

Pulse Polio Immunization: Over 1.22 Lakh Children to be covered in Budgam

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today kick-started the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme in the district.

The campaign was formally kick-started at District Hospital Budgam, where the DC administered polio drops to children in the 0-5 years age group.

Chief Medical Officer Budgam, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Dar, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Shahid Qadri, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Budgam, Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Kant, District Health Officer (DHO), District Immunization Officer (DIO), Block Medical Officers (BMOs), DPMU officials and other senior officers were



present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that all children in the 0-5 years age group across the district will be covered under the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme. He informed that 628 Pulse Polio booths have been established across Budgam district to ensure that no eligible child is left out.

The DC further stated that 8 transit vaccination points

and 3 Mela Bazar booths have also been established to vaccinate children at transit locations and other public places, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the programme. He said that following the booth-based vaccination drive, house-to-house vaccination will be conducted on 29th 2026, during which health teams will visit every household to cover children who may have missed vacci-

nation at the booths. The district aims to cover 1,22,477 children below the age of five years under the campaign.

The DC appealed to parents to cooperate with health workers and ensure that every eligible child receives the life-saving polio drops in their nearest booths established across the District. Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer Budgam, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Dar, informed that health workers, ASHA workers, ICDS workers and volunteers have been deployed at Pulse Polio booths across the district. He added that dedicated transit teams have also been constituted to vaccinate children at designated transit points, ensuring that no child is missed during the campaign.

DC Bandipora launches Pulse Polio Immunization Campaign

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BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Sunday launched the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization Programme (IPPI)-2026 from NTPHC Quil Muqam and reviewed the arrangements made for the district-wide campaign aimed at immunizing all children in the 0-5 years age group against polio. The Deputy Commissioner said that seamless arrangements had been put in place for the successful implementation of the campaign across the district. A total of 338 polio vaccination booths had been established, with more than 61,000 children in the 0-5 years age group identified as the target population for immunization.



On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said the first day of the campaign was being conducted through institutional vaccination booths, while the next two days would witness intensive door-to-door vaccination to ensure that no eligible child was left uncovered. The Deputy Commissioner

urged parents and guardians to actively participate in the campaign and ensure that every child below five years of age received the two life-saving drops, emphasizing that every child vaccinated was a step towards a polio-free future. She stressed the importance of achieving 100 percent coverage of eligible children

and directed the Health Department to ensure its saturation.

Meanwhile, the DC reviewed the functioning of NTPHC Quil Muqam and assessed healthcare service delivery. She also took stock of the issues related to the local water supply scheme and directed the concerned authorities to address the matter on priority. Among others present on the occasion were Chief Medical Officer Bandipora, Dr. Bhajan Kour; Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Nasir Ahmad; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Bandipora-cum-District Immunization Officer, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad; Block Medical Officer Bandipora, Dr. Mohammad Tahir Malik, besides other health officials and stakeholders.

ADDC Shopian launches intensified Pulse Polio Immunization programme

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SHOPIAN: District-level launch of the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) 2026 programme was inaugurated by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone at District Hospital Shopian today.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Chief Medical Officer Shopian, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, District Immunization Officer, Block Medical Officer and other health officials and frontline healthcare workers.

The programme commenced with the administration of the first oral polio vaccine (OPV) drops to a newborn baby. Speaking on the occasion, the ADCD appreciated the dedicated efforts of healthcare workers and stressed the importance of achieving 100 percent vaccination coverage. He appealed to



all parents to bring every child below five years of age to the nearest polio booth and ensure that no child is left unvaccinated. The Health Department is trying its best for making Shopian a polio-free district through active community participation and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders.

The District Health Administration also expressed gratitude to healthcare workers, volunteers and the public for their continued support in making IPPI-2026 a successful public health initiative and called upon everyone to work collectively to safeguard the future of every child.

Srinagar police holds mock drill for emergency preparedness for SANJY 2026

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In a proactive move to ensure robust emergency preparedness during the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026, Srinagar Police conducted a large-scale Mock Drill in collaboration with multiple key agencies at various strategic locations along the Yatra route in Parimpora and Maloora areas of Srinagar. The exercise was aimed to evaluate operational readiness, inter-agency coordination, and communication mechanisms in the event of critical incidents.

The main objectives of the Mock Drill were to assess emergency response procedures and protocols. To evaluate coordination among agencies including J&K Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), Fire and Emergency Services, Ambulance Services, Health Department, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the Traffic Department and Civil Administration. Also to test the effectiveness of communication systems and rescue operations, and to ensure real-time response monitoring and procedural adherence.

Before the drill commenced, all the participating agencies were thoroughly briefed on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by J&K Police.



Emphasis was laid on real-time monitoring of response times, communication flow, and coordinated action. In anticipation of any exigency, arrangements for food, shelter, and medical assistance have been streamlined through coordinated efforts by the CAPD, Revenue, and Health Departments, under the unified command of the Joint Police Control Room (Joint-PCR).

The drill was conducted across strategic locations, simulating various emergency scenarios like Vehicle-borne IED, Stand-off Fire, Road Traffic Accidents, Fidayeen attack, L&O etc. Following the exercise, de-

tailed debriefing sessions were held with all stakeholders to identify operational gaps and refine the existing Emergency Response Plan. The drill not only demonstrated the strengths of emergency response framework of the District but also provided actionable insights into areas requiring improvement. Exercises of this nature are crucial to safeguarding lives, strengthening institutional resilience, and ensuring a safe and secure pilgrimage for all. Srinagar Police reaffirms its unwavering commitment to public safety and effective disaster management response mechanisms for one and all.

Srinagar records season's hottest day at 33.8°C

SRINAGAR: Srinagar on Sunday recorded its hottest day of the season with the maximum temperature settling at 33.8°C, as intense heat continued to grip Kashmir following a sharp rise in temperatures over the past two days.

According to data issued by the Meteorological Department as per news agency JKNS, Qazigund recorded 33.2°C, Kupwara 32.3°C, Kokernag (Anantnag district) 31.9°C, Banihal 31.6°C, Batote 29.5°C, Pahalgam 27.7°C, while Gulmarg recorded 24.8°C. In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded 37.0°C, Katra 35.6°C, and Bhandarwah 32.0°C. Officials in the Meteorological Department told news agency JKNS that generally dry weather is expected to prevail across Jammu and Kashmir till the end of June. They said a significant change in weather is likely between July 1 and July 4, as a fresh Western Disturbance interacting with advancing monsoon winds is expected to affect the Union Territory.

According to the MeT Department, the approaching weather system is likely to trigger widespread rainfall, thunderstorms, gusty winds, lightning and isolated hailstorms in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Officials said the expected wet spell is likely to provide much-needed relief from the prevailing heat-wave conditions, though strong winds and heavy showers could lead to localised disruptions in vulnerable areas. The MeT Department has advised residents, particularly those living in flood-prone and hilly areas, to remain alert and follow official weather advisories. The rainfall activity is also expected to bring a noticeable drop in temperatures after several days of unusually hot weather across the region.

Police in Anantnag conducts high-intensity mock drill at Nunwan Base Camp

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ANANTNAG: In continuation of the extensive security preparations for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY-2026), police in Anantnag conducted a high-intensity mock drill based on a simulated fidayeen attack at Nunwan Base Camp, Pahalgam. The exercise was aimed at testing the preparedness, responsiveness, and coordination of security and emergency response agencies in dealing with a high-risk terrorist contingency. The scenario simulated an attempted fidayeen attack on the base camp, prompting an immediate activation of the emergency response mechanism.

Upon receipt of the simulated alert, security forces swiftly secured the base camp, isolated the affected area, neutralized the simulated threat through coordinated tactical action, evacuated pilgrims and ci-

vilians to designated safe zones, provided prompt medical assistance to simulated casualties, and carried out systematic search and sanitization operations in accordance with established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The mock exercise witnessed the active participation of Police, CRPF, SDRF, Health Department, Fire & Emergency Services, and other stakeholder agencies, demonstrating a high degree of interoperability and coordinated response under simulated emergency conditions.

Police remains fully committed to ensuring the safety and security of all pilgrims, visitors, and local residents during SANJY-2026. Regular mock drills and scenario-based exercises continue to be conducted to maintain the highest level of operational preparedness and ensure a swift and effective response to any security challenge.

Farmers' Awareness Programme under Khet Bachao Abhiyan launched in Bandipora

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BANDIPORA: As part of the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan, the Department of Agriculture, Bandipora, today organized a farmers' awareness programme at Sumbal to promote sustainable agricultural practices and enhance awareness among the farming community. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of farmers, officers, and field functionaries.

Joint Director Engineering, Department of Agriculture, who was the chief guest on the occasion, emphasized the importance of conserving agricultural resources through efficient water management, maintenance of soil health, adoption of scientific farming practices, and the judicious use of farm inputs. He urged farmers to embrace modern technologies to improve productivity while ensuring environmental sustainabil-



ity. During the programme, experts from the Agriculture Department interacted with farmers and provided technical guidance on scientific crop management, resource conservation, and various government schemes aimed at enhancing farm productivity and increasing farmers' income. The experts also addressed farmers' field-related queries during an interactive session. Speaking on the occasion, the officers reiterated the Department's commitment to strengthening farm-

er outreach through regular awareness programmes and capacity-building initiatives under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan. They encouraged farmers to adopt climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural practices for long-term agricultural growth.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment by the Department to continue promoting scientific and sustainable farming practices across the district through sustained awareness and extension activities.

JKSA delegation meets DRME, PNRG over BFUHS academic row

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SRINAGAR: A delegation of the Jammu & Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), led by its State Media Coordinator Sheikh Salman, along with members of the Punjab Students Union (PSU), on Saturday visited the offices of the Directorate of Research and Medical Education (DRME), Punjab, and the Punjab Nurses Registration Council (PNRC), SAS Nagar, Mohali, to pursue the long-pending issue concerning the arbitrary academic decisions of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS), which have placed the academic future of thousands of nurs-

ing students in jeopardy. The delegation met the concerned Director at DRME, who gave a patient hearing and assured that he would personally take up the matter with Baba Farid University of Health Sciences. He further assured that the University would be directed to furnish a written clarification on the issues raised so that the grievances of the affected students could be examined in a transparent and time-bound manner. The delegation also met the Registrar of the Punjab Nurses Registration Council (PNRC). However, the Registrar expressed his inability to intervene, stating that the matter does not fall within

the Council's jurisdiction and that he has no authority to mediate in the dispute. The Association stated that it has exhausted every available institutional, legal, and administrative grievance redressal mechanism. Despite repeated representations before the University, meetings with the concerned authorities, and continuous follow-ups, no meaningful resolution has been achieved. JKSA further stated that information obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act establishes that the academic relaxations approved by the University's highest academic body have not been implemented

by the university administration. The Association has also filed another RTI application before the Indian Nursing Council (INC) seeking clarification on the applicability of the relevant nursing regulations. Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Salman said that despite exhausting all available legal and administrative remedies, the University's rigid and arbitrary approach has left thousands of nursing students uncertain about their academic future. He said the Association cannot allow university authorities to amend academic regulations or alter rules at their own convenience in a manner that prejudices students'

interests. Such arbitrary decisions violate the principles of fairness and transparency, disrupt the academic calendar, and cause severe academic uncertainty and hardship. He further said that the prolonged delay has imposed a significant financial and psychological burden on students, particularly those from Jammu & Kashmir and other states, who continue to incur additional expenses on accommodation, transportation, tuition, and daily living while awaiting a resolution. The continued uncertainty has also adversely affected their mental well-being, academic progression, and future career

prospects. The Association emphasized that no university can disregard decisions taken by its own highest academic body or ignore the applicable statutory and regulatory framework. It said the issue extends beyond nursing students and raises broader concerns regarding transparency, accountability, and academic governance within higher education institutions. JKSA reiterated that it will continue pursuing the matter and will once again seek the intervention of the Chief Minister of Punjab and the Speaker of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha to facilitate appropriate policy-level di-

rections. The Association affirmed that it remains committed to ensuring a fair, transparent, lawful, and student-centric resolution and will not allow arbitrary administrative actions to compromise the academic rights and future of thousands of students.

The Association appealed to the Punjab Government to intervene without further delay, ensure justice for the affected students, and direct Baba Farid University of Health Sciences to implement the decisions already approved by its Academic Council in accordance with the applicable academic regulations and statutory framework.

Drug peddlers arrested in Anantnag

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking, police arrested a drug peddler in Anantnag and recovered contraband substance from his possession. A police party of Police Station Bijbehara during naka checking in Nowbug area arrested a drug peddler identified as Fayaz Ahmad Ganie son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Ganie resident of Kadlaba, Pampore, presently residing at Kanderpora Guree, Bijbehara. During the checking, police recovered 74 grams of charas-like substance from his possession.