

Amit reviews progress of DCHB under Census 2027 across all districts of J&K, Ladakh

JAMMU, OCT 12: Shri Amit Sharma, IAS, Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, today chaired a comprehensive hybrid review meeting with the Nodal Officers and District Coordinators of the Directorate to assess the progress of District Census Hand Book (DCHB) under ongoing Census 2027 between October 1 to October 30, 2026 in all the districts of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

A detailed district-wise review was undertaken by CPCO Amit Sharma regarding the ongoing DCHB in both the Union Territory of Ladakh and the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, The District Coordinators presented updated status reports on the activities under their respective jurisdictions and informed that the Population Enumeration exercise completed satisfactorily and in accordance with the prescribed Census guidelines and training protocols and now, DCHB is going in full swing which is expected to be completed well within



defined timelines.

CPCO Amit Sharma while reviewing progress of ongoing District Census Handbook (DCHB), training and fieldwork of concerned officials, as well as the support taken from the Directorate. The District Coordinators informed the meeting that DCHB is already in progress in all districts and the necessary preparations to ensure timely collection and updation of requisite data like schools, hospitals, institutions, etc is going in full-swing.

CPCO Amit Sharma appreciated the coordinated

efforts of the district teams and the progress reported from across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He stressed the importance of maintaining the same level of preparedness and adherence to Census guidelines through the remaining stages of the ongoing Census 2027, particularly in view of the challenging geographical conditions of the UTs

The Chief Principal Census Officer Amit Sharma emphasised that the collection and updation of data under the DCHB exercise reflects the multi-dimensional nature of the Census

2027 work programme, and called upon all officers and field functionaries to maintain close coordination, timely reporting and strict adherence to the prescribed procedures.

Before culmination of this important Review Meeting at the Directorate, Amit Sharma expressed confidence that the continued efforts of the Directorate's officers, District Coordinators and field teams would ensure the smooth and successful completion and updation of DCHB of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh UTs, with direct support/reviews of same by all Deputy Commissioners who happen to be Principal Census Officers of their respective districts and it shall help in culminating ace sis 2027 here with total perfection and accuracy.

The meeting was moderated by Arun Kumar, Joint Chief Principal Census Officer and Amit Kumar Bhargav, Deputy Chief Principal Census Officer and attended by all Assistant Chief Principal Census Officers and District Coordinators from the Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and

Navratra Festival's All India Devotional Competition inagurated

Celebrity singers Aminder Bobby, Chaman lehri enthralled audience in AIDSC

Jammu

All India Devotional Song Competition as a part of Navratra Festival 2026 being organized by SMVD Shrine Board, Deptt. of J&K Tourism, PTC Network in association with SMVD Super Speciality Hospital, J&K Bank, Nice Gems, Nidheesh Builders Jammu Pvt. Ltd. 927 Big FM, Yog Ashram Complex with active support of District Administration and the local host Community was inaugurated at Yog Ashram Complex alongwith Navratra Festival in the evening by lighting of a traditional lamp by Chief Secretary J&K Atul Dulloo in presence of Divisional Commissioner Vikas Kundal, Dy. Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek, Director Tourism Vikas Gupta, SSP Reasi Mukund Tibrewal, Addl.CEO SMVD Shrine Board Alok Kumar Maurya,celebrity Singer Aminder Bobby, Former winner of All India Devotional Song Competition Chaman Lehri, Swami Yoganand ji Maharaj, Chairman All India Devotional Song Committee & President Hotel Association Katra Rakesh Wazir, Kirti Khajuria, Chairman HRAK Shyam Lal Kesar,Sr.Vice



President HRAK and others.

On the fisrt night, Sukhjinder from Punjab took 1st position, whereas 2nd position was shared by Poonam Sharma from Jammu & 3rd position was bagged by Ashish Kumar from Jammu among the 10 auditioned participants and were provided with the cash prizes of 10,000/-, 5,000/- and 3,000/-, by the distinguished guests.

The Devotional Song Competition was adjudged by the panels of experts in music including Dr. Surinder Sharma Head of the department Govt. Degree College Sanjoli Himachal Pradesh. CL Verma, Ex Chairman, Post Graduate University of Hi-

machal Pradesh, & Usha Bhagati Ex. HOD Music many degree colleges including P.G.M.A.M College Jammu,Celebrity Singer Amrinder Bobby.

Celebrity singer Aminder Bobby enthralled the audience with his powerful voice and people were seen dancing on his tunes and likewise Former winner of All India Devotional Song Competition Chaman Lehri too graced the occasion with his stunning performances.

The proceeding of Competition was conducted by Sh. Rakesh Wazir who is also the Chairman of the said Competition, who while speaking on the occasion said that The Grand finale of the All India Devo-

tional Song Competition will be held on 19th Oct. whereas Semi Final would be held on 18th Oct. and Quarter Final on 17th Oct. and as per procedure 2nd & 3rd position holders of preliminary rounds will compete on quarter for their entry into Semi Final which would comprise of 1st positions holders of preliminary rounds and winners of quarter Final and Quarter Final would be held on 17th Oct. and Semi Final on 18th Oct. respectively. The live telecast of the event is available on PTC Punjabi Gold from 9 PM onwards daily.He further said that participants can enroll themselves by making a simple call on 9541900412 till 16th Oct.

AIIMS Jammu Inaugurates DOTS Centre to Strengthen Tuberculosis Care, Support TB-Mukt Bharat

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 12

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu inaugurated its DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course) Centre on 12 October 2026 under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Sinha, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu. The initiative aims to strengthen tuberculosis (TB) care through timely treatment, patient counselling, regular monitoring and improved treatment adherence, contributing to the national vision of a TB-Mukt Bharat.

The centre will function under the Departments of Pulmonary Medicine and General Medicine, with clinical guidance from Dr. Isha Garg and Dr. Ganesh Kumar, Assistant Professors, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, and Dr. Gaurav Gupta and Dr. Rituu, Associate Professors, Department of General Medicine. It will focus on supporting patients throughout their treatment journey and encouraging completion of the prescribed course of medication.

Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Kundal, Professor & Head, Department of Paediatric Surgery, and Medical Superintendent, AIIMS Jammu, highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts among clinical departments and healthcare professionals in ensuring timely diagnosis, effective treatment and regular fol-



low-up. He emphasised that the centre would strengthen patient support, promote treatment adherence and contribute to improved clinical outcomes.

Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Sinha, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, emphasised that tuberculosis elimination requires a comprehensive, patient-centred approach extending beyond diagnosis and medication to include timely treatment, continuous monitoring, counselling and sustained patient support.

He highlighted that early detection, strict adherence to the prescribed treatment regimen and regular follow-up are essential for achieving successful outcomes and preventing treatment interruptions.

He also stressed the importance of addressing social stigma and misconceptions associated with TB through awareness, education and compassionate engagement with patients.

He encouraged healthcare professionals to ensure that every patient receives appropriate guidance and support throughout the treatment journey.

He further noted that the establishment of the DOTS Centre reflects AIIMS Jammu's commitment to strengthening accessible and coordinated TB care and contributing to the national vision of a TB-Mukt Bharat.

Despite ongoing efforts towards TB elimination, delayed diagnosis, treatment interruptions and so-

cial stigma remain significant challenges. The DOTS Centre aims to address these concerns by promoting awareness, encouraging early medical consultation and supporting patients in completing their treatment under appropriate medical supervision.

The initiative aligns with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for a TB-Mukt Bharat, emphasising collective responsibility, public awareness and accessible healthcare. Through this initiative, AIIMS Jammu reaffirms its commitment to strengthening tuberculosis management, improving patient outcomes and contributing to the national mission of TB elimination.

'Mata Ki Kahani' shows opens at Spiritual Growth Centre in Navratra Festival Katra

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 12

The grand spectacle and main highlight of the Navratra Festival 2026, Mata Ki Kahani, premiered here today with two magnificent shows at Shridhar Auditorium, Spiritual Growth Centre in Katra. Conceptualized, devised, designed, and directed by the illustrious Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, this mega-musical theatre presentation by Natrang Jammu captivated a packed audience, consisting largely of devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. The enthralling performance left spectators mesmerized, making it a fitting tribute to the sacred occasion.

History has perhaps never witnessed a production of this class at Katra which unfolds the entire legend in a highly spectacular manner. Balwant Thakur who is credited for having created theatrical wonders of world class once again established the fact that his magic spell will continue to mesmerize audiences through his mind-blowing ventures. 'Mata Ki Kahani' – a unique theatrical experience for the audience, beautifully showcased the popular legend of Mata Vaishno Devi. Magically it transported the entire audience to a mesmerising journey unfolding



the story of Mata Vaishno Devi which is a classic narrative that echoes every Hindu household and is a part of every grandma's midnight tale. As per the legend, during the period when the Goddess was busy in annihilating the Asuras, Her three main manifestations viz. Mata Maha Kali, Mata Maha Lakshmi and Mata Maha Saraswati got together one day and pooled their collective Tejas or spiritual strength. Today Mata Vaishno Devi is worshiped by millions and trillions of people across the world. Mata Vaishno Devi has surfaced as an embodiment of will, strength and peace. In the present times, when the atrocities against the mankind is prevailing, the legend of Mata Vaishno-devi gives a guiding light to her followers to help her devotees to uphold inner confidence and faith within themselves and on the strength of her healing and cosmic powers.

The most striking feature of today's performance was the demonstration of perfection in every creative de-

partment be it the stage action, design, lighting, scenic imagery and visual poetry which left a life-time impact of a highly vibrant presentation. Pan-India audience on the occasion appreciated the performance and termed this as their lives best memorable presentation which they desired to continue for the entire year so over one Crore pilgrims visiting Katra every year get benefited by such educative showcasing of artistic presentations. Majority of the audiences admitted that they were not fully aware of the whole story of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and after having witnessed this mind-blowing presentation they have come to know about various aspects of the story.

The production has been mounted by an accomplished team of artists, performers, technicians and designers. Neeraj Kant has contributed to direction, sets by Gaurav Angural, Bhavishya Aggarwal and Rahul Gupta while Rahul Singh, Pawan Verma, Mohd. Yaseen and Mahikshit Singh have handled

costumes and properties. Sunny Mujoo has led the choreography, and Shivam Singh is responsible for light design. The collective efforts of the entire team have brought this ambitious theatrical production to life.

The artists who featured in this mega show included Neeraj Kant, Sunny Mujoo, Kananpreet Kaur, Arya Sharma, Pallvi Sharma, Khushboo Pandita, Vani Thakur, Muskan Gupta, Sakshi Gupta, Shailja Singh, Jhanvi Bilorla, Vanishika Manhas, Anshika Wazir, Damini Thakur, Aanya Sharma, Navya Sharma, Ridhima Devi, Sakshi Devi, Ishani Sharma, Shivangi, Kaashvi, Ishita Sharma, Keerti Sharma, Suneha Angural, Aryan Sharma, Sanket Bhagat, Krishna, Arun Dev Verma, Arun Sharma, Amit Rana, Narinder Verma, Sahil Narwallia, Palshin Dutta, Mihir Gujral, Radhika Khajuria, Kushal Bhat, Mitali Sharma, Bhoomi Sharma, Priyal Gupta, Lal Mohd., Arun Sagar, Krishay Bhatia and Aadesh Dhar.

Committee on Subordinate Legislation reviews progress on framing of recruitment rules for H&ME Department

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12: The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, under the Chairmanship of its Chairman Muzaffar Iqbal Khan today convened a meeting at the J&K Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Srinagar, to review the progress made in the framing and finalization of recruitment rules pertaining to the Health & Medical Education Department and other allied matters.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Hilal Akbar Lone, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Khuri, Bharat Bhushan, Sheikh Vheerud and Peerzad Feroz Ahmad of the Committee, who are the members of the Committee.

Commissioner Secretary ARI &

Training Shabnam Kamili, Commissioner Secretary Law Justice Parliamentary Affairs Achal Sethi besides senior officers of the concerned Departments/organizations and officers of the J&K Legislative Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting.

The Chairman emphasized the need for expeditious finalization of recruitment rules, observing that prolonged delay in framing such rules adversely affects the functioning of institutions and the service interests of employees. He stressed that the concerned departments should accord priority to the matter and complete the prescribed formalities at the earliest.

The Committee was apprised by the Commissioner Secretary, ARI &

Trainings Department, that draft recruitment rules are in process and will be finalized after getting concurrence from the Finance Department.

During the meeting, the Chairman stressed the desirability of framing uniform/model recruitment rules for Medical and Dental Colleges, wherever the posts, requirements and recruitment procedures are substantially similar, instead of adopting separate rules for each institution.

In this regard, the Committee was informed that the ARI & Trainings Department has already shared a format with the Health & Medical Education Department for devising Model Recruitment Rules for all Medical/Dental Colleges.

Kishtwar bags top rank among 100 districts for "Improving Irrigation Infrastructure" under PMDDKY

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 12

In a significant achievement, the Kishtwar district has secured first position among 100 districts of the country in achieving exemplary performance in the objective of improving irrigation infrastructure under the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY).

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma has appreciated the efforts of the entire team

of District Kishtwar for the achievement in recognition of the district's outstanding work in strengthening irrigation infrastructure.

Additional District Magistrate Pawan Kotwal and Chief Agriculture Officer Kushal Chandel received the Certificate of Excellence from the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a function held today at the National Agricultural Science Complex, Pusa, New Delhi to celebrate the completion of

one year of PMDDKY.

The achievement reflects the district's efforts towards strengthening irrigation facilities, improving water availability for agricultural activities and promoting sustainable farming practices. Improved irrigation infrastructure is a key factor in enhancing agricultural productivity, reducing farmers' dependence on rainfall and supporting better farm-level water management.

Kishtwar's recognition among the 100 districts

highlights the importance of focused implementation, effective coordination among concerned departments and sustained efforts to improve essential agricultural infrastructure.

The recognition is expected to further encourage the district administration and the Agriculture Department to continue working towards expanding irrigation facilities, promoting efficient utilisation of water resources and improving the livelihoods of the farming community.