

Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication



Narendra Modi
@narendramodi
Pleased to speak with my friend, Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. We exchanged views on further strengthening India-Mauritius Enhanced Strategic Partnership and regional developments. Mauritius remains a key partner in India's Vision MAHASAGAR and our Neighbourhood First policy.

Srinagar • Wednesday 25, June 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 143 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

LG Chairs 75th Meeting Of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Inaugurates Pilgrim-Centric Facilities Near Cave Area, Parvati Bhawan



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATRA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday chaired the historic 75th Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

The meeting was attended by the newly constituted Board, comprising members including Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshwaranand Giri Maharaj, Shri Baleshwar Rai, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Smt. Sudha Murty, Smt. Gunjan Rana, Dr. K.K. Talwar, Shri Kulbhushan Ahuja, Shri Lalit Bhasin and Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB also attended the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor extended a warm welcome to

the new members of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, highlighting the trust and responsibility entrusted to them. He underscored the Board's crucial role in managing the Shrine and preserving its spiritual and cultural heritage.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the new members would make significant contributions to the Board's initiatives, furthering its objectives and enhancing the Shrine's stature.

He also acknowledged the dedicated services and significant contributions of former Board Members, and appreciated their valuable contribution in the decision-making processes during their tenure.

The Board conducted a comprehensive review of its past decisions; ratified actions taken since

'Op Sindoor' Made Clear India's Stringent Policy Against Terrorism To World: PM

SAJID RAJNA

NEW DELHI: Stating that today's India takes decisions based solely on what is right for national interest, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that 'Operation Sindoor' has clearly demonstrated India's firm and uncompromising policy against terrorism on the global stage.

Addressing the centenary celebration of the historic conversation between two of India's greatest spiritual and moral leaders Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi here, PM Modi while referring to "Operation Sindoor," said, "The world has recently witnessed the strength of India and its uncompromising policy against terrorism on the global stage."

He affirmed that India has made it evident—no shelter is safe for terrorists who spill the blood of Indian citizens.

PM Modi said that the country's dependence on foreign nations for military needs is steadily decreasing. "India is becoming self-reliant in the defence sector," he added.

The Prime Minister noted that this shift was clearly evi-



dent during Operation Sindoor, where Indian forces compelled the enemy to surrender within 22 minutes using domestically manufactured weapons.

He expressed confidence that in the coming times, Made-in-India weapons will earn global recognition and acclaim.

Listing the achievements of his government, PM Modi urged people to recall the conditions 10-11 years ago, when

despite decades of independence, millions of citizens were forced to live in extremely difficult circumstances.

The Prime Minister pointed out that millions of families lacked shelter, countless villages had no access to clean drinking water, and even minor illnesses could not be treated due to lack of health-care and in cases of serious illness, there was no way to save lives.

He said that millions of poor people—Dalits, tribals, women—were deprived of basic human dignity.

PM Modi emphasized that these hardships persisted across generations, leading many to give up hope for a better life. He questioned how a nation could progress when such a large population lived in pain and despair.

PM Modi stressed that their government

PM MODI STRESSED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT MADE COMPASSION A central part of its thinking and turned service into its mission. He added that as a result under the PM Awas Yojana, millions of poor, Dalit, distressed, oppressed, and deprived families have been provided with permanent homes.

...Blackboard Crises 'School Bag Policy Goes For A Toss'



PEERZADA UMMER

SRINAGAR: In 2020, the Department of Education released a circular aimed at enhancing the attractiveness and reducing the constraints of early education for children in Jammu and Kashmir.

The circular clearly indicated that pre-primary children would not utilise formal textbooks or a designated syllabus, and that students in Grades 1 and 2 would not receive daily homework assignments. The regulation aimed to control the weight of schoolbags, highlighting increasing awareness of the physical and psychological burden on young students.

Notwithstanding these explicit directives, numerous children continue to be observed making their way to school each morning, their diminutive physiques encumbered by huge school bags.

This situation has elicited significant apprehension among parents, educators, and child welfare advocates, prompting enquiries over

...Wet Spell Ahead

Srinagar Sees Season's Hottest Day Again At 35.5°C



OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: As Jammu and Kashmir braces for the three-day wet spell from tomorrow, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has once again surpassed the previous records of two decades after the mercury settled at 35.5 degrees, which is the highest June temperature since 2005.

According to the details available, Srinagar has

recorded a day temperature of 35.5 degrees, which is the hottest day of the season so far. Similar day temperature was recorded on June 20, breaking the previous record of 20 years.

In Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, the mercury settled at 33.6 degrees while Pahalgam recorded 30.6 degrees. In Kupwara, a maximum temperature of 34.7 degrees while Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous

CM Omar Vows To Develop Gulmarg As World-Class Golf Destination

Lays Foundation For Key Tourism Projects, Flags Off Cyclothon In Gulmarg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GULMARG: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday reaffirmed his government's resolve to reestablish Gulmarg as a premier global golf destination, promising focused attention on golfing infrastructure, international-level tournaments and tourism-friendly facilities.

Speaking at an award ceremony for golfers and hoteliers at the Gulmarg Golf Championship, the Chief Minister—who also holds the Tourism portfolio—said, "We want to make Gulmarg a world-class golf destination once again. Special



attention will be given to golf, golf infrastructure, and tournaments so that Jammu and Kashmir can be marketed as a pre-eminent golfing destination across the globe."

Acknowledging the effort required, Omar Abdullah said the necessary investment is justified given the economic and tourism potential of Gulmarg. "These are high-

CS Pushes Forward J&K's IT Revolution With BISAG-N

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess progress on various digital initiatives spearheaded by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) across the government departments.

The meeting besides the Administrative Heads was attended by DG, Planning; Commissioner, State Taxes; Director, Employment; MD, JKTDG; CEO, JaKeGA; IT professionals from BISAG-N and representatives from other departments.

The Chief Secretary took

stock of the progress made on development of every new initiative taken-up with the BISAG-N along with the dates for their roll-out for public usage.

He observed that such IT measures would make lives of common citizens largely amenable.

Dulloo underscored the need for developing respective dashboards for people-centric interventions like Mission YUVA and Sehat Mobile app simultaneously. This will help in having peek into their uptake among the masses besides devising subsequent action plans as per the requirements on ground.

He also accentuated the importance of linking the learning of skill

...SCO Meet In China

DM Rajnath To Pitch For Greater Cooperation To Counter Terrorism

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: In line with India's diplomatic offensive against Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to press the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to ramp up efforts to contain terrorism at a two-day conclave of the bloc in China's Qingdao that begins on Wednesday.

Singh is travelling to Qingdao, a port city in China's eastern Shandong province, for the conclave which is expected to extensively deliberate on the evolving regional security scenario.

The defence minister's plan to call for greater regional cooperation to counter terrorism comes nearly a month-and-a-half after India carried out precision strikes on nine terror infrastructures in Pakistani territories in response to the horrific Pahalgam terror attack.

It is the first visit to China



by a senior Indian minister after the ties came under severe strain following the military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh that began in May 2020.

NSA Ajit Doval is also visiting China to attend a conclave of SCO's top national security officials.

Singh is expected to highlight India's continued commitment to the principles and mandate of the SCO, outline India's vision towards achiev-

ing greater international peace and security, call for joint and consistent efforts to eliminate terrorism and extremism in the region, according to an official readout.

It said the defence minister is also expected to stress on the need for greater trade, economic cooperation and connectivity within SCO.

He will also hold bilateral meetings with the defence ministers of some participating countries.

...Tunnel Set To Transform Tourism

Sanctioned Mughal Road Tunnel Brings Joy Among Pir Panjal Residents

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SHOPIAN: The sanction for the construction of a tunnel on the historic Mughal Road has brought a wave of joy and optimism among the people on both sides of the Pir Panjal range - in south Kashmir's Shopian district and the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region.

The proposed tunnel, sanctioned by the Government of India, is aimed at making the Mughal Road an all-weather route, ending the decades-long seasonal closure that has been a major hurdle in connectivity and development.

Currently, the road remains closed for nearly 4-5 months during winters due to heavy snowfall at Pir Ki Gali and adjoining areas.

Locals, traders and stakeholders, welcomed the move and stressed the need for its speedy execution.

Mohammad Ashraf, a resident of Shopian, said, "We have been demanding a tunnel for years. The road is a lifeline for us, but snowfall disconnects us for months. The tunnel will not

just connect us year-round but will also open up new opportunities for our youth."

Sameer Ahmad, a hotelier from Shopian, added, "Tourism has immense potential on both sides of the Mughal Road. With the tunnel, places like Pir Ki Gali, Dubjan, and Noori Chamb will see more footfall, and this will boost our local economy."

Stakeholders from the tourism and business sectors believe that the tunnel will not only ensure connectivity but also unlock the economic potential of several unexplored tourist destinations situated along the historic road.

Shahid Mir, a tour operator from Rajouri, said, "The beauty of this road is unparalleled, but its seasonal closure hampers all plans. If the tunnel is completed soon, it will link the two regions throughout the year and help develop tourism infrastructure and the hospitality industry."

Local traders expressed hope that uninterrupted transport will benefit horticulture and other perishable produce markets.

Heatwave: Locals Turn To 'Traditional Coolants'

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: As Srinagar reeled under an intense heatwave with temperatures touching nearly 35.5°C on Tuesday, the residents across the city turned to traditional ways to stay cool by distributing yogurt drinks, rose water and chilled refreshments to passersby at different locations in Srinagar city.

According to the details, the day's maximum temperature was 6.3°C above normal. The summer heat also affected other parts of the Kashmir Valley, with Qazigund recording 33.6°C, Pahalgam 30.6°C, Kupwara 34.7°C, Kokernag 33.2°C, and Gulmarg 26.0°C—all above average for this time of year.

In areas like Khanjar, Nowhatta, Maisuma and other places, residents, especially youth, had set up roadside stalls to provide relief. "We brought out cans

and jugs with chilled lassi and rose water. People were exhausted from the heat," said Owais Ahmad from Khanjar Srinagar. He said, even a small drink brought smiles and we were happy to see that.

Also in Nowhatta, groups of volunteers offered juice and water during the afternoon. "It is just a small effort to help," said Sahil, a resident from the area.

Interestingly, parts of the Jammu region reported below-normal temperatures. Jammu city recorded 34.1°C, which is 3.5°C below the seasonal average. Katra saw 30.7°C, and Batote and Baderwah recorded 28.2°C and 33.2°C respectively. Also, in Ladakh, Leh reported 31.5°C while Kargil stood at 34.6°C.

Meanwhile, experts have advised residents to avoid direct exposure to the sun, stay hydrated and wear light clothing to stay safe in the soaring temperatures—(KNO)

Committee on Public Undertakings reviews functioning of JKSPDC

Chairman stresses tapping power potential, timely commissioning of projects in JK

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Public Undertakings of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Tuesday held a review meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to examine audit paras related to the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).

The meeting was presided over by Committee Chairman, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members including Saifulah Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar, Baldev Raj Sharma, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq. Secretary Legislative Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandita outlined the agenda.

The Chairman called for expediting all ongoing hydroelectric and power projects across Jammu and Kashmir, noting the Union



Territory's vast yet under-utilised potential for power generation. He stressed the need for timely completion and commissioning of projects to benefit the public.

The Chairman underlined the role of robust audits in ensuring transparency and accountability. He directed the officers to prepare and submit all relevant audit reports to the Committee for appropriate reply to the audit para's.

He also instructed that the joint representation submitted by the employees of various PSUs be

referred to the General Administration Department (GAD) for comments. Highlighting the importance of efficient Public Sector Undertakings, the Chairman emphasised active cooperation from the members and the officials to strengthen the sector.

"It is the responsibility of this Committee to ensure people do not suffer due to delay in execution and completion of projects. Instead responsibility shall be fixed on company or officers for making any kind of delay in execution of the PDD projects in J&K," said

the Chairman.

During the session, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, H. Rajesh Prasad, provided a detailed overview of the current power generation scenario in J&K. He informed the Committee that out of the identified 15,000 MW of hydropower potential, 3,500 MW has been harnessed, so far.

The Committee emphasised the need for corporation-wise review meetings and reiterated their collective commitment towards improving the sector.

The members also shared suggestions and raised issues concerning the power sector.

Also present were the Principal Accountant General J&K; Director General, Accounts and Treasuries; Director General, Expenditure Finance Department; Managing Director, JKSPDC; Director Finance, PDD; CEO, JAKEDA and other concerned officials.

Labour Comm reviews SANJY Registration Camp Sonmarg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SONMARG: Labour Commissioner, S. Charandeep Singh, Tuesday conducted a field visit to Sonmarg to review the ongoing registration of service providers for Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025.

He inspected the labour welfare measures at major infrastructure sites, including the Zojila and Z-Morh Tunnels.

At the SANJY Registration Camp in Sonmarg, the Labour Commissioner interacted with the service providers and reviewed the registration process being facilitated by the Labour Department. He directed the Nodal Officer (Assistant Labour Commissioner, Ganderbal) to ensure that registration of all the service providers is carried out in a smooth, efficient and hassle-free manner. He emphasised timely issuance of RFID cards to the registered individuals, as per the schedule prescribed by the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.



Pertinently, a total of 9,224 service providers have been registered at the Ganderbal Axis, so far. Across all registration points, the Labour Department has achieved 88.6 % of its target, having registered 23,787 out of the total target of 26,850 service providers.

Later, the Labour Commissioner visited the

under-construction Zojila and Z-Morh Tunnels, two vital infrastructure projects in the region.

At these worksites, he interacted with both the workers and the management representatives to assess the implementation of labour laws and welfare schemes.

During the interaction, he enquired about the key aspects of worker welfare.

These included timely payment of wages, occupational safety and health standards, provision of transit accommodation for non-local workers, awareness and registration under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Act, coverage under social security schemes such as Employees' State Insurance (ESIC) and Provident Fund (PF).

The Labour Commissioner stressed upon the management to ensure strict adherence to all applicable labour laws. He inspected the on-site health facilities and reiterated that the welfare of workers must remain a top priority, especially in large-scale infrastructure projects.

This visit underscores the commitment of the Labour Department, J&K, towards ensuring not only the seamless organization of the SANJY but also the protection of workers' rights and welfare in alignment with statutory labour frameworks.

Dir inaugurates newly constructed Medical Unit at NIT Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia on Tuesday inaugurated a newly constructed Medical Unit on the campus aimed at providing enhanced healthcare services to students, faculty, and staff on campus.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Dean Planning and Development Dr. Yashwant Mehta, Medical Officer Dr. Gawher Nabi, Executive Engineer Dr. Syed Mohsin, AR (Director's Office & Legal) Mohammad Hazik, Dental Surgeon Dr. Urnaib Riyaz, Dr. Tasaduq Nazk (Physiotherapist), Mohammad Abrar Khan (Sr Pharmacist), Mr. Fairouz Malla (Counselor), and several other faculty and staff members.

The newly constructed two-storey health centre is equipped with comprehensive medical services, including a Medical Officer, Dental Surgeon, Physiotherapist, X-ray Technician, Lab Technician, a state-of-the-art diagnostic laboratory, a counselling cell, and two ambulances.

Built under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) grant at a total cost of ₹5.8 crore, the project commenced on August 26,



2022, and was completed on May 15, 2025.

Following the formal inauguration, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia inspected all the facilities, including the OPD section, dental clinic, physiotherapy wing, diagnostic lab, and counselling area. He interacted with the medical staff and reviewed the infrastructure and operational arrangements.

Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Kanaujia appreciated the quality of work and called for regular monitoring, maintenance, and a robust feedback mechanism from students to ensure that the facility remains efficient and responsive to evolving healthcare needs.

He also stressed the importance of health awareness and preventive care within the campus community.

Speaking at the occasion, Prof. Kanaujia said this upgraded medical unit is a significant addition to the institute's infrastruc-

ture and will help ensure timely and quality medical care on campus.

"It reflects our unwavering commitment to the well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. Good health forms the foundation of strong academic performance," he added.

Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman said the newly inaugurated health centre is a significant milestone in the institute's journey toward strengthening campus infrastructure.

"This facility reflects our commitment to building a campus where health and education go hand in hand. A strong academic institution must also have strong support systems and this health centre is a vital part of that vision," he said.

Prof. Rehman expressed gratitude to the Ministry for its continued support. This medical unit, funded under the EWS grant, is not just a building; it's an assurance of care, safety, and preparedness for our entire community," he said.

Budha Amarnathji Yatra to commence from July 27

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal Tuesday chaired a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the annual Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra, scheduled to commence from July 27, 2025.

At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik briefed the participants on the preparations being made. He said the arrangements are being made as per the established protocols and past practices.

The meeting was attended by religious leaders, prominent citizens and local stakeholders. They underlined numerous requirements for smooth conduct of the yatra.

The concerned departments were asked to make arrangements for accommodation of yatriis, provision of toilet and sanitation at base camps and halt points, medical aid, uninterrupted water and power supply, public address for announcements, transport and parking arrangements, sheds, overall cleanliness and other related facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner assured all stakeholders that the administration is committed to make the Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025 a peaceful, safe and well-managed spiritual experience for all pilgrims.

Amazon Announces Prime Day 2025

Three Days, Great Deals, Big Savings from July 12 - 14

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Amazon India Tuesday announced that Prime Day 2025 will be a first ever three-day celebration in India, running from 12:00 AM on July 12 to 11:59 PM on July 14, offering 72 hours of great deals, savings, new launches, and exclusive entertainment, all curated exclusively for Prime members. For the first time ever in India, Prime members will enjoy 24-hours extra to shop across top brands and small businesses alike, with access to exciting offers from leading partner banks. Customers can save big with 10% savings on payments using ICICI Bank Credit & Debit cards, SBI Credit Cards and EMI transactions on ICICI Bank Credit Cards and SBI Credit Cards.*

This Prime Day, Prime members will get early access to thousands of new



product launches from over 400 top Indian & global brands along with products by Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs). The three-day annual extravaganza will offer Prime members access to incredible shopping deals, blockbuster entertainment, savings, and much more! From Smartphones, TVs, Appliances, Fashion & Beauty, Groceries & Everyday Essentials, Amazon Devices, Home & Kitchen, Furniture to everyday essentials, and much more.

Akshay Sahi, Director, Prime, Delivery and Returns, India and Emerging Markets, said "From new launches and blockbuster entertainment, to great deals being delivered

fast. Prime Day has always been about celebrating our members. This year, for the first time, we're extending Prime Day to three full days, giving our members even more time to discover the best of shopping, savings, and entertainment. We are really excited about the vast selection, new launches and great deals we have in store for our Prime members this Prime Day."

New launches and access to deals: This Prime Day, Prime members get access to thousands of new product launches from over 400 top Indian & global brands like Harley Davidson, Samsung, Intel, OnePlus, iQOO, HP, Asus, Boat, Lenovo, Moko-bara, American Tourister, Puma, Adidas, Libas, Van Heusen, Allen Solly, USPA, Borosil, Agaro, Atomberg, Crompton and many more.

Use Amazon's generative AI-powered shopping assistant Rufus: The new AI-powered shopping assistant Rufus helps simplify decision-making by answering questions, comparing products, and offering tailored recommendations in real time

urers, start-ups & brands, women entrepreneurs, artisans, and weavers. Prime members can discover more than 1,600 new product launches from SMBs including Phool, Alpino, and Indigenous Honey — across home & kitchen, fashion, grooming, jewellery, handmade, and more.

Get fast and free delivery: Prime members benefit from same-day delivery on over 10 lakh and Next-Day Delivery on over 40 lakh products orders across a wide selection of from eye liners to baby products, to garden tools, to watches, phones and more.

Use Amazon's generative AI-powered shopping assistant Rufus: The new AI-powered shopping assistant Rufus helps simplify decision-making by answering questions, comparing products, and offering tailored recommendations in real time

Dharti Aabha Abhiyan

Massive awareness prog. held at Checkshera

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: As part of the ongoing Dharti Aabha Abhiyan, a large-scale awareness and outreach programme was successfully conducted Tuesday at panchayat Checkshera, village Gojithiji, a remote tribal settlement under block Khanshab.

The programme focused on saturation of government schemes across 25 interventions under 17 line departments, specifically targeting tribal communities.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local

residents, with greater turnout, reflecting the growing interest and engagement of the tribal population in the Abhiyan.

All concerned line departments actively participated in the Gram Sabha, wherein their representatives elaborated on the eligibility criteria and benefits of various government schemes, and identified areas where 100% saturation was yet to be achieved.

A significant highlight of the programme was the on-spot registration and facilitation of schemes including PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awas

Jyana - Gramin), Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), Swadesh Darshan Guest Homes, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC), PMJAY Health Cards (Ayushman Bharat).

Adding cultural vibrancy to the event, students of Government Secondary School Gojithiji presented captivating performances, including Gojri folk songs and other traditional cultural items, highlighting the importance of preserving tribal heritage and identity.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
Notice Inviting short term E-Tenders-NIT No. 06 of 2025-26

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jand K U.T, e-tenders on percentage basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K.U.T Govt. for the following works: -

S. NO.	NAME OF WORK	Estt Cost (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender opening authority
1	Construction of Machine block at LIS Darwal Awantipora.	0.88	2640/=	08	DEE	100/-	2702 M&R	Ex. Engineer

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ) set to terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from :-

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz. Quoted percentage on BOQ.	Additional Performance Security
01.	Upto and including 15% Below	Nil
02.	> 15% upto and including 20% Below	5% of Advertised Cost
03.	> 20 % upto and including 25% Below	10 % of Advertised Cost
04.	> 25% upto and including 30% Below	15 % of Advertised Cost
05.	> 30 % Below	20 % of Advertised Cost

- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies (on 100dpi) of all necessary documents like Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag / latest GST clearance certificate(GSTR-3B and GSTR-1) / Registration card duly renewed along with Verification/BID Security in the form of EMD as per above. And Additional performance security as per below. The date of CDR/FDR/BG should be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date. After opening of tenders online, the 1st lowest bidder shall be asked to deposit the CDR/FDR/additional performance security pledged to tender receiving authority and other documents in original. The CDR/ FDR / additional performance security and other documents in original shall be deposited within two days positively after opening of tenders. The EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR of the successful bidder will be retained as performance security deposit till expiry of defect liability period, whereas the EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned latest by 30 days after award of the contract. The check list of documents for cover 1st is attached with the NIT & bidders are advised to recheck the uploaded documents as per the Check List.
- Additional Performance Security is to be uploaded by the bidder at the time of bid submission in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below failing which the tender shall be rejected.

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz. Quoted percentage on BOQ.	Additional Performance Security
01.	Upto and including 15% Below	Nil
02.	> 15% upto and including 20% Below	5% of Advertised Cost
03.	> 20 % upto and including 25% Below	10 % of Advertised Cost
04.	> 25% upto and including 30% Below	15 % of Advertised Cost
05.	> 30 % Below	20 % of Advertised Cost

- If the successful bidder is seriously unbalanced or front loaded in the opinion of the Tender Opening Committee. The Tender opening Committee may in such cases seek written clarifications from the bidder, including detailed price analyses of its bid price in relation to scope, schedule, resources mobilization, allocation of risks and responsibilities and any other requirements of the bid's documents besides Additional Performance Security as per above breakup. If, after evaluating the price analyses, procuring entity determines that the bidder has substantially failed to demonstrate its capability to deliver the contract at the offered price, the Tender Opening Committee may reject the bid/proposal. A bid which contains several items in Bill of Quantities which are unrealistically priced low and which cannot be substantiated satisfactorily by the bidder may be rejected as non responsive.
- Contractor / Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/FDR / Treasury Challan as required, there EMD will be forfeited besides they will be barred/prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of Six Months (06 Months) in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be considered for the said period.
- Contractor who shall be allotted the work has to start the work within the stipulated time period after the date of allotment as the work is of very important nature.
- The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids due to any reason what so ever.
- The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days (Ninety Days)
- As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
 - Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms & condition of the bid.
 - The successful bidder fails to execute an agreement with the department within 10 days after fixation of contract.
 - The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept/reject the bid without assigning any reason thereof.
- The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT. In case of delay in completion of work due to contractors fault beyond stipulated time of completion the contractor shall be liable to pay liquidated damages at the rate of 0.5 % of the contract value (half percent) per week of delay. However, such liquidated damages shall not exceed 10% of the total contract value of the item, or a part thereof, delayed.
- No price escalation will be paid for completion of the work within stipulated time or extended date of completion due to any reason whatsoever.
- Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25.

Remittance Head:-0702
Position of AAA: -(1) Accorded Vide SE's AAA order NO. 28-DB of 2025 Dated 23/06/2025 Issued vide No. SE/Hyd/DB/AA/ 2273-74 Dated 23/06/2025 Position of TS: -(1) Accorded vide this office TS No.12-DB of 2025-26 dated 23/06/2025 issued vide No. 2129 dated 23/06/2025 Position of Funds: -Budgetary Provision 2025-26

No.IDA/2131-53
Dated:23/06/2025

DIPK-2867-25
DT: 24/06/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Anantnag

AIDS victims deserve compassion, not condemnation: Sakeena Itoo

Flags off mobile ICTC Vans of J&K AIDS Control Society at Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, flagged off Mobile Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) Vans of Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) here Tuesday.

The initiative was aimed to strengthen the health-care outreach and awareness among the people of underserved areas and vulnerable communities.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Director SKIMS; Project Director, JKACS; Director Family Welfare and Immunization; Director AYUSH; Principal GMC Srinagar; Chief Medical Officers; senior officers of JKACS; health department and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

Addressing a gathering of health professionals, the Minister emphasized on the urgent need of de-stigmatizing HIV/AIDS persons and ensure support-oriented approach for the affected individuals. "People living



with HIV/AIDS need to be handled with compassion and dignity. It's not just about medical intervention, it's about restoring hope and trust through proper counselling, awareness and community support", she stated. She remarked that people affected by this virus need to be counselled, sensitised and looked after properly, so that those hiding this due to stigma associated with it, can also come forward and seek proper medical treatment.

The Minister further said that these ICTC Vans are high end vehicles which will contribute

effectively in fighting this virus. She added that these mobile ICTC Vans are aimed at expanding the reach of HIV/AIDS testing and counselling services to remote and underserved areas of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly targeting the high-risk groups and marginalized populations.

"The launch of these mobile vans is a testament to Government's resolve to bring best healthcare services to the doorsteps of the most vulnerable. No one should be denied access due to geography or stigma," said the Minister.

Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed called upon all to redouble

their efforts for completely wiping out this virus from the region as J&K has minimal cases of this virus. He also spoke in length about the role of every individual in eradicating this virus from the society.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Deputy Director, JKACS, Dr. Monika Vali, spoke about the broader aspects of mobile ICTC Vans.

She further said that this initiative will also help in early detection of this virus among affected individuals as well as strengthened prevention measures due to awareness.

On the occasion, the Minister was also briefed about the specialities of these mobile ICTC Vans. He was informed that these Vans are equipped with facilities for confidential counselling, blood sample collection, rapid testing and IEC (Information, Education and Communication) awareness campaigns.

It was also given out that these vans will be manned by trained healthcare professionals, ensuring both sensitivity and professionalism in every interaction.

Mian Altaf inaugurates 2 day Gojri Cultural conference at Tagore Hall



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Member of Parliament Anantnag-Rajouri, Mian Altaf Ahmad, Tuesday inaugurated a two day Gojri Cultural Conference at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

The event, being organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), witnessed participation from a large number of tribal writers, poets and artists from across J&K.

A distinguished panel comprising Er. Khurshed Ahmed, Member of Legislative Assembly, Dr. Javid Rahi, Chief Editor Gojri and G.D. Tahir, former Director of Doordarshan Srinagar shared the podium. In his presidential

address, Mian Altaf Ahmad emphasized the cultural importance of Gojri language saying that it is the third-largest spoken language in Jammu and Kashmir. He called for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and pledged to raise the matter with the Government of India.

He highlighted the wide presence of the Gujjar community across all districts and acknowledged the significant contributions made by Gojri poets, scholars and artists. Commending the Academy's initiative in reviving such a crucial cultural event after a long hiatus, he expressed hope that the conference would help bridge the regional and cultural gaps within the Gujjar community.

Speaking on the occasion, Er. Khurshed Ahmed underscored the importance of documenting the traditional knowledge systems of the Gujjar and Bakerwal communities, calling on institutions like the Tribal Research Institute and JKAACL to act swiftly to preserve this invaluable heritage.

G D Tahir, in his remarks, advocated for establishment of Gojri departments in Kashmir University and Jammu University. He stressed the need for greater institutional efforts to safeguard this historic language and its traditions.

Dr. Javid Rahi, in his welcome address, shared that over 200 Gojri writers, poets and artists from various parts of J&K are participating in the confer-

ence. He emphasized that the event aims to provide a platform for the tribal voices to share, discuss and reflect on their literary and cultural contributions.

The proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by noted Gojri writer Naseem Akhter. A cultural touch was added by renowned folk singer Mohd Rafi from Shopian, who soulfully recited Seharfis of Hazrat Mian Niam-ud-Din Larvi (RA).

The inaugural session was followed by a paper reading session chaired by eminent scholars Professor M K Waqar and M Mansha Khaki. The papers were presented by Molvi Mohi-ud-Din and Ibrahim Misbahi, focusing on various aspects of Gojri language and literature.

Agri Min tours Sgr city; assesses Muharram, Amarnathji Yatra arrangements



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday conducted an extensive visit to Shia-dominated areas in Srinagar to review the arrangements being put in place for peaceful and smooth conduct of Muharram processions.

Accompanied by MLA Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed and senior officers from various departments, Javid Dar visited several Imambaras including Balhama, Pandrethan and Guru Bazar.

The Minister emphasized the importance of close coordination among the departments to ensure that all arrangements are ensured well in advance. He stressed the need for uninterrupted electricity and potable water supply, sanitation, medical facilities and effective traffic management.

The Minister also interacted with the caretakers, organizers and devotees, listening to their concerns and suggestions as well.

Javid Dar directed the officials to address the public grievances on priority to ensure a peaceful and comfortable experience for

the devotees. He assured that the Omar Abdullah led government is committed towards facilitating peaceful and smooth conduct of religious events in the region.

The Minister also visited transit camp at Panthchowk, setup for the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra, to review the boarding and lodging, sanitation and medical facilities put in place for the yatris.

The Minister's visit aimed to ensure a peaceful and successful conduct of Muharram and Shri Amarnath Yatra while also addressing the needs and concerns of the local community.

Rana emphasizes collective efforts towards water conservation for posterity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, stressed the need for collective efforts to conserve water for present and future generations.

He was speaking during a meeting of officers held in Poonch during which threadbare discussions were held on various agricultural schemes and related issues.

Rana emphasized the importance of studying successful water conservation models from other parts of the country that can be replicated in Jammu and Kashmir. "There is a need to recalibrate water policies and accelerate water conservation efforts to address the challenges faced by our region," he said.

The Minister underscored the crucial role of local community involvement in water conservation, stating that locals, NGOs and other stakeholders should be engaged in promoting judicious use of water resources and implementing water-saving practices. He called

upon the officers to raise awareness about rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, irrigation scheduling and other conservation efforts in their respective areas.

The meeting also focussed on assessing progress, addressing challenges and sharing best practices in water conservation and groundwater management.

Rana emphasized the government's focus on revolutionizing agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir, with an emphasis on enhancing farmers' income, productivity and sustainability.

During the meeting, the Minister also outlined the efforts to improve and modernise the agricultural practices, increase productivity and benefit farmers in the Mendhar region.

Chief Agricultural Officer, Poonch, Jog Raj Salathia, briefed the Minister about the progress on the ongoing and upcoming agricultural schemes and initiatives to promote sustainable agriculture.

The meeting also addressed the challenges facing the field staff in implementing government schemes.

Div Com visits ICCC, HMT; directs operationalization of Command Centre

Emphasizes on effective surveillance, dissemination of real-time information

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: With the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra approaching, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Tuesday visited the Integrated Command & Control Center (ICCC) at HMT to assess functioning of the centre for hassle-free Yatra.

During the visit, he informed that all designated officials from the relevant departments were deployed to the ICCC urgently for round the clock functioning of the command centre and effective surveillance and dissemination of real-time information especially exigencies.

He emphasized the need for the operation of hunting line numbers to ensure that pilgrims have access to urgent assistance.

Div Com also called for the daily compilation of surveillance data and call logs reports.

Meanwhile, he also reviewed final arrangements in a meeting with officers to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of the Yatra.

The meeting was attended by Director of FCS&CA, Dr Owais Ahmad; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Commis-



sioner SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb, and representatives from various departments such as ULB, IMD, PHE, KPDC, I&FC, PWD, R&B, SDRF, NDRF, Fire & Emergency, SRTC, and the Police.

In the meeting, Div Com assessed preparations across departments to ensure a seamless and spiritual experience for the yatris.

Director FCS&CA informed the meeting that sufficient quantities of essential supplies have been allocated for the Yatra camps, and this will be adjusted as per need as the Yatra progresses.

Chief Engineer KPDC shared that all base camps have been equipped with electricity, and street lighting has been installed to eliminate dark areas.

Additionally, officials from Jal Shakti confirmed that water connections have been installed at all camp areas and that all sanitary facilities have been linked to the water supply.

Div Com also reviewed fire safety protocols, and issued a directive to the Fire & Emergency department to ensure accessibility to fire extinguishers.

Health department was instructed to ensure the installation of sufficient oxygen booths and other medical setups at the camps and enroute to the holy cave.

Regarding the registration of service providers and ponies, it was reported that over 23,000 service providers and 14,000 ponies have been registered to facilitate SANJY pilgrims.

Govt committed to save old industrial units, promote new ventures: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Tuesday chaired a meeting with representatives of Federation of Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) in presence of senior officials from the concerned department at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

President FCIK, Shahid Ahmad Kamili, apprised the Dy CM of various pressing issues. These included revival of industrial policies, grant of amnesty for regularisation of lease deeds, uniform disbursement of SGST reimbursement, strengthening of industries department, delayed payment, power amnesty, bank related issues and non availability of basic infrastructure like road connectivity, power availability, drainage system as well as financial constraints.

The Deputy Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised by the stakeholders while assuring speedy redress of the same.

The Deputy Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir is an ideal place for investments and the government has undertaken several



measures for ensuring that the industrial sector gets the requisite boost. This would result in boosting the economy besides opening employment avenues for the youth, he maintained.

He exhorted that the primary objective of present dispensation is to explore investment and business opportunities, showcase the immense economic potential of Jammu & Kashmir and foster collaborations and partnership for building global pathways for J&K economy.

Surinder Choudhary asserted that the Omar Abdullah led gov-

ernment is working hard to save the old industrial units while promoting the new ventures. We will leave no stone unturned in supporting them who are crucially instrumental in providing livelihood and employment to thousands of people.

He directed the MD SICOP visit the industrial estates to access the on ground situation. He asked him to expeditiously resolve the issues raised by the stakeholders.

Reiterating government's commitment towards the growth and protection of local industries in J&K, the Dy CM said that all due

benefits and incentives under their control as UT will be released promptly.

Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Vikramjeet Singh; Additional PCCF Forests T. Rabi, Secretary in Industries and Commerce Department, Khalid Jahangir; MD KPDC Mehmoos Shah; Director Industries and Commerce Kashmir Khalid Majeed; MD SIDCO/ SICOP Pradeep Kumar, besides other senior officers from concerned department along with representatives from various Industrial Estates were present in the meeting.

STATE ALLIED AND HEALTHCARE COUNCIL J&K

Constituted vide Govt. Order No. 777-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated 19.11.2024

Sub:- Implementation of curricula in all the Universities / Deemed Universities/Allied Health Care Institutions UT of J&K - reg.

NOTICE

For purpose of further wide dissemination of information in UT of J&K and pursuant necessary action by all concerned the public notification from National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions, F. No. Z/58/2024-AHS-DOHFW DEPARTMENT Dated: 24.04.2025 is hereby being recirculated (Copy attached), wherein it has been stated:

- The commission has approved the curricula for the following professions scheduled under NCAHP Act, 2011:
- 1) Anesthesia and Operation Theatre Technology
 - 2) Applied Psychology and Behavioural Health
 - 3) Dialysis Therapy Technology & Dialysis Therapy
 - 4) Health Information Management
 - 5) Medical Radiology and Imaging Technology
 - 6) Nutrition and Dietetics
 - 7) Optometry
 - 8) Physician Associates
 - 9) Physiotherapy
 - 10) Radiotherapy Technology

All the institutions imparting education in these professions may adopt these curricula from academic session 2025-26. However, these curricula are to be mandatorily implemented from the academic session 2026-27 onwards.

The above mentioned competency based curricula, comprehensively complete with all details are available on official website of National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (<https://ncahp.abdm.gov.in/>) for perusal, record and necessary complete implementation as directed by NCAHP by all concerned - including institutions imparting education in these professions in the UT of J&K.

No.SAHC/GEN/25/529
Dated: - 21-06-2025
DIPK-2890-25
DT: 24/06/2025
Chairperson
State Allied Healthcare Council, J&K
Email: sahcjandk@gmail.com

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

**Amarnath Yatra -
Beacon Of Faith**

As the sacred annual Amarnath Ji Yatra approaches, the valley is once again filled with an air of devotion, readiness, and optimism. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, known for their unmatched hospitality, are preparing wholeheartedly to welcome the yatis from across the country with open arms and warm hearts. For the local populace, this is not just a religious pilgrimage but a symbol of spiritual coexistence and a much-needed economic breather.

The government, in coordination with Raj Bhavan, is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the arrangements this year are of the highest standard. From improved road connectivity, seamless registration, round-the-clock medical facilities to enhanced security and shelter camps, every detail is being attended to with precision and care. These efforts are not just about logistics; they are about restoring confidence and creating a sense of safety and sanctity for the yatis.

For Kashmir's tourism sector, still recovering from recent setbacks, the Yatra is more than a religious procession. It offers a vital economic injection, revitalizing small businesses, transport services, handicrafts, and the hospitality sector. From Pahalgam to Baltal, local vendors, pony walas, hoteliers, and transporters see this as a golden opportunity to sustain their livelihoods after lean tourist months.

But beyond the numbers and arrangements, the Amarnath Yatra is a reflection of Kashmir's age-old ethos of spiritual harmony. The locals have always played a pivotal role in assisting the yatis on their difficult yet divine journey, reinforcing that the valley's soul lies in compassion, not conflict.

As the first batch of pilgrims prepare to ascend towards the holy cave, let this year's yatra be a message of unity, resilience

**Old In The New: Tradition
In A Modern World**

SHOWKAT AHMAD LONE

Modernisation refers to the transformation from traditional, rural, and agrarian societies to modern, urban, and industrial ones. While modernisation brings technological advancements, improved education, and better living standards, it also deeply affects cultural and traditional values. Modernisation refers to the process of adopting new ideas, technologies, and lifestyles to improve living standards and societal development. Traditions, on the other hand, are the customs, beliefs, and practices passed down from generation to generation, reflecting the cultural identity of a community.

With modernisation, societies experience rapid changes in communication, education, fashion, and family structures. While this brings growth and global awareness, it also creates tension between modern values and age-old traditions. For example, traditional joint families are often replaced by nuclear families due to urban lifestyles. Similarly, traditional attire and languages are being replaced with Western clothing and English, especially among the youth. Some age-old practices are being questioned or abandoned due to increased awareness and education. However, not all effects are negative. Modernisation has helped eliminate harmful practices like child marriage and gender inequality. It also offers tools to preserve traditions, such as the digital archiving of folk music, literature, and rituals.

Traditions are the soul of every culture, reflecting the values, beliefs, and lifestyles of past generations. However, in today's fast-paced, modern world, many of these traditions are undergoing major changes. With the rise of technology, urbanisation, and global connectivity, modern life has brought both progress and pressure. On the one hand, it has improved education, healthcare, and communication. On the other, it has led to a gradual fading of traditional practices, languages, and customs.

Festivals are now often celebrated more for show than for their spiritual or cultural meanings. Joint families are turning into nuclear ones, and traditional arts and crafts are being replaced by mass-produced goods. Even food habits, clothing, and languages are shifting to modern and global trends.



Yet all is not lost. Modern platforms like social media and digital archives are helping preserve and promote traditional music, crafts, and rituals. Many young people are now proudly reconnecting with their roots while embracing modern lifestyles. Modernisation need not mean the end of tradition. Instead, it offers an opportunity to evolve traditions in a way that keeps them relevant and respected. Balancing the old and new is the key to a rich and meaningful cultural future.

As the world races toward modernisation, a common question arises: do modern lifestyles and traditional values clash, or can they coexist? "Our ancient roots are not chains, but anchors to wisdom." Modernisation

brings with it technology, scientific thinking, and new ways of living. It encourages progress, equality, and innovation. On the other hand, tradition carries the wisdom, beliefs, and practices passed down through generations. It offers identity, stability, and a sense of belonging.

In many cases, these two forces seem to be in conflict. For example, modern education may challenge traditional beliefs, and fast-paced urban life can lead to the weakening of age-old customs and family bonds. Yet modernisation and tradition don't always have to clash. They can coexist if balanced wisely. Modern tools like digital media are now being used to preserve traditional arts, languages, and festivals.

Young people are learning to honour their cultural roots while also embracing global ideas and opportunities.

In conclusion, modernisation and tradition are not enemies. When blended thoughtfully, they can enrich one another—modernisation adds progress, while tradition adds depth and identity. The key lies in respecting the past while shaping the future. Modernisation need not mean the end of tradition. Instead, it offers an opportunity to evolve traditions in a way that keeps them relevant and respected. Balancing the old and new is the key to a rich and meaningful cultural future.

The author can be mailed at lone-showkat5155@gmail.com

Recognising And Valuing Frontline Workers

DR FAZAL WANI

In every village, town, and mountain pass of India, someone is keeping a health centre open. Someone is trekking with vaccines on their back, conducting maternal check-ups under candlelight, or filling registers with one hand while holding a stethoscope with the other. That "someone" is often an NHM employee under the National Health Mission and, more often than not, they are invisible to the policy rooms that plan India's health budget. They are the ones who keep India's public healthcare running, especially in remote and underserved areas. They are the heart of the National Health Mission, but often, their dedication is rewarded with insecurity.

Year after year, NHM workers find themselves listed under a heading called "contractual staff" in state and central budget documents. A line. A number. A cost to the system. But we are not just a line item. We are not a "project cost." We are people.

When institutional deliveries go up in remote areas, it's an NHM staff nurse working double shifts. When immunisation coverage rises, it's the ANMs and ASHAs ensuring no vial goes to waste. When NQAS certification is awarded, it's the NHM staff who prepare documents, manage logistics, and clean store-rooms after hours.

But rarely is the human face acknowledged. Our names don't appear in awards. Our contracts don't improve with years of service. And the public, often unaware of this silent backbone, thinks we are "government employees" with all the perks. We are not. We are government-linked, not government-supported.

The Emotional Cost of Being "Temporary Forever"
Many NHM employees have



served 10-15 years without permanent status. They've witnessed death and birth, chaos and calm, without ever having the peace of job security. Some work with their children's school fees delayed or medical bills unpaid. They stay because the mission is greater than their own convenience. But how long can commitment survive without recognition? Imagine working through COVID-19, risking your life daily, being praised as a "Corona Warrior," and then being asked to renew your contract again the next year with no promotion and the same uncertainty.

Numbers Don't Heal — People Do

Healthcare systems talk about budgets, allocations, and targets. But health

doesn't run on Excel sheets. It runs on people. And the NHM workforce is not a disposable tool. We are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, trying to serve our communities, but also hoping for stability and respect. Even a machine demands maintenance. Even a chair has a warranty. But many NHM workers have no health insurance, no retirement plan, and no guarantee of employment next year.

The Way Forward: Policy with Compassion

NHM has transformed rural healthcare — no doubt. But it's time the people behind the mission are also transformed, from temporary, underpaid, overburdened workers to valued, secure members of the health workforce.

We need:

- Time-bound regularisation policies
- Equal pay for equal work
- Defined benefits, leave, and insurance
- Mental health and well-being programs for frontline staff
- Public recognition of NHM's role in every health achievement

In Conclusion

As a medical officer under NHM, I write not just with facts, but with firsthand pain and pride. I've seen how deeply committed my colleagues are — from the ASHA working in -20°C weather to the data manager who stays up to send reports at midnight. We don't want to be remembered in footnotes. We don't want to be thanked only

during health days and disasters. We often say, "Healthcare is a human right." But what about the rights of those who deliver it? It is time for the government, media, and the public to recognise the human beings behind the mission. NHM employees are not temporary when it comes to service. Their dedication is permanent, even if their contracts aren't. They are contractual by designation, but committed by soul. We want to be seen as human beings, as professionals, and as partners in building India's healthcare. We are not just a line in the budget. We are the heartbeat behind the numbers.

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Good Morning **Kashmir**

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Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing
Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,
Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

The Pros And Cons Of Homeschooling

UMAR FAROOQ

For the Millennium, education was provided at their homes. At that time, children from schools weren't present. For the wealthy persons, teachers were recruited to impart education. The children of the poor were not educated since they could not pay for the teachers. The majority of the individuals lacked literacy. Then, arguments in favour of more education for all social classes began to emerge. Even after schools were built, wealthy households still preferred to educate their children at home. Both home education and school learning offer benefits and drawbacks.

Homeschooling advocates to maintain that it offers a personalised education. The child has the opportunity to learn at their own pace, which may differ from that of other students in public Schools in terms of speed. It is true that each child is unique, and their requirements are important. Still, homeschooling may be the only option for kids who cannot handle the environment of a public school. To their children's benefit, parents (or a tutor) can tailor the educational process to their needs.

It doesn't follow much logical reasoning to concede that homeschoolers are likely to have strong ties with their families in order to refute the parental stress argument. Family relationships are created and maintained for a lifetime, so long as the parents aren't overbearing when it comes to academic pursuits. Parents have the opportunity to get to know their kids better through educating them and monitoring their development, which is the foundation of effective parenting. Another important element to remember is that parental participation can stop teens and pre-teens from acting violently and destructively.

Bullying issues are more important than ever, which cannot be disputed. Peer pressure is enduring despite public schools' best efforts. The pain and unhappiness that bullying causes are not experienced by



homeschoolers. In this way, a student who is homeschooled not only gets the opportunity to concentrate, but also grows emotionally sturdier. Skeptics typically contend that homeschooled kids do not get the necessary social connection as their strongest point. It is crucial for kids to socialize and build their communication abilities in the early stages of development. Without this opportunity, children who study at home are less likely to be able to socialize and make friends later in life. A socially awkward youngster is also more likely to struggle with peer acceptance, in part because homeschooling is still seen as unusual and out of the ordinary.

The cost of home schooling is a

subject of another controversy. Consequently, it makes no difference whether the parents decide to educate the child themselves or employ a tutor in either case, their money is going to be completely depleted.

In addition to the cost, parents are likely to spend the majority of their time homeschooling their children. While such parental involvement may not first appear concerning, it can be stressful in the long run, which is why some parents discover they are not quite ready to homeschool.

Educating kids at home gives them more chances to comprehend any subject. One centre is the centre of attention, and all queries are addressed. There is no chance to lie or show

up to class unprepared. Any subject could very easily Spark a students attention. This is the best method for being thoroughly prepared for any exam. However, in general, this is the most expensive option to educate a child well. Children who receive their education alone are considered to be more egotistical, have fewer friends and classmates, and may experience challenges as adults.

In general, public schooling is more affordable than homeschooling. One student receives less attention, but there is some competitiveness among kids. Students acquire knowledge out of a desire to outperform friends and colleagues. Since they interact with more individuals, their lives are

more refined. In school, friendships that last a lifetime frequently begin. Compared to youngsters who are educated at home, they find adult life to be less mysterious. However, there is a chance for the child to witness more violence or get opportunities to come in contact with undesirable people. Again, generally speaking, public schools are less expensive than private ones. There is less focus on a single student, but there is some rivalry among numerous kids. School is a place where friendship begin that last a lifetime.

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Cashless Treatment For Accident Victims

PRIYANKA SAURABH

In such a country, when the government says that "now anyone injured in a road accident will get free treatment up to 1.5 lakh for the first seven days", it seems as if the system has put on a human face. But when we see the reality of this scheme on the ground, that face looks blurred - sometimes lost in files, sometimes stuck in the portal, and sometimes dying due to the indifference of the hospital.

This cashless treatment scheme was started under section 162 of the Motor Vehicles Act. The objective was that no poor or rich person should have to dig deep into his pocket for treatment. At first glance, it seems that the government has understood the pain of the common man. But then the same old question arises - will the system ever be able to bridge the gap between intention and policy?

So far, many states have not even given orders to implement this scheme. Even in developed areas like Noida and Ghaziabad adjacent to the capital Delhi, hospitals did not know that the scheme had been started till June 2025. Isn't it funny that the scheme has been started but hospitals and doctors are searching for it like a lost traffic signal?

And even in the hospitals which are associated with the scheme, the limit of treatment is 1.5 lakh. Now just think - can the ICU, surgery, medicines, tests of a patient admitted in a serious road accident be limited to 1.5 lakh? Private hospitals have clearly said - "Why should we work at a loss?" And the government replies - "Deshseva!" But is serving the nation the responsibility of doctors alone? Not of policy makers?

The crisis is not limited to money only. The portal - yes, the same portal made on the computer - seeing which even the clerk of the hospital can scratch his head. Sometimes the documents are not uploaded, sometimes the form remains incomplete, and sometimes the entire claim goes into "error". Forget about the patient, even the hospital does not know whom to contact, where to get the



correction done.

Hospitals, police, insurance agencies and state health authorities—all have different rules, different understandings, and equal confusion. No one knows whose job it is. The plan seems to be a play in which everyone is a character, but no one has been given a script.

Moreover, sometimes the accident is so serious that the nearby hospitals are not registered in the scheme. In such a situation, they are afraid of even doing "stabilization" - they are afraid that money might get stuck! The result - the injured patient is carried from one place to another in the ambulance, and his "golden hour" i.e. the most precious time to save life - is spent on the way.

Now let's talk about the most basic but most neglected aspect - awareness. The public does not

know that such a scheme exists. People take out their cameras when they see an injured woman lying on the road, but are unable to tell the name of the scheme for her treatment. Even the staff working in the hospital does not know how to implement the scheme. Will the scheme benefit when the beneficiary does not even know that he is a beneficiary?

The humor deepens when the government offers a reward of up to 25,000 under the 'Rahveer Yojana' for helping an injured person - but people are limited to radio or government posters about the scheme. On social media, where people are seen dancing and singing, this scheme is invisible.

A lot needs to be done to make the scheme successful on the ground. First of all - state governments should give up their laziness and give clear guidelines.

Registration of hospitals should be made mandatory within a clear time frame. The example of Indore is good where hospitals were included in the scheme within three days in June 2025.

Second, the financial limit of the scheme should be decided according to the actual medical costs. If the government wants to save lives, then why is it pushing hospitals into losses?

Third, the portal must not become a mockery of "Digital India". It must be made simple, clear and technically efficient. The claim process must be transparent - so that the hospital gets paid on time, and the patient gets relief.

Along with this, non-registered hospitals should also be given the right to stabilization and payment guarantee. This will increase the chances of survival.

Finally - awareness. The public

should know that every life lying on the road is connected to a scheme. From posters to mobile messages, from schools to pan-chayats - information about this scheme should be given everywhere. Because only when the public knows, will the hospitals be accountable.

This cashless treatment scheme, if implemented in letter and spirit, can reduce road accident mortality in India to a great extent. But as long as this scheme remains only on paper, it will remain just another 'scheme' - shining in slogans but oblivious to the blood shed on the road.

Blood flows on the streets of this country - and the system waits for the portal to load.

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LG Chairs 75th Meeting

The last meeting and made several key decisions on 21 significant agenda items having far-reaching implications for the Board's functioning and enhancement of pilgrim services.

The Board took several important decisions regarding various ongoing and new projects including the construction of the Exit Track and remodelling of the Manokamna area at Bhawan, development of a helipad in Katra, New Vaishnavi Bhawan, cottages near the Sports Stadium in Katra, widening of the yatra track from Sanjichhat to Bhawan, operationalization of the Board's Medical College at Kakryal and other initiatives to enhance facilities and services for pilgrims.

The meeting reviewed the status of the new helipad project at Village Hutt, a collaborative effort with Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, being executed by the Border Roads Organization (BRO). Noting delays and revisions, the Board expressed serious concern and directed BRO to complete the project by ending October-2025. The helipad aims to enhance pilgrim facilities to Shiv Khori Shrine by providing a seamless and convenient experience for devotees.

The Board also reviewed the progress on renewable solar energy initiatives in the Shrine area and directed the CEO SMVDSB to present a comprehensive plan for key installations, in an effort to reduce the carbon footprint. The Board approved a comprehensive sewerage network covering 100% of establishments within the Shrine area to enhance sanitation infrastructure.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the Yatri Feedback System and directed its expansion to cover all services with monthly monitoring and active encouragement of pilgrim participation, to ensure continuous improvement in service delivery.

The Board also directed CEO SMVDSB to explore the possibility of engaging volunteer services to assist pilgrims by addressing their queries and providing guidance along the Yatra route, enhancing their overall experience and support during the pilgrimage.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed for identifying vulnerable spots along the pilgrimage route and implementing necessary measures to address and mitigate potential risks of landslides and shooting stones, ensuring a safer environment for devotees.

The Board appreciated the enhancement of security measures in the Shrine area with the inauguration of an Integrated Command and Control Centre at SGC, Katra and 7 Sub-Control Centers by the Lieutenant Governor, besides, facilitating security agencies with advanced security equipments to ensure robust security and real-time crowd management for prioritizing devotees' safety and security.

The Board approved the dedication of 5 temples constructed in Reasi District to the public in July-2025 and accorded the approval of construction of 5 new temples with a focus on maintaining uniform architectural design across all locations to reflect the Shrine Board's heritage and aesthetic standards.

The Board reviewed and approved financial assistance for institutions under the SMVD Charitable Society, including Gurukul, Hospital, Sports Complex, College of Nursing and Medical College to support their operations and activities through grants-in-aid.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated several pilgrim-centric facilities including Battery Car Parking stand, Outer Cave Shed, Self Service Kiosk / Digital Cash Register and Smart Lockers. The Board observed that significant infrastructure projects have been initiated by the Shrine Board to enhance pilgrim experience. A Battery Car Parking stand at Bhawan to provide convenience and accessibility to pilgrims, particularly the elderly and disabled. The basement of about 1000 sqft of parking stand serves as a storage area for materials from the Material Ropeway. Additionally, fabrication of a laminated glass shed outside the Cave area to facilitate smooth pilgrimage regulation in all weather conditions while preserving the area's scenic beauty.

300 Smart lockers near the Skywalk area at Bhawan offering a convenient and secure storage solution were also dedicated to the devotees. These smart lockers are linked with RFID Cards allowing devotees to store their belongings safely and securely.

In addition, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated an additional dormitory block at SMVD Gurukul, constructed at a cost of Rs.71.82 lakh which accommodates an additional 32 students, enhancing the institution's capacity and infrastructure to support the growing number of students.

Earlier, Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB gave a detailed presentation on varied activities of the Shrine Board and the action taken with regard to the implementation of various decisions of the previous meetings of the Board.

'Op Sindoor' Made

made compassion a central part of its thinking and turned service into its mission. He added that as a result under the PM Awas Yojana, millions of poor, Dalit, distressed, oppressed, and deprived families have been provided with permanent homes.

He reiterated the government's goal of ensuring a home for every poor citizen and these homes are not just brick-and-cement structures but reflect the full concept of a home, equipped with all necessary amenities. That is why the houses built under the PM Awas Yojana come with gas, electricity, and sanitation facilities.

Talking about the Jal Jeevan Mission, under which clean water is being delivered to every household, the Prime Minister, as per KNO, highlighted that even in tribal regions where government services had never reached, development is now assured.

He added that for the most marginalized tribal communities, the PM Janman Yojana was launched and many regions are witnessing transformation because of this initiative.

PM Modi remarked that as a result, even those at the lowest rungs of society have found renewed hope. "These initiatives are not only changing their lives, but also seeing themselves playing a vital role in nation-building", he added.

He noted that today, India is expanding this philosophy with the spirit of global welfare. Highlighting the recent celebration of International Yoga Day and mentioned that this year's theme was 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health',

symbolizing the vision of one planet and universal well-being, the Prime Minister stated that earlier, India had also launched global initiatives like 'One World, One Health' for the welfare of humanity.

He underlined that India is now leading global movements in the direction of sustainable development, such as 'One Sun, One Earth, One Grid'. Recalling that during India's presidency of the G20 Summit in 2023, the theme was 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', the Prime Minister affirmed that these efforts are rooted in the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and inspired by saints like Sree Narayana Guru.

The Prime Minister stated that Sree Narayana Guru consistently emphasized the importance of women's empowerment, and the government is progressing with the mantra of Women-Led Development. He pointed out that even decades after independence, there were several sectors in India where women were outrightly banned from entry.

He affirmed that the government removed these restrictions, enabling women to gain rights in new areas.

PM Modi highlighted that today, from sports to space, women are making the nation proud in every field. Noting that every section and segment of society is now contributing to the dream of a developed India with renewed confidence.

The Prime Minister, mentioned initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Mission, environmental campaigns, the construction of Amrit Sarovars, and millet awareness drives.

He emphasized that these efforts are progressing through the spirit of public participation, powered by the strength of 140 crore Indians.

The Prime Minister, highlighted that after several decades, a new National Education Policy has been implemented. "This policy not only modernises and makes education more inclusive but also promotes learning in the mother tongue," he said.

PM Modi emphasised that the greatest beneficiaries of this initiative are the underprivileged and marginalised sections of society.

He stated that in the past decade, the number of new IITs, IIMs, and AIIMS established across the country has surpassed the total created in the first 60 years after independence.

As a result, new opportunities in higher education have opened up for poor and disadvantaged youth.

The Prime Minister noted that over 400 Eklavya residential schools have been opened in tribal areas in the last 10 years. He observed that children from tribal communities, who had been deprived of education for generations, are now progressing.

He further stated that education has been directly linked to skills and opportunities. Missions like Skill India are empowering the youth to become self-reliant.

Underlining the country's industrial progress, PM Modi said major reforms in the private sector, and schemes like Mudra Yojana and Stand-Up India are delivering the greatest benefits to Dalits, backward classes, and tribal communities—(KNO)

'School Bag Policy

the lack of enforcement of the Department of Education's recommendations and the authorities' silence on the issue.

"The breaches of the Department's directions and Rule 8A of the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Act, 2002, are becoming progressively prevalent in both private and government schools. Rule 8A was instituted to govern the weight of schoolbags and avert the excessive burden on children. What we are witnessing on the ground is quite contrary," a senior official in the department of education said.

Reports suggest that the circular released on April 15, 2020, intended as a public welfare initiative, is being mostly ignored. The regulation forbade schools from endorsing textbooks containing supplementary content or superfluous complexity, establishing explicit limits for curriculum and resources in early grades.

It further stipulated that students in the initial two grades should not get homework and should bring only a basic notepad to school, if necessary.

Beginning in Grade 1, students were allowed to carry solely language and mathematics textbooks, whilst those in Grades 3 to 5 could additionally include environmental studies in their school bags. Students in Grades 6 to 8 were permitted to use only texts in language, mathematics, science, and social sciences.

Even with these standards, the execution doesn't seem to be up to par. Observations indicate many young students continue to carry backpacks that are too heavy and contain items that are against the rules. The ongoing violation of official rules has caused worries about children's health, as research shows that carrying too many heavy school bags can cause physical illnesses and slow down growth.

The 2020 directive, known as SO-126, also stated that schools couldn't make students provide extra or unnecessary learning materials. After the summer break, education officials have said that inspections will take place, and schools that don't follow these rules may face disciplinary action. Parents and educators have advocated for the essential implementation of these restrictions, asserting that lighter school bags are crucial for the health and academic success of young children—(KNO)

Srinagar Sees Season's

ski-resort, the mercury settled at 33.2 degrees and 26.0 degrees respectively.

Jammu division, however, continued to witness below or around normal temperatures with Jammu recording a maximum temperature 34.1 degrees.

Banihal recorded a day temperature of 30.6 degrees and Batote, Katra and Bhaderwah recorded a maximum temperature of 28.2 degrees, 30.7 degrees and 33.2 degrees respectively.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir is expected to witness a three-day wet spell from tomorrow.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower are expected at many places with the possibility of heavy rain at isolated places of Jammu division from June 25 to June 27.

Between June 28 to 30, he said there is a pos-

sibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places while from July 01 to 02, there is a possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places.

In this regard, the MeT has issued an advisory, stating that there is a possibility of moderate to heavy rain with intense showers at a few places, mainly in Jammu division from June 25 to 27. It added that flash floods at a few vulnerable places with landslides, mudslides and shooting stones are expected.

Water logging in low-lying areas of the plains of Jammu division and a rise in water level in rivers and local nullahs are expected, the advisory reads, adding that farmers are advised to suspend irrigation, spraying and fertiliser application from June 25 to June 27—(KNO)

CM Omar Vows

spending tourists who don't just play golf—they stay in hotels, go sightseeing, and shop. It's about creating a holistic experience that brings them back year after year," he remarked.

He recalled the past glory of Gulmarg Golf Course, once a favourite among India's top golfers. "The names of the most iconic professional and amateur golfers still adorn the walls of the Gulmarg Club. Sadly, the decline in the situation led to the neglect. But we are determined to bring it back," he said.

The Chief Minister lauded the role of the local MLA and emphasized the need for a tourist-friendly attitude towards visitors. "We must see every tourist not as a one-time visitor, but as a potential repeat guest. Their satisfaction should be our benchmark," he asserted, stressing the need to cater to every kind of visitor—from golfers and horse riders to winter sports lovers and those who simply wish to relax in hotels.

Earlier in the day, CM Omar Abdullah inspected the newly constructed Gulmarg Convention Center, describing it as a "magnificent property" with an auditorium, meeting halls, guest rooms, and dining spaces. He floated the idea of introducing evening leisure options such as cinema screenings, coffee shops, and restaurants to make Gulmarg an "all-encompassing destination."

Highlighting policy reforms, the Chief Minister revealed that the government is actively considering the establishment of a Jammu and Kashmir Golf Development Authority to manage and maintain all major golf courses across the Union Territory—including Srinagar, Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and venues like Sidhra in Jammu. "We need dedicated synergy and professional upkeep of our greens and fairways. There should be a clear distinction between fairways and roughs," he added.

Commenting his father and former CM Dr. Farooq Abdullah—a passionate golfer and someone who has built the golf infrastructure in J&K, he said that he would love to do something good for this sport.

The Chief Minister also commended MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah, the driving force behind the tournament, expressing hope that such initiatives will become a recurring feature in Gulmarg's tourism calendar.

Later, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a 726-meter ski drag lift at Kongdoori, to be constructed at an estimated cost of 6.84 crore. He also laid the foundation for the development and beautification of the water body, popularly known as Seven Springs at Kongdoori, with the project costing 50 lakh.

At Kongdoori, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah interacted with tourists and enquired about their holiday experience in Kashmir. The visitors expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for his proactive role and leadership in reviving tourism in the region.

A group of ponywalas also called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various concerns, particularly the reopening of tourist spots in and around Gulmarg. The Chief Minister assured them that all the issues raised would be addressed in a phased manner.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the Gulmarg Convention Centre to inspect the ongoing works. He urged officials to expedite the remaining tasks and ensure the centre is made operational at the earliest to boost tourism and facilitate major events.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister flagged off the Cyclothon, encouraging youth participation in sports and promoting eco-friendly tourism across the Valley.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani; MLAs Farooq Ahmad Shah, Javed Riyaz Bedar, Mubarak Gul, and Tanveer Sadiq; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation; Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority; and other concerned officials.

CS Pushes Forward J

development courses with U-Dise data so that the trajectory of every student is known for chiselling his/her career in a better shape.

The review highlighted significant advancements in e-governance, agricultural development, public services and infrastructure mapping, reaffirming J&K's commitment towards digital transformation.

Earlier, the IT Secretary Piyush Singla gave a detailed overview of ongoing, completed and upcoming initiatives, outlining plans for collaboration with BISAG-N to drive project completion. He also detailed out the objectives that have to be achieved after the accomplishment of these projects.

Afterwards, the BISAG-N presented a detailed overview of its extensive portfolio of projects, emphasizing both the ongoing endeavours and new initiatives aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency and citizen-centric service delivery.

The major IT projects related to Revenue Department reviewed in the meeting included ongoing digitization of Revenue Maps (5670 villages completed), development of Jamabandi portal, Mutation Register, Oracle Database Migration and a GIS portal for Ground Truthing (targeted for completion on June 30, 2025).

A key focus of the meeting was establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies. This envisages development of high-performance computing (GPUs), robotic kits, drone/UAV innovation capabilities and cloud infrastructure. The revised DPR has been sub-

mitted and funding is being pursued from MeitY, J&K government and J&K Bank, the meeting was informed.

About JK Samadhan 2.0, it was informed that the progress is satisfactory, with the dashboard and heat map for the latter already developed. These systems empower the citizens to register and track their grievances efficiently.

The initiatives named Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) and Daksh Kisan for the Agriculture Production Department are under nearing completion.

KKG serves as a one-stop solution for the farmers, offering services like booking cold storage, custom hiring centers, expert video calls and access to farm inputs. While Daksh Kisan provides a comprehensive Learning Management System (LMS) with over 121 certificate courses in multiple languages for the farmers and agripreneurs.

The core Mission Yuva app, a single platform for youth skill enhancement, job vacancies, entrepreneurship ideas and e-courses, was also said to be in the final phase of completion. The Yuva Baseline Survey, which collects data on entrepreneurs, is also finished and its database has been shared with the government departments. Besides, work is in progress on the dashboard for all services, capacity building module and ONDC App.

With respect to Sehat Mobile Application, it was given out that the same has been completed and undergoing capacity building. The SEHAT App guides the patients on health facilities, services and opportunities for healthcare professionals, ensuring optimal resource utilization.

Regarding development of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), this app for the Agriculture Production Department was also said to be complete and under maintenance, which is going to allow the farmers to record and monitor farm output.

The PM-Gati Shakti State Master Plan platform, as disclosed in the meeting, aims at bringing together all departments for integrated planning of infrastructure and connectivity projects. The status was said to be complete and under maintenance across all departments.

The meeting also had discussions on a comprehensive mobile application for education stakeholders, an AI-based learning advisor, a teacher transfer portal and integrated litigation management services.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed progress on Jalshakti Mob app, Real time Mining Surveillance app, JKICP portal, Chief Minister Assurances Monitoring Dashboard, J&K Tourism app, GIS based Land bank, Mission YUVA and ONDC Integration and many others relevant to different departments.

The Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction with the progress and reiterated the government's commitment towards leveraging the technology for good governance and citizen welfare across the UT.

DM Rajnath To Pitch

including China and Russia. "India attaches special importance to SCO in promoting multilateralism, political, security, economic and people-to-people interactions in the region," the defence ministry said in the readout.

It says SCO pursues its policy based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity of nations, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual respect, understanding and equality of all member states.

China is hosting the meeting in its capacity as the current chair of SCO.

The military standoff in eastern Ladakh began in May 2020 and a deadly clash at the Galwan Valley in June that year resulted in a severe strain in ties between the two neighbours.

The face-off effectively ended following completion of the disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang under an agreement finalised on October 21.

In December, NSA Ajit Doval visited Beijing and held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi under the framework of Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the boundary dispute.

The decision to revive the SR mechanism and other such dialogue formats was taken at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan on October 23.

The Modi-Xi meeting came two days after India and China firm up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok.(PTI)

Sanctioned Mughal Road

Abdul Qayoom, a fruit trader from Shopian, said they face losses when the Mughal Road remains closed, as the alternate route is long and congested. "Once the tunnel is constructed, transport will be faster and cheaper. This will directly benefit farmers and traders," he said.

The Mughal Road, which traces its roots back to the Mughal era, was historically used by emperors including Akbar and Jahangir to travel between Delhi and Kashmir. The road spans about 84 kilometres, connecting Shopian in south Kashmir to Buzilaz in Poonch district via the Pir Panjal pass.

In modern times, it was revived as an alternate route to the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway and serves as a vital link during emergencies and disruptions on the national highway.

Despite its strategic and historical importance, the road's closure in winter has remained a major bottleneck. The construction of the tunnel is expected to not only resolve that but also enhance the strategic and logistical significance of the route, especially from a defence and disaster-response perspective.

While the announcement has been widely welcomed, many emphasised the importance of time-bound completion to avoid delays like other infrastructure projects.

Waqar Fayaz, a social activist from Shopian, said sanctioning the tunnel is a huge step. "But we urge the government to ensure that work begins at the earliest and is completed in a fixed timeline. This project can change the destiny of the region," he said.

The people on both sides of the Pir Panjal now look forward to the project turning into reality — a tunnel of hope that promises better connectivity, a stronger economy and a new chapter of development for the regions long bound by isolation during winter—(KNO)

Iran denies ceasefire proposal as Trump announces end to war

IAN S

NEW YORK: Confusion and skepticism surrounded a surprise ceasefire announcement, as a senior Iranian official told CNN that Tehran had not received any formal proposal from the United States and saw no reason to halt hostilities with Israel or Washington.

"At this very moment, the enemy is committing aggression against Iran, and Iran is on the verge of intensifying its retaliatory strikes, with no ear to listen to the lies of its enemies," the official was quoted as saying. He added that remarks from US and Israeli leaders would be seen as a "deception" intended to justify further attacks on Iran.

Meanwhile Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says no "agreement" on ceasefire between Israel and Iran as per media reports.

The conflicting narratives raised questions about the implementation and durability of any potential ceasefire. As of Monday night, neither Israeli nor Iranian officials had publicly confirmed any agreement.

The White House and



the Pentagon had also not issued formal statements, and it remained unclear whether the reported deal had been communicated through diplomatic channels, or whether either side intended to follow the terms.

US President Donald Trump announced Monday evening that Israel and Iran have reached a formal agreement to implement a complete and total ceasefire, marking what he called the end of the "12-Day War."

In a post on his Truth Social platform Monday, Trump congratulated both nations and revealed that the ceasefire will begin in approximately six hours, following the completion of each side's ongoing military operations. The ceasefire will initially last 12 hours, during which the opposing side will maintain a posture

of "peace and respect." According to Trump, Iran will initiate the ceasefire, followed by Israel 12 hours later, culminating in an official declaration of the war's end at the 24-hour mark.

"On the assumption that everything works as it should, which it will," Trump wrote, "I would like to congratulate both countries... on having the stamina, courage, and intelligence to end what should be called THE 12 DAY WAR."

Calling the agreement a breakthrough that "could have saved the Middle East from years of destruction," Trump ended his announcement with a sweeping message of unity: "God bless Israel, God bless Iran, God bless the Middle East, God bless the United States of America, and GOD BLESS THE WORLD!"

These guys gotta calm down: Trump furious with Israel and Iran for violating ceasefire

IAN S

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday issued a stern warning to both Israel and Iran, accusing them of actions which could shatter a hard-won truce.

"These guys gotta calm down. It's ridiculous. I didn't like plenty of things that I saw yesterday. I didn't like the fact that Israel unloaded right after we made the deal... and I didn't like the fact that the retaliation was very strong," Trump told reporters in Washington before leaving for the NATO summit in The Hague.

Trump mentioned that both countries "violated" the ceasefire that was announced late Monday.

"Israel, as soon as we made the deal, they came out and they dropped a load of bombs the likes of which I've never seen before... The biggest load that we've seen, I'm not happy with Israel. When I say now you have 12 hours, you don't go out in the first hour, just drop everything you have on them. So, I'm not happy with him. I'm not happy with Iran either," said the US President.

"We basically have two countries that have been fighting so long and so hard that they don't know



what the f*** they're doing. Do you understand that," he added.

Earlier, Trump sounded a warning to Israel against launching another attack on Iran.

"Israel Do not drop those bombs. If you do it is a major violation. Bring your pilots home, now!" Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Iran reportedly fired six missiles towards American military bases in Iraq and Qatar on Monday night, escalating the ongo-

ing conflict in the region.

As per media reports, the operation was named "Annunciation of Victory". However, there were reportedly no major impacts of the missile attack on the US bases in Qatar as American Patriot missile defence systems intercepted Iranian missiles.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday announced that the Israeli defence forces have achieved "all of the objectives of Operation

Rising Lion, and much more", thus agreeing to US President Donald Trump's proposal for a bilateral ceasefire.

"Israel has removed from over it a double existential threat - on both the nuclear issue and regarding ballistic missiles. The IDF also achieved complete air superiority in the skies over Tehran, struck a severe blow to the military leadership and destroyed dozens of Iran's main regime targets," read a statement issued by Netan-

yahu's office.

"In the last several days, the IDF has also severely struck regime targets in the heart of Tehran, eliminated hundreds of militants from the Basij, the terrorist regime's instrument of repression, and eliminated an additional senior nuclear scientist. Israel thanks President Trump and the US for their defensive support and for their participation in removing the Iranian nuclear threat," it mentioned further.

However, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Tuesday afternoon that the military action was in response to US and Israeli "criminal aggressions" and will not affect the "deeply rooted" relationships.

"Iran's military strikes on American military base 'Al-Udeid' was in exercise of our self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter in response to the United States' unprovoked aggression against Iran's territorial integrity and national sovereignty that took place on 22 June 2025. This act of self-defence had nothing to do with our friendly neighbour Qatar as we enjoy excellent and deeply rooted relationships," Baghaei posted on X.

Qatar summons Iranian Ambassador, severely condemns IRGC strikes on US air base

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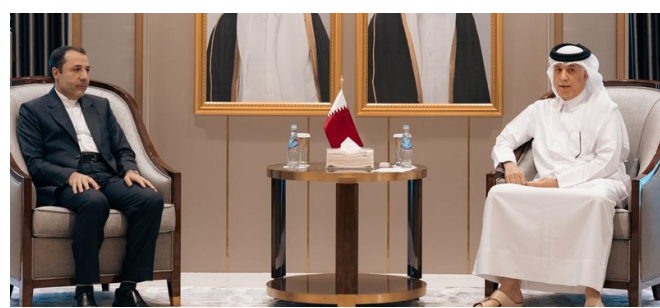
DOHA: Qatar on Tuesday summoned Iranian Ambassador in the country, conveying Doha's strong condemnation of the attack on Al Udeid Air Base by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Monday night while insisting that it is a flagrant violation of its sovereignty and airspace, as well as of international law and the United Nations Charter.

Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also affirmed to Iranian Ambassador Ali Saleh Abadi that it reserves the right to respond to this flagrant violation in accordance with international law.

"His Excellency Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, Minister of

State for Foreign Affairs, emphasized to the Iranian Ambassador that this violation is completely inconsistent with the principle of good neighbourliness and the close relations between the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially since Qatar has always been an advocate of dialogue with Iran and has exerted tireless diplomatic efforts in this regard," read a statement issued by Qatar's Foreign Ministry.

"His Excellency the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs also stressed the need to immediately return to dialogue and diplomatic channels to resolve disputes and outstanding issues, avoid escalation, and halt military operations in an effort to enhance regional and international stability," it added.



Soon after the summoning of its Ambassador in Doha, the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday termed the strikes on American military base Al Udeid as an "act of self-defence" and that "it had nothing to do" with friendly neighbour Qatar as Tehran remains fully committed to its good-neighbourliness policy.

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as we enjoy excellent and deeply rooted relationships," Baghaei posted on X.

"Iran remains fully committed to its good-neighbourliness policy with respect to the State of Qatar and other neighbouring countries. We resolve not to let US/Israeli criminal aggressions and malign policies against Iran create division between us and the brotherly countries of the region," he added.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced that the Israeli defence forces have achieved "all of the objectives of Operation Rising Lion, and much more", thus agreeing to US President Donald Trump's proposal for a bilateral ceasefire.

"Israel has removed from over it a double existential

threat - on both the nuclear issue and regarding ballistic missiles. The IDF also achieved complete air superiority in the skies over Tehran, struck a severe blow to the military leadership and destroyed dozens of Iran's main regime targets," read a statement issued by Netanyahu's office.

"In the last several days, the IDF has also severely struck regime targets in the heart of Tehran, eliminated hundreds of militants from the Basij, the terrorist regime's instrument of repression, and eliminated an additional senior nuclear scientist. Israel thanks President Trump and the US for their defensive support and for their participation in removing the Iranian nuclear threat," it mentioned further.

50 years of Emergency: BJP calls it 'Black Day', organises nationwide events to recall 1975 horrors



IAN S

NEW DELHI: As the nation marks 50 years since the imposition of Emergency in 1975, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a series of programmes across the country to remember what it calls the "darkest chapter of Indian democracy."

Top party leaders and grassroots workers alike have come forward to recall the 20-month period of authoritarian rule under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Speaking to IANS, BJP spokesperson Tuhin A. Sinha said, "On the midnight of June 24-25, 1975, Indira Gandhi killed democracy by imposing Emergency. For 20 months, the nation witnessed a brutal clampdown on freedom of speech and expression. The media was silenced, the judiciary compromised, and Opposition leaders jailed."

He also recounted the personal tragedy of Defence Minister Rajnath

Sinha, who was reportedly not allowed to perform the last rites of his mother during the Emergency.

"Even after 50 years, that black era continues to haunt the soul of Indian democracy," Sinha added.

Sinha also criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for questioning the state of democracy under the BJP regime during his foreign visits. "Rahul Gandhi alleges that Sikhs can't visit gurdwaras, attacks the Election Commission, and even questions the judiciary on landmark rulings like Ram Janmabhoomi. Ironically, these statements come from a leader whose party once imposed the Emergency," he said.

Across the country, BJP workers are sharing their experiences from that time.

Balachandra, a party worker from Belagavi, Karnataka, recalled being just 20 when he and fellow 'satyagrahis' were jailed and tortured.

"The media was completely gagged, and even

ordinary citizens were not spared from police scrutiny," he said.

In Agra, Uttar Pradesh Minister Yogendra Upadhyaya termed the Emergency a "black blot" on Indian democracy. "Civil rights were crushed. Leaders from Atal Bihari Vajpayee to common party workers were jailed because Indira Gandhi, facing disqualification from office, wanted to save her political career," he said.

Bihar Minister Sanjay Saraogi echoed similar sentiments and supported Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for documenting the history of the Emergency. "The sins of the Congress need to be exposed. The way democratic rights were suspended back then is a lesson for future generations," he said.

BJP's nationwide events aim to educate the youth on the importance of safeguarding democracy and remembering the sacrifices made during the Emergency.

Fight against Emergency has kept democracy alive: HM Amit Shah

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The fight against the Emergency has kept the Indian democracy alive, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday, insisting that the memories of the dark days imposed by late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's 'Kitchen Cabinet' should never be allowed to fade away.

Addressing the 'Aapatkaal Ke 50 Saal' programme, HM Amit Shah said, "It has been 50 years in the documents, but even today, the wound in the hearts of crores of Indians inflicted by the tyranny of the Congress remains as fresh as it was during the Emergency."

Taking an aim at the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, without naming him, HM Shah said: "I want to ask leaders who swear by the Constitution: What right do you have to talk about the Constitution? What did your party do during the Emergency? Was any permission taken from Parliament?"

"I want to remind these leaders that they belong to the same party, which turned into a destroyer of the Constitution," he said.

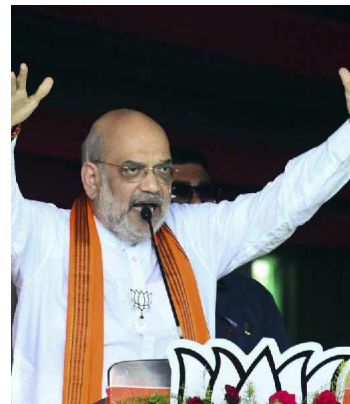
He said during the Emergency, the entire country had turned into a prison. Everyone was thrown into jail cells, and no one was given a chance to hear.

The judiciary, executive, legislature, media and artists were all enraged but unable to react, he said.

Leaders like George Fernandes and Acharya Kripalani were jailed and, that too, without any explanation, he said.

Some people question the benefits of remembering an incident that took place 50 years ago, but I insist that the exercise is a powerful means to guard against the return of such dark days, he said.

"An event that shook the foundation of a democratic nation and dictatorial mindset should be remembered to prevent their sup-



porters from rearing their heads again," he said.

Emergency was hated by the masses and was appreciated only by the then dictator and her coterie, he said, in a veiled reference to late PM Indira Gandhi, who imposed the Emergency on June 25, 1975.

"It took 21 months for democracy to return after the imposition of the Emergency. Therefore, I call the night of June 24, 1975 as the longest ever in the country as it ended with the lifting of Emergency," he said.

The Constitution, which guaranteed citizens' civil liberty and laid down judicial practices and which took over two years in the making and involved 1,100 hours of debate, was dismissed by the "Kitchen Cabinet's declaration" in one minute, he said.

A democratic nation's multi-party system was sacrificed on the altar of a dictator's ego, he said.

"Imagine being turned into a dictator's slave from a citizen overnight. Imagine a mediator being branded anti-national overnight. Imagine a student, - a nation's future - being treated as a threat to the establishment," said HM Shah.

Even social workers were jailed for being a threat to the nation, he said, adding that 1.1 lakh people were jailed.

In Beijing, NSA Doval urges SCO countries to shun double standards in fight against terrorism

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BEIJING: Spotlighting the barbaric Pahalgam terror attack and India's subsequent Operation Sindoor to dismantle terror infrastructure across the border, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Tuesday called for the urgent need to shun double standards in the fight against terrorism and take decisive actions against UN-proscribed terrorists and entities.

Addressing the 20th meeting of the Security Council Secretaries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States in Beijing, NSA Doval said that India is deeply concerned about continued threat from terror groups designated by United Nations Security Council (UNSC), including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) - two of the most dangerous and state-supported terror outfits operating out of Pakistan - besides Al Qaeda, ISIS and its affiliates.

In his intervention, he highlighted the need to shun double standards in the fight against terrorism and take decisive actions against UN-proscribed terrorists and entities like LeT, JeM and their proxies and dismantle their terror eco-systems.

As NSA Doval reiterated that any act of terror including cross border terrorism is a crime against humanity, India called on SCO members to hold accountable the perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of acts of cross border terror and to help bring them to justice.

He also stated that India's actions during Operation Sindoor - launched to dismantle terror infrastructure and deter terrorists who were likely to be sent across the border into India - were measured and non-escalatory.

Operation Sindoor was

launched in response to the barbaric terror attack on April 22 in J&K's Pahalgam, in which TRF, a proxy of LeT, killed 26 Indian and Nepalese nationals and injured several others after segregating them on the basis of religion.

NSA Doval asserted that India has centuries old linkages with each country in the SCO and the millennia-old Indian principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' will guide India's approach to prosper together with other member states.

He also requested support and thanked heads of delegations for several important Indian proposals including Algorithm of Joint Actions to counter challenges posed by international terrorist organisations including Al Qaeda and its affiliates; Joint measures to counter radicalisation leading to terrorism, separatism and extremism; and Joint Information Operation to counter extremist ideology.

Earlier, NSA Doval called on Han Zheng, Vice-President of China along with other Heads of Delegation attending the 20th Meeting of the SCO Security Council Secretaries at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

He also held a meeting with Aleksandr Venediktov, Deputy Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, where the two sides discussed issues of bilateral, regional and international significance. The Russian side conveyed that they were looking forward to receiving NSA Doval in Russia for the next round of the Strategic Dialogue at an early date.

On Monday, the National Security Advisor met with Wang Yi, Member, Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Minister of Foreign Affairs in Beijing.

SANJY-2025

DC Sgr, SMC Commissioner visit Yatra Transit Camp Pantha Chowk

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In connection with the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025, Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation(SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb undertook a visit to Yatra Transit Camp, Pantha Chowk here on Tuesday.

The visit was focused on ensuring robust arrangements for the smooth and seamless conduct of the annual pilgrimage, set to commence on July 3, 2025.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadi Faraed, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, SDPO Panthachowk Zohaib & senior Officers of Police and District Administration Srinagar accompanied the DC during the visit.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the boarding, lodging, bedding, registration, sanitation, medical facilities at the Pantha Chowk Transit Camp, a halt site for pilgrims traveling to the Amarnathji cave. He also took stock of other amenities to ensure they meet the needs of the yatries.

During the visit, the DC issued directives to



Officers to expedite preparations and ensure all arrangements are put in place well ahead of the Yatra-2025. Emphasizing pilgrim comfort, he stressed the need for seamless coordination among Departments to enhance services at the Camp. Special attention was laid on ensuring proper sanitation facilities, availability of clean drinking water, electricity and setting up of Langars(community kitchens) to provide nutritious meals and the aid.

The DC & SMC Commissioner also inspected the

readiness of Yatri Facilitation Center, which will handle critical services such as e-KYC verification, RFID card distribution, and registration to streamline the pilgrimage process.

During the visit, the DC was apprised that as many 100 mobile bathrooms, 100 urinals and 300 mobile toilets have been setup at the Transit Camp for the convenience of the yatries. He was also informed that besides a dedicated water supply to camp, 72 thousand liter capacity of standby water storage tanks have also

been installed to suffice the needs of the visiting pilgrims at the halt camp.

On the occasion, the DC directed all line Departments to ensure all arrangements and facilities are completed by June 28 to ensure smooth conduct of the annual Yatra for this year.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner along with the Commissioner SMC visited the Yatra Bhawan adjacent to the Yatra Transit Camp and inspected the arrangements/facilities being put in place for the Shri Amarnathji Yatries.

Stay Active, Stay Healthy: YSS Issues Summer Break Advisory for Students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of the ongoing summer break for students in both the divisions of the J&K, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) J&K has issued a comprehensive advisory for students, emphasizing their physical and mental well-being.

The advisory encourages students to utilize the holiday period for relaxation while also engaging in productive and health-conscious activities. Key recommendations include:

1. Incorporating sports, aerobics, stretching, dancing, or any fitness activity into daily routines.
2. Maintaining proper hydration by drinking adequate water throughout the day.
3. Consuming a balanced diet rich in nutrients.
4. Eating seasonal fruits

and preserving seeds for monsoon sowing.

5. Maintaining a personal diary or notebook to record daily activities.

The Directorate of Youth Services and Sports has urged Physical Education Lecturers, Masters, and Teachers to actively support students in adopting a healthy lifestyle. Joint Directors of both the divisions and District Youth Services and

Sports Officers have been directed to oversee the implementation of these guidelines.

"The advisory is issued considering the holistic development of children and youth, ensuring they remain active, creative, and mindful of their well-being even during academic breaks", said Anuradha Gupta Director General of the Department.

Pr Secy SWD emphasizes enhanced early education, nutrition under ECCE

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Anil Kumar Singh, Tuesday chaired a joint review meeting of the Social Welfare and School Education Departments to assess the implementation of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar, focused on enrolment trends and the functioning of Anganwadi Centres and Kindergarten Centres across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Principal Secretary laid emphasis on ensuring quality early education and adequate nutrition for children under ECCE, underscoring the importance of foundational literacy, physical development and socio-emotional growth before formal schooling begins. He reviewed the operational status of Anganwadi Centres and Bal Vatikas, highlighting the need for a holistic approach in nurturing young children.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, School Education Department, Director General, Women and Child Development, Secretary in Social Welfare Department, Mission Director, ICDS, Directors of School Education (Kashmir and Jammu); Directors of Social Welfare (Kashmir and Jammu) besides all DPOs and CEOs.

Special attention was given to weeding out duplicate entries from the enrolment lists and ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries are covered under the ECCE framework.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary also reviewed the physical and financial progress on ECCE-related activities. He directed the officials to intensify monitoring mechanisms to ensure effective on-ground implementation. He called for robust inter-departmental coordination, asking the officials from both the departments to work with sincerity and dedication to strengthen child development services and improve nutritional outcomes for children.

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Online coordination, orientation conference on disaster management held in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: An online coordination and orientation conference on Disaster Management was held with all stakeholders involved in the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025.

The session was chaired by Major General Sudhir Bahl (Retd.), Lead Consultant for Medical Emergencies (ME), Incident Response System (IRS), and Mock Exercises, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The primary objective of the conference was to ensure effective coordination among all agencies responsible for managing potential hazards and emergency situations during the Yatra.

Major General Bahl delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the structure of the

proposed mock exercise, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the deployed teams in response to various emergency scenarios. He emphasized the need for all stakeholders to remain fully prepared and vigilant to mitigate any eventuality.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bahl, assured that the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) is well-prepared to handle any disaster like situation. He also noted that comprehensive training has been imparted to various stakeholders.

Notably, further mock exercises are scheduled to be conducted on June 28 at various locations to enhance the preparedness of all involved agencies.

Dir FCS&CA reviews arrangements for SAJNY- 2025 at Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director FCS&CA, Dr Owais Ahmed, conducted a tour of Nunwan and Chandanwari camps established in district Anantnag for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025.

He took stock of the arrangements made at the said camps, and it was appraised that sufficient stock of food grains and petroleum products have been made available as per the requirement for yatries and other service providers associated with functioning of Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

Officer directed the concerned officials to ensure that there shall be no shortage of food grains and additional food grains are also kept available to meet out any exigency.

It was further directed that officials of FCS&CA deputed at these camps, for the said task, shall remain available 24*7 to address any related issues faced by the pilgrims and the service providers at the stations.

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Secy Sports Council reviews Dev work at Sheikh Ul Alam Sports Ground Tarzoo



BILAL DAR

SOPORE: Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, paid a visit to the Sheikh Ul Alam Sports Ground in Tarzoo, Sopore, to review the progress of the ongoing works under last year's Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The visit aimed at assessing the status of sports infrastructure development in the area.

Gul was warmly received by Chairman of the Tarzoo Sports Association, Mohammad Subhan Rather. She was accompanied by local dignitaries including senior citizen Ajaz Ahmad Dar and President of the Youth Forum, Ishfaq Ahmad Dar.

During the visit, President of the Youth Forum, Ishfaq Ahmad Dar raised several key demands aimed at promoting sports and recreational activities for the youth of the area. He urged the Secretary to consider the construction of an indoor sports stadium, development of the existing football ground, and the provision of essential equipment such as a roller and screen for cricket.

The Secretary assured the delegation that the demands would be duly examined and appropriate measures would be taken to boost sports infrastructure in Tarzoo, with a focus on creating inclusive and accessible facilities for youth engagement.

Speaker Rather inaugurates additional Block of GHSS Pakarpora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, inaugurated the additional accommodation Block of Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Pakarpora here Tuesday.

The project was completed at a cost of Rs 1.60 crore by R&B Division, Charar-i-Sharif.

After inauguration, the Speaker also inspected different blocks of the institution and had assessment of existing infrastructure.

The Speaker, on the occasion, distributed certificates among the best performing students of the institution. He assured the students that in coming days efforts would be made

to establish library and a play field in the institution.

Later, the Speaker interacted with various public delegations and individuals. They put forth various issues and grievances before the Speaker and sought their immediate redressal. They also demanded school library, fencing of Wall in school premises and widening of road from Pakarpora to Pulwama.

While interacting with these public delegations, the Speaker assured them that their genuine demands will be redressed promptly.

Among others, senior officers of district administration, staff members of the school, locals and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

B'la hosts first District-Level Goat Show in Rafiabad

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Department of Sheep Husbandry, Baramulla Tuesday successfully organised first-of-its-kind District-Level Goat Show and Goat-Associated Value-Added Products awareness event at the Multi-Facilitation Centre (MFC), Chijhama Rafiabad.

Director, Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah was the Chief Guest at the event.

In his address on the occasion, the Director appreciated the department's efforts, highlighting the importance of such events in promoting scientific goat farming and youth engagement. He assured that similar programmes would be conducted in the future given the positive public response it received.

Speaking at the event, the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Baramulla, Dr. Showkat Ahmad, emphasised the tremendous potential of goat farming in the district, particularly in light of the growing demand for goat milk and chevon. He stressed the need to explore systematic avenues for adopting goat farming on commercial level value addition, processing of goat milk and meat products, which could significantly enhance farmers' income, generate local employment, and open new market linkages.

On the occasion, the Director also visited various stalls and interacted with the participants.

The event had enthusiastic participation of livestock breeders, farmers, students, officials from the district administration, media personnel and representa-

tives of various agri-allied departments. During the event, more than 70 participants from Sheep Development Blocks of Rohama, Rafiabad, Sopore, Dangerpora, and Baramulla showcased around 80 elite goats including Bucks, Does, and Weaners for exhibition and competition.

Prominent goat breeds on display included Beetal, Barbary, Jamunapari, Kagani, Jakhrana, and Boer, reflecting the region's rich livestock genetic diversity. A team of experts judged the animals on standard parameters like body conformation, body condition score, breed characteristics, production traits, reproductive traits, temperament, and behaviour. The Best Buck, Best Doe, and Best Weaner in each category were awarded first, second, and third prizes, along with certificates of appreciation.

A wide range of interactive stalls was set up by all key line departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries, who actively engaged with visitors on their stalls. These stalls disseminated information on flagship government schemes, innovative farming practices, and allied sector services aimed at rural livelihood generation.

Among the key attractions of the exhibition was a dedicated stall showcasing value-added goat milk products like paneer, ghee, butter, lassi, and fresh goat milk. Visitors were informed about the nutritional value, health benefits, and business potential of these products, making this segment a standout component of the event.

DC Kishtwar reviews performance of banks at DLRC meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: A District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the quarter ending March 2025 was held today under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma. The meeting brought together senior officials from banks and the government departments.

The meeting focused on evaluating credit flow under government-sponsored schemes, financial literacy efforts and achievements in priority sectors like agriculture, horticulture and MSMEs. Key schemes discussed included the Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), PM Mudra, PMFME, NRLM, Social Security Schemes and programs promoting entrepreneurship.

The DC expressed concern over the poor performance of some banks and directed them to meet set targets promptly. He emphasized the importance of supporting agriculture, allied sectors, HADP, small enterprises

and women-led businesses. To strengthen financial outreach, the DC instructed the Lead District Manager (LDM) to prepare a Camp Calendar and Convergence Plan for door-to-door awareness and services delivery. These camps will be conducted in coordination with banks and relevant departments to bring services closer to the people.

Highlighting the district's potential in millet production, the DC asked for encouraging youth and local entrepreneurs to explore millet-based enterprises—citing their economic and health benefits.

The DC asked for achieving 25% targets by the next DLRC meeting, urging all departments and banks to work together to promote entrepreneurship, ensure timely loan disbursement, and remove any barriers to project implementation. The meeting was attended by AD FCS&CA Shafaq Ali Keen, CAO Kushal Chandel, CHO Sajid Mustafa, LDM Harsh Rawal, LDO RBI Anil Kumar, DPM NRLM and representatives from various departments and financial institutions.

Duckett Flays India Bowlers To Win 1st Test For England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LEEDS: Opener Ben Duckett hit the most defining century of his career, exposing an out-of-depth Indian attack as England comfortably chased down a tricky target of 371 to win the opening Test by five wickets after an intriguing five days of play here on Tuesday.

Duckett's 149 off 170 balls with 21 fours and an audacious reverse-swept six off Ravindra Jadeja, along with Zak Crawley's 65 in an opening stand of 188, followed by Joe Root's composed 53 and Jamie Smith's cheeky 44 made the chase look much easier than it actually was.

Having chased down 378 at Birmingham courtesy Jonny Bairstow in 2022, England once again did the same with elan on Tuesday, leaving India head coach Gautam Gambhir with an even



bigger frown on his face. England lead the five-match series 1-0.

It will be difficult to recall when was the last time that India had five centuries in a single Test and yet lost a game so comprehensively.

Shoddy fielding effort and no support for the peer-

less Jasprit Bumrah made matters worse for India. Indian bowlers in second innings alone conceded 44 boundaries and three sixes. Add to that the 54 boundaries and five sixes in the first innings.

There will certainly be bowling changes in the next Test but whether that will result in 20 wickets is a million dollar question.

In the final session, Ravindra Jadeja, who enjoys a favourable match-up against Ben Stokes, got the important breakthrough with the England skipper trying to reverse-sweep from the rough and his opposite number Shubman Gill taking an easy catch.

With 69 runs to get, Root brought his 150-plus Test experience to play, guiding a young Smith through and through during the unbroken sixth wicket stand that sealed the deal for England. While this was one

of India's worst fielding efforts with Yashasvi Jaiswal alone dropping four catches, skipper Gill's relative inexperience in strategizing and taking on-your-feet decisions also became visitor's undoing.

At one point, it seemed the team's most experienced batter KL Rahul was captaining the side, and Gambhir's record as a coach in traditional format got a tad worse.

In Gambhir's coaching, India have now lost seven Tests out of the 11 that he has been in charge so far. The number of defeats could well go into double digits, considering the only potent match winning bowler Bumrah won't play two of the remaining four games.

With nearly 50 overs bowled in the match, others need to step up if they don't want the world's best fast bowler to have another on-field breakdown.