

Good Morning Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Congratulations to proud son of Jammu & valiant soldier of Indian Army, Rajat Charak on winning Gold medal at Wushu Asia Cup held in Jilin, China. His stellar performance has brought immense pride to J&K and the entire nation. I wish him continued success & glory in times to come.

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Tourism Returns To Kashmir After Pahalgam Attack: CM Omar

Inaugurates Travel & Tourism Fair Kolkata-2025



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KOLKATA: Tourism is returning to Jammu and Kashmir after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack which killed 26 people, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in Kolkata on Thursday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Travel and Tourism Fair in the city, he hoped for a new beginning of tourism in the Valley.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his privilege in being part of the country's premier travel trade platform. "It is indeed a privilege to be here at TTF Kolkata 2025," he said. "I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the organizers for creating this vital platform that promotes tourism across the country. Jammu & Kashmir is proud to participate as a key stakeholder in India's

tourism growth story."

The Chief Minister elaborated on the remarkable transformation witnessed in Jammu & Kashmir's tourism sector. "J&K has evolved into a year-round, all-segment tourism destination," he noted. "We are not only focusing on traditional sites but have also identified and developed off-beat locations such as Gurez, Bangus, Bhaderwah, Sanasar, Doodhpathri, and Basohli. These destinations have seen significant growth and offer unique experiences to travellers."

Highlighting the J&K's thrust on border tourism, the Chief Minister stated, "We are promoting tourism in areas like Uri, Keran, Teetwal, and Suchetgarh. Our aim is to ensure that local communities benefit directly from tourism-led development. These

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■ Similar Narrative As Of Terror Outfit TRF

'Irresponsible' Statements Of Guests Spoiling J&K Culture Irresponsible: LG

Inaugurates 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025' Exhibition & Public Outreach Initiative In Srinagar

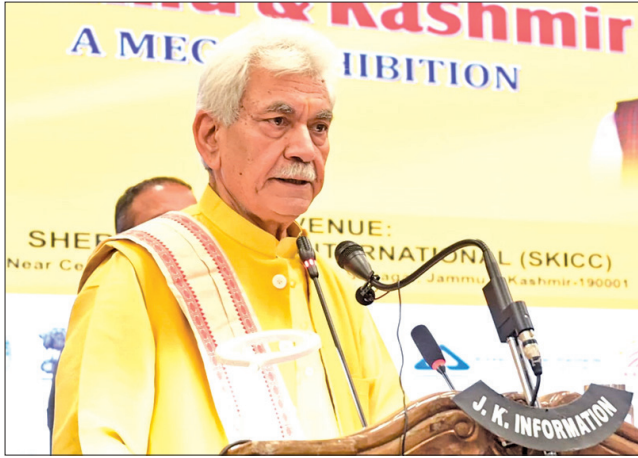
GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that some people are giving irresponsible statements by saying that guests are spoiling the culture of J&K.

"They are stating there is a demographic invasion and alcoholism is spreading. This is the similar narrative as of terror outfit TRF. I appeal to those making such statements to stop peddling such narrative. We have already lost many innocent lives due to similar statements in the past," LG said while inaugurating 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025' exhibition and public outreach initiative at Srinagar.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor issued a stern warning to divisive elements in the society to stop spreading fake and dangerous narratives that threaten peace and harmony.

"Some people are giving irresponsible statements by



saying that guests are spoiling the culture of J&K. They are stating there is a demographic invasion and alcoholism is spreading. This is the similar narrative as of terror outfit TRF. I appeal to those making such statements to stop peddling such narrative. We have already lost many innocent lives due to similar statements in the past" the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his resolve to ensure justice for terror victim families and warned that those responsible for their sufferings will be held accountable.

"We are honoring and delivering justice to real terror victims of Kashmir valley. I recently met terror victim families in Anantnag. SRO-43 was

"We are honoring and delivering justice to real terror victims of Kashmir valley

Instead of those who are entitled for jobs, the killers were granted jobs under SRO-43

Jobs at the doorsteps of the Terror victim families will be ensured

LG lauds 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K' initiative aimed at creating awareness about government schemes

I am looking forward to the day when youth from J&K will join space sector

Since 2014, our great nation is rapidly moving towards becoming a global superpower with new resolve

Within 6 years, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has written a new history of J&K

It's a new J&K where our youth is achieving new heights in innovation and research"

“UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER Shri Narendra Modi, Central Schemes and Innovations will shape our youth's dream into reality. I am looking forward to the day when youth from J&K will join the space sector, become an astronaut to explore new frontiers of space,”

■ All 4 Seats Vacant

No RS Representation For J&K Since 2021

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir has been without representation in the Rajya Sabha for over four and a half years, with all four of its seats currently lying vacant.

According to details accessed, J&K has been without any member in Rajya Sabha, in its own quota, since February 15, 2021 when former MPs Gulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmad Laway completed their terms.

Just days prior, on February 10, 2021, the six-year terms of Mir Muhammad Fayaz and Shamsher Singh Manhas also came to end. Since then, Jammu & Kashmir has remained unrepresented in the Upper House of Parliament.

sented in the Upper House of Parliament.

The Election Commission of India is yet to announce the schedule for filling these berths, even though the electoral college for them has been in place since October 8, 2014, the day when results of J&K Assembly polls were declared. The elected MLAs of the Union Territory constitute the Electoral College for the Rajya Sabha seats.

The Election Commission of India is yet to indicate any timeline for holding RS polls.

Sources, however, disclosed that there is a possibility that RS polls could be held after by-elections for Nagrota and

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Amarnath Yatra: Over 1.45 Lakh Perform Darshan So Far

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

SRINAGAR: Undeterred by intermittent downpours in the valley, thousands of devotees continue their pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, with the total number of yatis who have performed darshan so far crossing the 1.45 lakh mark.

According to official data accessed, 17,022 pilgrims performed darshan at the cave shrine on Thursday, the eighth day of the Yatra on July 3. They visited via twin routes—Baltal in Ganderbal and Nunwan-Pahalgam in Anantnag.

Of the total, 12,471 were male devotees, 4,000 were female pilgrims and 182 were children. The batch also included 108 sadhus, 5 sadhvis and 3 transgender devotees.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 7,307 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on



Thursday morning amid tight security arrangements. The convoy, comprising 284 vehicles, was escorted in two separate groups—one for the Baltal axis and another for the Pahalgam route.

Officials told KNO that the batch included 5,534 men, 1,586 women, 25 children,

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Tourist Revival Sparks New Life In Kashmir's Mughal Gardens

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: With over 79 days after the Pahalgam terrorist attack, signs of tourism revival are evident in Kashmir's iconic Mughal Gardens, with visitors once again flocking to Nishat, Shalimar, Harwan, and Chashme Shahi and other famed green spaces in Srinagar city.

Officials from the Department of Floriculture and those managing the Mughal Gardens said that a strong revival is underway, particularly noticeable over weekends.

"There has been a clear revival. Tourists have started returning in large numbers, and our gardens are witnessing footfall similar to pre-incident days," said an official from the Floriculture Department.

He said the larger gardens like Nishat Bagh in Srinagar are hosting significant footfall. "On weekends, these gardens see anywhere



between 5,000 to 8,000 visitors. Even on weekdays, the numbers are encouraging," he said.

Meanwhile, this wave of return is also visible along Srinagar's once-quiet Boulevard Road and Foreshore Road, where tourists are again lining up for shikara rides, sampling Kashmiri cuisine, and taking photographs on the beautiful Dal Lake Srinagar shores.

Abdul Gani, a shikara operator near Dal Lake, Sri-

nagar, said that for weeks they waited without hope. "Now, the scene is different and there is movement, laughter, and people once again," he said, adding, "As of now, there is a little movement, but we are hopeful that it will soon change into a full revival of the tourism sector."

The Floriculture Department officials said they are maintaining garden infrastructure, seasonal flower beds, and

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MP Khatana Urges Reopening Of Trekking Routes In J&K



Praises LG, says J&K on path of prosperity under his leadership

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR, JUL 10 : Member of Parliament (MP) Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Ali Khatana, on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir is on the path of prosperity under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Addressing a gathering at the inaugural ceremony of 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K-2025' at SKICC, Khatana, praised the LG Sinha for doing a "tremendous" job, leading to the progress and prosperity of the region.

"In the last 30 years, the people

across Jammu and Kashmir have faced distress. But, you have managed to change the scenario by ensuring the students attend their schools," he said, adding that under LG Sinha's leadership, an event like G20 took place here, while the free and fair elections too are appreciable.

"We are happy to witness the progress under your leadership. The elected government should also work on the ground," he said in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor.

The MP appealed to the LG to reopen the trekking spots for the well-being of the people. "As the Law & Order falls under your (LG) jurisdiction, the trekking routes should be reopened again for the people, who have

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CS Reviews Progress, Future Plans Of Mining Deptt

Deptt Sets Revenue Target Of Rs 500 Cr For Current Financial Year

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, held a comprehensive review of the operations and future strategies of the Department of Geology and Mining in a meeting here Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Mining; Director, Mining; MD, JK Minerals besides other concerned officers.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on leveraging technology to curb the illegal mining across the Union Territory. He directed the department

to adopt tools such as GPS tracking, RFID tagging and geo-fencing, along with development of real-time monitoring systems to generate actionable triggers against the violators. He underscored the importance of creating sufficient deterrence, especially against habitual offenders, to ensure strict compliance and transparency in mining operations.

Dulloo further called for expediting the issuance of Letters of Intent (LoIs) in favour of all inoperational mineral blocks. He asked the department to actively liaise with the Union Ministry of Mines, for early assessment and auctioning of

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Buried Under Silt, Wular Lake's Lotus Returns After Decades



SAJID RAINA

BANDIPORA: After a gap of nearly 30 years, lotus flowers have reappeared in Wular Lake in north Kashmir, renewing hope for communities that once depended on the lake for their livelihood.

The flowers, locally known for their edible stems called nadru, had disappeared after the devastating floods of 1992 deposited thick layers of silt across the lakebed.

The revival of the lotus is being attributed to an ongoing desilting and restoration project by the Wular Lake Management Authority.

The initiative, which started in 2020, aimed to restore the lake's original depth and improve water flow by removing silt and waste car-

ried by the Jhelum River and its tributaries.

Mohammad Yaqoob, a local farmer from Watlab village, stood by the water's edge watching the blooms. "We thought this would never return," he said. "My father used to harvest lotus stems here. I used to help him when I was young. Then the flood came and everything changed."

The lake, spread over nearly 200 square kilometres and located between the towns of Bandipora and Sopore, was once a major source of income for hundreds of families.

The lotus stem is a popular ingredient in traditional Kashmiri dishes, and its harvesting provided seasonal employment,

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J&K Govt embarks on study to establish IT, ITES Parks

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a decisive move to strengthen the IT landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, the government has initiated a detailed study to explore models for setting up IT/ITES Parks across the Union Territory as envisioned in the J&K IT Policy 2020.

A high level meeting chaired by Secretary, IT Department, Dr Piyush Singla, brought together members of the Study Group comprising senior officials from the IT Department, Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), Planning Department, IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu and SeMT to chart out the road-map for developing state-of-the-art IT/ITES Parks in J&K.

Dr. Singla underscored the importance of adopting best practices from leading IT Parks in India to ensure the success and sustainability of similar initiatives in J&K. He highlighted that these efforts are aligned with the UT's IT Policy 2020, which envisions IT Parks in Jammu and Srinagar to spur innovation, generate employment and attract investments.

The meeting featured a presentation by Chief Innovation Officer, IIT Jammu,



MT Arvind, showcasing preliminary findings on prominent IT and research parks across India. These included Electronics City (Karnataka), HITEC City (Telangana), T-Hub Hyderabad, Technopark Trivandrum (Kerala) and IIT Madras Research Park. The presentation detailed key aspects such as investment models, governance frameworks, operational best practices and policy support mechanisms.

Discussions also focused on distinguishing between research parks, incubation centers and full-scale IT Parks, with an emphasis on fostering innovation, integrating emerging technologies and creating an enabling ecosystem for startups and Global Capability Centres (GCCs). Chief Executive Officer,

JaKeGA, Mahima Madaan, referenced the IT Infrastructure Development Private Limited, established in 2019, as a potential vehicle for anchoring such initiatives. Meanwhile, Director Planning briefed about the Center for Innovation, Transformation, and Governance (C-TAG) set up in partnership with IIM Jammu to drive policy innovation.

Dr. Guneeet Soodan, Director, University of Jammu and OSD to the Vice Chairman of J&K Higher Education Council, stressed the need for a collaborative ecosystem with strong government-industry-academia partnerships to attract major players and ensure availability of skilled manpower.

As a key outcome, the Study Group resolved to

conduct field visits to successful IT Park models such as T-Hub and Cyberabad in Hyderabad and IIT Madras Research Park in Chennai. These visits aim to provide first-hand insights into operational dynamics, governance mechanisms and innovation ecosystems.

Dr. Piyush Singla stated that "This initiative reflects our commitment to transform Jammu & Kashmir into a digital and innovation-driven economy. By learning from India's most successful IT ecosystems, we will develop a sustainable, future-ready framework for IT/ITES Parks in the UT, he added. He said that these parks will not only catalyze job creation and investments but also position J&K as a key player in India's digital growth story.

Chairman, DLSA G'bal holds review meeting with Judicial Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir, convened a crucial meeting of all judicial officers of district Ganderbal Thursday in his office chamber, here.

The meeting focused on the Mediation 'For the Nation' campaign, a 90-day mediation drive aimed at settling pending cases in all Taluka Courts, District Courts, and High Courts of India through mediation.

This initiative seeks to reduce the burden on courts and promote amicable settlements, preparation for a special Lok-Adalat scheduled for July 26, 2025, focusing on Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) and matrimonial cases.

The objective is to resolve these cases through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, ensuring speedy justice and reducing pendency, and review of cases pertaining to serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris, a review of the



status of cases involving serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris, with an emphasis on their amicable settlement through the Lok-Adalat process. This initiative demonstrates the commitment to providing support and justice to these individuals and their families.

The meeting deliberated on strategies to identify cases suitable for mediation and Lok-Adalat, emphasizing the importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in reducing pending cases. Judicial officers exchanged valuable insights, and an action plan was formulated to execute these initiatives

effectively. The key objectives of the meeting was to encourage the use of mediation and Lok-Adalat to settle disputes, reducing the burden on courts and promoting speedy justice, focus on resolving pending cases, particularly those involving serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris, through amicable settlements and Ensure that all parties, especially vulnerable groups, have access to justice through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

During the session, Chairman DLSA stressed on the judicial officers to identify and prioritize

cases related to serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris. He added that these sections of society have made immense contributions and sacrifices for the nation and must receive expedited and respectful access to justice, and it is our duty to ensure that the families of armed forces personnel, including Veer Naris, do not face unnecessary legal delays. Their cases must be identified and resolved with utmost sensitivity and urgency.

The meeting was attended by all judicial officers of district Ganderbal, including Rafia Hassan, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ganderbal; Tabasum, Sub Judge/ C/JM, Ganderbal; Mufti Nahida, Munsiff/ JM/C, Kangan; Mahoor, Munsiff/ JM/C, Ganderbal, and Moonis Wahid, ASMM, Ganderbal.

By promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and focusing on specific cases, DLSA Ganderbal aims to provide speedy justice and support to all parties involved.

DSEK, SCERT-JK launch Induction Training for School Heads

Introduce Institutional Plan Module to strengthen leadership across Kashmir



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), in collaboration with the SCERT-JK, launched a three-day 'Induction Training Programme' for newly promoted Headmasters from Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, and Pulwama districts.

Hosted at the SCERT-JK campus, the training aims to equip school heads with the knowledge and leadership skills necessary to implement effective and coherent institutional planning.

Organized under the aegis of the DSEK and School Leadership Academy (SLA), SCERT-JK - Kashmir Division, the programme seeks to strengthen instructional and administrative leadership in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. G.N. Itoo, Director School Education Kashmir, as chief guest, and was hosted by Syed Shabir Ahmad, Joint Director, SCERT-JK.

A significant highlight

of the programme was the official release of the training module titled 'Developing Institutional Plan' by Director Dr. G.N. Itoo. Commending the School Leadership Academy for designing a comprehensive and actionable framework, Dr. Itoo urged the participating Heads of Institutions (HOIs) to adopt structured and goal-oriented approaches to school planning and development.

Director also interacted with the trainees, encouraging them to lead with integrity, inclusivity, and innovation. Stressing their dual role as instructional and administrative leaders, he called on school heads to foster learner-centric environments, drive data-informed decision-making, and implement Institutional Development Plans with accountability and vision.

In his address, Syed Shabir Ahmad, JD SCERT, emphasized the phased rollout of the programme across all ten districts of Kashmir, and applauded the coordinators for curating a module that fosters leadership excellence and school improvement.

Vyas Purnima observed at Ladhoo Pampore after 35 years

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: In a moment etched with emotion, reverence, harmony and hope, the native Pandit community gathered today at Shree Jeevan Sahib, Ladhoo, Pampore to celebrate Vyas Purnima after a gap of 35 years. The event also commemorated the Nirvan Divas of the revered saint Swami Jeevan Sahib Ji and was organised by the Swami Jeevan Sahib Baradari Religious Trust.

The event included traditional Pooja and Havan ceremonies,

accompanied by recitations and devotional hymns. The event provided an opportunity for the community to reconnect with their place of origin and revive longstanding religious traditions.

The local Muslim community warmly welcomed their long-separated neighbours, reviving the enduring spirit of Kashmiriyat. The elders of both fraternities reminisced about the days of harmony, festivity and togetherness, rekindling memories of a time rooted in shared humanity and mutual respect.

Deptt of Fisheries Kupwara observes National Fish Farmers Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Department of Fisheries Kupwara celebrated National Fish Farmers Day by organizing a one-day workshop on Biofloc Fish Farming in collaboration with GDC Baramulla and GDC Handwara.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 50 students and progressive fish farmers across the district.

Assistant Director Fisheries, Dr. Salman Rauoof Chalkoo delivered an insightful technical ses-

sion on Biofloc technology and its potential in boosting fish productivity and self-employment.

A key highlight was the launch of Dr. Chalkoo's book 'Agri Economy,' aimed at supporting rural development and agri-entrepreneurship.

Participants also visited operational Biofloc units in Kupwara for hands-on learning. The event concluded with a commitment to strengthening the fisheries sector through innovation, education, and government schemes like PMMSY and HADP.

DC B'pora visits Gurez, reviews developmental projects

Ensure 100% saturation across all indicators: DC to officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, conducted an extensive tour of the Gurez Sub-Division on Thursday to review ongoing developmental works and assess overall progress in the region.

During the visit, DC chaired a meeting with sub-divisional officers and other concerned officials to take a sector-wise review of the developmental initiatives currently under implementation.

On the occasion, SDM Gurez briefed the meeting on the status of various projects and shared updates on the progress made so far. DC emphasized the importance of timely execution and accountability in delivering public services.

It is worth mentioning that the visit comes in the backdrop of district Bandipora securing 2nd rank in the North Zone under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Block Programme (ABP). Tulail Block, identified as the focal block for the

initiative, has shown commendable progress across multiple key development indicators, ranking 2nd in Jammu & Kashmir for the quarter ending March 2025 (FY 2024-25).

On the occasion, a threadbare discussion was held on the weak indicators of Aspirational Block Tulail, with particular focus on the health and education sectors. DC called for renewed efforts to improve progress in these critical areas. He also sought proposals from each department outlining actionable measures to address the gaps and improve overall performance.

While reviewing the performance under the ABP, DC underscored the need for intensified and coordinated efforts from all departments. He directed concerned officers to ensure 100% saturation across all indicators.

Among others, the meeting was attended by CPO Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool and officers from other concerned departments.

DLSA Budgam holds awareness program on female foeticide, POCSO Act

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, in collaboration with Legal Literacy Club Government Higher Secondary School Khan Sahib, Budgam conducted an impactful awareness program at Legal Literacy Club Khan Sahib, which focused on key issues including female foeticide, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The event was successfully conducted under the leadership of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman DLSA Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

Abdul Qayoom Shah HOD Botany Legal Literacy Club Khan Sahib Budgam, Dr. Khan Muneer Aslam, Teacher incharge and Mehraj-ud-din Shah PLV DLSA Budgam were the resource persons. They emphasized the importance of the initiative and discussed the grave impact of female foeticide and also apprised the students regarding various provisions of POCSO Act,

providing valuable information on child sexual abuse and students' rights to report such incidents, ensuring they are aware of the legal protections available.

They said that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation in India enacted in 2012 to protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography. It aims to provide a safe environment for children and punish offenders, while also offering support and rehabilitation for victims. The Act was amended in 2019 to make punishments more stringent.

The initiative aimed to empower students with crucial knowledge and encourage them to become proactive in promoting gender equality and safeguarding children from harm.

The session saw active participation from the school principal, in-charge teacher of the Legal Literacy Club, staff members of Government Girls Higher Secondary School Khan Sahib, and para-legal volunteers from DLSA Budgam

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION GUREZ

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

(R&B) E-NIT No. 19 /2025-26/EE/R&B/Grz/1798-1806/E-tendering/Dated: 08-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited from reputed Architectural Consultants/firms/Companies for empanelment with PWD (R&B) Division Gurez, for providing comprehensive Consultancy Services for various works under its territorial jurisdiction.

S.No	Name of Work	Cost of T. Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money CDR/ FDR. (In Rupees)	Class of Contractor
01	Engagement of consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Reports- survey of Roads site inspection of Bridges and Buildings including structural design Architectural drawings / plan soil investigation, Detailed Estimates, Bill of Quantities along with all relevant drawings, L/ sections, X sections complete job duly authenticated and vetted by third party i.e (NIT/DIQC/IIT) and Chief town planner for all works/DPRs under the territorial jurisdiction of PWD (R&B) Division Gurez.	1000/-	20000/-	Reg. Consultancy Firm.

Position of funds:Demandad

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	08-07-2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 09-07-2025 (10:00 AM) To 14-07-2025 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 09-07-2025 (10:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 14-07-2025 (04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	15-07-2025 (10:00 AM) In the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Gurez

DIPK-3500-25
DT: 10/07/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Gurez

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, (JAL SHAKTI) PHE, MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SGR.

GIST FOR E-TENDER.

Short Term E-N.I.T. No:- PHE/MRD/TS/ 27 of 07/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short term e-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Electrical repairs of urgent nature to be carried out at WSS	Padshahi Bagh	0.268	50/=	03 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.

1. Publishing Date	09-07-2025 (5:00 PM)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids	09-07-2025 (5:00 PM) to 15-07-2025 (11:00 AM)
3. Period of Submission of bids	09-07-2025 (5:00 PM) to 15-07-2025 (11:00 AM)
4. Date of opening of Tender/Timing	15-07-2025 at (12:00 P.M)
5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
6. Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)	
7. Bid Validity Period: 90 Days	
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in	
9. Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is enclosed in the Bid Document	

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 5% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/ FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.

No:- PHE/MRD/TS/1245-49
DT:- 09-07-2025

DIPK-3503-25
DT: 10/07/2025

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural
Division Srinagar.

CS reviews functioning of DMRR&R; assesses measures for displaced populations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday held a review meeting regarding functioning of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R).

The meeting had a detailed assessment of the measures being taken by the department for disaster mitigation besides welfare of different displaced categories of populations.

Principal Secretary, Home and DMRR&R Departments; Principal Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, PWD; Secretary, Law; Relief Commissioner; Chief Engineers and other concerned officers and officials of the Department attended the meeting.

Dulloo asked the department to implement robust measures to make J&K disaster-resilient. He emphasised the need for a proactive approach to mitigate the impact of disasters the UT is prone to, rather than just responding after they

He impressed upon the department to further gear up for action plans formulation regarding different disasters the UT is vulnerable to. He advised for taking mitigation measures after carrying out expeditions to safeguard the region from any Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF).

The Chief Secretary



took stock of updated status of the transit accommodations created for the migrant employees in Kashmir Valley. He called for rapid execution of the ongoing works so that all the 6000 flats are allotted to these employees without any further delay.

Dulloo also took appraisal of implementation of relief and rehabilitation package being extended to the displaced persons of PoJK/Chhamb and the West Pakistani Refugees by the Central Government. He called for disbursement of relief amounts to all the eligible families and giving opportunity to those who had not yet received the benefits despite being eligible for the same.

The Chief Secretary took note of other welfare measures like onboarding of migrants registered with Relief Organisation on NFSA, database for extension of different social security schemes to them. He called for extending such benefits to them forthwith for they have rights to such benefits like other groups of population.

Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker

Bharti, informed the meeting about different activities and achievements including strengthening of UT, Divisional and District level disaster management authorities by deploying necessary manpower there.

He also revealed that the department, for first time, has established a Disaster Mitigation Fund earmarking an amount of Rs 39 crore for augmenting the disaster management infrastructure. He also made a mention of establishment of the Directorate of Disaster Management for which the necessary approval had been sought from the Finance Department.

Furthermore, it was revealed that the Disaster Management Authority and Disaster Advisory Committee have been constituted to enhance disaster management efforts. Additionally, plans are underway to establish an Institute of Disaster Management & Training Academy to develop a skilled workforce equipped to handle various disasters.

Other initiatives discussed in the meeting included working of Emer-

gency Response Support System (ERSS) with a toll free number of 112, Common Alert Protocol (CAP) by integrating alert generating agencies like IMD, CWC, INCOIS, DGRE and FSI, status of IDRN and Decision Support System in the DMRR&R Department.

Earlier, a presentation was made about the benefits and plans devised for welfare of different categories of migrants from Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

The meeting also discussed in detail the location wise status of 6000 transit accommodations for Kashmiri Pandit (PM Package) employees besides recruitment of rest of the designated posts. Besides, it took note of the progress on outreach campaigns being conducted to cover PoJK and other West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) under the Rehabilitation Package.

Other developmental activities reviewed in the meeting included establishment of 'PoJK Bhawan' at Suketar, community hall at Mini township Jagti and other relief measures being carried out for these displaced communities.

Sakeena Itoo reviews healthcare scenario in Budhal, Surankote constituencies

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Thursday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review overall healthcare infrastructure and facilities in Budhal and Surankote Assembly Constituencies.

MLA Budhal, Javid Iqbal Choudhary; MLA Surankote, Choudhary Mohammad Akram; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed; Director Health Services Jammu, Chief Medical Officers of Rajouri and Poonch districts besides other senior officers of health department attended the meeting in person and virtually.

The Minister had in-depth assessment of existing healthcare infrastruc-



ture and its associated facilities in Budhal and Surankote Assembly Constituencies. She also took stock of medical equipments, medicines and other essential facilities available for the people of these far flung areas.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized on the need for strengthening healthcare infrastructure, upgrading medical equipment and ensuring availability of essential medicines in remote areas

of these constituencies. She asked the officers to establish tele medicine facilities in these areas, especially in critical spots having less nearby health facilities. She further asked them to ensure ample quantity of life saving drugs available in these places as it will reduce the chances of fatalities during referral.

Taking strong notice of shortage of specialist doctors, the Minister directed the Secretary Health and

Director Health to cancel all attachments immediately and post them at their designated places. She also asked them to deploy specialist doctors on roster basis at the health facilities of these constituencies in order to amplify healthcare services in these areas.

The Minister asked the Secretary Health and Director Health to initiate action against the doctors indulging in private practice during working hours. She asked them to conduct surprise inspections of health facilities in order to make the doctors and other paramedical staff more accountable.

The Minister, during the meeting, also called for generating maximum awareness regarding PMJAY SEHAT scheme among the people of these areas so that they can take desired benefits from it.

Preserving our ecosystem, a collective responsibility: Committee



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Legislative Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Thursday expressed serious concern over the environmental degradation and called for coordinated efforts to address the escalating crisis.

The meeting was presided over by Chairman of the Committee, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and attended by MLAs Peerzada Mohammad Syed, Yudhvir Sethi, Choudhary Zafar Ali Khatana, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Mush-taq Ahmad Guroo, Irshad Rasool Kar and members of the Committee.

Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) led by its Chairman Khurshid Ahmad Ganie also attended the meeting and put forth their views and suggestions.

While speaking on the occasion, Tarigami said that there is a need to identify issues where we

can intervene together for improving the environmental health of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Environment plays a vital role in people's physical, mental and social well-being. We have to move ahead in the direction of protecting our environment to do justice with the job entrusted by the House," he said. He added that protection of our ecology is a question of our present and future generations and we have to work collectively in this direction.

"The environmental health is our survival and denial of this fact will prove to be disastrous if immediate measures are not taken to ensure its preservation. It is high time that each one of us in JK realize that the environment is our collective responsibility and everyone has a role to play in preserving and protecting it in every possible way with a sensible approach," he added.

"Whatever the limitations in the present circum-

stances but there should be no excuses in asserting ourselves towards protection of our natural resources", he continued.

The members also condemned the reckless felling of trees from time to time and warned that the elements of nature are all inter-related and has an impact on our very possibility to exist on this planet.

During the meeting, Khurshid Ahmad Ganie and its other members emphasized that the government should think seriously on climate action plan in order to address the environmental issues confronting us. They also highlighted the increase in vehicular pollution due to increasing number of households possessing vehicles and stressed the need for strengthening of public transport.

It was also highlighted during the meeting that Environmental Impact Assessment should be done on all projects in JK before their implementation.

Delegation of PHDCCI Kashmir calls on Javid Dar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A delegation of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) Kashmir, led by its Chairman A P Vikey Shaw, Thursday met Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, at the Civil Secretariat here.

The delegation discussed issues and proposals for development of Agriculture, Horticulture and allied sectors in Jammu & Kashmir.

Also present were Co-Chairman, Javid Anim, EC Members of PHDCCI Bilal Kawoosa, Fayaz Ahamd and Nasir Rather.

The delegations extended gratitude to the Minister for his unwavering support towards the department of agricultural, horticulture and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

The PHDCCI members submitted a memorandum outlining several demands and issues. These included establishment of a cold storage facility at Lassipora, conduct of an agricultural, horticulture and allied sectors exhibition in Kashmir and strict enforcement of regulations to prevent unauthorized imports and safeguard the horticultural industry.

The Minister listened to the delegation's concerns and assured them that their issues and concerns will be considered for redress.

JASHN-E-SARHAD

Grand Border Festival held at Shahdara Uri under Vibrant Villages Programme



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In a remarkable celebration of cultural harmony, heritage and development, a day-long mega Border Festival 'Jashn-e-Sarhad, Sufi Saaz ke Sang' was held Thursday at Shahdara Sharief in Uri under the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP-II).

The grand festival was organized through a joint collaboration between the Directorate of Information and PR, Jammu and Kashmir, and the District Administration Baramulla.

The festival was graced by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Uri, Dr. Sajad Shafi, as the chief guest and was attended by a host of dignitaries, including DIG North Kashmir, Masqood-ul-Zaman; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Commander 161 Brigade, Brig. Manish Sehgal; SSP Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari and several other senior civil and army officers.

The event drew an enthusiastic crowd of hundreds from Shahdara village and adjoining border villages, transforming the serene Sufi site into a lively hub of celebration and civic engagement.

District Information Officer Baramulla, Ifthakhar Naseem, in his welcome address set the tone for a day filled with cultural vibrancy and administrative outreach.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA expressed his gratitude to the district administration for organizing the festival and

urged for more such events to boost eco, border, and pilgrimage tourism in the region.

The festival featured a rich showcase of musical and cultural performances, reflecting the spirit of the border region and its Sufi heritage. Electrifying acts by Jhankar Band, Pir Panjal Strings, Ishfaq Ahmad (Bal Puraskar Awardee), and a soulful presentation by the Police Band captivated the audience throughout the event.

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Baramulla, Choudhary Mudasir Hussain, addressed the gathering and highlighted key components of the Vibrant Villages Programme being implemented in the district, including all-weather road connectivity, cultural and linguistic preservation, and public health and education infrastructure in the border belt.

Earlier in the day, the dignitaries inspected stalls set up by various departments such as Health, Education, ICDS, Handicrafts, and the Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), providing citizens with vital information on government welfare schemes, healthcare services, livelihood opportunities, and women-centric empowerment initiatives.

The festival not only offered a vibrant cultural platform to the border residents but also served as a testament to the government's commitment under Vibrant Villages Programme Phase II to integrate development with tradition and inclusion with innovation.

"Clean Jammu Green Jammu Campaign" J&K High Court conducts plantation drive at Janipur complex

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A plantation drive was carried out in the Jammu High Court premises under the "Clean Jammu Green Jammu Campaign" and "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative.

Under the directions and patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Arun Palli, a plantation drive was organized today in the High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu Municipal Corporation and Urban Forestry (Jammu Division) under the Chairmanship of Justice Sindhu Sharma.

Present on the occasion were Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani and Justice Shahzad Azeem who participated in the plantation drive by planting saplings of different varieties of ornamen-

tal trees including Chinar, Jacaranda and Gulmohar.

President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Nirmal Kotwal and members of executive body of Bar Association also took part in the plantation drive.

The event was organized to commemorate Guru Purnima as a contribution to mother nature with the aim to inspire the general public to make Jammu city clean and green, creating a safer environment for the future generations.

Sandeep Kour Registrar Judicial, High Court Jammu Wing, Meyank Gupta Joint Registrar Judicial/Protocol, High Court Jammu Wing, Ajay Kumar Additional Registrar besides other officers and officials of the registry were also present on the occasion. Officers from Jammu Municipal Corporation including In-charge IEC JMC, Dr. Divya Sharma, Dr. Rabia Khan AFO, JMC and officials from Urban forestry division Jammu also joined the event.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POSHAN PROJECT ANANTNAG

EXTENSION NOTICE

In view of poor response of the advertisement issued vide Notification No. 01 of 2025 Dated 04.06.2025 for the post of AWH of AWC Qazi Mohalla -B of MC Ward Qazi Mohalla 19 and its extension vide No. CDPO/ poshan /Ang/2025-26/115-123 Dated 25.06.2025. the last date has been further extended up to 20 July 2025.

No:-CDPOS/POSHAN/Ang/2025-26/168-76
Dated: 08.07.2025
Child Development Project Officer Anantnag
DIPK-3552-25
DT: 10/07/2025

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE)

DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN,NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail:-phegwd@yahoo.com, Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 2ND.

Subject: Construction of Gravel Packed Production Tube Well at Water Supply Shame Katchpora Baghatpora.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 14-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./ 2323-36, dated: 13-06-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_278846_1.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised videe-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 09-07-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	16-07-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	17-07-2025 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./3130-43

Dated: 09-07-2025.

DIPK-3532-25

DT: 10/07/2025

Sd/=

Executive Engineer

Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ESTATES KASHMIR

E-mail:-ddestsg@gmail.com

Tel /Fax: 0194-2452435

Notice for Attendance Statement of Government Employees

Sub:- Attendance statement of government employees lodged in Pvt. hotels / Guest Houses and JKTDC Hotels for the Summer Session 2025 - required in connection with payment of catering charges to Hoteliers.

All the Drawing and Disbursing officers are requested to furnish Leave Statement / Tour Diary of employees for the month of May and June 2025 who are / were availing mess facilities in the hotels hired by the Estates Department and have remained out of their Head Quarters, whether on leave or tour enabling this office to make payment to the hoteliers in accordance with actual attendance of the inmates in their respective hotels after deducting the period outside station. The requisite information may kindly be furnished to this office by or before 20th July, 2025.

In case no information is received by or before 20th July, 2025, ft will be presumed that no officer / official under your administrative control and availing Hotel / Mess facility has proceeded on leave and payment shall be released in favour of the hoteliers. The information may please be furnished to this office through a special messenger under proper acknowledgement or through email: ddestsg@gmail.com

The matter may kindly be treated a& most urgent

No. DDES/Pvt hotel/2025/2710-11

Dated. 08/07/2025.

DIPK-3540-25

DT: 10/07/2025

Deputy Director Estate

Srinagar Kashmir

Exemplary Role Of J&K Police In Amarnath Yatra

The sacred Amarnath Ji Yatra, a spiritual journey undertaken by thousands of devotees each year, is once again progressing smoothly in 2025, thanks to the tireless efforts and unwavering commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Under the astute leadership of the Director General of Police (DGP), the police force has demonstrated exceptional coordination, preparedness, and sensitivity in ensuring that the yatra remains a safe and hassle-free experience for all pilgrims. Managing a pilgrimage of this scale, through arduous terrain, unpredictable weather conditions, and potential security threats, is no small task. Yet, the J&K Police, working hand-in-hand with other security and administrative agencies, have transformed this complex operation into a model of efficiency and discipline. From the deployment of personnel in remote corners of the valley to the establishment of help desks, traffic management, and real-time monitoring systems, every detail has been meticulously planned and executed. Special praise must be accorded to the on-ground police personnel, whose dedication often goes unnoticed. Working long hours in challenging conditions, they remain vigilant and courteous, ensuring not just the physical security of the yatris, but also providing guidance, support, and a reassuring presence throughout the route. Their professionalism and empathy have significantly contributed to building trust between the force and the pilgrims. The leadership of the DGP has been pivotal in steering these efforts. A clear vision, proactive planning, and a focus on community engagement have fostered an environment of cooperation and calm. By emphasizing both security and service, the J&K Police have upheld the sanctity of the yatra while reinforcing the broader message of peace and resilience in the region. As the yatra continues in the coming weeks, the contribution of the Jammu and Kashmir Police stands as a testament to what dedicated public service can achieve. Their role in facilitating this important religious journey not only strengthens the spiritual fabric of the nation but also showcases the improving security and administrative framework of the Union Territory. In these times when faith and safety must go hand in hand, the smooth conduct of the Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 is both a logistical achievement and a symbol of harmony. For that, the Jammu and Kashmir Police deserve the gratitude of a nation.

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The Crumbling Classroom

RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

Education has always played a pivotal role in transforming lives and shifting fortunes. When Hiroshima and Nagasaki were devastated by nuclear bombs, Japan was offered anything it desired in reparations. Their demand? Education for their youth. Today, the world witnesses the outcome of that choice—Japan stands as a global leader in technology, all thanks to the power of education.

Every major religion emphasizes the importance of education for both men and women. Islam, in particular, places unparalleled emphasis on learning, declaring it obligatory (Farz) for all—regardless of gender. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) urged seeking knowledge "even if one must travel to China." This underscores Islam's unwavering commitment to education without gender bias.

History remembers great minds like Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates for their contributions to knowledge. In Islamic tradition, Hazrat Ali (RA) is revered as the "Gate of Knowledge." The Prophet (PBUH) declared, "I am the city of knowledge, and Ali is its gate." Scholars like Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Bukhari, Imam Muslim, and others left an indelible mark on history solely through their pursuit and dissemination of knowledge.

Iqbal's Warning: Education Without Faith

The renowned poet-philosopher Allama Iqbal (RA) cautioned against knowledge detached from divine purpose:

"Far from Allah, even education is a temptation,

Wealth, children, power—all are temptation,

Even the sword raised for justice becomes temptation,

The sword, the battle cry—all are temptation."

Iqbal, a towering intellectual of his time, labeled anything that distracts from Allah as fitna (temptation). However, he did not condemn education itself but warned against its misuse. True education instills discipline, not vulgarity.

The Decline of Morality in Modern



Education

Once, shouting and clapping were considered disrespectful; today, they are mistaken for appreciation. Islam condemns loud, disruptive behavior, comparing it to "the braying of a donkey." Yet, society now celebrates vulgarity under the guise of entertainment.

Educational institutions, once sanctuaries of learning, have become hubs of immorality and indecency. In the past, schools invited scholars, scientists, and writers as guest speakers. Now, vulgar YouTubers are given platforms, undermining the very essence of education.

Recently, a notoriously vulgar YouTuber was invited as the chief guest at Government Degree College, Shopian. This sparked outrage across Kashmir, with people rightly condemning the move on social media. How can such a figure be honored in an institution

meant to uphold moral and intellectual values?

This is not just a betrayal of Islamic teachings but also a disgrace to academia. As Iqbal poignantly asked:

"You may be a Syed, Mirza, or Afghan—but tell me, are you also a Muslim?"

We have lost the values that define us as Muslims. Our morals have been buried deep, sacrificed at the altar of cheap entertainment and social media fame.

Extra-curricular activities, now misleadingly called "co-curricular," once included debates, seminars, Naat competitions, and essay writing. Today, they have been replaced by vulgar dances and obscene performances.

India struggled for 150 years to break free from British rule—only to blindly adopt their degenerate culture under the false banner of "modernity." As Iqbal warned:

She Who Gave Me Life: Honouring The Sacred Presence Of A Mother

MOHD AMIN MIR

In a world obsessed with achievement, speed, and digital miracles, there remains one constant, timeless truth: the unmatched presence of a mother. Before we uttered our first word, she understood our cries. Before we stood on our own feet, she bent hers so we could learn balance. She gave us not just life, but a purpose, a pulse, a prayer. And in this fast-changing society, as structures of tradition evolve and modernity races forward, we must pause and remember: to honour one's mother is not merely an act of love—it is an act of civilisation itself.

This article is not just a tribute to my own mother—though I owe her everything—it is a cultural and spiritual appeal to reinstate the sacredness of motherhood in a society that too often forgets the source from which all love flows.

A Personal Beginning: The Sun in My Sky

My mother was not a scholar, nor a celebrity, nor a CEO. But she taught me the finest truths about life without ever entering a classroom. She did not speak in polished English, but her words carried the poetry of centuries. She did not teach me from textbooks, but her actions were scriptures.

She rose before dawn, with hands calloused yet tender, reciting prayers not only for herself but for the entire family, neighbors, even strangers. In her silence, there was wisdom. In her gaze, there was protection. She did not just raise me—she built me.

Her lap was my first university, her lullabies my first hymns. When I fell, she healed not just my wounds but my fears. And when I succeeded, her tears were my real reward. What is the measure of a mother's contribution? The question itself is flawed—how does one measure infinity?

Cultural Foundations: The Sanctity of Motherhood in Indian Ethos

India, from time immemorial, has placed the mother on the highest pedestal. In the Vedas, the mother is described as the very embodiment of divinity. "Mātā devo bhava"—the mother is god—

was not a metaphor; it was a truth lived and breathed.

From Kaikeyi to Kunti, from Sita to Savitri, Indian scriptures abound with mothers who were not just caretakers, but moral compasses, political influencers, and spiritual guides. Even the gods bowed to their mothers: Lord Krishna held Yashoda in his heart with greater affection than even the riches of Dwaraka.

But today, the question arises: in our homes, in our hearts, and in our headlines, does the mother still occupy that sacred space?

Modernity vs Motherhood: A Fading Reverence

Globalisation, urban migration, nuclear families, and a work-first culture have certainly brought progress. But they have also quietly dismantled the moral scaffolding of our society. Elders are now often seen as burdens, and mothers—once revered—are sometimes reduced to unpaid caretakers, their identities lost in domestic anonymity.

We read horrific stories of elderly mothers abandoned in hospitals, left behind in old-age homes, or silently suffering neglect in households they once nurtured. Is this the progress we dreamed of?

Technology may have connected continents, but it has disconnected generations. Children now learn empathy from mobile apps, not from the lap of their mother. In such a world, this article urges a return—not to the past—but to a value system where motherhood is not invisible, but invincible.

The Economics of Care: Mothers as Unpaid Nation Builders

A mother cooks, cleans, teaches, nurses, counsels, manages budgets, and negotiates peace within families. Yet none of this is counted in GDP figures. If a mother's work were to be paid for in monetary terms, global economists estimate that she would be one of the highest earners in the world.

And yet, women—especially mothers—are still fighting for respect in a system that doesn't even



acknowledge their

invisible labour.

In a powerful essay, the Nobel laureate Amartya Sen once argued that development must be measured not just in economic output but in the dignity and inclusion of women. What then of the mother who dedicates her entire life, not for salary, not for fame, but for the betterment of her children?

It is time we recognised mothers not merely as emotional anchors but as economic engines of the nation, deserving of policy attention, pension security, and social visibility.

The Spiritual Core: Why Respecting Mothers is Worship

Every religion in the world places mothers next to the divine. In Islam, Paradise lies beneath the feet of the mother. In Christianity, Mary, the mother of Jesus, is venerated as the holy intercessor. In Buddhism, the mother is honoured as the origin of compassion. And

in Hinduism, the Devi—the goddess—is both the creator and protector, embodying motherly love.

Why this universal sacredness? Because the mother represents the purest form of unconditional love, a quality closest to God.

To respect and protect mothers, then, is not only a moral or cultural duty—it is a spiritual act, a form of worship. When a society begins to dishonour its mothers, it does not merely fail its women—it loses its soul.

Policy Suggestions: From Symbolism to Action

Words are not enough. We must now institutionalise respect for mothers in concrete ways:

Mother's Pensions: Launch a national pension scheme for elderly mothers who have spent their lives raising families but are financially dependent in old age.

Motherhood Awards for Rural Women: Recognise the

unsung heroes in villages who single-handedly raise children, farm land, care for elders, and preserve traditions.

Mother Support Centres: Establish centres in every block for mental health, skill upgradation, and community support for stay-at-home mothers and elderly women.

Motherhood Curriculum in Schools: Teach students about the emotional, social, and economic contributions of mothers to build empathy and respect from a young age.

Legal Safeguards Against Neglect: Enforce stricter laws for abandonment or mistreatment of mothers by family members, with legal aid support for elderly women.

These are not welfare sops. They are a moral obligation of the state and society towards its most foundational citizens

Celebrating While They Live: Not

Just After They're Gone

Too many people realise their mother's worth only after she's gone. They build tombstones, write poetry, donate in her memory. But what did they do when she was alive?

The real tribute to a mother is not in the grand words after her death, but in the little acts of love, presence, and support while she still walks this Earth.

Sit with her. Listen to her stories. Ask about her dreams. Cook for her. Buy her a gift without reason. Speak to her with the same politeness you use with strangers. And above all—make her feel needed.

My Final Prayer: May Every Child See His Mother as Divine

As I pen these final words, I am overwhelmed not just with emotion, but with purpose. I do not wish to glorify motherhood as a passive virtue. I wish to revive its active sanctity, its living power, its divine pulse.

If this article makes even one reader hug their mother a little tighter, thank her a little more sincerely, or support her a little more faithfully—then my purpose is served. Our mothers are not just our past. They are our future. They are not just who gave us life—they are life itself.

In Every Mother, the Nation Resides

India's strength does not lie in its skyscrapers or startups. It lies in the quiet resilience of mothers who raise children amid sacrifice, who nurture values amid chaos, who keep homes together even when the world falls apart.

Let us not merely admire mothers. Let us elevate them, protect them, learn from them, and live in gratitude for their sacred presence.

Let the country echo this ancient yet urgent truth: Respecting one's mother is the first step to becoming truly human.

Mohd Amin Mir is a regular columnist writing on rural life, cultural identity, and institutional reform in Jammu & Kashmir. She can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

AI – A World without Emotions

“A Machine Can Do The Work Of Fifty Ordinary Men, But No Machine Can Replace The Warmth Of A Single Kind Heart.”

HAROON RASHID BHAT

Humanity has come a long way. From the discovery of fire to the digital revolution, we have continuously evolved, reshaping our environment and redefining the parameters of progress. Today, we stand on the brink of yet another transformational era—an age driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotic science, and data analytics. These terms are no longer confined to scientific journals or laboratories; they have become part of our everyday vocabulary and consciousness. There is no denying the remarkable benefits that technological advancements have brought to our lives. Machines have reduced human effort in industries, AI has streamlined data analysis in seconds, and robotic assistants are now performing surgeries with superhuman precision.

The promises of a smarter, more efficient world are becoming a reality. We proudly label this phenomenon as ‘progress,’ ‘development,’ and even ‘sustainable growth. But amidst this material triumph, a critical question lingers—what about the emotional fabric of human life? As we create machines that can think, predict, and even mimic human behavior, we must ask: Can they feel? Can they understand the essence of human emotions—pain, compassion, empathy, joy, or love? The answer, at least for now, remains a resounding no. Artificial Intelligence, regardless of how sophisticated it becomes, operates through algorithms and data. It does not feel sorrow when someone is grieving, nor does it experience delight at the birth of a child. It may simulate a response, but it lacks consciousness.

Our emotions are not just biological responses—they are the threads that bind human society. Sympathy for the suffering, kindness to strangers, the warmth of a mother’s hug, the strength drawn from a friend’s presence—these cannot be coded into a machine. They are spontaneous, often irrational, and deeply human. In our race to make life more efficient, are we unknowingly stripping it of its soul? Modern workplaces are



increasingly being automated. Digital interfaces are replacing face-to-face interactions. In many urban homes, children interact more with screens than with grandparents. Even companionship is being outsourced—AI chatbots and robotic pets are being marketed as emotional support tools. While these might offer temporary relief, they are no substitute for genuine human connection. There is a silent danger in this technological overdependence—the risk of emotional poverty.

As we rely more on AI, we may start to undervalue the human touch. Conversations may become shallow, empathy may take a backseat, and relationships may be reduced to transactional exchanges. This emotional disconnect is already evident in

rising rates of loneliness, depression, and social anxiety. People are more “connected” than ever through digital means, yet many feel profoundly isolated. Could it be that in gaining smart devices, we are losing smart hearts? This is not a rejection of AI or science—far from it. Technological advancement is not the enemy. It is a tool, and like any tool, its impact depends on how we wield it. The real challenge lies in maintaining balance. As we progress materially, we must also nurture emotional intelligence. As we teach machines to think, we must teach ourselves to feel more deeply, care more openly, and connect more authentically.

Religious scholars, educators, artists, and policymakers must come together to ensure that the future

remains not just intelligent but also kind. Our education systems must emphasize empathy and ethics alongside technical skills. Our families must become spaces of emotional security, not just comfort zones of digital entertainment. In a world increasingly run by machines, it is our emotions that will remain our greatest strength. AI can replicate tasks, but not tenderness. It can process data, but not dreams. As we embrace the future, let us not forget that it is not our ability to compute, but our ability to care, that makes us truly human. Progress should never come at the cost of compassion. In this AI age, let us continue to be proud of our scientific achievements—but prouder still of the love, empathy, and humanity that no machine can ever

replicate.

Let us remember that the true essence of humanity lies not in how advanced our machines become, but in how deeply we continue to feel, connect, and care for one another. In the race for innovation, may we not forget the heartbeat of human existence—our emotions. For in a world filled with intelligent machines, it is the warmth of the human soul that will always matter most. Let me conclude this write-up with this meaningful quotation. By Elbert Hubbard: “A machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men, but no machine can replace the warmth of a single kind heart.”

Haroon Rashid Bhat is a teacher by profession. He can be mailed at minamharoon123@gmail.com

Unseen Line: How Pahalgam Was Never The Same

MALIK SHOIB

Before April 22nd, 2025, many people across India held a very different perception of Kashmir. For years, the region had been associated with conflict, fear, and instability. Due to continuous media coverage of terrorism, encounters, and unrest, Kashmir was often unfairly labeled as a “terror state.” Unfortunately, these stereotypes extended to its people as well, many were wrongly judged or viewed with suspicion, being branded with terms like terrorist or dehsatgard (terrorist), which deeply hurt the local population, who are among the most hospitable and warm-hearted individuals in the country.

I personally encountered these misconceptions during my interactions with people from various parts of India. Once, while interacting with some known people in Punjab and Haryana, they admitted that they had long wanted to visit Kashmir but refrained because of the frequent news of violence. “Every time we planned a trip,” many of them told me, “an encounter or an attack would hit the headlines, and we would cancel our plans.”

Friends of mine from outside Kashmir, who worked with me, once asked, “Is Kashmir really that heaven on earth people talk about, or is it just a dream wrapped in fear?” That question stayed with me because it reflected the confusion many Indians felt torn between the allure of Kashmir’s natural beauty and the fear of violence.

However, things started to change significantly after the Modi government came into power. Whether one agrees with all of its policies or not, it’s undeniable that the government brought a sense of stability and security to the region. As peace returned, so did hope. Tourists from all over India Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and beyond started visiting Kashmir in record numbers. The Valley, once silent with uncertainty, began echoing with the



laughter of travelers and the bustle of local markets.

Kashmir’s tourism touched new heights. Hotels were booked, shikara rides filled with joy, and local artisans finally saw their craft being appreciated again. The stereotype slowly began to dissolve as people from outside met the real Kashmiris as kind, generous, and full of stories, culture, and pride.

Today, when people think of Kashmir, many now see it as the paradise it truly is, not just in beauty, but in spirit. And perhaps, more importantly they see its people not through the lens of fear, but with respect and admiration.

Pahalgam didn’t just mark a date, it became a line carved into Kashmir’s soul, dividing our lives into a time of rising hope and a time of renewed despair.

On Apr 22, a dark cloud once again overshadowed the beauty of Kashmir. A group of terrorists, armed with guns, opened fire on innocent tourists—people who had come here not with hate, but with love. They came to witness the breathtaking valleys, to take a break from their hectic lives, and for some, to celebrate new beginnings. Among them were newlywed couples, honeymooners, and professionals escaping work stress—dreaming of peace in the “Heaven

on Earth.” But what they found was horror. At least 26 people lost their lives some were Indian, others were foreigners. The images of bloodshed revived the horrific label of a “terror state” that we had fought so hard to erase. It wasn’t just a day it was the border between two Kashmiris: the one that was healing, and the one that bleeds again

This incident not only reignited old wounds but reinforced a long-standing stereotype, especially against religious minorities in the region.

I, too, became a victim though far away from the site of violence. I was working in Chandigarh at the time. One evening, after leaving the office,

I noticed a few strangers following me. When I reached my room, they forcefully opened my door and said with chilling certainty, “This is the last time we want to see you here. You better be gone before we return.”

I wasn’t alone in this suffering. Many of my Kashmiri colleagues were harassed and even physically assaulted. Fear spread like wildfire. I remember calling my friend Danish, worried for his safety. He initially told me he was fine, but half an hour later, he rang back with his trembled voice. He whispered that some of our Hindu batch mates were looking for him and that he was hiding. “I’m not safe here anymore,” he said. As he was there to build his career for betterment of his future.

This wasn’t just an attack on people; it was an attack on peace, unity, and hope. The roads that once welcomed guests with open arms were now empty and silent. The people who had relied on tourism for their livelihoods were left helpless and some even homeless.

This tragedy didn’t just claim innocent lives but it shattered the very soul of Kashmir. It impacted us on every level. Financially, our tourism—our lifeline collapsed overnight, with businesses shutting down and livelihoods lost. Socially, a deep fear crept back into our streets, silencing laughter, emptying markets, and rebuilding the invisible walls between communities. Religiously, it tried to sow hatred among those who had finally begun to embrace peace, disrupting the harmony we were so close to achieving. And psychologically, it scarred an entire generation especially the youth who now question their safety, their identity, and their future. Yet even after all this, even after we condemned the violence louder than ever Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians united then why are we still painted with the same brush? Why does the world continue to see us as suspects, when all we want is peace, dignity, and a chance to heal?

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Tourism Returns To

border destinations are not only picturesque but also rich culturally.”

Addressing a distinguished gathering of travel professionals, industry stakeholders, and dignitaries, the Chief Minister described TTF Kolkata as a vital platform to explore avenues for collaboration between Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal and promote mutual growth in the tourism sector.

He emphasized that the fair would encourage all stakeholders to contribute meaningfully towards strengthening the cultural and economic ties between the two regions.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by several dignitaries, including Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Committee Rajkumari Thapa, MLA (Soreng-Chakung) Aditya Gole, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Neelu Sharma, Counsel General of Thailand Siriporn Tantipan-yathep, and Convenor of Association for Conservation & Tourism (ACT) Raj Basu.

The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from various tour and travel operators, tourism officers, and media representatives, highlighting the growing significance of the eastern Indian market in national and global tourism circuits.

In his address, the Chief Minister, who was the chief guest at the event, highlighted Jammu & Kashmir’s transformation into a year-round, all-segment tourist destination, with significant strides made in infrastructure, accessibility, and investor-friendly policies.

He spoke of the deep cultural and emotional connect between J&K and West Bengal, inviting travellers from the state to rediscover the timeless charm, natural beauty, and evolving experiences of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Minister placed special emphasis on community involvement in the tourism landscape. “Homestays across Jammu & Kashmir reflect the growing grassroots participation in tourism,” he said. “We are particularly supporting women-led homestays in rural areas such as Kupwara and Ganderbal. This approach is helping us promote inclusive growth while empowering women economically.”

He also underlined the growing popularity of niche tourism in the region. “J&K has emerged as a prime hub for adventure tourism—be it skiing, trekking, alpine lake exploration, or mountaineering,” he said. “Our world-class golf courses in Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Srinagar, and Jammu are attracting global enthusiasts, including international cricketers. Wedding tourism, too, is gaining momentum in Srinagar and Gulmarg, with several high-end celebrations taking place in these iconic locations.”

Referring to the revival of film tourism, the Chief Minister stated, “Jammu & Kashmir is once again reclaiming its position as the cinematic crown of India, ideal for filmmaking. The return of Bollywood to the Valley is not only enhancing the region’s visibility but is also creating livelihood opportunities across sectors.”

Sharing recent recognitions, he added, “J&K’s tourism initiatives have earned national acclaim. We received the SKOCH Silver Award for our Homestay Initiative and multiple accolades under the Ministry of Tourism’s Best Rural Homestay Awards for locations like Keran, Jharokabagh, and Yusmarg. We were also recognized under the ‘Travel for LIFE’ program for our sustainable tourism efforts. Moreover, Aru in Pahalgam was awarded Best Tourism Village in the Adventure Category.”

Discussing future prospects, the Chief Minister spoke about J&K’s emergence as a hub for MICE tourism. “We are positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a leading destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE), backed by our natural beauty, cultural richness, and improved infrastructure,” he said.

Looking ahead, he stressed the importance of sustainable and inclusive development. “Our tourism strategy is anchored in sustainability, community participation, and heritage conservation,” he said. “We are focusing on expanding experiential and niche tourism—ranging from homestays and cultural trails to wellness and rural tourism. Our vision is to make Jammu & Kashmir not just a preferred destination, but a global benchmark for responsible, inclusive, and transformative tourism.”

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended a warm invitation to delegates, investors, and travel stakeholders. “I urge all of you to visit Jammu & Kashmir and witness its tourism potential first-hand. TTF Kolkata offers us a unique platform to explore collaboration and foster deeper cultural and economic ties with West Bengal. J&K has always held a special place in the hearts of travellers from Eastern India, and we look forward to welcoming them once again with renewed experiences and opportunities.”

The Travel & Tourism Fair Kolkata 2025, being held from July 10–12, features over 500 exhibitors from 25+ Indian states and 14+ countries, along with 5,500+ verified travel trade professionals, making it the largest tourism networking event in Eastern India ahead of the festive travel season.

'Irresponsible' Statements

compromised in the past. Instead of those who are entitled for jobs, the killers were granted jobs under SRO-43. Whoever misused the SRO-43, will face the action” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor shared the remarkable growth story of the country and Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir in the past few years.

“Since 2014, our great nation is rapidly moving towards becoming a global superpower with new resolve, new thinking and a new roadmap.

Within 6 years, Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has written a new history of J&K. It is new J&K where children have pens in their hands and not stones, schools and colleges remain open throughout the year, where calendars of international programmes are published instead of bandhs and strikes.

It’s a new J&K where our youth is achieving new heights in innovation and research. It’s a new J&K where our youth is now focusing on startups and starting their own business ventures. Now in the new J&K, instead of slogans of separatism, the noise of factories, tourists and people’s laughter is being heard,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that in the last 5-6 years, J&K’s economy has doubled. The UT of J&K has become a favourite investment designation and more BPOs are also coming up in the UT. J&K Bank which was earlier at the loss of Rs 1300 cr is now at the profit of Rs 1700 cr, he added.

“J&K is writing stories of its golden era by ensuring equal opportunities to the aspirations of the deprived classes, farmers, women and the youth. What was previously impossible in J&K has been made possible,” the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the next 22 years can prove to be golden years for Jammu and Kashmir in the journey of Amrit Kaal, provided we give the new generation an opportunity to play a big role in this development journey of the nation.

“Under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Central Schemes and Innovations will shape our youth’s dream into reality. I am looking forward to the day when youth from J&K will join the space sector, become an astronaut to explore new frontiers of space,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, commended the 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025' initiative aimed at creating awareness about government schemes, welfare programmes and highlighting innovation and technology driven development across multiple sectors.

He said the two-day mega exhibition will educate and engage youth, students, farmers, entrepreneurs and every section of society with real-time exposure of government services and build the bridge between government and the people.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the presence of the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Space, Bureau of Indian Standards, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ministry of Tourism and Indian Council of Agricultural Research in today’s exhibition is a significant step towards inclusive development.

He emphasized that the schools and colleges should visit the exhibition in large numbers to inspire youth and encourage their contribution to Jammu & Kashmir’s development journey.

The 3-day long event will feature interactive Exhibitions from central ministries, PSUs, institutions, and national boards; Live Demonstrations & Hands-on Experiences for students and visitors; Workshops, Seminars & Expert Talks on topics like innovation, sustainability, and government support; Skill Zones, career guidance sessions, and youth empowerment modules and showcase of local success stories and integration of local artisans and entrepreneurs.

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Shri Tarun Jain, Director, Tarmeh Events; officials from Central government departments and UT Administration, prominent citizens, innovators, entrepreneurs and youth in large number were present.

‘J&K Reels Under

during winter months whereas the power flow on 400kV Jalandhar-Samba is not that high,” it reads.

The Ministry of Power for Government of India (GoI) in the report further said that it has been discussed and suggested on numerous occasions earlier to J&K to plan and expedite commissioning of reactive power devices especially capacitors at lower voltage level to improve the voltage profile in valley area and also avoid large sums payable as reactive energy charges.

“Pattern of MW and MVAR drawl by 400/220KV ICTs at ISTS substations such as Amargarh, Wagoorra and New Wanpoh suggest, there is urgent requirement of reactive compensation in intrastate network,” it reads.

It also states that from the plots, it is clear that the reactive drawl is at least half of the MW drawl of 400/220KV ICTs. “This increases the percentage loading of transmission elements and also leads to low voltages in the grid. The power factor at 400/220kV ISTS substations is in the range of 0.8-0.9.”

The report further reads, “Low voltages are also being observed in Ladakh area also during winter months.”—(KNO)

No RS Representation

Budgam seats take place. In 90s, a similar situation had also arisen when J&K Assembly polls couldn’t be conducted due to a volatile security situation.

Between 1994 and 1996, all four Rajya Sabha seats allotted to the then-state of Jammu & Kashmir remained vacant. The members elected in 1988 completed their six-year terms, but new RS members could not be elected due to the absence

of a functioning Legislative Assembly.

It is worth to mention here that Ghulam Ali Khatana, a resident of Jammu, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2022 by the President of India. His nomination was not from Jammu & Kashmir’s allotted share in the Rajya Sabha, but under the nominated quota—(KNO)

Amarnath Yatra:

and 162 sadhus and sadhvis. Of these, 3,081 pilgrims took the 14-km Baltal route in 137 vehicles, while 4,226 pilgrims embarked on the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in 147 vehicles.

With Thursday’s batch, the total number of pilgrims who have departed from the Jammu base camp since the Yatra was flagged off by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has touched 62,788 in the past nine days.

Authorities said elaborate security, medical and logistical arrangements have been put in place across both routes to ensure the smooth conduct of the Yatra. Civil administration, police and health teams remain deployed at base camps and along the trekking routes.

The revered ‘Chhari Mubarak’—the holy mace of Lord Shiva—reached Pahalgam on Thursday, marking the start of key traditional rituals associated with the Amarnath Yatra.

The sacred procession, led by Mahant Deependra Giri, began from the Dashnami Akhara in Srinagar and reached Chhari Vishram Sthal in Pahalgam.

As part of the day’s religious observances, Bhoomi Puja, Navgrah Puja, and the symbolic hoisting of the religious flag were performed.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahant Giri said that Ashad Purnima, also known as Guru Purnima, holds immense spiritual significance. “We began the morning with the ritual departure of the Chhari Mubarak from Srinagar and arrived at Pahalgam for the customary rites. A havan and communal meal for devotees will follow,” he said.

Over 4 lakh pilgrims have registered online for this year’s pilgrimage, which is scheduled to conclude on August 9.

Last year, more than 5.1 lakh pilgrims performed darshan during the 52-day-long Yatra—one of the highest footfalls in recent years—(KNO)

CS Reviews Progress,

newly identified mineral blocks.

He asked the department to study and emulate the best practices adopted by other progressive States and Union Territories that are generating significant revenue from the mining sector.

The Chief Secretary observed that there is a need to revive the mining sector through comprehensive reforms. He maintained that for early framing of District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) rules in line with national mining reforms.

Expressing concern over the overcharging of minor minerals, Dulloo directed the department to ensure fair pricing and abundant availability of construction material to the general public. He stressed the need for a more transparent, citizen-friendly, and technology-driven ecosystem to make the sector efficient, accountable and responsive to the needs of both the economy and the people.

Principal Secretary, Mining, Anil Kumar Singh, while speaking in this meeting made out that a total of 233 mineral blocks auctioned/reserved across J&K, 106 are currently operational while 127 are non-operational. Efforts are underway to make 60 of these non-operational blocks functional by October 31, 2025, he added.

He added that the department has set an ambitious revenue target of Rs 500 crore for the current financial year, a significant increase from Rs 150 crore in FY 2024-25. This target included Rs 260 crore from major minerals and Rs 220 crore from minor minerals, with an additional Rs 100 crore from other sources.

Regarding the major minerals, it was informed that 48 blocks of Limestone had been identified, including 23 non-operational mining leases, 7 prospected 10A2(B) cases and 3 newly identified blocks in Anantnag, along with blocks in Pulwama, Poonch and Rajouri. Five limestone blocks with a reserve of 75.597 Million Tonnes have been proposed for e-auction by October 31, 2025, with an expected revenue of Rs 260.00 crore, the meeting was informed.

About Minor Minerals (RBM), it was revealed that the department aims to make 60 non-operational blocks operational by October 31, 2025, contributing Rs 53 crore. Additionally, 8 Letters of Intent (LOI) are to be issued within one month and 19 blocks have been identified for e-auction with a reserve bid finalized, expected to be completed within three months.

Furthermore, 73 blocks identified for e-auction under the Single Window System are awaiting NOCs from the concerned Deputy Commissioners which are expected by August 18, 2025, with an estimated revenue of Rs100 crore, as was apprised in the meeting.

As far as Lithium reserves in Reasi are concerned, it was divulged that the Geological investigations by GSI indicate a resource of 5.9 million tons of Lithium stretched over 3 sq km. Additionally, detailed geological studies are underway with an expected completion date of December 31, 2025.

The other mineral resources that were discussed in the meeting included Sapphire (Kishtwar), Lignite (Kupwara), Limestone (Anantnag), Granite (Doda&Ganderbal), Quartzite (Kishtwar), Dolomite (Rajouri) and Graphite (Kupwara) with timeline for exploration of each detailed out in the meeting.

Moreover, it was given out that the department is actively implementing the technology to curb illegal mining and

monitor activities. The first phase of an integrated Mining Surveillance System (MSS) portal and mobile application for detecting illegal mining using satellite imagery is operational, with the second phase in progress.

This system will include real-time vehicle tracking, GPS-enabled monitoring, integration with Vahan Portal and weighbridges besides e-Challan generation. On-spot imposition of penalties through Point of Sale (PoS) machines has begun in Jammu and Samba districts and will be implemented across J&K by July 15, 2025. The implementation of the Mine Surveillance System with BISAG is also on track.

As part of steps towards curbing the illegal mining, constitution of a “Multi Departmental District Level Task Force Cell,” construction of 22 Mineral Check Posts and the launch of an Online Web-portal for mineral sale and purchase is also being done.

With respect to the working of J&K Minerals Limited (JKML), the meeting was apprised that it currently operates the Gypsum Mine in Parlanka, Ramban and Coal Mines in Kalakot, Rajouri/Reasi. Efforts are underway to operationalize additional minor mineral blocks and limestone quarries. It also took note of certain financial liabilities of JKML pending with other departments to improve its position here.

Buried Under Silt,

especially during the winter months when other work was scarce.

An official associated with the restoration project explained that while lotus stems hadn’t been seen for decades, the plant’s root structures remained buried beneath the silt.

“Once we began removing the silt in targeted areas, lotus began to appear again,” he said. “This year, we introduced lotus seeds in areas where dredging had been completed.”

The desilting work has so far removed over 7.9 million cubic meters of silt from the lake.

The official added that in the coming months, they plan to install retention basins along major streams to stop future silt and waste from entering the lake.

“It belongs to the people, and they have every right to it,” he said. “But the department has worked consistently with specialists and taken steps over the years to make sure lotus stem cultivation becomes possible again in Wular. Now, it’s no longer just an idea; production is happening on the ground.”

Speaking about licensing, he said that earlier, only fishermen and those gathering chestnuts were given permission to operate in the lake. “With the return of nadru, we will now review how to move forward, whether to introduce a permit system for harvesters or keep it accessible to everyone,” he said.

Zahoor Ahmad, a resident of Laharwalpora, said local families had tried to reintroduce the lotus on their own. “We threw seeds into the lake many times, but nothing grew,” he said. “It’s only now, after the silt was cleared, that we see the flowers again.”

Ahmad said the return of the lotus is not only a sign of ecological improvement but also a source of renewed economic activity for many households around the lake—(KNO)

MP Khatana Urges

started homestays and other things. We expect the reopening of these routes from you,” he said.

About the event, he said that on the first day, a large number of students from different schools participated. “This event was scheduled earlier, but was delayed due to the Pahalgam terror attack,” he said.

Khatana further said that Kashmir is an integral part of India, so the youth of J&K should not lag behind. “Therefore, this event was a must for creating awareness among them with an aim to make them employment generators,” he said.

Responding to a query on National Conference’s (NC) demand on July 13—Martyrs’ Day, Khatana said there are many schools in the name of martyrs who belong to the whole nation—(KNO)

Tourist Revival Sparks

fountains to enhance the visitor experience. “We are committed to making the gardens a highlight of every tourist’s Kashmir itinerary,” said the in-charge of Mughal Gardens.

Local people dependent on tourism said the revival brings both relief and hope after a prolonged period of fear and uncertainty. With summer tourism gaining pace, officials remain hopeful that the numbers will continue to rise in the coming weeks—(KNO)

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Modi govt stands resolutely with states: HM Amit Shah

IAN S

GUWAHATI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister Jyoti-radiya Scindia on Thursday said that the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi stands resolutely beside the states in all situations.

Amit Shah, in a post on the X handle, said: "Modi govt stands resolutely beside the states in all situations. Today, the central government has approved Rs 1066.80 crore for flood- and landslide-affected states of Assam, Mani-pur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Kerala, and Uttarakhand as part of the Central share under SDRF."

The Home Minister pointed out that more than Rs 8000 crore from SDRF/ NDRF funds has been provided to 19 states this year.

"Apart from financial aid, providing all logistic assistance, including deployment of requisite NDRF, Army, and Air Force, has been our priority," he said.

DoNER Minister Scindia in a separate post on his X handle said: "The government led by PM Narendra Modi stands rock solid with every state, not just in words, but through decisive action. Grateful to Hon'ble HM Amit Shah for reaffirming this unwavering commitment with timely support to flood-affected states."



Meanwhile, the Ministry of Home Affairs on Thursday approved the release of Rs 1,066.80 crore to flood and landslide-hit six states - Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Kerala and Uttarakhand.

Among the six flood affected states, Assam received Rs 375.60 crore, Rs 29.20 crore was given to Manipur, Rs 30.40 crore to Meghalaya, Rs 22.80 crore to Mizoram, Rs 153.20 crore to Kerala, and Rs 455.60 crore to Uttarakhand, as Central share from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), said a Ministry statement.

These states have been affected due to extremely heavy rainfall, floods and landslides during the south-west monsoon, it said.

In view of the recent wave of heavy rains and urban flooding in the northeastern region, the Indian Army has launched extensive Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations

under Operation Jal Rahat 2 in three states of the region.

Defence spokesman Lt Col Amit Shukla said that the coordinated deployment of troops across Nagaland, Assam, and Manipur is being led by Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) in collaboration with the local civil administration.

In Assam, the Dhansiri River in Golaghat district has breached danger levels. Although water levels are now receding, the Indian Army continues to monitor the situation closely and is ready to intervene should the need arise.

In Nagaland, the Deputy Commissioner of Dimapur formally requisitioned assistance from the Indian Army on Thursday to provide immediate flood relief in Singrijan Colony, one of the worst-hit areas, the spokesman said.

He said that the Army swiftly responded with the deployment of an

Engineer Task Force (ETF) team. While a verbal de-requisition was received later in the day, the Army remained on standby with resources mobilised through the Flood Relief Control Centre at Headquarters, Inspector General Assam Rifles (North).

In Manipur, the Nambol River flowing through Imphal West and Bishnupur districts has also surpassed danger levels.

While floodwaters are beginning to recede, the Army remains actively engaged in relief operations in coordination with civil authorities. According to Lt Col Amit Shukla, 40 Relief Columns of the Army were deployed in the three states, and 3,820 people were rescued.

The defence spokesman said that 1,361 food packets and 15,421 water bottles were distributed among the flood-hit people, while medical aid was provided to 2,095 individuals.

Centre-State coordination to make India a global investment destination: NITI Aayog CEO

IAN S

NEW DELHI: BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, on Thursday underscored the critical role of state-level execution in shaping India's overall investment climate.

During a high-level workshop on ease of doing business and investment promotion in New Delhi, he emphasised that there is much to learn from within the country itself, citing the diversity of successful models across states.

Subrahmanyam called for streamlined systems, enhanced accountability, and coordinated efforts between the Centre and states to make India the most attractive and dependable destination for global capital.

The workshop brought together senior policy-makers to accelerate business reforms across India. Deliberations were held across seven core reform areas vital to investment facilitation and improving the ease of doing business at the sub-national level.

These included Decriminalisation of Laws; Deregulation and Compliance Burden Reduction; Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) Implementation; Development of Industrial Infrastructure; Single Window Clearance Systems; Financial and Taxation Reforms; Investment Promotion Strategies.

During the session on decriminalization and compliance reform, several states presented their ongoing initiatives stemming from the Jan Vishwas Act 1.0, highlighting efforts to decriminalize minor business-related offences at the State level.

States also emphasised a shift toward enhancing the "Speed of Doing Business", with a focus on reducing the number of stages in the business lifecycle to enable faster, more seamless operations for enterprises.



minor business offences into civil penalties, while also streamlining compliance mechanisms to reduce the burden on entrepreneurs. States shared examples of removing imprisonment clauses, adopting self-certification regimes, removal of licence renewal and simplifying regulatory touchpoints to encourage ease of compliance and build trust with businesses.

There was also a strong emphasis on aligning state-level actions with the national Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) framework, ensuring that reforms lead to measurable and comparable improvements.

Industry representatives advocated for the enactment of a national-level legislation to harmonise decriminalization and

compounding provisions, across States. They also suggested the introduction of a Trusted Taxpayers Programme for both direct and indirect taxes, to incentivize compliance and promote a more facilitative regulatory environment.

The session on Investment Promotion Strategies stressed the need to institutionalise investment promotion as a continuous, core State function rather than an event-based activity. States presented innovative, sector-specific strategies grounded in local strengths and global demand trends.

Rajiv Gauba, Member, NITI Aayog, noted that ease of doing business is a work in progress and stressed the importance of reforms at the municipal level within states.

He highlighted the potential for collaboration between NITI Aayog and DPIIT to support states in adopting a principle-based approach to decriminalisation.

SCL Das, Secretary, Ministry of MSME, highlighted the need to strengthen the institutional interface of MSMEs with CBIC and State/UT governments.

With 15 days to go, 66 pc of Bihar voters already covered under rolls revision: ECI

IAN S

NEW DELHI: As many as 5.22 crore enumeration forms, accounting for 66.16 per cent of the total of 7.89 crore existing electors in Bihar, have been collected in the last 16 days as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls launched on June 24, an ECI official said on Thursday.

Maintaining the same momentum on the field, the exercise of collecting the Enumeration Forms could be completed well before the stipulated date of July 25, said the official on a day when the Supreme Court refused to stay the ongoing exercise in the poll-bound state.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) said that during the past 16 days, 7.90 crore forms were printed and nearly 98 per cent forms (7.71 crore) have already been distributed to the electors whose names were in the electoral roll as on June 24.

The electors still have 15 more days left to submit the form, said a statement.

The poll panel said the exercise involves 77,895 Booth Level Officers and over 4 lakh volunteers who are supporting the elderly, the disabled, sick and vulnerable populations.

The exercise is supported by 1.56 lakh Booth Level

Agents (BLAs) appointed by all recognised political parties, and has resulted in the collection of 66.16 per cent enumeration forms.

The EC said in its statement, "By 6 p.m. today, 5,22,44,956 enumeration forms, which is 66.16 per cent of the total of 7,89,69,844 (nearly 7.90 crore) existing electors in Bihar, have been collected in the last 16 days."

Earlier, the Supreme Court asked the ECI to consider "in the interest of justice" if documents such as Aadhaar, Voter ID and Ration Cards could be accepted for the purpose of verification of voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar.

A Bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joyimalya Bagchi was dealing with a batch of petitions claiming that if the June 26 decision of the poll body directing SIR is not set aside, it can "arbitrarily" and "without due process" disenfranchise lakhs of voters from electing their representatives, and disrupt free and fair elections and democracy.

Noting that the draft revised rolls will be published in August, the Supreme Court listed the matter for further hearing on July 28 before a regular Bench.

Flood alert issued across several districts in Nepal

IAN S

KATHMANDU: Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology issued a flood alert on Thursday, warning of elevated water levels in the small rivers across several districts.

Although major rivers like Koshi, Narayani, Karnali, Mahakali, Kamala, Bagmati, and Rapti in Nepal are presently below critical levels, the threat of localised flooding persists, the local media reported.

The districts, including Doti, Daddeldhura, Kanchanpur, Kailali, and nearby regions, are reportedly at risk of sudden floods due to a rise in water levels.

Meanwhile, nine people have been confirmed to be dead in the flash floods that struck Nepal's Rasuwa district on Tuesday, according to Nepal Police.

Additionally, the search operations for 19 people who have gone missing following the devastating flood are underway. The missing reportedly included 11 Nepali nationals, including two police personnel and six Chinese nationals.

The devastating flood wrought destruction in Rasuwa prompting rescue and relief operations to assist those in the flood affected areas.

"We are fully deployed in the field. We rescued more than 150 individuals including 127 foreign nationals and airlifted to

Kathmandu," Nepal's leading newspaper the Kathmandu Post quoted Arjun Paudel, Chief District Officer of Rasuwa as saying.

"Electricity and telephone services are also disrupted in the area, making rescue and other operations difficult. We are currently maintaining limited communication through the Chinese border. Efforts are underway to restore telephone connectivity and resume electricity supply," Paudel added.

He also stated that more than 2000 people remain stranded due to flooding, with only a few days of food remaining.

"Efforts are now focused on delivering food, restoring power and communication lines, and continuing search and rescue operations," said Paudel.

The massive flood had also swept away the Nepal-China Friendship Bridge and several newly imported Electric Vehicles (EVs) parked at the dry port.

Furthermore, the flood has extensively damaged four hydropower plants, while local officials report that the dry port has been nonfunctional.

Reports suggest that the entire stretch of the Rasuwagadhi-Timure area is severely disrupted. Several road access points have been paralysed, and electricity, internet, and telephone services have been cut off since Tuesday.

Rajnath Singh hails PM Modi's leadership, praises successful five-nation visit

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent five-nation official visit on a day when the latter led his Cabinet colleagues and party in greeting the former BJP president on his birthday.

"Under your able leadership, India is growing fast and getting stronger. Your recent 5-nation official visit is a testimony to India's rising clout and stature," said Rajnath Singh in a message addressed to PM Modi on the social media platform X.

Earlier, PM Modi extended greetings to Rajnath

Singh on his birthday, while the latter thanked all his party colleagues for their wishes and motivational words.

"Pradhanmantriji, thank you for your good wishes and motivating words," said the Defence Minister.

In his birthday wishes, PM Modi said, "Best wishes to Union Minister Shri Rajnath Singh Ji on his birthday. He's distinguished himself for his hardworking nature and wisdom. His efforts to make India self-reliant in defence and strengthen our armed forces are commendable. Praying for his long and healthy life."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also wished Rajnath Singh and said in

his message on X, "Heartfelt birthday wishes to the Union Defence Minister and senior BJP leader Shri @rajnathsingh ji. Under the leadership of Modi ji, you are doing commendable work in continuously strengthening the country's military power and promoting self-reliance in the field of defence."

"From the organisation to the government, you have successfully discharged all responsibilities, inspiring those who lead a social life. I pray to God for your excellent health and long life," said HM Shah.

Others who greeted the Defence Minister included his Cabinet colleague Nitin Gadkari and Lok Sabha

Speaker Om Birla, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Born on July 10, 1951, Rajnath Singh is a former lecturer who has been serving as the 29th Defence Minister of India since 2019.

Rajnath Singh has been the Deputy Leader of Lok Sabha since 2014. Earlier, he headed the BJP as its eighth President from 2005 to 2009 and again from 2013 to 2014.

Born on this day in 1951 in the Bhabhuara village of Uttar Pradesh, Rajnath Singh is one of the senior-most political leaders in the country, having entered politics in 1974 and in 1977 was elected as an MLA in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CITY DRAINAGE CIVIL DIVISION SMC
REGAL LANE LAL CHOWK.
Phone 0194-2480569, Fax:0194-480569 | email:eeccitydrainage456@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS E_NIT NO._08_CDC_SMC_OF_2025_26.

For and on behalf of the Lt.Governor of J&K UT,e- tenders are invited on percentage basis from the Registered / Approved PWD Civil Contractors, whose enlistment cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the Below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

S.No.	Name of work	Esttd. Cost of work incld. Deptt. Materials (Amt.in lakhs).	Earnest Money (CDR)	Class Of Contract	Time for completion	Cost of Tender Document In the shape of e-challan	Head of Account	AAA	TS
01	Construction of Cement Concrete drain at Tankipora opposite 2nd Gate DC Office Srinagar	Rs. 4.64 lacs	Rs. 9280/-	DEE	20 days	Rs.200/-	AFA	Accorded	Sanctioned/ accorded
02	Construction of by way of pipe drain at New Colony Barzulla Near Masjid Umer	Rs. 4.01 lacs	Rs. 8020/-	DEE	20 days	Rs.200/-	City Grants	Accorded	Sanctioned/ accorded
03	Construction of Pipe drain at West End Colony Hyderpora near House No 232 B and others.	Rs. 2.10 lacs	Rs. 4200/-	DEE	20 days	Rs.150/-	City Grants	Accorded	Sanctioned/ accorded
04	Construction by way of Pipe drain at NEA House of Manzoor Ahmad Bhat Ghulam Rasool Bhat and other at Gang Bugh	Rs. 3.83 lacs	Rs. 7660/-	DEE	20 days	Rs.150/-	AFA	Accorded	Sanctioned/ accorded
05	Construction of Pipe drain at Faiz Abad Colony Sector H Natipora.	Rs. 6.59 lacs	Rs. 13180/-	C&D	20 days	Rs.200/-	AFA	Accorded	Sanctioned/ accorded
06	Temporary Pump House at Iqbal Colony Natipora	Rs. 3.30 lacs	Rs. 6600/-	DEE	20 days	Rs.150/-	AFA	Accorded	Sanctioned/ accorded
07	Construction of Pipe drain at Umer Enclave Parrypora Matoo Lane	Rs. 3.44 lacs	Rs. 6880/-	DEE	20 days	Rs.150/-	City Grants	Accorded	Sanctioned/ accorded
08	Construction of storm water drain from Existing drain at HNo 117 upto Tail End West Colony Hyderpora	Rs. 2.50 lacs	Rs. 5000/-	DEE	20 days	Rs.150/-	City Grants	Accorded	Sanctioned/ accorded
09	Construction of Pipe drain at Hyderpora bear Masjid Khadijah.	Rs. 2.97 lacs	Rs. 5940/-	DEE	20 days	Rs. 150/-	City Grants	Accorded	Sanctioned/ accorded
10	Construction of Pipe drain from House of Sandeep Singh upto main Drain Iqbal Colony B Mehjoor Nagar	Rs. 16.99 lacs	Rs. 33980/-	B,C&D	25 days	Rs.350/-	AFA	Accorded	Sanctioned/ accorded

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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 the schedule of dates given hereunder:-

- i- In order to protect any default on a/c of low bidding (20% below or more) by the intending bidders and in order to protect specification and workmanship of work, the 5% as performance security of the allotted cost shall be retained for 06 month complete as DLP. In addition to this 10% of Bill Deposit shall be retained for the DLP period also.
- ii- In case of unbalanced bid i.e 20% below the successful bidder has to submit his rate analysis in support of his quoted rates
- iii- The bidders being successful in more than one bid have to take up and complete all the works simultaneously within sculpted time.
- iv- The contractor who have been allotted from this office and have failed to take up the work cannot participate in the tendering Process
- v- In case of non-availability of pipes in the Divisional Store, pipesNP3 and NP4 there should be a test certificate from the manufacture, certifying the specifications of pipe supplied and for third party check a test certificate from any valuable approval Lab or/ any NABL lab / NIT must issued a certificate regarding its three edge bearing test/ Crush test/ water absorption test.

AAA accorded	TS sanctioned
01- Date of Issue of tender Notice	07.07.2025
02- Period of down loading of bidding documents/Sale of tender document.	08.07.2025 from 10.00 AM to 21.07.2025
03- Bid Submission Start date	08.07.2025 from 10.00 AM.
04- Bid Submission End date.	21.07.2025 upto 4.00 PM
05- Date and time of opening of Bids on line.	22.07.2025 at 12.00 P.M. In the office of Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC sgr.
06	Scanned copy of Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) with SL No. of NIT/work. Scanned copy of GST /Registration and PAN Card. Scanned copy of Enlistment card with its validity Scanned copy of Fresh CDR(Earnest Money)

- 01- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date mentioned above.
 - 02- The bids uploaded on the Web Site upto due date and time will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, City Drainage Civil Division SMC Srinagar.in presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
 - 03- In case of Holiday/Office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
 - 04- The complete bidding process will be on line.
 - 05- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of necessary Treasury Challan Revenue/receipt infavour of Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC Srinagar and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/Treasury challan receipt pledged to Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC Srinagar
 - 06- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- Important Condition :-**
- 01- All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged as laid down in the detailed e-NIT/Tender Document issued for the work which can be down loaded from www.jktenders.gov.in.
 - 02- The cost of tender Document should be collected by introducing e-chalan or simply uploading a copy of necessary treasury challan/receipt may be credited to MH-0217 in favour of Executive Engineer, City Drainage Civil Division SMC sgr.
 - 03- The successful bidder shall have to furnish the hard copies after opening of financial bid on line & also the CDR in original must be submitted by the successful (lowest) bidder after opening of financial bid & 5% performance Security of the advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/ BG by the successful bidder. The same shall be released after successful completion of the Defect liability period of the work. The EMD 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% performance Security.

No: CDC/ SMC/ 1378-97
Dated:- 07-07-2025
DIPK-3501-25
DT: 10/ 07/ 2025
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
City Drainage Civil Division Sgr.

Sports Activities In Bloom Across Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) has successfully resumed inter-zonal and school-level competitions across multiple districts in Jammu and Kashmir, marking an energetic return after the summer break. These events highlight the department's motive to fostering sportsmanship, physical fitness, and youth engagement.

In north Kashmir's Baniptora, the Baseball (Girls U-17 & U-19) event commenced at HSS Nadihal with enthusiastic participation from various zones.

Meanwhile, Anantnag witnessed a vibrant Fit India Run, flagged off from Mominabad Bypass Crossing and culminating at Donipawa Crossing. Students and staff from various institutions participated with zeal, promoting a message of health and unity. Medals were awarded to top performers in both student and staff categories. Additionally, district-level volleyball, kho-kho, kabaddi, and yoga events are ongoing, further strengthening the sports ecosystem in the region.

In district Ganderbal, the Inter-Zone District Level Chess Championship for Boys and Girls (U-19) was held at BHSS and GHSS Ganderbal, with



Zone Ganderbal emerging victorious in the boys' category. The competition served as a selection trial for the upcoming Provincial Level Chess Champi-

onship. Simultaneously, Zone Kangan organized an Inter-School Cricket Competition for U-17 boys, witnessing enthusiastic participation.

Budgam saw the successful conduct of the Inter-Zonal District Level Football Tournament (U-17 Boys) at Sports Stadium Charar-i-Sharief and Open Ground Batpora. Selection trials for girls in handball, softball, and baseball were also held to identify fresh talent for future competitions.

In Baramulla, Inter-School Zonal Level Handball and Football competitions resumed, with over 60 students participating in handball trials at HSS Kreeeri and 120 students competing in football matches at High School Khawaja Bagh. These events aim to provide young athletes with a platform to showcase their skills.

Kupwara also marked the return of district-level competitions with Kho-Kho (AAG Boys) and Handball (Girls) events, witnessing spirited participation from all zones. The matches highlighted the athletes' determination and team spirit, setting the stage for upcoming inter-district contests.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports remains steadfast in its mission to promote sports, youth activities and fitness among the young blood, ensuring a vibrant and active future for J&K.

J&K Set to Host 69th National School Games with Vision and Vigour

DG YSS Leads with a Mission to Empower Youth Through Sports and Sustainability

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU : In a significant stride towards promoting youth sports and holistic development, the Director General of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) J&K, Anuradha Gupta, chaired a preliminary high-level meeting to discuss preparations for the 69th National School Games, set to be hosted in the Union Territory.

The meeting, attended by Joint Directors Vinakshi Koul and Abdul Rashid Kohli, Deputy Director Jitender Mishra, District Youth Services and Sports Officers, and section heads, focused on crucial aspects including finalization of dates, venue identification, technical committee formation, equipment procurement, and boarding and lodging arrangements for athletes and officials.

Jammu and Kashmir will proudly host four prestigious disciplines of the National School Games: Football (U-19 Boys) and Wushu (U-17 Boys & Girls) in Srinagar, while Taekwondo (U-19 Boys & Girls) and Table Tennis (U-19 Boys & Girls) will be conducted in Jammu.

Encouraging a professional and organized approach, DG Anuradha Gupta urged all stakeholders to set benchmarks in event execution, ensuring a seamless experience for participants from across



the nation. She emphasized the importance of timely identification of venues and lodging centres to ensure readiness and smooth logistics, both for hosting and for team preparation.

Highlighting the significance of athlete development, she stressed on long-duration coaching camps with expert trainers, standard equipment, and performance-focused strategies to improve results and boost the medal tally of J&K at the national level.

"Let this event not only be a platform to compete but an opportunity to inspire. We must make extraordinary efforts to

enhance the performance of our teams and create an environment where youth can grow into champions," she added.

In a move that links sports with sustainability and well-being, DG-YSS also announced a massive plantation drive themed "Plants for Nutrition". Under this initiative, each district is encouraged to plant at least 1,000 trees, with focus on nutritional species such as amla, moringa, summer apple, and other local fruit-bearing trees. She called for active involvement of school children and Physical Education staff, urging them to adopt and nurture the plants as part of a

deeper environmental and personal commitment.

"You have to develop youth holistically," said Anuradha Gupta. "Apart from providing them platforms in sports, we must instill healthy lifestyle habits and create an environment that makes them not just players, but ambassadors of health, fitness, and nutrition."

As the countdown to the 69th National School Games begins, Jammu and Kashmir stands poised to not only host the nation's best school athletes, but also to set new standards in sportsmanship, organization, and youth empowerment.

3rd Test: Root and Pope stitch an unbroken century stand, help England reach 153/2

IAN5

LONDON: Joe Root hit his second fifty of the ongoing Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series while stitching a patient unbroken 109-run stand with Ollie Pope as the duo helped England reach 153/2 in 49 overs against India at tea on day one of the third Test at the Lord's here on Thursday.

It was a session of attritional Test cricket, where Root (54 not out) and Pope (44 not out) were made to work hard by India's bowlers, who maintained tight lines and were disciplined in their efforts. But whenever India overpitched a wee bit, the duo latched on to it to get runs.

India also had an injury scare when Rishabh Pant left the field after suffering a left finger injury when attempting to stop a leg-side delivery, and Dhruv Jurel took up the keeping gloves. A latest update from broadcasters Sky Sports said there is no serious concern at this stage about Pant, as he apparently chipped the nail on his index finger and is currently icing it.

The second session



began with Pope nicely flicking Bumrah through square leg for four. But after that, Bumrah and Siraj turned out to be a menace for Root and Pope by bowling maidens and building the pressure. Bumrah even managed to beat Pope and hit him on the pads in consecutive deliveries.

After 28 dot balls in a row, Pope got a run off Bumrah, by somehow managing to squeeze his vicious inswinging yorker

to mid-wicket. With wickets not coming, India also suffered a blow when Pant put his left hand out to try and stop a down leg delivery from Bumrah, but it hit him on the fingertips of his left hand and left him in immense pain, which needed treatment from the physio Kamlesh Jain.

Pant stayed on for the rest of the 34th over and then walked off the field, with Jurel stepping up as his substitute behind the

stumps. Amidst all this, Root and Pope remained resilient to bring up the fifty of their partnership, before the former unfurled a lovely square drive off Mohammed Siraj.

After the drinks break, Root and Pope continued to be patient before the former was in complete control of chipping and cutting Reddy for two boundaries, with the second one coming post a ball change after 42 overs.

Root then brought up his 67th Test fifty by clipping Reddy through fine leg for four, sandwiched between Pope taking leg-side boundaries off Akash.

The duo brought up the century of their partnership before ending the session in England's favour, though India will be interested in the turn and bounce Ravindra Jadeja got in his over before the tea break came.

Earlier, Root and Pope shared an unbroken 39-run stand after Nitish Kumar Reddy's double strikes and ensured England reached 83/2 in 25 overs at lunch.

Bowling at a gentle pace and with a reputation of making the most out of a new-ish red ball, Reddy struck twice in four balls of his first over to remove Duckett and Crawley, who survived the first hour's play. It took Root (24 not out) and Pope (12 not out) to lead England's recovery and reach lunch without any more damage.

Brief scores: England 153/2 in 49 overs (Joe Root 54 not out, Ollie Pope 44 not out; Nitish Kumar Reddy 2-35) against India

Pant receiving treatment at the moment after being hit on left index finger: BCCI

IAN5

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said India vice-captain Rishabh Pant is undergoing treatment for a left index finger injury sustained during the third Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test match at Lord's. With Pant under the medical team's supervision, reserve wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel is currently on keeping duties for India.

The incident happened during the second session's play when in the 34th over Pant copped a blow to the fingertips on his left hand while attempting to stop a Jasprit Bumrah delivery that was fired down legside against Ollie Pope.

"India vice-captain Rishabh Pant got hit on his left index finger. He is receiving treatment at the moment and under



the supervision of the medical team. Dhruv Jurel is currently keeping wickets in Rishabh's absence," said the BCCI in an official updated posted on its 'X' account.

Pant, who had dived to stop the ball, was visibly grimacing in pain while receiving treatment from physio Kamlesh Jain and even when he got his fingers heavily taped up. Though Pant stayed on for the rest of the over, he walked off the field for further treatment

once it was done.

Jurel had been India's wicketkeeper in three Tests against England in the home series in 2024 and had kept wickets in India A's games against England Lions before the five-match Test series commenced. Jurel had also kept wickets when Pant suffered an injury to his knee during the Test against New Zealand in Bengaluru in October 2024.

Later, visuals showed head coach Gautam Gambhir and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak getting up from their seats in the dressing room balcony to have a look at Pant when he arrived with Jain in the Indian team's inner sanctum. On the ongoing tour, Pant has scored 342 runs in two matches at an average of 85.50, including hitting two hundreds in the series opener at Headingley.

Cricket's Asia Cup in doubt after India, Sri Lanka refuse to attend ACC meeting in Dhaka

IAN5

MUMBAI: The Asia Cup cricket tournament plunged into further doubt and chaos after India and Sri Lanka refused to attend a meeting of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) in Dhaka on July 24 over political unrest in the host country, according to a news report. India are scheduled to host the Asia Cup in September 2025.

India have already deferred a tour to Bangladesh from August this year to September next year, and although the BCCI has termed international commitment as the

reason, political tension between New Delhi and Dhaka is at the forefront.

A senior official from Pakistan associated with the ACC confirmed to Telecom Asia Sport (www.telecomasia.net) that the meeting will go on as planned.

"We have given a 15-day period so that all the member countries can make their arrangements. If any member doesn't want to come to Dhaka, there are arrangements for online attendance, but the meeting will be held in Dhaka,"



the official told www.telecomasia.net.

The ACC has said that both Pakistan and Bangladesh are playing a T20I

tri-series in Dhaka from July 20-24, so it would be appropriate that the ACC meeting is also held there. More so, Bangladesh has not hosted an ACC meeting for quite some time.

India are scheduled to host the Asia Cup from September 5, but they are likely to ask the ACC to relocate the event to a neutral venue, as under an agreement, Pakistan will not tour India, the report said.

The agreement was

reached earlier this year when India refused to tour Pakistan for the Champions Trophy after their government refused to permit them to travel across the border. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) agreed to relocate India's matches to Dubai on the condition that they would also not send their team to India for any multinational event until 2027.

The ACC has written a letter to the BCCI asking them whether they want to host the Continental event or not. They are still waiting for the reply, ACC sources told www.telecomasia.net.

Football: Joakim Alexandersson names 24-member travelling squad for Uzbekistan friendlies

IAN5

NEW DELHI: The Indian U20 women's team will play two friendly matches in Tashkent against Uzbekistan U20 women on July 13 and 16, 2025, as part of their preparations for the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers, scheduled to be held from August 6 to 10 in Myanmar.

Swedish coach Joakim Alexandersson named a 24-member travelling squad that will depart from Bengaluru, where the Young Tigresses had been camping, on the night of July 10 and arrive in Tashkent on the morning of July 11.

India will face Indonesia (August 6), Turkmenistan (August 8), and Myanmar (August 10) in Yangan in the

AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers. The group winners and the three best runners-up across all eight groups will qualify for the final tournament in Thailand next year.

The 24-member squad includes goalkeeper Monalisa Devi Moirangthem, who was part of the senior team that secured a historic qualification to the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 in Thailand last week. She made one appearance in the Qualifiers and joined the U20 camp on July 7 after returning from Thailand.

Melody Chanu Keisham, Shubhangi Singh, Viksit Bara, Sulanjana Raul, and Cindy Remruatpui Colney have also trained with the senior team during their camp in Bengaluru, which is part of the broader AIFF vision to provide more

exposure to players from a younger age.

India U20 Women's 24-member travelling squad for Uzbekistan friendlies:

Goalkeepers: Melody Chanu Keisham, Monalisa Devi Moirangthem, Ribansi Jamu.

Defenders: Alina Chingakhram, Cindy Remruatpui Colney, Fragrancy Riwan, Juhi Singh, Nishima Kumari, Remi Thokchom, Sahena TH, Shubhangi Singh, Viksit Bara.

Midfielders: Anju Chanu Kayenpaibam, Arina Devi Nameirakpam, Bhumi Devi Khumukcham, Khushbu Kashiram Saroj, Monisha Singha, Neha, Pooja.

Forwards: Babita Kumari, Deepika Pal, Lhingdeikim, Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam, Sulanjana Raul.