

## Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Medical Camp at Zadibal Srinagar ahead of holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 15

In view of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today inaugurated a comprehensive medical camp at Zadibal here aimed at ensuring accessible healthcare services and emergency medical preparedness for devotees and the general public during the sacred month.

The medical camp has been established by Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura as part

of Government's extensive preparations for Muharram-ul-Haram. The camp will provide a range of healthcare services including general medical consultations, health screening, first-aid assistance, emergency care support, distribution of essential medicines and public health awareness.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized that the Government is committed to ensuring adequate healthcare facilities and seamless medical services during Muharram. She stated that special arrangements are being put in place across key con-

gregation points and procession routes to cater to the healthcare needs of mourners and visitors.

"The holy month of Muharram holds immense religious and spiritual significance. Our priority is to ensure that devotees observe the occasion with complete access to quality healthcare facilities and emergency medical support. The Health Department has been directed to remain fully prepared and responsive throughout the period," the Minister said.

Sakeena Itoo highlighted that dedicated medical teams, ambulances, emergency response units and

essential medicines are being deployed at strategic locations across Srinagar and other districts witnessing Muharram gatherings. She also stressed the importance of coordination among various departments to ensure smooth conduct of the religious events. Recent government reviews have focused on deployment of adequate medical teams, emergency response units and essential medicines at key Muharram locations.

The Minister interacted with healthcare professionals and local representatives at the camp and appreciated their efforts in strengthening public health outreach. She directed the concerned officers to ensure uninterrupted medical services, availability of medicines and round-the-clock readiness of emergency healthcare infrastructure during the holy month.

MLA Zadibal Tanvir Ali Sadiq; Director SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganie; Director Health Services Kashmir, CMO Srinagar, other senior officers of district administration and health department were also present on the occasion.

## DC Kishtwar flags off JKRTC bus service for Shri Machail Mata Yatra pilgrims

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JAMMU, JUNE 15

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today flagged off a dedicated JKRTC bus service from the DC Office Complex Kishtwar for the convenience of devotees undertaking the ongoing Shri Machail Mata Yatra.

The bus will operate on the Kishtwar-Padder-Machail route to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims visiting the holy shrine of Shri Machail Mata.

On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the service will run on the Gulabgarh-Machail route, providing safe, affordable and hassle-free travel to pilgrims. From Monday to



Thursday, the bus will ply the Kishtwar-Gulabgarh-Chishti route, enhancing public transport connectivity for local residents and commuters in the area.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma said that the Shri Machail Mata Yatra is currently underway and witnessing a sig-

nificant influx of pilgrims. In view of the increasing rush of devotees and the growing demand for transportation, the dedicated JKRTC bus service has been introduced.

He expressed confidence that the service would significantly ease travel to the holy shrine while improving connectivity to the re-

mote areas of the Padder region.

Among those present were Additional District Commissioner (ADC) Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, Tehsildar (Hq) Mohd Rafie Naik, ARTO Kishtwar Tasleem Wani, Manager JKRTC Doda/Kishtwar Ravinder Sharma and other officials concerned.

## DC Rajouri reviews preparations for International Yoga Day celebration

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a meeting to review and finalize arrangements for the smooth conduct of the International Yoga Day celebration scheduled to be held on June 21, 2026.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparedness of all concerned departments and stressed the need for coordinated efforts to ensure the successful conduct of the event across the district.

The DC directed the con-



cerned officers to make necessary arrangements for the observance of International Yoga Day in Vibrant Villages and at de-addiction centres to maximize outreach and promote the message of healthy living

and well-being among all sections of society.

He also instructed the officers to identify and develop one iconic location in the district for the main Yoga Day event, ensuring wide participation and cre-

ating a memorable experience for participants.

Emphasizing the importance of yoga in promoting physical and mental wellness, the Deputy Commissioner called upon all departments to ensure active public participation and make the event a grand success.

ADDC Malikzada Sheraz-ul-Haq, PO ICDS, Harpal Singh, CMO Manohar Lal Rana, CEO Mohd Hafeez, District Ayush Officer, DySP, Satish Sharma, Executive Engineer PHE Sudesh Kumar and other district and sectoral officers of various departments attended the meeting.

## DC Ramban finalizes arrangements for Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 15

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired a meeting of the District Task Force to finalize arrangements and review the overall implementation strategy for the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) Programme 2026.

The meeting brought together senior health officials and representatives from various departments to ensure meticulous preparedness for the district-wide campaign.

ADC Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak, CMO Dr. Kamal Je Zadu, MS DH Ramban, Dr. Mohammad Rafi, BMOs and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the comprehensive micro-plan presented by the Health Department and issued directions for ensuring 100% coverage of all eligible children across the district. The DC emphasized the need for coordinated efforts across all four medical blocks—Batote, Ukheral, Banihal and Gool to achieve complete saturation.

The DC directed the PO ICDS and CEO Ramban to depute their staff as per the



prescribed directions. Executive Engineer JPDCL, was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply for maintaining the cold chain required for vaccination.

The IPPI 2026 programme aims to administer polio drops to an estimated 59,530 children aged 0-5 years in Ramban district on June 28, 2026. A door-to-door follow-up drive will be conducted on June 29 and June 30, 2026 to ensure that any left-out children are vaccinated. To facilitate smooth and effective implementation, the administration has established 425 vaccination booths, supported by a strong deployment of 1,700

team members and 85 supervisory officers. Additionally, 9 transit teams and 4 mobile teams have been constituted to cover nomadic, migratory and other floating populations so that no child is left unvaccinated.

The district has projected a requirement of 75,603 vaccine doses, factoring in standard wastage norms to ensure uninterrupted supply throughout the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining vaccine quality, cold chain integrity, and timely distribution to all vaccination sites. The Deputy Commissioner directed all officers to lay special focus on cov-

ering the "Hard to Reach Areas," including remote and mountainous locations. He instructed the field staff to prioritize these areas with enhanced monitoring to ensure equitable health access across the district. Underscoring the importance of community engagement, the Deputy Commissioner called for close inter-departmental coordination involving ASHA and Anganwadi Workers, Education Department and public representatives. He also directed the BMOs to ensure widespread awareness through public announcements and other media platforms to mobilize parents for maximum participation.

## Health Minister inspects Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Srinagar Airport

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JAMMU, JUNE 15

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today inspected the Voluntary Blood Donation Camp organised by Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, in collaboration with Airport Authority Limited and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Sheikh-ul-Alam International Airport here.

The Minister appreciated the collective efforts of SKIMS and stakeholders in promoting voluntary blood donation and creating awareness about the life-saving significance of donating blood.

She lauded the enthusiastic participation of airport employees, security personnel and volunteers who came forward to con-



tribute to this noble humanitarian cause.

Interacting with donors and organisers, Sakeena Itoo highlighted the critical role of voluntary blood donation in strengthening healthcare services and ensuring the availability of

safe blood for patients in need. She emphasized that regular blood donation is a selfless act that can save countless lives and reflects the spirit of social responsibility and community service.

The Minister com-

mended SKIMS for its continued initiatives aimed at encouraging voluntary blood donation across Jammu and Kashmir and for fostering partnerships with various institutions and organisations to expand the reach of such awareness programmes.

She also acknowledged the active support of the CISF staff, airport authorities, AAL employees and volunteers whose cooperation contributed significantly to the successful conduct of the camp.

Reiterating the Government's commitment towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure and public health awareness, Sakeena Itoo urged citizens, particularly the youth, to actively participate in blood donation drives and contribute towards building a healthier and more compassionate society.

## Legislator, deputations call on Forest Minister; Project developmental issues

SRINAGAR, JUNE 15:

Legislator Qaiser Jamsheed Lone besides several public deputations and individuals today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at Civil Secretariat here and apprised him of various public welfare issues, developmental concerns and other pressing concerns affecting their respective areas.

MLA Lolab discussed several constituency related matters and sought the Minister's intervention for augmentation of public infrastructure, improvement in water supply schemes, irrigation facilities and other developmental works in his area.

During the interaction, the legislator highlighted



the need for timely execution of the ongoing works and early resolution of issues concerning public service delivery.

He also projected several demands related to strengthening civic amenities and improving infrastructure.

Besides the legislator, several deputations and individuals from different areas also met the Minister and projected their grievances and demands.

A delegation from Pir

Panjal raised the issues concerning execution of works under the Jal Jeevan Mission and sought timely resolution of matters for smooth implementation of projects. The delegation urged the Minister for necessary intervention to ensure uninterrupted progress of works being undertaken under the mission.

Another delegation from the area sought the Minister's intervention for blacktopping of roads in their lo-

cality and highlighted several other developmental and civic issues for redressal.

Likewise, several delegations and representatives from different parts of Kashmir highlighted the matters related to roads, power supply, health facilities, potable water, pending development projects and other local concerns requiring departmental attention.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputations and assured them that all their genuine issues and demands projected during the meetings would be examined on priority. He reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring responsive governance and timely redressal of public grievances.

## Khajuria seeks urgent reforms to prevent Exam Paper Leaks

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 15

Senior social and health activist Suresh C. Khajuria has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to implement urgent reforms to prevent recurring examination paper leaks and restore public confidence in the country's recruitment and competitive examination system.

In a detailed representation submitted to the Prime Minister, Khajuria expressed concern over repeated paper leak scandals involving recruitment tests and entrance examinations, including NEET, stating that such incidents have severely affected the credibility, transparency and fairness of the examination system.

He said repeated cancellation of examinations, delays in recruitment processes and allegations of corruption have caused mental stress, uncertainty and financial hardship to lakhs of students and unemployed



youth preparing for these examinations.

Describing the issue as a "national crisis," Khajuria stressed the need for immediate reforms and called for the time-bound implementation of the recommendations of the High-Level Expert Committee on Public Examination Reforms headed by former ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan.

Among the major reforms suggested by him are the constitution of an independent national committee or judicial commission to investigate

paper leaks, stronger anti-paper leak laws with stringent penalties, transparent accountability mechanisms for examination agencies, and adoption of advanced technological safeguards including encrypted paper transmission systems, AI-based monitoring and real-time audit mechanisms.

He also proposed formulation of a National Examination Integrity Policy to ensure uniform standards of transparency, fairness and security across the country.

Khajuria emphasized that competitive examinations and recruitment processes shape the future of millions of youth and therefore a foolproof, robust and transparent system must be ensured.

Copies of the representation have also been forwarded to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Director General of NTA Abhishek Singh for appropriate consideration.