens is essential for ensuring accountable and transparent governance.

Billawaria also inspected the ongoing development works in Ward No. 56 and reviewed their progress on the ground. He interacted with officials and

local representatives, stressing the importance of maintaining quality standards and ensuring that all projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe. He directed that no compromise should be made in the execution of public works and urged the concerned agencies to accelerate the pace of construction wherever necessary.

Speaking on the occasion,

Billawaria said that the BJP is committed to the holistic development of every locality and is working tirelessly to strengthen basic infrastructure and improve public amenities. He added that regular field visits enable public representatives to understand the real concerns of the people and monitor the implementation of development schemes effectively.

The residents appreciated Billawaria's visit and welcomed his initiative to personally assess the situation on the ground. They expressed confidence that their long-pending issues would receive due attention and be resolved at the earliest.

Ranjeet Singh, Rakesh Sangral, Dr. Kuldeep Gupta, Om Nath, Jugal Kishore were also present on this occasion.

Continued delay for restoration of Statehood will cause great harm to the generation to come and the country: Dy. CM Surinder Choudhary

POONCH TODAY NEWS

JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference senior leader and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Thursday said the Restoration of Statehood to Jammu & Kashmir is not merely a political demand but an essential prerequisite for safeguarding democracy, ensuring effective governance, and accelerating the all-round development of the region.

Addressing public meetings at Bari Brahmana, Vijaypur, Samba in District Samba and Hiranagar, Kathua in District Kathua along with Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta. Choudhary said that every passing day without the restoration of full statehood is causing irreparable harm to the future of Jammu & Kashmir. "The continued delay will adversely affect not only the present generation but also generations to come by slowing development, weakening democratic institutions, and creating uncertainty in governance," he asserted.



Choudhary said that Jammu & Kashmir is a sensitive border region of immense strategic importance and a world-renowned tourist destination. Such a unique region deserves a fully empowered, democratically elected government capable of taking independent decisions in the best interests of its people. He added that the existing dual power structure, where authority is divided between the elected government and the Lieutenant Governor, has resulted in administrative

bottlenecks, delayed decision-making, and avoidable obstacles in implementing development programmes.

He said the people of Jammu & Kashmir have repeatedly demonstrated their faith in democracy by participating in elections despite numerous challenges. Their democratic mandate must be respected by restoring full statehood at the earliest. Continued denial of statehood is inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution and India's federal democratic

framework.

The legislator's party and other alliance partners have decided to hold a strong protest on 20th of July at Jantar Mantar Delhi to remind the Centre leadership to restore the Statehood without any further delay. He also requested the people of Jammu to participate in a Public meeting to be held on 12th of July at Maharaja Hari Singh Park Jammu.

Addressing the gatherings Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu said that the reminded the Central Government of its repeated assurances regarding the restoration of statehood and urged it to translate those commitments into action without any further delay. He said that restoring statehood would strengthen democratic institutions, improve administrative accountability, attract investment, boost tourism, create employment opportunities, and ensure balanced and inclusive development across all regions of Jammu & Kashmir.

He emphasized that the demand for statehood transcends party politics and reflects

the aspirations and dignity of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. The Centre should act without further delay and restore full statehood in the larger national interest and in keeping with its constitutional and democratic commitments.

Mr Gupta appealed to the people to participate in the mega rally to be held at Maharaja Hari Singh Park Jammu near Fortune Hotel at the Bank of Tawi on 12th of July at 10:30 am.

Among others who were present in the meeting included: Sudagar Gupta District President Samba, Mohinder Singh former JCCB, Sham Narian Mehta District President Kathua Rural, Ajeet Kumar Sharma District President Kathua Urban, Rajesh Pargotra, Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing Jammu, K.K Bakashi District Secretary Kathua, Shoket Choudhary District President Samba ST Cell, Puran Chand, Ajay Sharma, Satpal, Rajeshwar Singh, Balbir Singh, Prem Verma, Anoop Gupta, Sharief Choudhary, Parveen Kousar, Ashu Thakur and other party functionaries were also present.

DC Reasi, MD SBM chair review meeting on SWM Rules 2026

POONCH TODAY NEWS

REASI

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek along with MD SBM, Dr. Devansh Yadav, today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, and the directions issued by the Supreme Court regarding scientific waste management and environmental protection.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the district administration, Urban Local Bodies, line departments, and stakeholders associated with sanitation and waste management. The Team Leader, Mission Directorate, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Jammu & Kashmir, delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the key provisions of the SWM Rules, 2026, and the responsibilities assigned to Urban Local Bodies, the district administration, and other stakeholders.

During the presentation, emphasis was laid on the transition towards a circular economy approach, mandatory four-stream segregation of waste at source comprising wet, dry, sanitary, and special care waste, strengthening of door-to-door collection systems, decentralized waste processing, scientific landfill management, and remediation of legacy waste dump



sites.

The meeting reviewed the timelines prescribed under the new rules, including the preparation of solid waste action plans, establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), identification of sanitary landfill sites, creation of grievance redressal mechanisms, and strengthening of digital monitoring systems for waste collection and transportation.

The directions of the Supreme Court regarding the constitution of Special Cells at the district level, regular monitoring

of waste management activities, fortnightly and monthly reporting mechanisms, and enforcement measures against violators were also discussed in detail.

Special focus was laid on improving waste management systems in key tourist destinations of the district under the Clean Himalayan Hill Cities Initiative. The proposed action plan for Katra was reviewed, including the development of biomethanation facilities, establishment of Reduce-Reuse-Recycle (RRR) Centres, installation of smart toilets and reverse

vending machines, creation of composting infrastructure, and implementation of awareness campaigns and community participation initiatives aimed at achieving zero-waste tourism destinations.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the active involvement of elected representatives in achieving the objectives of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. He also stressed the deployment of GPS-based tracking systems for waste collection and transportation

vehicles, mapping of Points of Interest (PoIs), and establishment of digital monitoring systems to ensure real-time supervision, route optimization, and accountability in solid waste management operations. He directed all concerned agencies to accelerate waste processing and remediation activities and achieve tangible progress. He further stressed the need for scientific processing of accumulated waste and time-bound remediation of dumping sites in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.

MD SBM laid special emphasis on the registration of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) in Katra and directed the Municipal Committee Katra to ensure registration of all eligible establishments, including hotels, guest houses, restaurants, institutions, commercial establishments, and large residential complexes. He stated that the implementation of various waste management initiatives should be linked with Mission YUVA and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to create sustainable employment opportunities for local youth and women.

ADDC Krishan Lal, CPO Narinder Kumar, DFO, CMO, XEN Jal Shakti and other concerned officers were present during the meeting. Executive Officer Municipal Committee Katra/Reasi, joined the meeting virtually.

Committee on Ethics discusses code of conduct; proposes orientation, institutional outreach

POONCH TODAY NEWS
SRINAGAR

A meeting of the Committee on Ethics of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was convened today under the Chairmanship of MLA Nizam-Ud- Din Bhat.

The meeting was attended by legislators Salman Sagar, Peerzada Feroze, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Satish Kumar, Surinder Kumar and Arvind Gupta, alongside senior officers from the Assembly Secretariat.

The Committee initiated deliberations on establishing a foundational framework to encourage public confidence in parliamentary institutions and their members. Acknowledging contemporary challenges faced by the legislative bodies, the members unanimously emphasised the necessity of upholding stringent norms, ethical standards and core values to guide the public conduct and responsibilities of representatives. To this end, the Committee resolved to formulate a comprehensive Code of Conduct to serve as an institutional guide for members.

Recognizing the vital role of ethical values in public life, the Committee decided to



organize an orientation programme for all members of the Legislative Assembly.

This initiative will include a comparative study of the operational frameworks of ethics committees across various State Legislatures, as well

as the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. To adopt best practices, the Committee emphasized the necessity of undertaking study tours to witness the practical functioning of these institutional mechanisms outside the Union Territory.

In a bid to institutionalize the evolving ethical standards, the Committee resolved to broaden its scope of engagement. The members proposed expanding outreach to external academic and civic institutions, includ-

ing universities. This external consultation aims to gather diverse inputs on public expectations and define contemporary benchmarks for the conduct of public representatives both within and outside the House.

CUJ Organises Expert Lecture on “Understanding Variables in Research” under Shiksha Shastrarth Forum

POONCH TODAY NEWS
JAMMU

The Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu, organized an enriching expert lecture titled “Understanding Variables in Research” under the Shiksha Shastrarth Forum. The program was held under the esteemed patronage of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members of the Department of Educational Studies and research scholars, providing an engaging platform for strengthening research methodology and promoting academic inquiry.

The program commenced with the formal welcome of the distinguished resource person. Dr. Seema Rani Thappa, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education, Nagaland University. Welcoming the gathering, Prof. Asit K. Mantry, Head, Department of Educational Studies, underscored the importance of research methodology in producing meaningful and credible scholarly work. He emphasised that a sound understanding of research variables forms the cornerstone of quality research design, enabling researchers to



develop logically coherent and methodologically rigorous studies. Prof. Mantry also noted that the lecture marked the first academic programme of the current session under the Shiksha Shastrarth Forum, highlighting the Forum's significance as a vibrant platform dedicated to fostering intellectual discourse and advancing research excellence.

Delivering the expert lecture, Dr. Thappa presented a comprehensive overview of the concept of variables in educational and social science research. She elaborated on the meaning, characteristics, and significance of variables while systematically explaining various types, including independent, dependent, moderator, mediator, control, and extrane-

ous variables. Using practical illustrations and research-based examples, she demonstrated how the appropriate identification and operationalisation of variables enhance the validity, reliability, and overall quality of research investigations. She also guided participants on selecting variables in alignment with research objectives, formulating hypotheses, and

avoiding common methodological errors during the research process.

The lecture was followed by an interactive session in which research scholars actively engaged with the resource person through thoughtful questions on identifying variables in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method research, operational definitions, conceptual frameworks, and research design. Dr. Thappa addressed the queries with clarity, practical insights, and illustrative examples, making the session highly informative and beneficial for both emerging and experienced researchers.

The program concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the resource person, faculty members, research scholars, and all those who contributed to the successful conduct of the event. The lecture marked yet another intellectually enriching academic engagement under the Shiksha Shastrarth Forum and reaffirmed the Department of Educational Studies' continued commitment to nurturing research aptitude, promoting academic excellence, and strengthening scholarly dialogue within the university community.

Satish Sharma secures breakthrough on mutton dealers' issues during meetings in Punjab

POONCH TODAY NEWS
CHANDIGARH

In a significant step towards resolving the long-pending issues faced by the mutton dealers, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today held a series of meetings with the Punjab Government, resulting in immediate directions for addressing the concerns of the trading community.

The Minister held detailed discussions with the Punjab's Animal and Sheep Husbandry Minister, the Chief Secretary of Punjab, the Secretary, Science & Technology and the Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj.

The primary focus of the meetings was to find an immediate and practical resolution to the issues affecting the mutton dealers, which have been causing hardships to the traders and impacting the smooth movement of livestock.

During the marathon deliberations, Satish Sharma strongly projected the concerns of the mutton dealers. He emphasized the need for



coordinated action between the governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab to facilitate hassle-free movement of livestock while ensuring compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Responding positively to the Minister's intervention, the Punjab Government issued on-the-spot instructions to the concerned departments to take immediate steps for resolving the issues. The decisions taken during the meetings are expected to significantly ease

the difficulties being faced by the mutton dealers and ensure smoother coordination between Punjab and J&K.

Expressing satisfaction over the outcome of the meetings, Satish Sharma said that safeguarding the interests of traders and ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential commodities remains a priority of the Government. He said the positive response from the Punjab Government reflects the spirit of cooperative federalism and inter-state coordination in

resolving issues affecting the livelihoods of thousands of people.

The meetings also featured extensive discussions on strengthening cooperation in the field of animal husbandry. Both sides explored measures to improve livestock management, disease control, scientific breeding practices and veterinary services through greater collaboration and exchange of best practices.

In separate discussions with the senior officials, the Minister

also reviewed opportunities for enhanced cooperation in the fields of Science & Technology, innovation, digital governance and research. He stressed the need to leverage technology for improving public service delivery and promoting sustainable development.

The growing menace of drug abuse also figured prominently during the discussions. Satish Sharma held detailed deliberations with the senior Punjab officials on the state's comprehensive anti-drug strategy, particularly its community-based model involving Village Defence Committees and a dedicated 24x7 monitoring mechanism. He said these initiatives have shown encouraging results and would be examined for suitable adoption in Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and protect the youth from the scourge of narcotics.

The Minister thanked the Punjab Government for its prompt response and assured the mutton dealers that the Jammu and Kashmir Government would continue to work closely with all the stakeholders to ensure that their genuine concerns are addressed in a time-bound manner.

In a first, LG VK Saxena inaugurates five EV Charging Stations across Ladakh

POONCH TODAY NEWS
LEH

In a significant step towards promoting sustainable mobility and advancing the vision of Carbon Neutral Ladakh, Lieutenant Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today inaugurated five Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations across the Union Territory, reaffirming the Administration's commitment to clean energy, environmentally responsible transportation and preservation of Ladakh's fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

The newly inaugurated EV Charging Stations, the first in Ladakh, have been established at Main Bus Stand, Leh; Tia Rong; Solar Colony; Chuchot Shamma; and Khaltsi, while a sixth charging station near Magnetic Hill in Leh is in the final stages of completion. Together, these charging stations will form the foundation of a comprehensive EV charging network across Ladakh, facilitating the growing adoption of electric vehicles and ensuring convenient charging infrastructure for both residents and tourists.

The new EV charging infrastructure has been designed in a way that owners of electric vehicles do not face any incon-



venience while travelling within Ladakh or while charging their vehicles. Each of the charging stations is equipped with two fast-charging guns, enabling vehicles to be charged up to 80 per cent capacity within 30 mins to one hour, thereby making electric mobility more practical and convenient. They are also equipped with advanced fire safety measures and an emergency shutdown system for enhanced safety.

L-G Shri Saxena described the inauguration of the charging stations as a historic day for Ladakh's transition towards clean energy and sustainable transportation. He stated that the initiative was fully aligned with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of making Ladakh a Carbon Neutral region and promoting clean energy while protecting its pristine environment and reducing dependence on fossil

fuels.

"The inauguration of these EV Charging Stations reflects our unwavering commitment to clean energy, sustainable mobility and environmentally responsible development. Ladakh's fragile ecology demands that we adopt technologies that minimise pollution and reduce carbon emissions. I am confident that the people of Ladakh, who have always embraced progressive initiatives, will whole-

heartedly adopt this transition towards clean mobility," said L-G Shri Saxena.

Appealing to the people of Ladakh, L-G Shri Saxena urged the citizens to gradually shift from conventional petrol and diesel vehicles to electric vehicles, noting that such a transition would play a crucial role in reducing pollution, conserving the environment and protecting Ladakh's unique ecological heritage.

POONCH TODAY NEWS
JAMMU

A photograph showing three men seated at a table during a press conference. The man in the center, wearing a white shirt and a light-colored vest, is speaking and gesturing with his right hand. He is flanked by two other men: one on the left in a white shirt and one on the right in a blue and white striped shirt. The background features a large banner with the text 'भारतीय जनता पार्टी' (Bharatiya Janata Party) in Hindi and 'जम्मू टी.' (Jammu T.) below it. The table in front of them is covered with numerous microphones from various media outlets.

The BJP leaders said that the era of exploiting public emotions, encouraging ambiguity on separatism and surviving on the politics of fear is over. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have decisively chosen the path of peace, democracy, development and national integration. No amount of political theatrics or symbolic protests can reverse this irreversible journey.

A collage of images showing various officials in meetings and a large image of a man in a vest reading a document. The collage includes several smaller photos of officials in meetings, some with the text 'Divisional Commissioner's Office' and 'KASIMBA'. The large image on the right shows a man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark vest over a light blue shirt, sitting at a desk and reading a document. The Indian flag is visible in the background.

The meeting was informed by the MD, KPDCL, Mehmood Ahmad Shah that under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the Government of India has fixed a national target of one crore residential rooftop solar installations by 31st March 2027. In line with this, Jammu & Kashmir has set a target of 83,500 residential consumers for itself, comprising 39,500 consumers under JPDCL and 44,000 consumers under KPDCL.

BJP OBC Morcha holds organisational meeting under Chairmanship of Sat Sharma

POONCH TODAY NEWS

JAMMU

The BJP OBC Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir, on Thursday held an organisational meeting under the chairmanship of Sat Sharma, President, BJP Jammu & Kashmir and Member of Rajya Sabha, to review the organisational activities of the Morcha and discuss the programmes received from the party's Central leadership.

The meeting was attended by Baldev Singh Billawaria, State General Secretary BJP; Rashpaul Verma, State Vice President BJP; Braham Jyot Satti, President, BJP OBC Morcha Jammu & Kashmir; Murari Lal, Former President, BJP OBC Morcha; Captain Romesh Lal, State Working Committee Member, BJP J&K; Sham Mehra, State General Secretary, BJP OBC Morcha; Sunny Sangotra, State General Secretary, BJP OBC Morcha; Reeta Verma, State Vice President, BJP OBC Morcha; Krishan Lal Verma, Former District President, OBC Morcha Nowshera; Suresh Salgotra, State Vice President, BJP OBC Morcha; Captain Hans Raj Verma, State Spokesperson, BJP OBC Morcha; Madan Verma, State Executive Member; Ashok



Salgotra, State Secretary, BJP OBC Morcha; Vijay Saini, State Vice President, BJP OBC Morcha, along with other senior office bearers and district representatives.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on the organisational programmes and campaigns assigned by the BJP Central leadership. The leaders deliberated on strategies to ensure their effective implementation across Jammu & Kashmir and stressed the need for better

coordination among district and mandal units. The meeting also reviewed the progress of the Morcha's ongoing activities and chalked out a roadmap for the forthcoming organisational programmes.

Special emphasis was laid on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level, increasing public outreach, and ensuring active participation of party workers in all upcoming programmes. Office bearers were asked to work in close

coordination and make every campaign people-centric and result-oriented.

Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma said that the BJP's organisational strength has always been its biggest asset and every karyakarta has an important role in taking the party's ideology and the Central Government's welfare initiatives to the people. He said the programmes received from the party's Central leadership should be implemented with

full dedication and sincerity so that their message reaches every booth and every household. Sharma urged all Morcha office bearers to remain in constant touch with the public, work in a spirit of teamwork, and ensure that every forthcoming organisational programme is conducted successfully. He expressed confidence that the BJP OBC Morcha would continue to play a significant role in further strengthening the organisation across Jammu & Kashmir.

Sat Sharma further said that the BJP has always believed in empowering every section of society through good governance, transparency, and inclusive development. He asked the Morcha leadership to maintain regular contact with workers at the booth and mandal levels and ensure that organisational activities are carried out with enthusiasm and discipline. Stressing the importance of teamwork, he said that every office bearer should work with a sense of responsibility and commitment to strengthen the party at the grassroots while highlighting the achievements and welfare initiatives of the Narendra Modi-led Government among the people.

Committee on Government Assurances examines ATR in respect of assurances pertaining to PWD

POONCH TODAY NEWS

SRINAGAR

A meeting of the Committee on Government Assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held today at the Assembly Secretariat under the Chairmanship of MLA Ali Mohammad Sagar.

MLAs Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Mir, Chander Prakash, Iftkar Ahmad, Mehraj Malik, Shabir Ahmad Kullay besides Financial Commission (ACS) PWD (R&B) Anil Kumar Singh, Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit, Assistant Director JKLA Syed Ahmad Wani and senior officers from PWD attended the meeting.

The Secretary JKLA briefed the representatives of Public Works Department about the mandate, powers and functioning of the Committee and what constitutes a Government Assurances as per legislative practices and precedents. He highlighted the significance and importance of the Committee. He also informed the Committee that directions issued by the Speaker, Deputy Speaker or the Chairman involving action on the part of the Government or Ministers are also treated as



assurances and are monitored by the Committee till their compliance.

During the meeting, the

Members participated in deliberations and raised several issues. They highlighted the public demands pertain-

ing to the Public Works (R&B) Department, particularly concerning development and infrastructure development.

ACS Public Works (R&B), assured the Committee that all the issues and concerns projected by the Members would be examined carefully and addressed in a phased manner, subject to the availability of resources and other administrative requirements.

Emphasizing the significance of the Committee, the Chairman observed that the Committee on Government Assurances plays a vital role in strengthening the legislative oversight by ensuring executive accountability. He said that assurances, promises and undertakings made by Ministers on the Floor of the House carry the solemn responsibility of the government and must be fulfilled within the stipulated timeframe. He stressed that timely implementation of such assurances not only upholds the dignity and sanctity of the Legislature but also reinforces public confidence in democratic institutions.

The Chairman directed the ACS to furnish constituency-wise and scheme-wise details of funds allocated and released under various schemes in the next meeting to facilitate a comprehensive review by the Committee.

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

POONCH TODAY NEWS
REASI

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

The meeting discussed the detailed agenda of activities scheduled from July 30 to August 24, 2026, aimed at promoting spiritual, cultural and devotional engagement during the holy month of Shravan. The programme includes weekly Kavad Yatras, Shiv Katha, Bhajan Sandhya and concluding religious ceremonies at Shiv Khori Shrine.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the arrangements to be made by the concerned departments and stressed the need for coordinated efforts to ensure smooth conduct of the Mahotsav and convenience of pilgrims. He directed all departments to complete their preparations well in advance and maintain close coordination throughout the event.

As per the proposed sched-



ule, Kavad Yatras will be organized on August 3, 10, 17 and 24 from Ransoo Base Camp to Shiv Khori Bhawan, followed by Rudrabhishek and Hawan. A nine-day Shiv Katha programme is proposed from August 16 to 24, while the concluding Bhajan Sandhya and devotional programme will be held on August 24.

The DC reviewed arrangements related to security, traffic management, medical facilities, sanitation, drinking water supply, uninterrupted power supply, road maintenance, fire safety and public awareness. The Police Department was asked to ensure foolproof security arrangements and deployment of adequate personnel

during the Mahotsav.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to provide adequate medical facilities, including deployment of doctors, medical staff, ambulances and oxygen support at Shiv Khori Bhawan and Ransoo. The Jal Shakti Department was asked to ensure adequate drinking water supply along the pilgrimage

track and at key locations, while the Power Development Department was instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply and arrange backup power support wherever required.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department was directed to deploy fire tenders at Ransoo and conduct inspections of fire safety equipment at langar sites. He further directed the Motor Vehicle Department to regulate transportation facilities, prevent overcharging and display approved fare rates at conspicuous places. Departments concerned with Food Safety and Legal Metrology were instructed to conduct regular inspections of eateries, shops and langars to ensure quality standards, verify rates and prevent overpricing.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that all departments should work in close coordination to provide a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience to devotees visiting Shiv Khori during the Shravan Mahotsav.

SSP Mukund Tibrewal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, Addl. SP Ifkhar Ahmed, XEN JPDCL and Jal Shakti, Tehsildar Pouni and other concerned officers were present during the meeting.

District Admin Bandipora sets up Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal to protect Gurez Valley's Fragile Ecology

POONCH TODAY NEWS
BANDIPORA

In a significant step towards preserving the pristine environment of Gurez Valley, the District Administration Bandipora today established a Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal on the Road to Gurez with the active support of the Indian Army and launched the 'Polythene-Free Gurez' Campaign to curb the use of single-use polythene and plastic and promote sustainable tourism in the valley.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, said that the initiative, envisioned in line with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for environmental conservation and cleanliness, has been launched under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and would be implemented in letter and spirit.

The Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the newly established Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal on the Road to Gurez, where she interacted with



visitors and tourists proceeding towards Gurez Valley. She appealed to them to cooperate with the District Administration in making Gurez a polythene-free tourist destination by avoiding the use of single-use plastic and adopting eco-friendly alternatives.

The Deputy Commissioner

said that with the opening of Gurez Valley for the tourist season, a considerable increase in polythene and plastic waste had been noticed. She stressed that protecting the valley's fragile ecosystem was a collective responsibility and called upon all visitors to actively support the campaign by carrying reus-

able and environment-friendly materials.

To facilitate the campaign, the District Administration, with the active support of the Indian Army, established the Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal on the Road to Gurez, where sustainable and environment-friendly alternatives, including

steel water bottles and cloth bags, had been made available for travellers. In addition, a washroom facility and a food point were also established for the convenience of visitors.

The Deputy Commissioner urged tourists and other visitors to extend their wholehearted support to the initiative and contribute towards keeping Gurez clean, green and free from plastic pollution.

The campaign is being implemented under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) under the leadership of the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Bandipora, with the active support of the Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K; Secretary, Rural Development Department, Jammu & Kashmir, and the District Administration Bandipora.

The District Administration reaffirmed its commitment to promoting responsible tourism and protecting the natural beauty and ecological wealth of Gurez Valley through sustained public participation and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders.

