

JAMMU & KASHMIR

CM Omar receives first batch of Hujjaaj at Srinagar Airport

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 02

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today received the first batch of Hujjaaj returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after performing Haj-2026 at Srinagar International Airport.

The first incoming Haj flight landed at Srinagar Airport carrying 144 pilgrims, including 74 men and 70 women. The Chief Minister warmly welcomed the pilgrims and congratulated them on the successful completion of the sacred pilgrimage.

Interacting with the returning Hujjaaj, the Chief Minister expressed hope that their prayers and spiritual experiences would contribute towards peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the nation as a whole.

He also enquired about the arrangements made for the pilgrims during their stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as their



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah (right) warmly welcomed the pilgrims and congratulated them on the successful completion of the sacred pilgrimage. He also enquired about the arrangements made for the pilgrims during their stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as their return journey, and wished them good health, happiness and a blessed life ahead.

The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of all departments and agencies involved in facilitating the

transportation and other support services.

The Chief Minister had earlier taken up the issue of delayed transportation of pilgrims' baggage with the Government of India and the concerned authorities. In his communique to the Union Aviation Minister, he had emphasized the need for timely delivery and seamless handling of baggage.

A total of 4,641 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir performed Haj this year, of whom 3,952 are scheduled to return through the Srinagar Embarkation Point. The return flights are scheduled between June 2 and June 16, 2026.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Budgam Amir Athar Khan, senior officers of the civil administration, representatives of the Jammu & Kashmir Haj Committee, Airport Authority and other concerned agencies were present on the occasion.

GHSS Dablehar brings National Honour to J&K with TOFEI School Challenge 2025 Award

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Government Higher Secondary School, Dablehar, Zone R.S. Pura has added another glorious chapter to its journey of excellence by securing the prestigious National-Level Consolation Prize under the TOFEI School Challenge 2025: Towards a Tobacco-Free Generation, organised by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The award was conferred after a rigorous and comprehensive evaluation process conducted at the district, state and national levels, recognizing the school's outstanding efforts in promoting awareness against tobacco use and fostering a healthy, tobacco-free environment among students and the wider community. The award ceremony



The award ceremony was held at Novotel New Delhi City Centre.

The entire school community expressed immense pride in this accomplishment, which not only

brought laurels to the institution but also served as an inspiration for educational institutions across the Union Territory. The management, staff, students and

parents hailed the achievement as a moment of collective pride and a milestone that reflects the school's enduring pursuit of excellence.

Javed Rana reviews developmental issues of Trehgam Constituency

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Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review developmental issues and ongoing works pertaining to the Assembly Constituency Trehgam represented by MLA Mir Saifullah.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress of various infrastructure and public welfare projects in Trehgam, Kupwara and to discuss measures for expediting developmental initiatives in the constituency. Detailed deliberations were held on issues related to water supply, road connectivity, public infrastructure and other sectoral requirements raised by the concerned legislator.

During the meeting, the



Minister took a comprehensive review of ongoing and proposed works being executed by different departments. He stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure timely completion of projects and prompt resolution of issues affecting the public.

Javed Rana underscored the government's commitment towards balanced and inclusive development, stating that the aspirations and genuine concerns of the people must be addressed

in a time-bound manner. He directed the officers to identify bottlenecks hindering the progress of developmental works and take immediate corrective measures for their resolution.

The Minister emphasized that public welfare remains the top priority of the government and called for greater responsiveness, accountability and efficiency in service delivery. He instructed the concerned departments to maintain regu-

lar monitoring of projects and ensure that developmental benefits reach the people at the grassroots level without delay.

MLA Mir Saifullah highlighted several issues and developmental requirements of his constituency and sought early intervention of the concerned departments for their redressal.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the concerned departments.

Income Tax Department, YBA jointly organised blood donation camp

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JAMMU, JUNE 02

The Directorate of Income Tax (Investigation), Jammu, in collaboration with the Young Blood Association (YBA), organised a successful blood donation camp, reaffirming its commitment to community welfare and public health.

Sahil Digra, IRS, Deputy Director, Income Tax (Investigation), Jammu, graced the event as the chief guest and lauded the collaborative effort between government agencies, civil society, and healthcare professionals.

The camp was held under the aegis of Dr. Satwant Singh Rissam, President of the Young Blood Association (YBA), whose leadership played a pivotal role in mobilising volunteers and donors.

A dedicated medical team from Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, guided by



Medical Superintendent Dr. Narinder Bhatial, provided on-site screening, donor care, and safe collection procedures. Dr. Ultra Sambyal, in-charge of the Blood Bank, ensured that donations were conducted according to the highest medical and safety standards.

The event witnessed generous participation from a cross-section of Jammu's

community, including chartered accountants, tax professionals, lawyers, businessmen, and other prominent civil society members. Their contributions significantly bolstered the camp's success and helped in collecting blood units for local hospitals and patients in need.

Anil Padha, Chairman, YBA, thanked all donors,

volunteers, and partner organisations for their support and urged citizens to continue participating in future health and civic initiatives. Directorate officials affirmed their ongoing commitment to social responsibility and encouraged more community-driven efforts to strengthen Jammu's healthcare support systems.

Doda gears up to host 2-day Lavender Festival 2026; DC reviews preparations

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JAMMU, JUNE 02

Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal along with Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu Dr. Zabeer Ahmed today chaired a meeting to review arrangements for 2-day Lavender Festival 2026 scheduled to be held on June 6 and 7 at Government Degree College (GDC) Bholderwah.

Experts, scientists, aroma industry professionals and stakeholders from across the country would participate in the festival and share valuable knowledge with farmers and visitors. The event being held on the College Campus would also witness active participation from students.

Bholderwah has been hosting the event since 2022 for it being the birthplace of the Lavender Mission in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Doda, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bholderwah, ASP Headquarters, Pro-



gramme Officer ICDS, Superintendent Engineer Jal Shakti Department, Principal GDC Bholderwah, Divisional Forest Officer Bholderwah, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Executive Officer Bholderwah Development Authority, Joint Director Education, district officers and representatives from line departments.

Reviewing the preparations, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to

ensure the timely completion of arrangements and work in close coordination for the successful conduct of the festival. Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture and other allied departments were asked to actively participate in the festival and set up stalls showcasing respective schemes, innovations and services.

The meeting finalized arrangements related to sanitation, water and power

supply, medical facilities, transportation, security and safety measures. The DC directed the stakeholder departments to formulate meticulous plans to complete the arrangements well in advance.

The ADC Bholderwah was designated as the Nodal Officer for overall coordination and management of the festival.

The Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the potential of lavender cultivation in transforming the rural economy of the district.

He noted that the lavender farmers of Doda have played a vital role in promoting aromatic crop cultivation and strengthening rural livelihoods.

He expressed hope that the lavender sector would continue to boost the district's economy and create new opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment.

A short documentary highlighting the success stories and achievements of previous Lavender Festivals was also screened.

J&K People have Full Faith, trust in Omar-Led Govt: RL Gupta

JAMMU, JUNE 02:

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have reposed their faith and trust in the democratically elected Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. The overwhelming public support received by the Government reflects the aspirations of the people for peace, development, good governance, and democratic empowerment.

Interacting with the senior party functionaries at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today, Rattan Lal Gupta said that it is unfortunate that certain forces, including BJP and other sections of the Opposition, are indulging in a dirty game plan aimed at destabilizing the elected Government. Such attempts are not merely directed against a political party or a government but amount to an assault on the democratic mandate of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The repeated efforts to create uncertainty, spread misinformation, and ob-



structure the functioning of the Government are against the spirit of the Constitution and democratic norms. Any conspiracy to weaken or topple a democratically elected Government undermines the very foundations of democracy and disrespects the verdict of the people. The LOP and such frustrated and confused BJP leaders are day dreaming for getting the power like Mageri Lal's dreams.

Despite numerous challenges, limited powers, and continued administrative constraints, the Omar-led Government has been performing effectively and remains committed to fulfilling its promises. The Government has consistently

focused on public welfare, development, employment generation, social justice, and strengthening democratic institutions, Mr Gupta.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir are politically aware and will not allow vested interests to sabotage the democratic process. Those attempting to destabilize the Government for narrow political gains must remember that democracy can flourish only when the people's mandate is respected. It is unfortunate that the Centre is intentionally delaying the restoration of Statehood to J&K that amounts to betray and showing disrespect to the people's mandate, he

added. The National Conference stands firmly committed to safeguarding democratic values and protecting the constitutional rights and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among others who were present included: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, S. Tejinder Singh Aman Provincial President Jammu YNC, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, S. Gurnam Singh District Secretary Jammu Urban, Raseem Khullar, Dev Raj, Rashpal Bassa, Sparsh Parihar, Arundeeep Singh and Tejpal Singh.