

IAS Amit Conferred Honorary PhD, Gold Medal by Maryland State University

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 19

Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Amit Sharma has been conferred an Honoris Causa Ph.D. in Public Administration along with a Gold Medal by Maryland State University, USA, during the Indo International Intellectual Conclave 2026 held in New Delhi. The honour recognises his outstanding contributions to public administration and public service spanning nearly 25 years. According to an official communication from the university, the honorary doctorate was awarded in recognition of Sharma's exceptional work in the field of public administration and his significant contributions to society. The university described him as a role model for the youth and congratulated him on his achievements. A 2012-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre and a



former topper of the Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service (2001 batch), Sharma dedicated the honour to his late parents, his family, friends and well-wishers, stating that the recognition would inspire him to continue serving society with greater dedication. Presently serving as Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs on Central Deputation, Sharma is overseeing the Census 2027 operations for the Union Territories of Jammu &

Kashmir and Ladakh, which is expected to be India's first fully digital and paperless census. During his administrative career, Sharma has held several key assignments in Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Mizoram, including Information Technology Secretary, Secretary Mining, Administrative Reforms, Transport, Rural Development, Disaster Management and Cooperatives. He is credited with spearheading major digital gover-

nance initiatives, implementation of e-Office systems, expansion of online public services and several policy reforms. Among his notable achievements are promoting digital governance, strengthening public service delivery, contributing to the discovery of lithium reserves in Reasi, facilitating the launch of hydrogen fuel-cell buses in Ladakh and introducing cooperative sector reforms in Mizoram. An MBA by qualification with specialisation in e-Governance from IIM Indore, Sharma has also remained actively associated with youth empowerment, public policy, social service and innovation throughout his career. The honour is being viewed as a recognition of his distinguished public service and commitment to administrative reforms, with many describing it as an inspiration for young civil servants and professionals across the country.

Army concludes electrician, welding course for youth at Malar in Kishtwar

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The Indian Army successfully concluded a two-week Electrician and Welding Course for local youth at Village Malar in Kishtwar district on 18 July 2026. The course, conducted by Indian Army from 4 to 18 July 2026, was organised as part of the Army's continued commitment to community welfare, youth empowerment and skill development in remote areas. A total of 12 unemployed youth from the region participated enthusiastically in the programme. During the training, participants received practical instruction in basic electrical work,



welding techniques, safety procedures and the handling of essential tools and equipment. The course was designed to equip them with useful technical skills and improve their prospects for employment, self-employment, entrepreneurship and lasting confidence.

At the closing ceremony, all participants were awarded Certificates of Merit and portable toolkits to support their future professional endeavours. The youth expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for providing valuable training and resources close to their

homes. Local residents appreciated the initiative and lauded the Indian Army's sustained efforts to promote self-reliance, generate livelihood opportunities and contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

Army conducts flood rescue operations in Rajouri, saves 11 civilians



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In a remarkable display of courage, professionalism and commitment to humanitarian assistance, troops of the Indian Army under White Knight Corps, in close coordination with the Jammu & Kashmir Police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and

the civil administration, successfully rescued eleven civilians, including five children, stranded at different locations in the flood-affected Rajouri district following incessant rainfall and flash floods. In the first operation, Army troops responded swiftly to reports of nine civilians, including five children, stranded across a

flooded Nala near Churung Village, south of Thanamandi. Despite strong currents and challenging weather conditions, the rescue teams reached the site promptly and safely evacuated all the stranded civilians. In a parallel rescue operation, troops of Engineer Regiment rescued two youths, aged between 17

and 20 years, who had become marooned on a river island in the Naushera Tawi River near Dhangri, approximately 12 km from Rajouri. Displaying exceptional courage and skill, the rescue team braved strong water currents and successfully brought both youths to safety. They were subsequently handed over to their families in the presence of officials from the civil administration, Rajouri. These timely rescue operations underscore the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to safeguarding lives and extending assistance to the people during natural disasters and emergencies. The seamless coordination between the Army, Police, SDRF and civil administration ensured the successful execution of both rescue missions without any loss of life. The Indian Army remains steadfast in its resolve to serve the nation and its citizens, standing shoulder to shoulder with the people in times of crisis.

Justice Sanjeev chairs awareness programme on NALSA DAWN scheme, drug abuse and Illicit Trafficking

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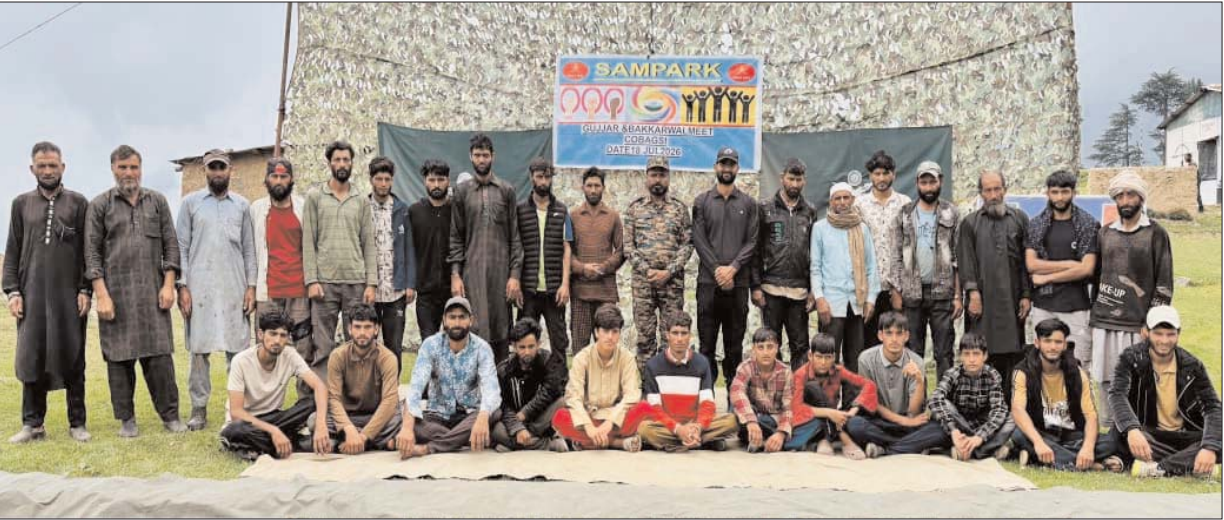
Acting Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Sanjeev Kumar, in presence of Justice, Sanjay Dhar, Administrative Judge, District Pulwama today presided over an awareness programme on NALSA DAWN (Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation) Scheme, 2025 and Drug Abuse and Its Illicit Trafficking at Government Degree College (Boys), Pulwama. The programme was organized by the District Legal Services Authority, Pulwama under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority. On arrival, the Acting Chief Justice along with the Administrative Judge was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour by the police contingent of District Pulwama at Government Degree College (Boys), Pulwama. The programme formally commenced with the inauguration of the Legal Literacy Club at the college. In his presidential address, the Acting Chief Justice lauded the efforts of DLSA Pulwama and J&K LSA for organizing such programmes which are the need of the hour. He impressed upon the audience, especially the youth, to follow the golden principle of "Prevention is Better than Cure". He stated that drug abuse has become a grave threat to the society and collective efforts are required to save the younger generation.

Delivering the welcome address, Malik Shabir Ahmad, Principal District & Sessions Judge & Chairman DLSA Pulwama, highlighted the importance of spreading legal awareness and community outreach to effectively combat the drug abuse. The Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, elaborated on the theme of the programme and the objectives of the NALSA DAWN Scheme, 2025. He emphasized the role of Legal Services Institutions in creating a drug-free society through awareness, counseling and rehabilitation. Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom assured full administrative support for awareness, prevention and rehabilitation campaigns in the district. An address by the Psychiatrist, Dr. Umer was held, wherein the psychological, social and health consequences of substance abuse were discussed. The expert highlighted the initiatives of the government, including dedicated de-addiction centres in all hospitals of J&K and notified helpline numbers for easy access by the affected persons and their families. This was followed by a special address by the Administrative Judge, District Pulwama, who underlined the need for coordinated efforts by the judiciary, administration, educational institutions and civil society to eradicate the menace of drugs. Thereafter, the dignitaries released the publication "Rabita", prepared by District Legal Services Authority, Pulwama. Later, the Acting Chief Justice and the Administrative Judge visited the District Court Complex, Pulwama and laid the foundation stone for the Lawyers' Chambers besides inaugurating the e-Sewa Kendra for providing accessible and citizen-friendly legal services. Subsequently, the Acting Chief Justice had an exclusive meeting with the district administration followed by an interaction with the Judicial Officers of Pulwama. Later, an interaction with the members of the Bar Association, Pulwama was also held where the issues related to legal aid and access to justice were discussed. Meanwhile, a special Lok Adalat for Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act, 1881



was also conducted in which Single Bench was constituted for amicable settlement of the cases which was presided over by Muzamil Ahmad Wani, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pulwama with Danishta Shafi, Munsiff/JMIC, Pulwama as Bench Member. A total of 16 (sixteen) cases were taken up, of which, 12 were disposed off settling 4 lakhs (Four lakhs) worth cheque bounce cases. During the programme, M.K Sharma, Registrar General, Rajiv Gupta, Registrar Vigilance from the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Registrar Rules, Registrar Judicial, Joint Registrar Protocol from the High Court of J&K and Ladakh and other officers of Pulwama district were also present. Earlier, the Acting Chief Justice and Administrative Judge visited the Court Complex, Pampore, where they laid the foundation stone for construction of Lawyers' Chambers. The dignitaries also interacted with the members of the Bar Association there.

Army organises Gujjar, Bakkarwal meet



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As part of its continued commitment to strengthening civil-military relations and promoting the welfare of remote communities, Indian Army organised a Gujjar and Bakkarwal Meet at Agsi, Reasi, on 18 July

2026. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Gujjar and Bakkarwal elders, youth and other members of the local community. The interaction provided an open platform for participants to share their concerns, discuss developmental issues and engage

directly with Army representatives. During the meet, awareness was spread regarding various Government welfare schemes, educational opportunities, healthcare initiatives and employment avenues aimed at improving the socio-economic well-being of the tribal population.

Booth-level strength is the foundation of BJP's success: Koul

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J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul addressed a series of meetings of Booth Presidents and their teams at Pahari Mohalla Shakti Kendra, Mohinder Nagar Shakti Kendra (Swami Govind Kaul Ji Ashram), Puraan Nagar Shakti Kendra, and Top Sherkhania

through the active involvement of every activist. J&K BJP Vice President Priya Sethi, Jammu Prabhari Brijeshwar Singh Rana, District President Rajesh Gupta, MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta, Vis-tarak Inderjeet Sharma, and other senior leaders were also present. Ashok Koul, while addressing

the meetings, said that the BJP's unmatched organizational strength is built on its dedicated booth-level workers, who remain the backbone of the party. He stressed that every Booth President and team member must ensure the successful conduct of the upcoming Mann Ki Baat programme by reaching out to every section of society and encouraging maximum participation. He said that Mann Ki Baat has

evolved into a national platform that connects Prime Minister Narendra Modi directly with the people, inspiring public participation and promoting positive social transformation. Koul asked the party workers to maintain regular contact with the public, effectively communicate the achievements and welfare initiatives of the Modi government, and ensure the smooth execution of all forthcoming or-

ganizational programmes. He emphasized that a strong and active booth structure is essential for taking the party's vision and policies to every household. Priya Sethi said that BJP's strength lies in its disciplined cadre and dedicated booth teams, adding that every activist must work with commitment to strengthen the party at the grassroots and deepen its connect with the people.

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