



Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra -2025

Join an Extraordinary
Pilgrimage to the Sacred

Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine

Experience the Divine Grace of Lord Shiva

Do's for the Yatris

- It is mandatory for every registered Yatri to collect their RFID Card from designated locations in Jammu / Srinagar before embarking on the Yatra. Carry your Aadhaar details for collecting RFID Cards
- Wear the RFID card around your neck at all times during Yatra for safety & security.
- Do carry sufficient woolen clothing, umbrella, wind cheater, raincoat and waterproof shoes. Weather remains unpredictable and temperature may abruptly fall to below 5 degree Celsius.
- Walk slowly and steadily — don't rush on steep paths.
- Take regular breaks to avoid fatigue.

Don'ts for the Yatris

- No registered yatri shall be allowed to embark on Yatra without valid RFID card.
- Don't ignore the symptoms of high altitude illness.
- Don't drink alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or smoke.
- Don't stop at places with warning signs.
- Don't take shortcuts on the route—it's risky.
- Don't pollute or disturb the Yatra environment.
- Don't separate from your group — always stay with your companions.



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DIPK-3196-25
DT: 01/07/2025

Eight years of GST in J&K: A Journey of Economic Integration and Growth

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced across India on July 1, 2017, marked a transformative shift in the country's indirect tax regime, replacing a complex web of central and state taxes with a unified, consumption-based tax system.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the implementation of GST faced distinct challenges but has since played a pivotal role in fostering economic integration and growth.

Unlike other states, J&K required specific legislative measures to adopt the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) laws. The state legislature passed the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (Act No. V of 2017) on July 7, 2017, with the law coming into effect on July 8, 2017.

Over the past eight years, GST has significantly reshaped J&K's economic landscape, aligning it with the national market and fostering growth in

several areas. In year 2017-18, only 72000 dealers were registered under GST in entire Jammu and Kashmir. However, currently over 2,20 lakh dealers are registered with the department out of which 114475 dealers are registered Jammu division only with 80403 are active.

In Jammu division, 8276 new taxpayers registered with the department in year 2024-25 due to massive outreach awareness and campaign.

The revenue growth also shown a promising progress as the estimated monthly revenue collection of Jammu and Kashmir was around 200 crores with collection of Rs 2402.22 in year 2017-18. The monthly revenue of Jammu and Kashmir is now raised to Rs 723 crores with collection of Rs 8673.81 GST in year 2024-25, which is a trend that has continued with improvements in tax collection efficiency.

The GST also provided Economic Integration of J&K into India's unified tax regime, reducing tax barriers and enabling seamless

trade with other states. The removal of multiple indirect taxes has simplified compliance for businesses, allowing them to claim input tax credits and reduce the tax burden on final products.

The introduction of GST Suvidha Kendras and e-way bill systems has further enhanced compliance efficiency. The State Taxes Department, supported by the National Informatics Centre, has developed digital platforms to assist taxpayers in filing returns and obtaining registrations.

As J&K marks eight years of GST, the focus is on further enhancing compliance, expanding the tax base and leveraging technology. The State Taxes Department's ongoing efforts to improve digital infrastructure, coupled with initiatives like GST Suvidha Kendras, aim to make tax administration more accessible.

The region's transition to Union Territory status has also opened opportunities for deeper integration with national economic policies, potentially attract-

ing more investment.

On completing 8 years of GST in J&K, Commissioner State Taxes, P K Bhat commended the efforts of officers and officials of the department for their dedication, resilience, and innovative spirit to ensure smooth tax administration in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring robust revenue collection while fostering a taxpayer-friendly environment.

He said that with teamwork, we have made significant strides in enhancing compliance, streamlining processes and leveraging technology to improve efficiency. The adoption of advanced data analytics, coupled with rigorous enforcement measures, has led to increase in tax revenue, contributing to the socio-economic development of our Union Territory.

He further said our focus will be on achieving sustainable growth in revenue while ensuring ease of compliance for taxpayers. He urged that team to embrace the opportunities ahead with renewed vigor

and determination.

In her message, Additional Commissioner Administration and Enforcement Jammu, Namrita Dogra said that State Taxes Department remains committed to its mission of enhancing compliance, improving service delivery and fostering transparency in the tax ecosystem. She said actions included targeted scrutiny of ITC claims, detection of fraudulent transactions, and crackdown on fake GST registrations, all of which strengthened fiscal controls.

Raina, Additional Commissioner State Taxes Adm & Enforcement Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad in his message extended heartfelt gratitude to all taxpayers, stakeholders, and department officials for their unwavering support in this transformative journey. "GST has streamlined taxation, boosted economic integration, and fostered transparency in our region. Let us continue to work together to ensure compliance and drive growth for a prosperous J&K", he said.

Committee on Public Undertakings holds meeting in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Tuesday convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review audit paras pertaining to the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA).

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members Saifullah Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar, Baldev Raj Sharma, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Showkat Hussain Ganai and Tanvir Sadiq.

Also present were the Principal Accountant General J&K, Principal Secretary PDD, Managing Director JKPDC, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director General Expenditure, Director

General Finance, Managing Director KPDC, CEO JAKEDA and other concerned officers.

The Committee held a comprehensive discussion and reviewed audit paras 7.4, 8.1 and 8.7 from the Comptroller and Auditor General's reports for the years 2018-19 and 2020-21, pertaining to JKPDC and JAKEDA.

The Chairman directed that a joint team comprising Committee members and concerned officers shall conduct spot inspections across various areas to assess the progress under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

The inspection team will include members Saifullah Mir, Shakti Raj Parihar, Bashir Ahmad Veeri and Showkat Hussain Ganai.

The Committee also reviewed the functioning of various hydroelectric projects and examined the status of all ongoing power projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chairman instructed the concerned departments to submit a comprehensive progress report on all ongoing projects within 15 days. He stressed the need to adopt proactive measures to harness the Jammu and Kashmir's power generation potential and improve the performance and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Emphasizing transparency and accountability, the Chairman underlined the importance of rigorous audits and evaluations. He further directed the departments to submit updated status reports of all public undertakings, along with relevant audit documentation, to facilitate informed decision-making and necessary reforms.

During the meeting, the Principal Accountant General elaborated on the audit process and shared recommendations to strengthen the functioning of public sector corporations in Jammu and Kashmir.

JKEDI trains 117 entrepreneurs under RAMP scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has successfully concluded a series of Management Development Programs (MDPs) across six districts under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme.

The initiative is funded by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries and Commerce Department, J&K.

The training programs, which commenced on June 24, 2025, were held simultaneously in Doda, Jammu, Kulgam, Ramban, Srinagar, and Udhampur. A total of 117 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs, including 93 women, participated in the six-day, 30-hour comprehensive training. The strong representation of women highlights a positive trend toward gender inclusivity in the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The MDPs focused on enhancing the managerial, financial, and strategic skills of participants, aiming to help them scale operations, boost com-



petitiveness, and build sustainable enterprises. The curriculum, meticulously developed by subject matter experts, featured modules on business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, legal compliance, innovation, and leadership.

To provide practical exposure, the programs also included field visits to successful business ventures, interactive sessions with sector specialists, and mentorship opportunities. Experts from District Industries Centres (DICs) and the Labour and Employment Department shared insights with participants, helping them

align their ventures with current industry practices.

The MDPs were monitored by designated Range/Reviewing Officers, who regularly engaged with the trainees and gathered feedback to ensure quality and relevance of the training.

The successful completion of these programs reflects JKEDI's ongoing commitment to empowering local entrepreneurs through structured learning, capacity building, and direct exposure to market realities. This initiative aligns with the broader objectives of the RAMP scheme to strengthen the MSME ecosystem across the Union Territory.

Food Safety Anantnag bans sale of nutraceuticals, health supplements

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: In significant step aimed at safeguarding the health of consumers, Food Safety Anantnag has put an immediate ban on sale of four nutraceuticals/health supplements including, Lycobax, Zymerio B+, BECOSIP-EZ and Festzyme Plus after their samples were found to be of unsafe quality.

In an official handout issued here, it has been informed that the Assistant Commissioner/Designated Officer Food Safety Anantnag has immediately prohibited the sale of the four nutraceuticals/health supplements namely 'Lycobax' (Batch No. FL241206; Manufactured by Indo Rama Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. (Yamunanagar, Haryana) and marketed by Solace Biotech Limited (Ambala, Haryana),); 'Zymerio B+' (B. No. 3028; Manufactured by M/S: Exotic Healthcare

Mohali, (Pb) Marketed by M/S: Riomedica Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. 654 Ambala Cantt. Haryana); 'BECOSIP-EZ' (B. No. PL24115 Manufactured by M/S: Phaedrus Life Science Pvt. Ltd., 3012, Phase-IV, G.I.D.C., Vatva, Gujarat (India) and 'Festzyme Plus' (B.No. EHL-1928; Mfd by M/S: Exotic Healthcare, Mohali, Punjab and Marketed by M/S: Estocott Pharma Pvt. Ltd., Sirmour -173030 (HP) in the district.

The samples of these health supplements were procured by the Food Safety Officers of the district Anantnag and were found to be of unsafe quality by the National Food Laboratory in Ghaziabad on account of the saccharine levels exceeding the prescribed limits.

Meanwhile, consumers are urged to refrain from purchasing the health supplements under question till further orders.

Mission YUVA: DC B'pora chairs DLIC meeting, approves 51 cases

Says, youth empowerment through entrepreneurship key to sustainable dev



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting under Mission YUVA was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on the applications received under the scheme. The committee deliberated on the cases submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) and, after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 51 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission YUVA initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering youth through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need for robust post-approval support and follow-up to

ensure the sustainable success of the approved units.

DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

On the occasion, Qadri emphasized the importance of strengthening youth-led entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities in the district. He further stressed that empowering the youth through structured support systems and skill-based initiatives is key to long-term socio-economic development in the region.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl, who is also the District Nodal Officer for Mission YUVA; AD Employment, Nodal Officer JKEDI, District Development Manager NABARD, Social Welfare Officer, representatives from J&K Lead Bank; and other concerned officials.

Ph.D. scholar from NIT selected for Heidelberg Laureate Forum 2025

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A Ph.D. scholar from the Department of Mathematics from National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has been selected to participate in the 14th Heidelberg Laureate Forum (HLF), which will be held in Heidelberg, Germany, from September 13 to 22, 2025.

Mr. Samir Ahmad Wagay is pursuing his doctoral research under the supervision of Dr. Rameez Raja, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics. His selection for this prestigious forum places him among just 200 young researchers worldwide, chosen through a highly competitive process.

The Heidelberg Laureate Forum is one of the most prestigious events in the fields of mathematics and computer science. It offers a unique opportunity for top young researchers and Ph.D. students to interact closely with laureates of the most distinguished international awards including the Abel Prize, ACM A.M. Turing

Award, ACM Prize in Computing, Fields Medal, IMU Abacus Medal, and the Nevanlinna Prize.

The entire trip, including international travel, accommodation, and participation costs, will be fully sponsored by the Heidelberg Laureate Forum Foundation. This support ensures that participants can fully engage with the week-long program of lectures, workshops, and networking events without any financial burden.

In his message, Director of NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanauiya extended his heartfelt congratulations to Wagay and appreciated the efforts of the Department of Mathematics in mentoring and guiding young researchers towards international platforms.

Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman also congratulated Mr. Wagay and said that his selection is a matter of pride for the institute and an inspiration for other research scholars pursuing academic excellence.

Dr. Rameez Raja, Mr. Wagay's Ph.D. supervisor, expressed happiness over

the selection and said that such opportunities provide young researchers with valuable exposure to global scientific developments and peer networks.

HLF is a networking conference where 200 carefully selected young researchers in mathematics and computer science spend a week interacting with the laureates of the disciplines: recipients of the Abel Prize, ACM A.M. Turing Award, ACM Prize in Computing, Fields Medal, IMU Abacus Medal and Nevanlinna Prize. Established in 2013, the HLF is annually organized by the Heidelberg Laureate Forum Foundation (HLFFF).

It was initiated by the German foundation Klaus Tschira Stiftung (KTS), which promotes natural sciences, mathematics and computer science. Inspired by the idea of providing bright young minds the opportunity to interact with their scientific role models, physicist and co-founder of SAP, Klaus Tschira (1940-2015) laid the groundwork for the Forum to exist.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

GENERAL MANAGER

DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE PULWAMA

dicpulwama@

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Alif Agri Fresh Cold Chain, situated at IGC, Lassipora District Pulwama stands Provisionally registered with DIC, Pulwama under No:01/005/22/06339 dated: 28.04.2025 for the line of activity "Integrated Cold Chain Project for Controlled atmosphere storage with Grading and Packing (5000 Mts)" at IGC, Lassipora, Pulwama as a Partnership concern of 1. Mr. Sahil Mushtaq S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Dar R/o Qasbayar, Pulwama 2. Mr. Mohammad Afzal Wani S/o Gh. Ahmad Wani R/o Qasbayar, Pulwama. The partners have submitted an application wherein they have requested for Change of Constitution by virtue of conversion of Partnership firm to Private Limited Company under the name & style of **Alif Agri Fresh Pvt. Ltd.**, with its Directors having share pattern as 1. Mr. Sahil Mushtaq S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Dar R/o Qasbayar, Pulwama (50%) 2. Mr. Mohammad Afzal Wani S/o Gh. Ahmad Wani R/o Qasbayar, Pulwama (1%) and two more Directors namely Mr. Kamil Riyaz Khan S/o Riyaz Ahmad Khan R/o Rajpora, Pulwama (25%) 2. Mr. Tak Umer Mukhtar S/o Mukhtar Ahmad Tak R/o Qasbayar, Pulwama (24%).

Any person(s) or any organization/ Department having any objection in this behalf should convey in writing to the **General Manager, DIC, Pulwama** within (07) seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the time frame no objection shall be entertained.

No. DICPL/A-96/25/849
Dated: 30/06/2025

General Manager,
District Industries Centre,
Pulwama.

DIPK-3165-25
DT: 01/07/2025

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI

PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

e-Mail: hcpchemds@gmail.com

CANCELLATION CORRIGENDUM

Subject: "Design, Engineering, Providing, Welding, Laying/Fixing in proper position, Testing and Commissioning of 630mm Diameter HDPE Raw Water intake Pipeline in Nigeen Lake from proposed offtake point near Ashai Bagh Bridge up to the sump (delivery point) of Stage 1st Pumping Station of WSS Pokhribal located at northern bank of Nigeen lake under AMRUT 2.0, including successful trial run for a period of one month on Turnkey/EPC basis". The scope shall include all necessary Ancillary works Such as Jointing, Pipe Supports, Alignment, placing in proper position in and under water, Leak Testing, Hydro Testing, Required Appurtenances, and Restoration of Site Conditions to Original or Improved State, as applicable.

Reference: i. This office e-nit No: AMRUT/JSMDS/e-NIT-78 of 03/2024-25
ii. Superintending Engineer office Letter no: JSMCS/TS/718-20 Dated: 30-06-2025

The e-NIT under reference for the subject work is hereby cancelled as none of the bidders was found responsive during the evaluation of documents of Cover 1st uploaded/furnished by the participating bidders. The tender for the subject work shall be invited fresh in due course of time.

No: JSMDS/CC/Amrut2.0/1084-95
Dated: 30/06/2025
DIPK-3184-25
DT: 01/07/2025

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Jal Shakti Mech. Circle South, Srinagar.
Addl. charge of Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Mech. Division, Srinagar.

Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication

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Dutch Woman Quietly Cleaning Dal Lake Of Plastic For 5 Yrs



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR- It is 'Hollandse Schoonmaak' (Dutch cleaning) in Kashmir as a 69-year-old woman from the Netherlands has made it a mission to clean the waters of the famous tourist attraction Dal Lake of plastic waste.

Armed with her love for nature, Ellis Hubertina Spaanderman can often be seen rowing her boat quietly in the waters of the lake to collect plastic waste and other trash.

She picks up the trash items one by one carefully from the waters and places them in a bag on her boat to clean the lake inch-by-inch.

"I also did it in the Netherlands as I was living on the seaside. In general, the Netherlands is clean, but ships throw waste, so I start

ed collecting the waste, it is in my nature. When I see it, I cannot avoid cleaning up," Spaanderman said when asked about her passion.

The Dutch tourist came to Kashmir first nearly 25 years ago and instantly fell in love with the place.

When she returned about five years ago, she stayed in the valley, but was dismayed with the levels of pollution in the lake.

"I started picking the trash right from the day I came to Kashmir. Now, it has been five years," she said.

Spaanderman got a boat of her own in November last year to get help in her campaign.

"I thought if no one is doing it, I am gonna do it. Maybe it is only a drop in the ocean, but I have learnt one thing that if

● P-06

LG Orders Reopening Of Buried Terror Cases

Chairs High-Level Meeting, Discusses Issues Of Terror Victim Families

GMK NEWS NETWORK

TOLL-FREE number will be notified for the assistance of Terror victim families

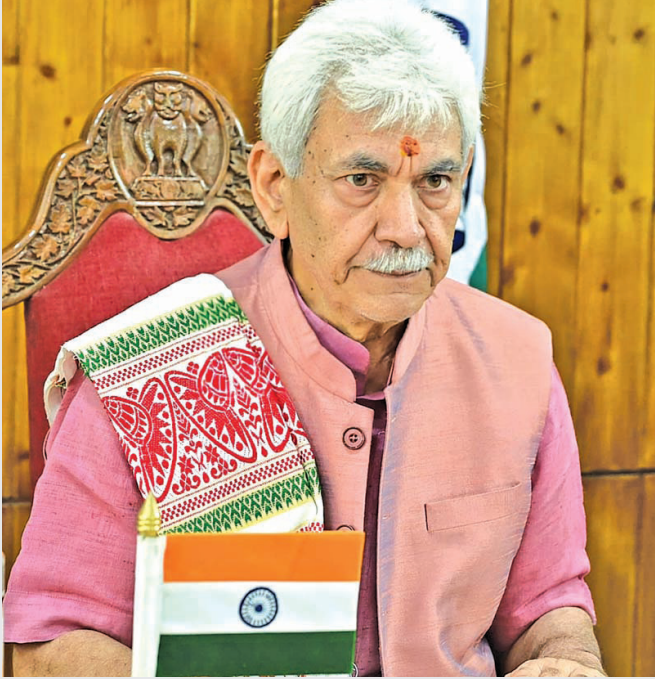
Directs DCs, SSPs to **REOPEN CASES** which were deliberately buried

Identify elements from **TERROR** ecosystem who were involved in killing of Common Kashmiris

A Special Cell to be **ESTABLISHED** in LG Secretariat to address concerns of families

Every **POSSIBLE** assistance would be provided to terror victim families

Culprits roaming free for **MANY DECADES** will be brought to justice



directed the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to reopen cases which were deliberately buried and file an FIR and ensure jobs are provided to Next of Kins (NoKs) on priority. He further directed them to take immediate measures to free terror victim families' property and land grabbed by terrorists or their sympathisers.

Identify those elements from terror ecosystem who were

involved in killing of Common Kashmiris and currently working in Government Departments. Financial assistance under MUDRA and handholding must be extended to the terror victim family members who want to start their self-employment venture, the Lieutenant Governor told the officials.

The Lieutenant Governor said a Special Cell will be established in LG

● P-06

LG Manoj Sinha Reviews Final Preparations For Amarnath Yatra



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting with the senior officers and reviewed the final preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department Shri Shaleen Kabra; DGP Shri Nalin Prabhat; Special Director General (Coordination), PHQ, Shri S.J.M

● P-06

Flags Off Fleet Of Ambulances For Hospitals

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday flagged off the fleet of Ambulances for the Hospitals in Ramban and Anantnag Districts.

A total 5

● P-06

Visits Yatri Niwas At Bhagwati Nagar, Reviews Arrangements

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday visited Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar and reviewed arrangements for the pilgrims

● P-06

...Second Hottest Since 1892

Srinagar Logs Hottest June Since 1978



OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: After the record-breaking maximum temperatures, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has recorded the hottest June month in the last 47 years while Qazigund also witnessed the warmest month in half a century.

According to the details available, Srinagar has recorded the hottest June month since 1978, which was the second hottest as well since 1892.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng while divulging the details, stated that Qazigund, a gate way of Kashmir, has also recorded the warmest June in over 50 years.

"Srinagar just experienced its hottest June since 1978, making it the second hottest on record since observations began in 1892," he said, adding that the average maximum temperature for June 2025 stood at 31.0°C, while the mean

● P-06

Drought-Like Situation In South Kashmir, Farmers In Distress



JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG: A deepening drought across south Kashmir has pushed agriculture to the brink, with hundreds of acres of farmland in districts like Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, and Shopian facing severe irrigation crises.

Despite efforts from the administration, low water levels in irrigation canals have left paddy fields parched and farmers distraught.

In several villages of Anantnag—including Hakura, Palpora, Khoshipora, Bragam, Nowpora, Kreeeri, Nethipora, Batengoo, Ura-nhall, Shamsipora, Jablipora, Husanpora, Aarwani, Monghal, Chirhama, and Ruhu—vast stretches of paddy land are cracking under the scorching heat, with no signs of water flow.

"This is nothing short of a looming agricultural disaster," Ghulam Nabi, a farmer from Palpora told KNO. "We depend entirely on agriculture for our livelihood. If this continues, we will have no rice to eat or sell."

In Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama, similar scenes are unfolding at different locations like Frisal hamlet in Kulgam, Awantipora and Kakapora hamlets of Pulwama and Wanduna area

● P-06

...Muharram ul Haram

Div Com, IGP Hold Meeting With Shia Associations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Vijay K Birdhi Tuesday held



a meeting with the representatives of various Shia asso-

ciations to execute smooth & peaceful observance of Muharram.

Besides DIG, Kashmir, Rajiv Pandey, the meeting was attended by DC Srinagar Akshay Labroo,

● P-06

CS Reviews Final Arrangements For Amarnathji Yatra



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Ahead of commencement of the annual Amarnathji Yatra from July 3, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Tuesday undertook a comprehensive visit to Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu to take stock of the final arrangements being made by various departments for smooth and secure conduct of the pilgrimage.

Accompanied by the senior civil and police officers, the Chief Secretary

inspected all key facilities at the Yatri Niwas, one of the pivotal base camps in Jammu for the devotees.

Those present during the visit included Divisional Commissioner Jammu; IGP, Jammu; IG, Traffic; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; SSP Traffic (City); Commissioner, JMC; MD, JPDCL; Director, Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti and PWD besides representatives from various security agencies and other

● P-06

WELCOME

YATRIES AND TOURISTS TO J&K

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HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER

TRAFFIC POLICE JAMMU ZONE

Traffic Advisory for General Public for 2nd July 2025

TRAFFIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS, J&K, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

- From 30-06-2025, 1700 hrs. to 01-07-2025, 1700 hrs., there was slow movement observed on NH-44 due to breakdown of 03 HMVs, single lane traffic at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishtwari Pather.
- Commuters belonging to Reasi, Katra, Udhampur, Patnitop, Doda and Ramban town are requested to keep their photo ID card to prove their identification after cut off timing from Jammu/Udhampur so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly. Passengers/LMVs operators are advised to undertake journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW during day time due to apprehension of shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal.
- Goods carrier (HVM/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable/live stock are advised to load their vehicle as per advisory issued by Traffic Police Headquarters time to time as there is single lane traffic and poor condition of road at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishtwari Pather on Jammu-Srinagar NHW.
- Fruit growers' Load carrier (HVM/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable from Valley towards Jammu are advised to load and park their vehicle timely (every morning before 9:00 am at designated place between NAVVUG Tunnel and Levdoora).
- HMVs Operators/Owners are requested to desist from overloading and carry sufficient fuel during journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW. It is further requested that vehicle owners must double check the fitness of their vehicles and carry sufficient fuel before undertaking journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW.
- HMVs with only 06 and 10 tyres shall be allowed to ply through Dhar road.
- Commuters are advised to avoid unnecessary haltagge between Ramban and Banihal especially near landslide/shooting stone area.

TRAFFIC PLAN & ADVISORY FOR 02-07-2025:-

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions SANJY convoy/LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa. However, HMVs shall be allowed on alternate days . TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing this traffic.

In view of SHRI AMAR NATH JI YATRA 2025 CUT OFF TIMINGS FOR LMVs/PASSENGER/PRIVATE CARs:-

To be released from:-

- Nagrota (Jammu) towards Srinagar: from 0600 hrs. to 1200 hrs.
- Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar: from 0700 hrs to 1300 hrs &
- Qazigund towards Jammu: from 1130 hrs to 1400 hrs.

TCU Jammu and TCU Srinagar will inform all concerned about the traffic advisory and cut off timings. No vehicle shall be allowed to move before and after cut off timings.

HMVs/Load Carriers:-

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions, HMVs shall be allowed from Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar after assessing the road and traffic situation on NH-44 and NO HMV shall be allowed after 1900 hrs. TCU Udhampur shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the HMVs.

Moreover, in view of ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji yatra 2025, to provide hassle free movement of trucks carrying fresh/perishable goods on NH-44, UT administration has decided all tankers of Petrol, Diesel, LPG bulk gas, all trucks carrying empty LPG Cylinders; all empty vehicles of FCI; any other vehicle loaded/empty upto 10-tyres shall use only Mughal Road while returning to Jammu.

Kishtwar- Sinthan- Anantnag NH-244:-

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from NHIDCL, LMVs/HPSVs shall be allowed from both sides viz from Anantnag towards Kishtwar and vice- versa on Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road. These vehicles shall be allowed from PP Parana towards Anantnag from 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs and from PP Daksum towards Kishtwar from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. No HMV other than designated HPSVs shall be allowed as per order issued by SDM Chhatroo vide No. SDM/C/2025-26/146-53 dated 16-05-2025 and SDM Kokernag vide No. SDM/KNG/665-71 dated 16-05-2025.

Mughal Road:-

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from Road maintenance agencies (GREF), LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Mughal road viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa via Poonch. However, HMVs (Local Livestock) upto six tyres only shall be allowed from Poonch towards Shopian. These vehicles shall be allowed from Behramgala (Baffliaz) and Herpora (Shopian) at 0600 hrs. upto 1900 hrs. as per order issued by District Magistrate Poonch vide No. DMP/JC/8517-23 dated 05-06-2025.

ADVISORY :-

People are advised to undertake journey only after confirming status of the road from Traffic control units as under:-

- Jammu (0191-2459048, 0191- 2740550, 9419147732, 103)
- Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091, 103)
- Ramban (9419993745, 1800-180-7043)
- Udhampur (8491928625)
- PCR Kishtwar (9906154100)
- PCR Kargil (9541902330, 9541902331)

DIT/KM/3/25
DT: 01/07/2025

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Kashmir: From Paradise To Peril

Once celebrated by poets and travelers alike as a paradise on Earth, Kashmir today stands as a tragic testament to environmental vandalism. Its serene valleys, snow-capped mountains, and pristine water bodies have been gradually reduced to a shadow of their former selves, casualties of unchecked urbanization, deforestation, and governmental apathy. The rot, unfortunately, is all-encompassing. Successive political dispensations have made tall promises about environmental protection, only to sacrifice the region's ecology at the altar of short-term development and vote bank politics. Infrastructure projects, often undertaken without proper ecological assessments, have carved through forests and wetlands. Illegal constructions have mushroomed along the banks of the Dal and Wular lakes, choking the water bodies that once nourished entire ecosystems. However, the blame does not rest with the ruling class alone. The general populace too has played a part, knowingly or unknowingly, in accelerating the ecological decline. From rampant littering in tourist hotspots to indiscriminate tree felling for firewood and real estate, individual actions have compounded the environmental crisis. What was once collective custodianship of the land has now been replaced by collective negligence. Kashmir's climate has responded accordingly. Once abundant with snowfall and freshwater streams, the region now experiences erratic weather patterns. Glaciers are retreating at an alarming pace, rivers are drying up seasonally, and water scarcity, once unthinkable in this water-rich region, has become a growing concern. The traditional spring-fed irrigation systems (kuls and nairs), vital for agriculture, are in disrepair. And as the tree cover recedes, soil erosion and flash floods have become more frequent and devastating. The signs of global warming are no longer distant threats, they are visible realities in the Valley today. What we are witnessing is not just an ecological shift, but a socio-economic one. Livelihoods tied to agriculture, horticulture, and tourism are under threat, and with them, the very culture and identity of Kashmir. The time for poetic eulogies to Kashmir's natural beauty is long past. What is needed now is a fierce commitment, from governments, civil society, and individuals, to reverse the damage. Policy needs to move beyond tokenism and become rooted in sustainability. Waste management, afforestation, lake restoration, and stringent regulation of land use are not optional anymore; they are essential. Kashmir may still have a chance to reclaim its ecological heritage, but that window is narrowing fast. Let this be the moment when we choose revival over ruin.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

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...Pilgrimage **Of Peace**

The Eternal Spirit Of Amarnath Yatra In Kashmir

MOHD AMIN MIR

In the heart of the mighty Himalayas, nestled among the snow-capped ridges and lush green valleys of Jammu & Kashmir, lies one of the most sacred sites in Hinduism—the Amarnath Cave Shrine. Here, each year during the summer months, thousands upon thousands of devotees undertake a pilgrimage to behold the naturally formed ice Shivling, a rare symbol of divinity that appears only during a particular time of the year. The Amarnath Yatra is not merely a journey of physical endurance—it is a spiritual calling, a celebration of faith, sacrifice, and human unity.

As a native of this sacred land, I extend my heartfelt welcome and deepest salutations to every yatree (pilgrim) who sets foot on our soil in search of divine blessings. I pray to Allah Almighty to protect you, grant you health, and bless your journey with peace and fulfillment. May more and more yatris continue to arrive, and may your presence continue to grace our region with an atmosphere of brotherhood, peace, and mutual respect.

Origins: Myths, Legends, and Ancient Reverence

The Amarnath Cave, situated at an altitude of approximately 3,888 meters (12,756 feet), has long been revered as one of the holiest pilgrimage sites in India. It is said that Lord Shiva chose this remote and awe-inspiring location to reveal to Goddess Parvati the secret of immortality—the Amar Katha. To ensure absolute secrecy, he abandoned all material possessions, symbolic companions, and cosmic forces at various stages along the route.

The legend continues that Shiva left behind the moon at Chandanwari, his snakes at Sheshnag, his son at Mahagunas top, and even the five elements at Panchtarni, before entering the cave to divulge the sacred secret. This is why each waypoint on the yatra is considered spiritually significant.

The cave and the naturally formed ice stalagmite, which resembles a lingam, are seen as a divine manifestation of Shiva. Its waxing and waning cycle, which follows the lunar calendar, is viewed as a celestial affirmation of faith. The pilgrimage is believed to be more than 5,000 years old, with references found in ancient scriptures and local traditions.

Though many saints and yogis visited the cave through the centuries, its modern rediscovery is attributed to a Gujar shepherd named Buta Malik in the 19th century. The story goes



that a saint gave him a pouch of coal that turned to gold, prompting him to search for the saint, only to find the cave instead. Since then, the Gujar community has remained intricately connected to the Yatra.

The Yatra Routes: Where the Earth Meets the Divine

The Amarnath Yatra begins each year during Shravan month (July–August) and follows two principal routes:

- The Pahalgam Route (46 km): Considered the traditional path, this longer but scenic route follows in Lord Shiva's footsteps. Pilgrims pass through Chandanwari, Sheshnag, Mahagunas Pass, and Panchtarni before reaching the cave. It is physically challenging but deeply rewarding for those who undertake it.
- The Baltal Route (14 km): Shorter and steeper, this route is popular among pilgrims seeking a quicker ascent. Though more taxing due to its sharp gradients, it offers stunning views and direct access to the shrine.
- Every step on these trails is both a physical feat and a spiritual meditation. The terrain may be rugged and the climate unpredictable, but yatris walk with resolve, often chanting "Bam Bam Bhole" as the snow-lined peaks echo their devotion.

A Tapestry of Faith and Fraternity

One of the most moving aspects of the Amarnath Yatra is the communal harmony that surrounds it. While the pilgrimage is rooted in Hindu tradition, Muslim, Sikh, and Christian residents of Kashmir also play vital roles in faci-

lating the journey. From Muslim pony handlers, porters, shopkeepers, and tent operators, to Sikh langar volunteers and local Christian service workers, the Yatra becomes a festival of shared humanity.

Every year, hundreds of Langars (community kitchens) are set up along the route, offering free food, water, and even medical help to yatris. Volunteers from all over India, irrespective of religion, serve meals, carry luggage, and offer emotional support to strangers on a sacred path. This coming together of communities is a beacon of unity, defying divisive narratives and reaffirming the inclusive spirit of Kashmir.

Security, Seva, and the Strength of Systems

Ensuring the smooth and safe conduct of such a massive pilgrimage is a logistical and administrative feat. The Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), in coordination with the Indian Army, J&K Police, CRPF, ITBP, and civil administration, implements a multi-layered security and health safety net.

RFID tracking, satellite surveillance, oxygen booths, and disaster response teams are deployed along the routes. Helicopter services are provided for senior citizens and those unable to trek. From Pony routes and rest shelters to mobile clinics and weather-monitoring posts, every detail is accounted for to make the Yatra safer, especially in the face of challenging terrain and volatile weather conditions.

Yet at the heart of this intricate web lies seva—the spirit of selfless service. It's this intangible force that elevates the journey from a trek to a transformation

The Yatra is not only sacred—it is also economically vital. For many families living in remote parts of Kashmir, this is the most important season of the year. Transporters, shopkeepers, artisans, hoteliers, and porters find much-needed employment and income. According to some estimates, the Yatra contributes hundreds of crores annually to the local economy.

Additionally, infrastructure development—improved roads, better emergency care, enhanced sanitation facilities—often coincides with the Yatra season, leaving lasting benefits for the local population. The pilgrimage thus becomes a catalyst for sustainable rural development in regions otherwise neglected for most of the year.

A Message to the Pilgrims: My Salute and My Prayer

Dear yatris, as you walk through our mountains, breathe our air, and bow before the divine ice lingam, please know that you are not alone. You are cherished guests, and we, the people of Kashmir—regardless of our faith—are proud to host you. We salute your devotion and share in your joy.

May your footsteps continue to grace our soil. May your prayers bring peace not only to your hearts but also to our hills. And may the eternal spirit of Amarnath continue to unite hearts across boundaries and beliefs.

Har Har Mahadev! Jai Bhole Nath!

Mohd Amin Mir is a Kashmir-based writer and newspaper columnist who writes on land reform, rural governance, and cultural heritage in Jammu & Kashmir. He can be mailed at goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Sinicizing Tibet: Why China's Propaganda Campaign Will Ultimately Fail



RISHI SURI

In recent months, China has redoubled its efforts to rebrand and rewrite the narrative on Tibet. The ancient, deeply spiritual land that has for centuries stood apart with its unique culture, language, and identity is now being aggressively "Sinicized"—forcibly remolded to fit Beijing's narrow, homogenized vision of national identity. The Communist Party calls it "Xizang"—a term most Tibetans do not use and one that reflects China's desire to erase Tibetan identity itself. From cultural suppression and religious control to the mass surveillance of monastic communities, the Chinese state is weaponizing language, policy, and global media manipulation in its bid to crush the idea of a distinct Tibetan civilization. But the harder it tries, the more it reveals the fragility of its hold—not only over Tibet, but over the truth itself.

A History of Occupation, Not Liberation

Let us be clear: China's presence in Tibet is not the result of harmonious integration but military occupation. In 1950, the People's Liberation Army invaded Tibet. By 1959, following a brutal crackdown on a popular uprising, the 14th

Dalai Lama was forced to flee into exile. Since then, China has tried to pass off its control over the region as "liberation," but to the Tibetan people and the global community that respects historical fact, it remains a colonization.

Beijing's narrative is that Tibet has always been part of China—a claim riddled with distortions and historical inaccuracy. Tibet operated as an independent entity for centuries, with its own government, language, religion, and even diplomatic relations. The 17-Point Agreement of 1951—signed under duress—was never honored by the Communist regime, and Tibetan self-governance was quickly replaced by totalitarian control.

Cultural Genocide Under a New Name

Today, China no longer tries to hide its assimilationist goals. It has shifted from raw military control to what it considers the more palatable method of cultural domination. Tibetan children are being forcibly separated from their families and placed in state-run boarding schools where Mandarin is the medium of instruction, and Tibetan language, culture, and religion are treated as relics of a backward past. The rebranding of Tibet as "Xizang"—now increasingly used in Chinese state propaganda—is not a linguistic preference but an act of erasure.

China's campaign includes lavish state-funded media tours, where handpicked foreign journalists are flown into the region under tight surveillance. These Potemkin press trips show them only model



monasteries, new infrastructure projects, and carefully coached "locals" who praise the Party. The message is clear: Tibet is thriving under Chinese rule. But this charade fools no one who looks deeper.

Manufactured Consent and the Real Tibet

These state-sponsored trips are a page straight out of the Soviet playbook—showcasing facades while dissenters are silenced. Real Tibetan voices—those who speak of repression, cultural destruction, or spiritual suppression—are either in exile, in prison, or forced into silence. Internet censorship, mass surveillance, and the infiltration of monasteries by Communist Party operatives ensure there is no room for dissent within the so-called "harmonious society."

Yet, despite the might of the Chinese state and its global propaganda apparatus, it has failed to win the one thing it truly craves: legitimacy. No amount of renaming or ribbon-cutting ceremonies can erase the resilience of the Tibetan spirit or the moral authority

of the Dalai Lama—a global symbol of peace and resistance whose words carry more weight than a thousand state-run news articles.

The Dalai Lama and the Coming Storm

Adding to China's anxiety is the impending announcement of the Dalai Lama's successor. At 89, the spiritual leader has indicated that the time may be near for identifying the next reincarnation—a sacred process that has been the backbone of Tibetan Buddhism for centuries.

Beijing, of course, insists it has the sole right to approve the next Dalai Lama—an absurd and blasphemous claim that flies in the face of religious freedom and centuries of spiritual tradition. The Communist Party, which claims to be atheist, now wants to handpick the next incarnation of a Buddhist leader to suit its political interests. It plans to prop up its own puppet "Dalai Lama," trained under state control, paraded as the legitimate spiritual heir. But this is a farce that will find no acceptance among Tibetan Buddhists or the global

religious community. You can coerce bodies, not souls. And certainly not belief.

Why China Will Fail

The Chinese Communist Party misunderstands something fundamental: identity is not just about land, infrastructure, or even control. It is about memory, language, faith, and the human will to survive. Tibet's memory has not been erased—it has been archived in the hearts of millions in exile, in monasteries across India, in whispers inside Lhasa, and in the global conscience.

Every time China tries to whitewash its record or rename history, it exposes its own insecurity. If Tibet were truly integrated, it would not need to be rebranded, re-educated, or rewritten. And if its control were truly welcomed, there would be no need to hide the truth behind press junkets and propaganda.

Tibet is not "Xizang." It is not a development project. It is not a cultural park. It is a living civilization—battered but not broken. China can rename it, surveil it, and attempt to rewrite it. But it cannot own it. The world must see through the illusion. The Tibet issue is not about autonomy alone—it is about dignity, justice, and truth.

And in the end, truth always outlives tyranny.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

New Flight To Space: Axiom-4 And India's Global Recognition



PRIYANKA SAURABH

When an Indian representative went to the International Space Station (ISS) after a long gap of 41 years, it was not just a mission but a rebirth of India's space science, global diplomacy and scientific reputation. The participation of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force in the Axiom-4 mission made it clear that India is no longer seen as just a participant in the space race but as a potential leader.

Through this mission, India achieved success at many levels simultaneously. First of all, from a scientific point of view, India sent seven major scientific experiments to space under this mission. All these experiments were based on micro-gravity and their aim was to understand various aspects of life. The study done on seeds like fenugreek and moong took the uniqueness of Indian agricultural techniques to space. This proves that India's traditional farming is also relevant and modern for scientific research.

Additionally, experiments based on microorganisms, microalgae and muscle regeneration proved India's utility in the development of life support systems for long-term space travel. This makes it clear that India has come not only to establish its presence in space but also to contribute to it at the level of innovation and research.

Shubhanshu Shukla's successful docking of SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft and training in emergency situations in space is an invaluable experience for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission. It will serve as a strong foundation for India's first human space mission.

Axiom-4 also showed that India has now entered commercial space flights as well. The agreement between



Axiom-4 Space and Indian startup Skyroot Aerospace shows that India no longer wants to rely only on government resources, but is moving towards developing cheap and innovative solutions in collaboration with the private sector. This is a success story of self-reliance of Indian space policy and startup culture.

From a strategic point of view, AXIOM-4 is a symbol of growing cooperation between India and the US, especially under arrangements like ICET and Artemis Accords. Through this mission, India strengthened the spirit of cooperation not only with the US but also with the global South-North. Along with India, astronauts from countries like Poland and Hungary also participated in this mission. It was a symbol of global inclusiveness and partnership.

This mission also boosts India's "soft power". When India's name was

associated with human space travel on news channels around the world, it was not just a technological victory but also a diplomatic one. India demonstrated that it has become a country not just sending satellites, but sending and cooperating humans into space.

The Axiom-4 mission has also given new confidence to India's private space startups. Companies like Skyroot and Agnikul Cosmos are now moving towards global collaboration. This can prove to be an opening of new doors for investment, technical collaboration and scientific innovation for India.

Additionally, this mission has provided India with the necessary experience for Gaganyaan. Axiom-4 has been termed by experts as an "insurance policy", which means that this mission gave India an opportunity to understand and control the risks that

may arise in complex missions like Gaganyaan. Also, this experience will be helpful in building India's future space station "Indian Space Station".

It is also important that Shubhanshu Shukla received eight months of rigorous training at NASA, which has now given India a new standard in terms of astronaut training capabilities. In future, Indian astronauts can be trained at this level.

The Axiom-4 mission has given India a more effective voice in global forums such as the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. When a country undertakes human space flight, it begins to play a new role not only in science but also in global policy making.

The entire mission has proven that India is no longer just an observer, but a participant. The mission has proved to be a 'lift-off moment' for India - a moment when a nation takes

flight not just in the field of technology, but also in confidence, strategy and global leadership.

It is now necessary that India builds on this achievement by integrating it with upcoming missions like Gaganyaan and long-term strategies in the space sector. From policy making to budget allocations and from space education to international collaborations—missions like Axiom-4 must be made part of India's long-term space strategy.

Ultimately, Axiom-4 was not just a flight, it was a declaration of India's scientific prowess, global participation and potential to become a future space superpower. India is no longer lagging behind in the space race, but is at the forefront.

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Toilets: A Basic Right, Not A Privilege

VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

It is estimated that 2.5 billion people around the world do not have proper sanitation, that 1.1 billion people defecate in the open and that providing toilets could save the lives of more than 200,000 children each year. Sanitation is a global development priority. Diarrhoea caused by poor sanitation and unsafe water kills 315,000 children every year. Open defecation, unlike in other places, where it has a negative connotation, here it is something that is completely normal, and even sometimes wholesome, like the fact that you have gone for a morning walk, and you have exercised your body and you have gotten up early. Lack of access to toilets has been identified as a huge problem, particularly in rural areas.

It not only spreads diseases like diarrhea but also exposes women to the risk of sexual assault when they go into the fields after dark. Cultural norms are hard to change and according to some, open-air defecation is seen as more sanitary by those who prefer to relieve themselves in the open rather than share a toilet. Disease transmission at work, mostly caused by poor sanitation and hygiene practices, causes 17% of all workplace deaths.

Public toilets with good water facility are the need of the hour. In a country like India it is very difficult and takes a long time to change the practice of open defecation in rural areas. Most of the toilets which are started for public use are being neglected by the people due to improper maintenance. It is the matter of hygiene that can attract more people to use toilet.

In 2025, the number of toilets increased by 20% from the 2019



Kumbh (1,20,000 in 2019 to 1,50,000 in 2025). The Kumbh 2019 was the first ever Kumbh that introduced bio-toilets, ICT monitoring system, odour management, volunteer participation and behaviour change apart from building toilets. The target set by the Modi government under the Swachh Bharat Mission was to construct over 100 million toilets in rural India. Modi has put it high on the national agenda, but the chal-

lenge could be daunting in a country where defecating in the open is a common sight and is accepted by many as normal. His campaign, called Clean India, means the government will have to build 60 million toilets in that timeframe. So far, about 10 million toilets have been built, according to the Indian Ministry of Water and Sanitation.

It is surprising that the E-toilets installed in the city are not main-

tained properly. It is the malodour that discourages people from using public toilets. Most of the public toilets are not usable because of lack of cleanliness, electricity and water. As no efforts are taken by the local bodies to maintain them, e-toilets remain in poor condition. It is also observed that the toilets have no proper water supply and are badly maintained. It is a grave health issue. With many people coming to

work daily the public toilets should be of use to the local as well as floating population of daily commuters to the city. There should be a monitoring system to put in place to check the maintenance of e-toilets. Only education and awareness can do something. Educated or uneducated, people in rural areas, for want of indoor plumbing use open space for defecating.

There are people who think that open defecation is more hygienic and having an indoor toilet is dirty and filthy. We need a grass root campaign on how many diseases can be avoided by basic cleanliness and how spending on toilets is as important as developing other infrastructure. We don't need to build new temples, mosques, churches, gurudwaras etc. Public toilets with good water facilities are the need of the hour. Bringing about a change in mindset is the paramount need.

Modi's approach is to use improved sanitation as a tool to combat poverty, develop the economy, and make India more attractive to business investment. The proposition is not an easy one: Half of India's population, at least 620 million people, defecates outside.

Toilets play a crucial role in creating a strong economy, as well as improving health and protecting people's safety and dignity, particularly women's and girls'. While provision of hygienic toilets for the public is the buzzword in our country, the lack of adequate public toilets and the appalling state of existing ones is a reality that the city can't deny. Are the authorities listening to our voice?

Author is a Free-Lance Journalist. He can be mailed at dixitparakar@yahoo.in

LG Attends Tawi Aarti On The Eve Of Amarnath Ji Yatra

Says Entire J&K Is Experiencing Spiritual Bliss On Eve Of Holy Pilgrimage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: On the eve of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday attended the 'Tawi Aarti' at Tawi Riverfront Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor sought the blessings of Suryaputri River Tawi and Baba Barfani and prayed for a peaceful, blessed and a memorable pilgrimage for all the devotees.

"Entire J&K is experiencing spiritual bliss on the eve of holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji. People of J&K are ready to welcome devotees of Baba Barfani coming from across the country. May Lord Shiva bless everyone with health, happiness and harmony," the Lieutenant Governor said.

his address, highlighted Jammu Kashmir's extraordinary journey towards peace, prosperity, and unprecedented development over the past few years.

"After decades of darkness J&K in 2019 leaped towards regaining its dignity, its pride and its spiritual peak. It has got new wings in the last 5 years. The light of upliftment is dispelling darkness in every section. Citizens are full of self-confidence and the river of progress is flowing uninterrupted," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his unwavering commitment to the inclusive development of the Union Territory and revival of the region's rich cultural and spiritual legacy.

"For me responsibility of J&K is not just administrative assignment. For me this was an opportunity to restore the ancient glory of Jammu and Kashmir. For me it was an opportunity to rebuild Jammu and Kashmir.

I have tried to recreate the grandeur of Jammu and Kashmir like the sacred temple. I have tried to restore the lost image of this holy land," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor saluted the people of J&K for actively participating in the development journey.

"I am proud about the rapid pace at which Jammu Division and Kashmir Division have developed in the last five years. The pace of progress is historic.

Common citizens and intellectuals of the society are engaged in the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir which is highly commendable, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the entire team of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board for performing its duties with dedication and devotion for the pilgrims. He said the Yatri Niwas at Baltal will be dedicated to Pilgrims on July 04.

Since 2022 facilities for pilgrims are significantly improved. I pray to Lord Shiva to make the journey of devotees successful and all their wishes come true, he said.

"World's eyes are on this yatra. The devotees' resolve is unshakable; no threats can deter their spirit. With the cooperation and support of everyone, this year's Yatra will be even more historic than previous years," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all the civil society members, enlightened citizens to join the flag-off ceremony of the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 at Yatri Niwas tomorrow morning. He asked the media persons to spread awareness among the pilgrims to travel in designated convoys.

The Lieutenant Governor also sought the support from all sections of the society to make the Tawi Aarti a continuous event.

Shri Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu; Ms. Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and CEO of Jammu Smart City Limited; Shri Rajesh Gupta, Chairman Shri Raghunathji Corridor Vikas Council; heads of various religious and business associations, members of civil society groups, Acharyas and Archakas were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly; Administrative Secretaries; senior officials of Civil and Police Administration, people and pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in large number also took part in the Tawi Aarti.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Dutch Woman Quietly

you want to teach people, the best thing is to be an example. People start noticing," she added.

The foreigner said she wants to create a mass awareness about the environment.

"I care about the environment, I want it to be clean. But, it is so much dirty here, I cannot do it alone. This is my way to clean it and create awareness among the people. I notice that now when I am collecting waste, not only here but in streams and forests, people start helping me.

"I am convinced that if everyone will help me, the whole of Kashmir can be cleaned within two years. I really believe in that. Many Kashmiris say it will take 1,000 years...no you can teach within a generation," she said.

Spaaanderman said she has grabbed some attention for her work.

"The vice-chairman of J&K LCMA (Lake Conservation and Management Authority) asked me to come and speak with him. They want to work with me and want to use my knowledge to educate the children in schools," she said.

When the Dutch national is not collecting trash, she is often cycling the streets of the city, especially the Foreshore Road.

"Sometimes I am busy and I cannot do it on daily basis. Most days I do this when I have nothing else to do. Then I go to lakes, swimming, pedalling, cycling, hiking and on way I collect waste," she said.

Spaaanderman does the cleaning all alone — without any support or funding. Her small 'shikara' is like a wooden manual de-weeder.

Dal is not just a lake. The famous water body is a source of livelihood for many Kashmiris and a famed tourist attraction. However, over the years, the lake has witnessed pollution and encroachment.

While there have been efforts by the government like dredging, de-weeding and anti-encroachment drives, the water body still faces a threat.

The Dutch tourist said she considers the lake her home and wants to give something back to it.

Her efforts are being appreciated by the locals.

Yawar Ahmad, a local, said he has seen Spaaanderman collecting plastic waste many a times.

"It is truly appreciable what she is doing. I often think, if a foreign tourist woman can do it, then why can't we?" he said.

Ahmad said the Dutch tourist's work is an inspiration and expressed hope that she would inspire the younger generation to think about the environment and also raise awareness among the people to stop throwing waste in the water bodies and other places. (PTI)

LG Orders Reopening

Secretariat to address concerns of terror victim families. He further asked the Chief Secretary to set up a similar cell in his office. A Toll-free number should also be notified for the assistance of Terror victim families, he said.

"Every possible assistance would be provided to terror victim families and culprits roaming free for many decades will be brought to justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department Shri Shaheen Kabra; DGP Shri Nalin Prabhat; Special Director General (Coordination), PHQ, Shri S.J.M Gillani; Principal Secretary Home Shri Chandraker Bharti; Principal Secretary, Finance Shri Santosh D Vaidya; ADGP CID Shri Nitish Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO SASB Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; IGP Kashmir, Shri VK Birdi; IGP Jammu Shri Bhim Sen Tuti; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Shri Vijay Bidhuri; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Shri Ramesh Kumar; MD & CEO J&K Bank, Shri Amitava Chatterjee; DIGs, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, and senior officials of Police and Civil Administration.

LG Manoj Sinha

Gillani; Principal Secretary Home Shri Chandraker Bharti; Principal Secretary, Finance Shri Santosh D Vaidya; ADGP CID Shri Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO SASB Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari and senior officials of SASB, Police and Civil Administration.

The Lieutenant Governor took a comprehensive review of the traffic & security management and all the arrangements in place by the stakeholder departments for the smooth, safe and hassle-free holy pilgrimage.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials for widespread publicity of Traffic Advisory so that common man is not inconvenienced. District Administrations, SSPs, Traffic Police and Stakeholder departments should work in close coordination to ensure movement of pilgrims in designated convoys and smooth implementation of the traffic plan, he said.

He further directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that Lodgement centres

and sanitation units are in good condition.

Flags Off Fleet Of

Ambulances were donated by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) through M/S Quazigund Expressway Private Limited for Hospitals at Qazigund, Banihal, Ramban, Batote, and Gool, under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The deployment of the Ambulances will strengthen emergency healthcare services and ensure timely medical care to the people.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the NHAI and M/S Quazigund Expressway Private limited for their noble initiative.

He also asked the Deputy Commissioner Ramban to explore the possibilities for Hospital on Wheels for the remote areas of the district to ensure equitable, and quality healthcare to all.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Shri Mohammad Alyas Khan, Deputy Commissioner Ramban; Shri RS Yadav, NHAI Regional Officer, J&K; senior officials of NHAI and representatives of M/S Quazigund Expressway Private limited were present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.

Visits Yatri Niwas

of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor took stock of food and lodging of the pilgrims, security, registration counters, power and water supply, health facilities, help desks, sanitation, transportation and emergency services.

At Yatri Niwas, the Lieutenant Governor interacted with devotees of Baba Barfani and extended his warm wishes to pilgrims for a safe, blessed and spiritually fulfilling experience

Addressing the media persons on the sidelines of his visit, the Lieutenant Governor said that a large number of devotees from across the country have arrived for the Yatra, which begins from Jammu tomorrow morning.

"Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a serene, enlightening and lifelong experience. May their pilgrimage be filled with joy, peace, and spiritual bliss.

Improved arrangements have been made for the convenience of the pilgrims. We must carry forward the traditions of J&K and make this yatra a huge success," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The 38-day long Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will commence on 3rd July from the base camp on both the routes and it will culminate on 9th August 2025. The Yatra will be flagged off by the Lieutenant Governor on July 02 from Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by DGP Shri Nalin Prabhat; ADG CRPF, Shri Rajesh Kumar; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Shri Ramesh Kumar; IGP Jammu Shri Bhim Sen Tuti; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya and senior officials from civil administration, police and security forces.

Div Com, IGP

Commissioner SMC Faz Lul Haseeb, SSP Srinagar and other officers from civil administration and police.

The representatives of various associations included President, All J&K Shia Association Darul Jawad Qamarwari, President, All J&K Anjuman Sharia Shian Darul Mustafa Budgam, President, All J&K Anjuman Sharia Shian Yousuf Abad Budgam and Yaadgar-i-Hussaini Committee Guru Bazar Srinagar.

During the meeting, community leaders were urged to exhibit responsible behavior, adhere to time schedule strictly for public convenience & traffic management and to augment strength of volunteers to facilitate mourners during the processions.

Div Com emphasized for close coordination between administration and leaders of associations to ensure smooth & peaceful observance of Muharram.

To protect mourners from heat wave, Div Com instructed Commissioner SMC for deployment of water sprinkler vehicles during processions.

Drought-Like Situation

of Shopian.

"Water levels in the irrigation canals have dropped drastically. We see officials come and inspect, but nothing changes on the ground," said Abdul Rashid, a farmer from Pulwama. "We feel abandoned."

The heatwave has worsened the situation. With little to no rainfall in recent weeks, irrigation sources have dried up, and natural springs are running at alarmingly low levels. Farmers in Awantipora area say the situation is unprecedented. "We have never seen this level of drought in recent years," said Bashir Ahmad Wani.

They questioned that drought-like situations are now common and authorities should have a proper plan in this regard and an emergency pump should have been in place.

Officials from the Irrigation Department acknowledge the crisis. "We are aware of the situation and are trying to deploy available water resources efficiently. However, the water level in canals and streams is exceptionally low due to prolonged dry weather," said a senior official on the condition of anonymity.

"If the government doesn't act now — either by arranging alternate irrigation sources or declaring compensation — thousands of families will suffer crop loss," said Mohammad Amin, a grower from Awantipora.

Farmers urged the administration to declare drought-hit zones and ensure the supply of water through mechanical means where possible.

If we had been aware of this situation before, we would have never sown paddy, and the authorities too should have informed us before, they said.

At many locations, part of the land has been drying up after paddy transplantation, while another part has been left after tilling due to unavailability of water.

"If we lose this crop, it's not just a loss of crops — it's a loss of livelihood, dignity, and sustenance for thousands," said another distressed farmer from Anantnag.

As the skies stay dry and canals turn into dustbeds, the agrarian belt of south Kashmir stares at a crisis that could have long-lasting consequences on food security and rural economy unless swift, concrete steps are taken.

Meanwhile, canals irrigating both agriculture and horticulture land in parts of South Kashmir will remain closed for a few days from tomorrow.

Lift irrigation schemes, which irrigate thousands of canals of horticulture land in Khiram, Sirhama and other villages, will remain closed from tomorrow and this is happening for the first time, as per locals.

"In view of the prevailing drought conditions and prolonged dry spell, Irrigation scheduling (Warbandi) is hereby framed for providing irrigation supplies to all the beneficiaries of the Dadi Canal in a phased manner," reads the notice of the irrigation department, a copy of which lies with KNO.

"During the Irrigation Scheduling (Warbandi), all Lift Irrigation schemes and outlets from villages of Sirigufwara, Hatigam, Nowshehra, Khiram, Sirhama, Sheetipora, Shalagam and Waghama on Dadi canal shall remain closed for day as well as night. The Warbandi Schedule shall be implemented strictly by the field staff, including Zilladari officials in coordination with Pani Samitis and Lumberdars concerned," it adds.

Meanwhile, locals said that completely shutting down lift irrigation schemes is an injustice. They said horticultural areas also deserve irrigation facilities at this time.

All schemes should remain functional either during the day or at night to ensure fair distribution, they said, adding that the Dadi Canal is operating at its usual capacity.

"Just like last year, we are equally concerned about drought-like situations in Dadoo and other areas, and for that, lift irrigation schemes were shut at night in June, so this decision needs to be revised," they said.

The residents have requested Deputy Commissioner Anantnag to intervene at the earliest—(KNO)

Srinagar Logs

minimum settled at 18.2°C, resulting in an overall average temperature of 24.6°C.

The only hotter June on record for the city was in 1978, when the overall average temperature reached 25.0°C, driven by a higher mean maximum of 32.9°C, though the mean minimum that year was lower at 17.1°C, he informed.

"Interestingly, 2008 still holds the record for the highest mean minimum temperature in June at 18.3°C, slightly above this year's figure," Keng said.

Notably, an overall average temperature of 24.6°C — the same as this year — was also recorded in 1971 and 1973, placing 2025 on par with some of the hottest Junes in history.

Qazigund in June 2025 recorded a mean maximum of 30.3°C and a mean minimum of

16.1°C, taking the overall average temperature to 23.2°C — the highest since 1973.

"Back in 1973, the station had logged its hottest June on record with an average of 23.7°C, with slightly higher values — 30.4°C mean maximum and 16.9°C mean minimum," Keng said, adding that June average in 1978 was also 23.2°C, same as this year, though the mean maximum was slightly lower at 30.2°C and the minimum a bit higher at 16.2°C.

Qazigund's highest average minimum for June remains 17.3°C, recorded in 1971, when the overall mean temperature reached 23.3°C, he added.

Meanwhile, Srinagar was once again hotter than the Jammu region today with the mercury settling at 34.2°C while in Qazigund, a maximum temperature of 32.6°C was recorded today.

Pahalgam witnessed a maximum temperature of 30.0°C while Kupwara, Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded 34.7°C, 32.4°C and 24.5°C respectively.

Jammu City, however, recorded below normal temperature at 29.0°C, which was 7.0°C below average temperature.

Banihal recorded a maximum temperature of 29.6°C while Batote, Katra and Bhaderwah recorded 27.5°C, 26.0°C and 31.8°C respectively.

Furthermore, the weatherman here has predicted hot & humid weather conditions with possibility of brief spell of rain and thundershower at scattered places till July 04.

However, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that from July 5 to July 7, generally cloudy weather is expected with possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places. "Few places may receive intense showers with heavy rain at isolated places of Jammu division," he added.

From July 8 to July 10, he said there is a possibility of brief showers at scattered places.

Moreover, in its advisory, the MeT has said that flash floods are expected at few vulnerable places with landslides and mudslides & shooting stones as well during July 5 to July 7

"Rise in water level in rivers, streams, local Nalas & water logging in few low lying areas is also expected during the period," he added—(KNO)

CS Reviews Final

concerned departments.

During his walkthrough of the facility, the Chief Secretary took a detailed assessment of the arrangements ranging from accommodation, sanitation and power supply to security and registration counters. He asked for increasing the number of registration counters to ease the process for the incoming pilgrims and minimize waiting times.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed functioning of the dedicated control room set up to monitor yatra-related activities round-the-clock.

Highlighting the significance of seamless inter-departmental coordination, he later chaired a high-level meeting of officers. He stressed the importance of ensuring a glitch-free and safe experience for the pilgrims during the entire 38-day yatra period. He expressed satisfaction over the meticulous efforts of all the departments. He expressed confidence that the arrangements would offer pilgrims a comfortable and spiritually enriching journey.

Dulloo remarked that every department has worked with utmost dedication to create a conducive environment for the pilgrims. He further observed that our goal is not only to ensure their safety and comfort but also to leave them with a memorable experience that they can carry home with joy.

He also directed the Information Department to run a targeted communication campaign across the social and mass media platforms to provide real-time updates on weather, traffic and yatra advisories. The campaign will also help allay any doubts or apprehensions among the devotees and encourage confident participation in the sacred pilgrimage.

Earlier, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar briefed the Chief Secretary about the upgraded infrastructure and support services put in place this year. He informed that boarding, lodging, power, water supply, sanitation and fire safety services have been significantly enhanced compared to previous years.

IGP, Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti, also gave a comprehensive overview of the multi-layered security grid and traffic management plan developed in coordination with other security forces. He assured that all necessary measures have been taken to ensure a safe, peaceful and well-regulated yatra this year as well.

India and Bhutan deepen strategic defence cooperation during Army Chief's visit

THIMPHU: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday held discussions with Lieutenant General Batoo Tshering, Chief Operations Officer (COO) of the Royal Bhutan Army, to further strengthen military bonds and deepen strategic defence cooperation between India and Bhutan.

The Indian Army Chief arrived in Bhutan on Monday on a four-day official visit aimed at further enhancing the enduring defence cooperation between the two countries. He was given a warm and gracious welcome at the airport by Major General Dorji Rinchen, Deputy Chief Operations Officer (COO) of the Royal Bhutan Army.

On Tuesday, General Dwivedi laid a wreath to pay homage at the National Memorial Chorten in the honour of Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, the third Druk Gyalpo of Bhutan and reviewed an impressive Guard of Honour at Tashichho Dzong, a prominent Buddhist monastery in the capital.

Later, he held insightful interaction with Lieutenant General Tshering, reflecting the deep-rooted trust and camaraderie between the Indian Army and the Royal Bhutan Army.



According to Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI), the COAS also met the Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Sudhakar Dalela to discuss ways to further strengthen the vibrant Indo-Bhutan strategic ties.

During his visit, the COAS will call on Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and also interact with senior officials of the Indian Embassy, Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT) and Project Dantak.

The visit reflects the deep-rooted and time-tested ties between India and Bhutan, and reaffirms

India's commitment to a close and trusted partner.

Meanwhile, the India-Bhutan Development Cooperation talks were held in New Delhi on Monday. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West) Tanmaya Lal while Foreign Secretary of Bhutan Aum Pema Choden headed the visiting delegation.

India and Bhutan share an exemplary partnership characterised by trust, goodwill, mutual understanding at all levels, and strong bonds of friendship and close people-to-people ties.

The Development Cooperation talks are an important bilateral mechanism to review the full spectrum

of India-Bhutan development partnership. The Government of India has committed support of INR/ Bhutanese Ngultrum (Nu) 10,000 Crore (100 billion) for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan period (2024-2029) which would cover Project Tied Assistance (PTA) projects, High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP), support for Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) and budgetary support in the form of Programme Grant.

During the talks, the two sides discussed various components of the support and reviewed the progress in implementation of the projects approved in previous rounds.

INS Udaygiri: Indian Navy inducts second indigenous stealth frigate in record time

NEW DELHI: In a major boost to India's naval capabilities and indigenous defence production, the Indian Navy received INS Udaygiri, the second stealth frigate under Project 17A, on Tuesday.

Delivered just 37 months after its launch, Udaygiri reflects a new standard in efficiency and innovation.

Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, Udaygiri is a state-of-the-art multi-mission frigate designed to operate in 'Blue Water' environments and counter both conventional and non-conventional maritime threats.

"Udaygiri is a modern Avatar of its predecessor, erstwhile INS Udaygiri, which was a Steam Ship, decommissioned on 24 August 2007 after rendering 31 years of glorious service to the nation," said the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

P17A ships have enhanced stealth features and are fitted with 'state-of-the-art' weapons and sensors, a significant upgrade from the P17 class.

"The ships represent a quantum leap in the Indian Navy's in-house design capabilities at the Warship Design Bureau. The newly designed ships are also



being built employing the philosophy of 'Integrated Construction', which involves extensive pre-outfitting at the Block stages to reduce the overall build periods," said MoD.

The hull of P17A ships is geo-symmetrically larger by 4.54 per cent in comparison to P17. These ships are fitted with an advanced weapon and sensor suite with enhanced 'sleek and stealthy' features compared to the P17 class.

The ships are configured with Combined Diesel or

Gas (CODOG) main propulsion plants, comprising a Diesel Engine and Gas turbine, driving a Controllable Pitch Propeller (CPP) on each shaft and a state-of-the-art Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).

The frigate also symbolises the power of 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence production. Over 200 MSMEs contributed to Udaygiri's construction, highlighting India's growing shipbuilding ecosystem.

The project has directly

employed around 4,000 personnel, with over 10,000 more benefiting indirectly through allied sectors. With five more ships under construction and expected to be delivered by the end of 2026, Project 17A marks a new chapter in India's maritime self-reliance and naval modernisation.

The induction of Udaygiri not only strengthens the Indian Navy's combat readiness but also reinforces India's strategic footprint across the Indian Ocean.

Bangladesh clears all pending dues to Adani Power, resolves power purchase pact

NEW DELHI: Reaffirming the Adani Power Ltd assets as a reliable and cost-competitive power source for meeting the country's growing energy needs, Bangladesh has made its single largest payment of \$437 million last month, clearing all pending dues to the company.

The neighbouring country has now requested Adani Power, part of the diversified Adani Group, to supply power from both units as per BPDB (Bangladesh Power Development Board) schedule, since the dues are now settled, according to sources on Tuesday.

The payment includes carrying costs, and issues related to the power purchase agreement (PPA).

Moreover, a Letter of Credit (LC) worth about two months of billing and sovereign guarantee for all dues as additional security has been established, informed sources added. The LCs are worth about two months of billing and a sovereign guarantee for all dues.

Adani Power supplies electricity to Bangladesh from a dedicated 1,600 MW plant located in Godda district of Jharkhand, meeting 10 per cent of the country's power demand.

Under the 2017 deal, Adani Power's Godda power plant was to supply 100 per cent of the electricity generated from burning coal to Bangladesh for a period of 25 years.

Bangladesh had in the past struggled to meet its payment obligations under the 2017 deal owing to rising import costs and domestic political issues. As a result, Adani halved its supply last year, but full supplies were resumed in March 2025 after the country's monthly payments started covering some of the dues.

Over the last couple of months, Bangladesh has been paying \$90-100 million per month. Last month, the country paid \$437 million. This happened after the country suffered from increased power shortages in rural areas.

With these developments, lenders are now confident of improving Adani Power Ltd's credit rating to AA+ from the current AA, which will further bring down its cost of funds.

According to sources, the latest developments vindicate the contract established between the Bangladesh government and Adani Power.

AAP pushing Punjab into financial ruin, says Congress leader Bajwa

CHANDIGARH: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, on Tuesday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Punjab government of pushing the state into financial ruin.

Bajwa highlighted the government's reliance on heavy borrowing, warning that the state is on the brink of bankruptcy.

"The AAP government has drowned Punjab in debt over its three-year tenure. It now plans to borrow Rs 8,500 crore in the second quarter (July-September) of this fiscal year -- Rs 2,000 crore in July, Rs 3,000 crore in August, and Rs 3,500 crore in September. This reckless borrowing shows no regard for the state's financial health," Bajwa said in a statement.

He pointed out that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has appointed former IMF senior economist Arvind Modi as Chief Advisor and former World Bank economist Sebastian James as Advisor (Fiscal Affairs) to revive Punjab's struggling economy.

However, Bajwa questioned the effectiveness of these appointments, stating, "Is this the expertise that globally renowned economists are offering the AAP government? Even AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal, who often boasts about his revenue management skills, has failed to support Punjab in its hour of need."

Bajwa noted that when AAP assumed power in 2022, Punjab's outstanding debt stood at Rs 281,773 crore. By the end of 2025-26, the debt is projected to reach Rs 400,000 crore, with economists estimating it could climb to Rs 450,000 crore by 2026-27, the final year of the AAP's term.

"The people of Punjab will bear the burden of this massive debt through heavy taxation. The AAP government will vanish from Punjab long before the next Assembly elections," Bajwa warned.

Contrary to the Congress leader's assertions, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema claimed that Punjab has seen a record-breaking 44.4 per cent growth in net Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for June 2025 and a substantial 27.01 per cent growth for the first quarter of this fiscal, marking the highest-ever GST revenue growth in a fiscal quarter and for June in the state's history.

EAM Jaishankar reiterates India's right to defend against terrorism, asks Quad understanding

WASHINGTON: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar reiterated on Tuesday India's right to defend itself against terrorism and asked the Quad to understand it as the four-nation group's foreign ministers gathered for their ministerial.

"India has every right to defend its people against terrorism, and we will exercise that right," he said with the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Foreign Ministers Penny Wong of Australia and Takeshi Iwaya of Japan standing beside him.

"We expect our quad partners to understand and appreciate that," he emphasised.

This is the first Quad ministerial where the four foreign ministers will be meeting together after the heinous Pahalagam massacre on April 22 by Pakistan-backed terrorists and India's decisive 'Operation Sindoor' against them.

Referring to the Pahalagam attack, EAM Jaishankar said, "A word about terrorism in the light of our recent experience: The world must display zero tolerance. Victims and perpetrators must never be equated".

Counter-terrorism is one of the elemental items in the Quad agenda.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to host the summit of the Quad leaders later this year with the US President Donald Trump and Prime Ministers Anthony Albanese of Australia and Shigeru Ishiba of Japan.

"We have some proposals on how to make that productive," Jaishankar said. "I'm sure so do our partners, [and] we will discuss and I'm sure we can agree on going about it".

"A lot is happening in the world, and I'm sure that our exchange of views will be very valuable for all of us," he added.

Indo-French joint military exercise 'Shakti 2025' concludes in France

PARIS: The eighth edition of the Indo-French Joint Military Exercise 'Shakti' concluded on Tuesday after two weeks of intensive training and cooperation between the Indian and French armed forces.

Held from June 18 to July 1 in France, the exercise was hosted by the 13th French Foreign Legion Demi-Brigade (13 DBLE) and involved more than 500 personnel from various units of the French Army, Foreign Legion, Navy, and the French Air and Space Force.

India was represented by a 90-member contingent, including a Battalion from the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles and troops from other arms and services. The exercise featured approximately 50 armoured and tactical vehicles, along with fighter jets from both sides.

The exercise was conducted in two phases with the first one, held from June 18 to 21 in Aveyron's Monclar district, focused on joint training in weapon handling, combat drills, and command coordination.

The second phase, from June 22 to 26 in Herault, saw the deployment of the Monclar Combined Arms Tactical Group (GTIA) in an open-field semi-urban combat exercise that tested troops during both day and night operations.

This year's drill emphasised tactical interoperability, use of modern military technology, and refining combat strategies. French legionnaires had previously participated in Shakti 2024 in India, and both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepen military collaboration and share best practices.

"Exercise Shakti was a vital opportunity for Indian and French military personnel to boost joint operational preparedness for facing the toughest combat situations in a sub-conventional environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, with training being conducted in a realistic semi-urban terrain, while strengthening ties with a strategic partner," said a press statement from the French Embassy in New Delhi.

"Serving as an effective platform for exchanging best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs), Exercise SHAKTI will pave the way for deeper cooperation and mutual respect between the French and the Indian armed forces as well as significantly reinforcing the Indo-French defence partnership," it added.

Shubhanshu Shukla leads experiment to decode muscle loss in space

NEW DELHI: IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has undertaken a key experiment to decode muscle health in space -- crucial for astronauts undertaking long space missions as well as for people with muscle loss on Earth.

Shukla last week scripted history by becoming the first Indian to reach the International Space Station (ISS), aboard the Axiom Space's mission -4 He along with three others from the US, Poland, and Hungary and seven members of the Expedition 73 led the muscle and brain research.

"Shukla worked in Kibo's Life Science Glovebox checking muscle stem cell cultures to learn how to maintain muscle health in space," NASA said in a blog post. Studying muscle degradation in microgravity -- a key issue that has long challenged space medicine -- could unlock new therapeutic strategies.

"What happens on going to space is that because gravity is absent, the load goes away and hence muscle loss occurs. So, my experiment is looking at whether we can stop or delay this muscle loss by giving some supplement," Shukla said, during an interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the orbital lab.

"It has a direct implication on Earth too that these supplements can be used on people who suffer muscle loss due to old age. So, I think it can definitely be used there," the IAF Group Captain added.

Axiom Space in its mission statement noted that "the findings can prevent muscle atrophy in astronauts during long space missions".

On Earth, it can lead to "treatments for muscle-related diseases and conditions related to aging or prolonged immobility," the private American said.

Meanwhile, Shukla filmed a video targeted for young Indian students discussing how the digestion system adapts to space. He also filmed the crew activities for the Astronaut Mental Health study, NASA said.

During the 14-day stay at the ISS, the Ax-4 crew will conduct around 60 scientific studies and commercial activities in microgravity representing 31 countries, including the US, India, Poland, Hungary, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Nigeria, UAE, and nations across Europe.

UT Jammu & Kashmir, Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BUDGAM

ENGINEERING COMPLEX BUDGAM

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TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No:-17-DB of 2025-26/ 2109-23 DATED:-30-06-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of Work	Cost of T/ Doc. (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time Of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head Of Accounts
1	2	4	5	6	7	8
1	Stage Contract for Various Govt. Offices Buildings under Jurisdiction of RNB Division Budgam.	Rs.200/-	Rs.8,000/-	F.Y 2025-26	"DEE"	2059 M&B

Position of Funds=committed/ under-process
Project Authority/Authorization= Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Central Kashmir
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-06-2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30-06-2025
3.	Bid submission Start Date	30-06-2025
4.	Bid Submission End Date	09-07-2025 Up-to 4.00 P.M.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	10-07-2025 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Budgam
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOI. The lowest bidders have to provide Rs.20,000/- as Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR

No: 2109-23
DATED:- 30/06/2025

DIPK-3159-25
DT: 01/07/2025

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B Division Budgam.

Sakeena Itoo credits SKIMS's founding to Sher-i-Kashmir

Addresses National Doctors' Day celebrations at SKIMS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday remarked that doctors and healthcare professionals are backbone of our nation's health system, having critical role in shaping a healthier and more resilient society.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the National Doctors Day celebrations at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura here.

Director SKIMS, Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie; former Director SKIMS, Dr. M.S Khuroo; HoDs of different departments and specialities, Medical Superintendent SKIMS, doctors, medical professionals, researchers, scholars and large number of medical students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena said that doctors and healthcare professionals deserve as much appreciation as we can as they form vital for building a prosperous and healthy society. "This day is not just about appreciation, it is about deep recognition of healthcare professionals and doctors. Doctors are not only healers but also pillars of hope for countless families. Their tireless service, often at great personal risk, deserves our highest gratitude", she stated.

The Minister said that doctors play an essential role in preserving life and promoting well-being and their expertise and judgement guide us through some of life's most

critical moments.

She added National Doctors Day in India is celebrated to honour Dr. B. C. Roy a Distinguished Physician and Statesman, whose legacy continues to inspire generations of medical professionals.

Terming doctors as true warriors, Minister Sakeena said that they continue to serve the society with compassion, courage and integrity. She underlined the critical role of medical professionals in shaping a healthier and more resilient society. "Doctors often work under pressure, especially during health crises. Their sacrifices are a true testament to their noble profession and it is our responsibility to acknowledge and respect the contribution of our doctors", she stated.

Recognising and appreciating the invaluable contributions of doctors and healthcare professionals, the Minister said that the Doctor's Day serves as a tribute to the vital role doctors play in healing, protecting and strengthening communities. "They work relentlessly to keep people healthy and safe. The day serves as a tribute to their compassion, resilience and pivotal role in the healthcare ecosystem", she said.

The Minister further said that last few years have taught us that health care is not a privilege, it is a right and our doctors are not optional, they are essential.

While speaking on the importance of SKIMS in delivering advanced healthcare facilities to people of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister Sakeena said that this contribution by Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah is incomparable. She



Sakeena Itoo felicitates JEE, NEET achievers from Govt Institutions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday felicitated champion students from various Government Institutions of Kashmir valley who have excelled in the prestigious JEE and NEET examinations this year.

Principal Secretary, School Education department, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Secretary JKBOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh; Principals, CEOs, faculty members, NEER/JEE achievers, parents and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo lauded the hard work and perseverance of the students and acknowledged the crucial role played by government school teachers in nurturing talent from the grassroots. "These young achievers are not only a

source of pride for their families but also a beacon of hope for the entire region. Their success proves that with dedication and access to quality education, anything is possible", Minister Sakeena stated. She emphasized on the need for continued academic mentorship of government school going children, especially from rural and underprivileged backgrounds to ensure equal opportunities for all.

While appreciating the JEE/NEET achievers, the Minister advised them to take this success forward with your near and dear ones as well as fellow classmates so that they can get inspiration from your success. She also appreciated the teachers and parents of achievers for their contribution in the success of these students.

The Minister on the occasion, also called upon the department to conduct regular capacity building programmes for the teachers as per the demand and evolving needs of education system.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Secretary,

School Education department congratulated the achievers for their remarkable success in JEE/NEET exams. He advised the students to be the flag bearers of inspiration for the young school going students.

In his welcome address, Director School Education Kashmir lauded the hard work and determination of the achievers, emphasizing that their success is a testament to the improving quality of education in government schools.

He also acknowledged the dedication of teachers and the various support programs launched by the department to bridge the educational gap and promote competitive exam preparation among underprivileged students.

The Minister, on the occasion, also distributed tablets among the achievers for their remarkable achievements. Several teachers, nodal officers and other staff was also felicitated by the Minister on the occasion.

also commended the SKIMS faculty and staff for their unwav-

ering dedication to excellence in patient care, research and

medical education, and reiterated the need for greater insti-

tutional support, infrastructure, and training to empower

the healthcare sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

"Glory of SKIMS will be restored and we are examining the ways for restoring engineering wing of the institute", she stated.

In his address, former Director SKIMS, Dr. M S Khuroo spoke on the importance of the day and said that the theme of National Doctor's Day emphasis on the need for well being off doctors who prioritise patient care at the cost of their personal health. He added that being a doctor is blessing as it serves the mankind.

Addressing the gathering, Director SKIMS, Dr. M.Ashraf Ganie spoke in length about the achievements of the institute and said that this day honours the heroes in white coats, who heal with knowledge, compassion, commitment and care.

In his welcome address, HoD Hospital Administration, Dr. G.H Yatoo said that this day is a moment for recognition and commitment of those who chose their life for service of mankind. He added that during global pandemic, we have seen sacrifices of medical professionals behind the mask battling exhaustion and fatigue. He stressed that we need to rededicate ourselves to future where caregivers are respected everyday not only on doctor's day.

Principal SKIMS Medical College, Prof Fazal Qadri; Dean Medical Faculty, Prof. G.M Gulzar and former HoD Hospital Administration, Prof. G.J Qadri, also spoke on the occasion.

The Minister on the occasion also distributed promotion orders among the staff of the institute.

CS discusses industry-driven 'Hub & Spoke Model' for ITI modernization with stakeholders

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant move aimed at transforming the skilling ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting with key government functionaries and prominent industry representatives to deliberate on implementation of the Government of India's flagship scheme for modernization of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) through a hub and spoke model.

The meeting witnessed participation from Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education; Principal Secretary, Finance; CMD, J&K Bank; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD); Director General, Budget; Directors of SDD and I&C (Jammu/Kashmir) and senior representatives from leading public and private sector enterprises including SIDBI, NHPC, TCS, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL, CVVPL, NHAH and others.

The deliberations revolved around the ways



and means of implementing the newly launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled 'National Scheme for ITI Upgradation and Setting up of National Centres of Excellence (NCOE) for Skilling', which carries a massive outlay of ₹60,000 crore, comprising Central share of ₹30,000 crore, State share of ₹20,000 crore and Industry/CSR contribution of ₹10,000 crore.

Addressing the participants, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the success of this ambitious skilling initiative hinges on a robust public-private

partnership. He sought candid inputs from all participants on how best to implement the scheme in the UT to ensure that the youth of J&K are trained with market-relevant skills that make them employable and industry-ready.

He called upon the industry stakeholders to actively adopt and take ownership of hub-and-spoke clusters by aligning them with real-time industrial demands. "You can play a pivotal role not only in shaping the curriculum and upgrading infrastructure but also in nurturing these institutions on professional lines," he told the industry leaders, urging them to sign MoUs for formalizing their commitment under the scheme.

Dulloo further instructed the Skill Development Department to explore potential partnerships with leading PSUs and industrial conglomerates across the country, tapping into their CSR initiatives and technological expertise.

Speaking during the meeting, ACS, Higher Education, Shantmanu encouraged the stakeholders not to be deterred by challeng-

es. He urged for innovative engagement models and suggested leveraging every possible channel for training, mentoring, and eventual placement of youth over time.

Principal Secretary, Finance, echoed similar sentiments and proposed organizing a high-level workshop with national PSUs and corporate houses in Delhi to showcase the opportunities and mutual benefits of investing in J&K's skilling ecosystem. He also recommended benchmarking against successful ITI models in Delhi, Mumbai, and Gujarat that have achieved 100% placement records in recent years.

Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh, suggested exploring models where industry-aligned groups could be entrusted with the day-to-day running of ITIs, thereby ensuring hands-on training and direct linkages to employment.

Secretary, SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, presented the framework of the scheme, highlighting its dual focus—modernizing 1,000 Government ITIs

under a hub and spoke system with revamped industry-aligned trades and establishing five National Centres of Excellence for Skilling at select National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).

He informed that select well-performing ITIs in J&K would be designated as hubs, while nearby institutes would be developed as spokes, each cluster supported by specific industrial partners. These partners are expected to provide managerial support, help in co-designing the course curriculum, deputee expert trainers, provide modern machinery and equipment, and conduct specialized training for instructors.

Further, the industrial partners are mandated to facilitate On-the-Job Training (OJT) and support real-world exposure of trainees, thereby bridging the critical gap between classroom learning and practical industry needs. Each hub is proposed to receive ₹80 crore and each spoke ₹40 crore over five years, with the financial contribution shared in a 50:30:10 ratio by the Centre, State/UT and Industry respectively.

Houseboat Association, Dal dwellers call on CM Omar; flag long-pending issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A deputation comprising Dal dwellers, including representatives of houseboat and shikara owners, Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to apprise him about various issues confronting them.

The meeting was held to address long standing grievances and to discuss the sustainable livelihood solutions for communities dependent on Dal Lake.

The interaction was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Director General Fire & Emergency Services J&K, Commissioner Secretaries of Forest, Ecology & Environment, Tourism, Housing & Urban Development; Director Tourism, Vice Chairpersons of the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Srinagar Development Authority and other senior officials.

Representatives of the Houseboat owners association, Shikara owners union and Dal dwellers' community participated in the meeting and put forth



their concerns and issues.

At the outset, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq gave a detailed briefing to the Chief Minister on the issues raised by the visiting deputation.

The president of the Houseboat owners association highlighted key concerns of the community, particularly the delay in the renewal of licences of houseboats. He also raised the matter of rehabilitation for houseboat owners currently located in River Jhelum and Chounti Khul, who are willing to relocate voluntarily to more sustainable locations. He further stressed the need for dedicated space at Srinagar Airport and Srinagar Railway Station to promote and market houseboats as a unique tourism asset and renovation of facilities at

Chinar Bagh. The demand for setting up a dedicated fire station near Nigeen Lake, given the vulnerability of houseboats to fire accidents, was also reiterated.

Members of the Dal dwellers' community urged the administration to take up urgent repair and renovation work of the wooden culverts and bridges that are integral for community movement, especially ahead of the Muharram processions. They also flagged the need for improvement in basic amenities for the residents living in the interiors of the lake.

They also brought attention to the lack of a reliable mechanism for the transportation of essential ration to the interiors of the lake, affecting the daily lives of inhabitants.

Deputy CM reviews SANJY-2025 arrangements via Baltal axis

Calls for coordinated efforts to ensure smooth, safe Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Tuesday conducted an extensive visit to Baltal to assess the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025 via Baltal axis.

The Deputy CM chaired a high-level meeting at JKTDC Sonamarg and was briefed by the district administration and concerned departments regarding the measures being taken to ensure the safety, comfort and smooth movement of the pilgrims.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister held a detailed department-wise review of the Yatra arrangements at the Baltal Base Camp and along the Yatra

route. Expressing satisfaction over the ongoing preparations, he commended the district administration and all line departments for their timely efforts in making adequate arrangements well in advance.

While interacting with the officers, the Deputy CM emphasized the importance of teamwork and inter-departmental coordination. "The departments are the face of the government on the ground and we must work together to ensure a safe and successful Yatra," he said. He further stated that the successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra would send a positive message across the country and serve as a milestone in reviving tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the significance

of the Yatra, he said, "This is not just a pilgrimage; it is a major festival for the entire Union Territory. Devotees from all corners of the country will visit and it is our collective responsibility to welcome and facilitate them in the best possible manner."

The Deputy Chief Minister also commended the BRO for their significant contribution in development and maintenance of the Yatra track from Domail to the Holy Cave, which plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and accessibility for the pilgrims. He also urged all the departments to remain proactive and ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place, with a special focus on safety, sanitation, healthcare, traffic management and other essential services.

YUVA CONNECT empowering youth for nation building under Viksit Bharat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major stride towards youth-led national development, the YUVA CONNECT initiative under the Viksit Bharat@2047 mission has been launched to ignite civic awareness, leadership and active participation among India's young population.

Spearheaded by the Union Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports, the initiative is being implemented across premier higher education institutions in Jammu and Kashmir. These included IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, NIT Srinagar, Jammu University, SMVDU, AIIMS Vijaypur and various degree colleges.

The initiative was for-

mally introduced during an informative session that outlined the implementation framework, with activities and timelines as per the Concept Note circulated by the Ministry.

The interactive virtual session was chaired by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya and was attended by Sports Ministers for different States/UTs of the country.

Speaking during the interaction session, Minister for Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Satish Sharma, emphasized the pivotal role of youth in shaping a progressive nation. He said, "YUVA CONNECT is not just a program, it's a movement to empower our students with the tools of leader-

ship, civic responsibility and innovation. As we march towards a developed India by 2047, our youth must be at the forefront, acting as torchbearers of social transformation and inclusive development."

The Minister highlighted the need for developing border sports and allied infrastructure in J&K, promoting economic upliftment and provide psychological relief to the residents living in tense border environments. He urged the Union Sports Ministry for prioritising the border areas by providing special financial assistance/package in order to build a better Sports infrastructure and to create a conducive sports environment in these vulnerable areas.

Rana reviews PMGSY projects in Poonch



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat Srinagar to review the status of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects in Poonch.

The meeting aimed to assess the progress on ongoing road projects and identify areas for improvement.

During the review, the Minister directed the concerned authori-

ties to expedite the progress on works and achieve the set targets within the stipulated timelines. He emphasized that completion of these projects would provide tangible benefits to the common masses, including reliable road access and economic opportunities.

The Minister stressed the importance of adhering to quality standards in the projects to ensure development of durable assets. He instructed the officers to conduct regular monitoring of the work being executed in their respective jurisdictions.