

# Amit mentions Census 2027 a founding pillar of Viksit Bharat in 6th Digital Transformation Summit & Awards

## Ravinder Raina calls on LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Amit Sharma, Director Census Operations (DCO) & Director Citizen Registration (DCR), Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs for the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, elaborated about the unique and novel features of upcoming Digital Paperless Census 2027 calling it as the founding pillar of Viksit Bharat during 6th Digital Transformation Summit & Awards organized by Governance Now Group in the National Capital, New Delhi wherein he was exclusively invited as a Key Note Speaker and a Special Guest as an e-Governance expert to share his perspectives about the upcoming Census 2027.

DCO/DCR Government of India, MHA for J&K and Ladakh Amit Sharma was requested to talk on the topic of "Building Digital-First Governance" wherein he happened to share spe-



Amit Sharma, DCO & DCR along with others during a programme at New Delhi.

cial features of upcoming Census 2026-27 like Self Enumeration facility for the citizens to fill their own data using Geo-tagging feature, 100% paperless census to be recorded by enumerators and supervisors on their own devices in unique application developed by C-DAC for it, fast processing of Census data in indigenous Data Centres of ORGI and earliest release of Reports thereafter; it shall be error-free, transparent and clean

data Census with the extensive usage of technology and e-Governance tools, Census as a Service (CaaS) feature declared by the Government of India for upcoming Census and many others which were highly appreciated by the gathering comprising of senior bureaucrats, technology specialists, PSU lead teams like C-DAC, NISL, IT gaints, policy makers, national Digital Governance Awardees, etc.

Amit Sharma, apart from sharing the novelties of upcoming Census in the nation, also described it as an important founding pillar of Viksit Bharat Mission of Government of India which shall have a far-reaching impact upon the Indian economy, demography, politics and shall also help in re-defining the EXIM Policy of the nation.

DCO/DCR J&K and Ladakh Amit Sharma also utilised this opportunity to request all the audience members to become active messengers of the first-of-its-kind Digital Census which is going to take place in Bharat since the inception of Census activity, much earlier than becoming Independent nation in 1947, being the second most populous nation and largest democracy of the world.

Apart from this, DCO/DCR J&K and Ladakh also invited Governance Now Group to take a lead in organising first national-level Census

Awareness-cum-Sensitization Programme in Jammu & Kashmir amongst all states/UTs wherein top experts on the subject can be invited to throw light over varied aspects of upcoming Census 2026-27 for the general public awareness, thereby highlighting the importance and criticality of participation in same.

In the last phase of this national event, top e-Governance related practices all across the nation were duly recognized and awarded wherein Amit Sharma's recent role as ICT Secretary Mizoram was also highly appreciated especially recalling his initiatives in introducing e-Office, Bhashini, DigitLocker, Mizo Fibre Grid Network Project and many alike IT initiatives which had never seen light of day in that part of the nation previously. He also joined J&K team in receiving an e-Governance related award in Rural Development sector.

The packed-house gathering and the organising team expressed deep gratitude towards DCO/DCR J&K and Ladakh Amit Sharma for his eloquent address during the Summit, thereby enlightening everyone there about the novel features of Census 2027 and they in-turn, assured him towards becoming active stakeholders for fully backing-up upcoming Digital Census led by Ministry of Home Affairs through Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India in the coming months all across the nation till its culmination in February 2027.



Senior BJP leader Ravinder Raina calling on LG Manoj Sinha.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Ravinder Raina, senior BJP Leader and former MLA called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Saturday. He discussed various public important issues and development of several

religious sites including Baba Naar Singh Ji Dev Sthan (Lamberi) Nowshera, Mangla Mata Shrine and Mangla Devi (Fort and Temple) under religious and border tourism and Peer Badesar near LoC in Rajouri.

## SKUAST-J launches website of National Conference on Sustainable and Climate Resilient Agroecosystems



VC SKUAST-J Prof. (Dr.) B.N.Tripathi launching website.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Prof. (Dr.) B.N.Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) launched the website <https://iesconf.in/> of the forthcoming National Conference on "Sustainable and Climate Resilient Agroecosystems: Innovations and Policy Framework" which is being jointly organized by SKUAST of Jammu and the Indian Ecological Society from 28-30, April, 2026. The said Conference is a premier event for exchanging latest multidisciplinary Agricultural Research innovations and strategies for resilient

agroecosystems. The scientific authorities will deliberate on innovative technologies, management practices, and policy interventions that foster sustainability, productivity and climate resilience of agro ecosystems, with a special focus on the Himalayan and rainfed regions.

The notable confirmed keynote speakers including Prof. Rattan Lal Director, Carbon Management and Sequestration Centre, Ohio State University, USA, Dr. Mahesh K. Gathala Cimmyt Representative, CIMMYT, India, Dr. Rajan Kotru Chief Advisor, Indo-German Development Cooperation -Tirupura Government, Dr. Alexandre

Gagnon, Prof. Climate Change Liverpool Jhon Moores University, U.K. and Dr. V.B. Patel (ADG) Horticulture & Plantation Crops, ICAR, New Delhi are attending the Conference. Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor was satisfied and happy with the progress for the conference. Prof. Rajinder Peshin, Vice President of the Society and organising Secretary of the conference, said that the forthcoming National Conference will be a mega event and it will encourage and promote ecological studies in the country. The launch was attended by Prof. S. K. Gupta, President and Prof. K. K. Sood, General Secretary of Jammu Chapter of the Indian Ecological Society and Prof. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Students Welfare.

The others present in the launch include Dr. Syed Sheraz Mahdi, Organizing Secretary, Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Organizing Secretary, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Joint Secretary, Prof. Virender Kaul, Counsellor and Dr. Anil Bhat, Counsellor of Jammu chapter.

## Engineering Graduates associations flag long-pending issues

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Joint Coordination Committee of the Engineering Graduates Association, an amalgamation of the J&K Civil Engineering Graduates Association (JKCEGA) and the J&K Mechanical Engineering Graduates Association (JKMEGA), today held a press briefing in Srinagar to highlight long-pending issues affecting the engineering community, particularly Civil and Mechanical Engineers across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the media, Er. Farooq Ahmed Ganie, President JKCEGA, and Er. Firdous Ahad Bhat, President JKMEGA, expressed grave concern over the prolonged stagnation in the regularisation

of engineers. They stated that while notable progress had been achieved in earlier years, especially in the Jal Shakti Department and the Mechanical Wing of the R&B Department, the last two years have witnessed no tangible headway, particularly in PWD (R&B). They cautioned that the situation is likely to deteriorate further if immediate corrective steps are not initiated.

The leaders also highlighted the continued non-implementation of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme, despite its approval by the Cabinet and availability of budgetary provisions since 2018. They said the delay of more than two decades has severely demoralised engi-

neers who have been consistently striving for legitimate career advancement.

"Engineers are the backbone of development and infrastructure growth. Career progression is our rightful entitlement and cannot be denied indefinitely," they asserted.

They expressed hope that the assurances given by the Chief Minister regarding implementation of the ACP Scheme would be fulfilled during the forthcoming budget session for the financial year 2026-27, and that a formal SRO would be issued in this regard during the session.

The committee further urged that, along with ACP implementation, long-pending pay anomalies at various levels of the engineering cadre be addressed

through the upcoming 8th Pay Commission. They pointed out that due to prolonged stagnation, many engineers are likely to receive only one or two functional promotions during their entire service span, making financial safeguards such as ACP and anomaly resolution crucial for their professional dignity and motivation.

Serious concern was also raised over the acute shortage of Junior Engineers, particularly in the Mechanical discipline, owing to delayed recruitment. This shortage, they said, is adversely impacting the execution of public welfare and developmental works on the ground, making urgent referral and filling of vacancies imperative. The Joint

Coordination Committee appealed to the Government to immediately take cognisance of the regularisation issue, refer pending cases to the Public Service Commission for DPCs, and ensure complete elimination of adhocism.

The committee's key demands included immediate implementation of the ACP Scheme with fresh budgetary provisions, resolution of long-pending pay anomalies especially at the JE level, time-bound placements at all levels, and urgent recruitment to fill vacant engineering posts.

Concluding the briefing, the leaders reaffirmed that the engineering community remains committed to public service and development, but seeks justice, dignity, and rightful career progression to continue contributing effectively to the growth of Jammu & Kashmir.

## Shiv Sena extends full support to 'Maha Abhiyan Aahwan' of Y4PK in Jagti



Shiv Sainiks along with others at Jagti.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) has extended its complete support to the five-day 'Maha Abhiyan Aahwan' movement launched by Youth 4 Panun Kashmir in Jagti, Jammu. The campaign, which began on January 16, aims to press for the safe return and rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits in the Kashmir Valley.

A delegation of Shiv Sena leaders, led by Manish Sahni, State Chief of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir, joined the movement today. Addressing the gathering, Sahni asserted that all claims of peace and normalcy in Kashmir are hollow and incomplete unless the displaced Kashmiri Hindus are safely resettled in their homeland.

He described the 'Maha Abhiyan' as a comprehensive and just movement initiated by displaced Kashmiri Pandits to seek their rightful return and justice after their forced exodus in the early 1990s. Sahni reiterated that Shiv Sena stands firmly with the Kashmiri Pandit community in their struggle for dignity, security, and rehabilitation. During the visit, Shiv Sena leaders also toured a poster gallery set up at the venue, which depicted the painful memories of displacement from 1989. The nearly 100-meter-long gallery showcased photographs illustrating how Kashmiri Pandits were rendered homeless, their houses destroyed, temples demolished, and agricultural lands taken away.

Outside the gallery, portraits of prominent social and spiritual figures were displayed, including Maharishi Kashyap

and Hindu Hriday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray, which drew significant attention from visitors. Several intellectuals, social organizations, and religious leaders supporting the Kashmiri Pandit cause were also present on the occasion. Balasaheb Thackeray Remembered for His Support to Kashmiri Pandits

A special poster of Balasaheb Thackeray was prominently displayed at the 'Maha Abhiyan Aahwan' site. Rahul Kaul, Chairman of Youth 4 Panun Kashmir, and Rajesh Kachroo, Organization Secretary, stated that after the displacement of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s, Balasaheb Thackeray and the Shiv Sena played a significant role in providing them shelter, support, and employment opportunities in Maharashtra, particularly in Mumbai.

They added that his contributions are deeply respected by the Kashmiri Pandit community, which is why his image is displayed and honored in most of their protests and movements as a mark of gratitude and respect.

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## Sikh Nojawan Sabha Rehari thanks LG for revival of Guru Nanak Dev Ji Chair at JU

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Sikh Nojawan Sabha Rehari, Jammu, has expressed its heartfelt gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, for his positive and historic intervention in reviving the Guru Nanak Dev Ji Chair at the University of Jammu (JU).

Satwant Singh Wazir, President, Sikh Nojawan Sabha Rehari, the Sabha stated, "We are deeply thankful to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor for his visionary decision to revive the Guru Nanak Dev Ji Chair. This step will greatly strengthen academic research and promote the universal teachings and

philosophy of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj." He also acknowledged the efforts of the University of Jammu administration for placing the matter before the 89th University Council Meeting. "It is a moment of pride for the Sikh community that during the 89th University Council Meeting, the LG directed the Vice-Chancellor to revive the Chair, reaffirming the commitment towards spiritual heritage and interfaith harmony," Wazir said.

The decision, he added, reflects respect for the invaluable contribution of Sikh philosophy to society and inclusive academic growth.

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