

Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication



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...Report Card

Restoring Peace, Strengthening Democracy

In his first year as Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha brought notable changes in governance, law and order, and democratic outreach. A major achievement was the sharp decline in stone-pelting incidents, particularly near encounter sites and after Friday prayers at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid and other volatile

Administrative Reforms

Sinha, a three-time MP and former Union minister, also brought an end to the 148-year-old practice of the biannual durbar move by discontinuing the shifting of the civil secretariat between Jammu and Srinagar. This administrative reform enhanced efficiency and reduced resource wastage. In another significant move, the LG administration, following a J&K High Court ruling in October 2020,

Reforms, Empowerment & e-Governance

In 2021, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha accelerated Jammu & Kashmir's transformation with focused efforts across governance, agriculture, youth engagement, women empowerment, and public welfare. A major reform came on 30 June when he ended the 149-year-old durbar move—the biannual shifting of the civil secretariat between Jammu and Srinagar—ushering in a streamlined e-office system to

Boosting Infrastructure, Attracting Investment

Infrastructure and economic revival were equally prioritized. In October, Sinha inaugurated ₹26 crore worth of development projects, completing 2,444 works and bringing electricity to Keran and Machil villages for the first time in 73 years—benefiting 19 remote Panchayats near the LoC. In December, he invited industrialists during a visit to Kolkata under

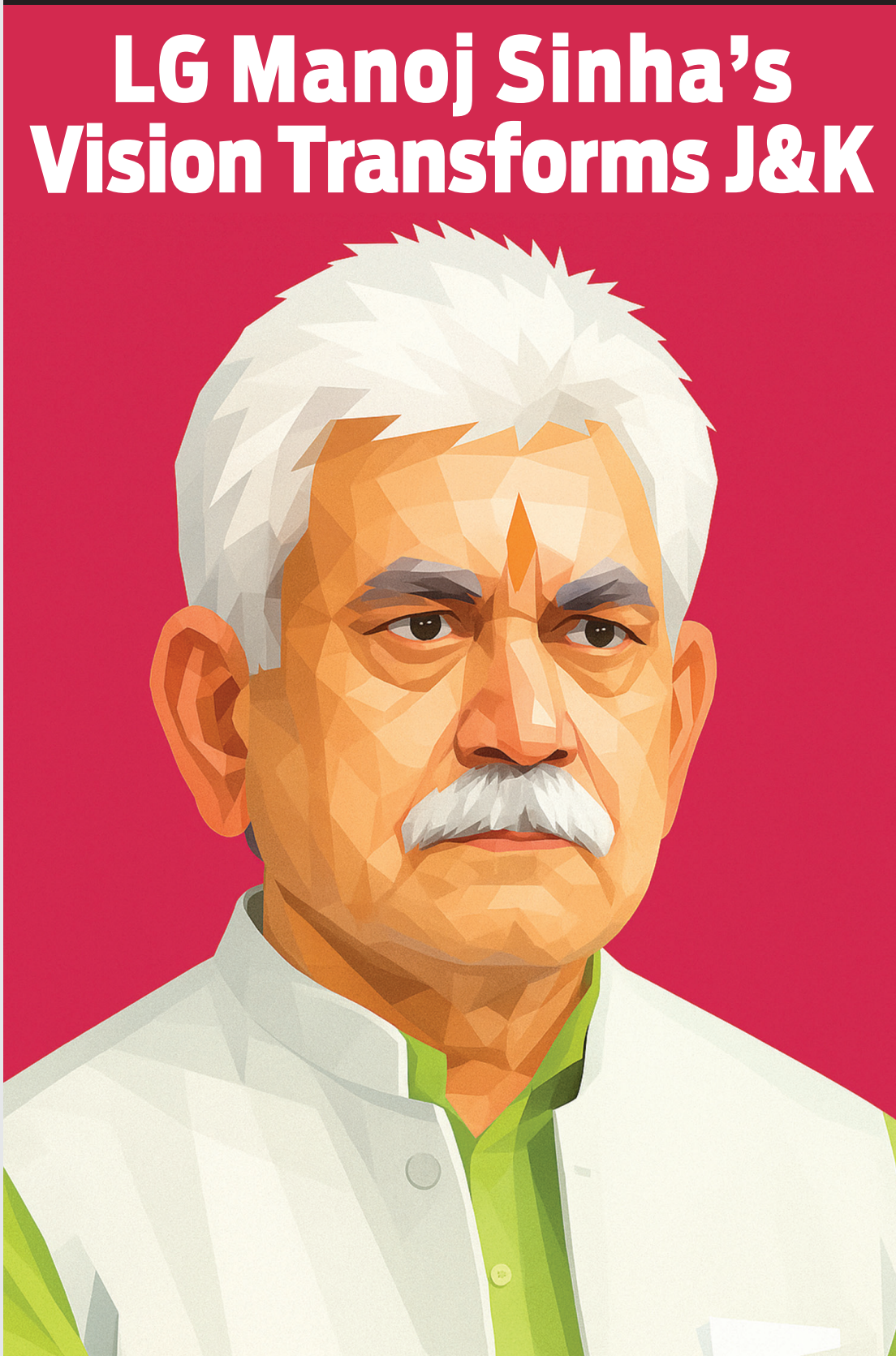
Boosting Budget

In February 2022, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir was allocated ₹35,581.44 crore by the central government for the financial year 2022-23—an increase of ₹877 crore from the previous year's ₹34,704 crore. The budget was hailed as significant for the UT's development, paving the way for major governance reforms. In July, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched Digital Jammu & Kashmir Week, showcasing citizen-centric IT initiatives such as Digi-Melas, the Digi Dost

Education Reforms, Youth Empowerment

In May 2022, Nilofer Khan was appointed as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kashmir—a historic step under the LG's leadership. August saw the inauguration of 119 civil projects, including 84 new school buildings, sports facilities in 100 schools, two residential tribal schools, and the launch of NIELIT and TECHBEE programs for classes VI to XII. Key initiatives like the TALAASH app, a Mentorship Program, and

Kashmir Ki Nayi Kahani: Vikas, Vishwas Aur Insaniyat Ki Zubani



SUHAIL MIR
SRINAGAR: As Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha completes five years at the helm of Jammu & Kashmir, the Union Territory (UT) stands as a testament to what visionary leadership and determined governance can achieve. From being primarily known for conflict and instability, J&K has emerged as one of India's most promising regions, witnessing unprecedented development across all sectors under Sinha's stewardship. This comprehensive report details the multifaceted transformation that has reshaped the region's socio-economic landscape. When Manoj Sinha assumed office on August 7, 2020, Jammu & Kashmir stood at a critical crossroads. The historic decision to abrogate Article 370 had created both immense opportunities and significant challenges. Sinha, a seasoned politician with extensive administrative experience as a former Union Minister and Member of Parliament, brought with him a unique combination of political acumen and technical expertise as an M. Tech from IIT-BHU. His approach was clear from the outset: to use development as the foundation for lasting peace and prosperity. One of the most visible transformations under LG Sinha's leadership has been in J&K's economic landscape. The administration's Industrial Policy 2021 proved to be a watershed moment, completely reshaping the region's investment climate. The policy's implementation attracted investment

Economic Momentum

In 2023, LG Manoj Sinha's administration strengthened Jammu & Kashmir's trajectory across security, tourism, and industrial growth. Following twin terror attacks in January, the LG ordered a probe into security lapses and reinforced village defence systems by arming local Village Defence Guards (VDGs) in districts like Poonch and Doda. By March, Sinha announced a record-breaking

Agro-Industrial Reforms

July 2023 was marked by the launch of a transformative agro-industrial initiative under the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan, focusing on cold storage, inland ports, food processing, and women-led industrial estates. In September, the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign saw massive public engagement, with over 1.5 lakh events involving soil and rice collection, tree

Youth Engagement

In 2024, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid a strong foundation for deepening democracy and empowering youth in Jammu & Kashmir. A landmark moment came in October with the region's first legislative assembly elections post-reorganisation. Sinha oversaw the swearing-in of Omar Abdullah as Chief Minister on October 16, followed by ministerial appointments and the opening Assembly session on

Inclusive Dev and Green Governance

The 2024-25 budget under Sinha's leadership prioritized inclusive growth and environmental stewardship. The health sector received ₹1,674 crore for expanded medical services, including full-scale operations of cancer institutes in Jammu and Srinagar, 400 DNB seats, dialysis access, universal ABHA IDs, and AIIMS Awantipora by March 2025. Tourism and culture got ₹519.7 crore for restoring heritage sites, off-beat tourist circuits like Keran and Tosamaidan, new cultural centers, and a Suffiana

Connectivity and Economic Empowerment

In 2025, LG Manoj Sinha reiterated his administration's commitment to restoring full statehood to Jammu & Kashmir and ensuring the dignified rehabilitation of displaced communities like the Kashmiri Pandits through inclusive consultations. Infrastructure saw a historic leap as the Katra-Reasi-Sangaldan rail section entered its final phase, culminating in the inauguration of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Line (USBRL) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6. This

Justice for Terror Victims

In a shift toward stricter internal security, LG Sinha in June 2025 declared that all terror attacks in Jammu & Kashmir would henceforth be treated as "acts of war" under newly implemented criminal laws, reinforcing a hardened stance against terrorism. Emphasizing cyber threat preparedness at the police academy in Udhampur, he also directed the dismissal of three government employees with alleged

VIEW POINT

Mudasir Dar



The most striking change is within the mindset of the people. After five years of earnest administration under LG Manoj Sinha, governance has achieved what seventy years of political pandering could not, emotive integration with the rest of India. A region which has been regarded in terms of conflict for a long time is now learning to speak with confidence. Terror infested villages now host Tiranga rallies. The youth from Pulwama,

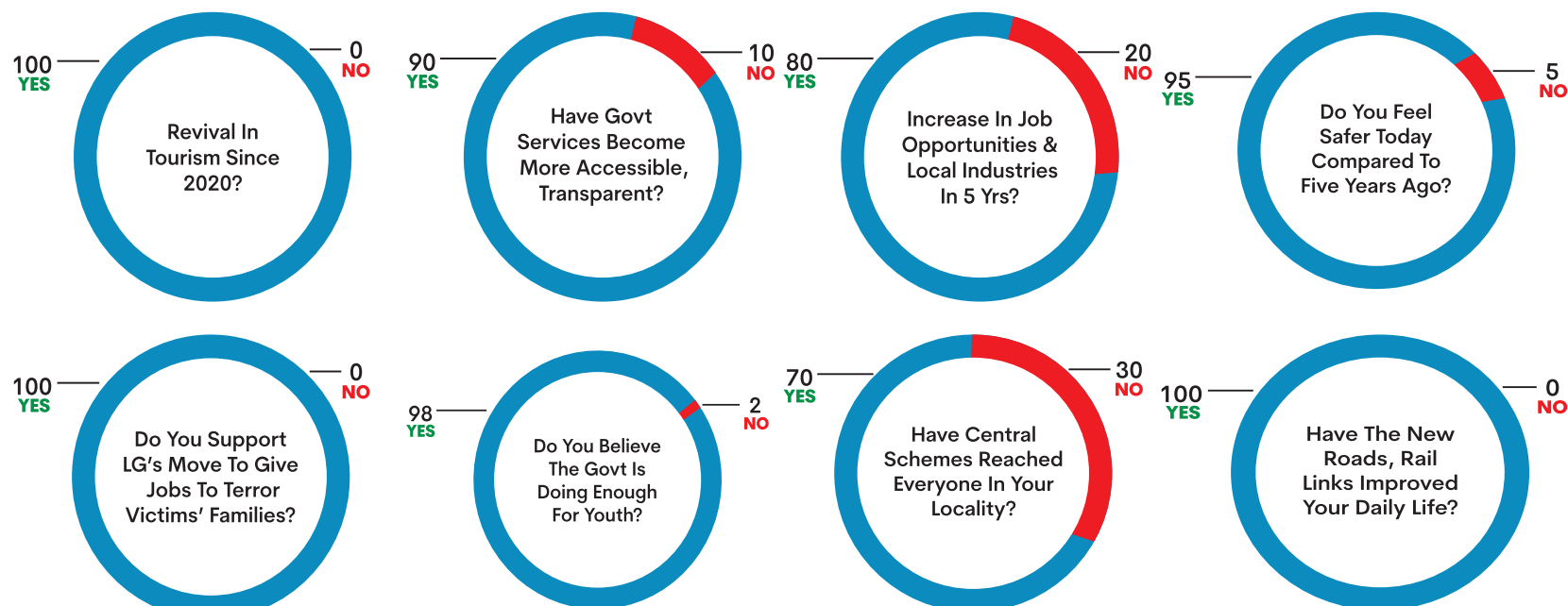
Rishi Suri



Under the visionary leadership of LG Manoj Sinha, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a silent revolution, one of peace, progress, and people-first governance. From restoring dignity to victims of terrorism to unlocking the region's vast economic and human potential, his tenure has been nothing short of transformative. He hasn't just governed, he has healed, built, and inspired.

YOUR VIEW

LG Manoj Sinha's efforts in restoring peace and stability in Kashmir was widely appreciated by the people. Locals welcomed the return of normalcy, especially the absence of hartals and shutdowns that once crippled daily life. People expressed gratitude for the peaceful environment, saying that for the first time in decades, they feel safe and hopeful about the future. Sinha's balanced approach with development and dialogue has helped foster a sense of stability, allowing Kashmiris to reclaim their daily lives and dreams.



Jobs To Terror Victims

The response to LG Manoj Sinha's initiative of providing jobs to families of terror victims was overwhelmingly positive among locals. People from various districts appreciated this move, calling it a much-needed and humane gesture. Many stated that for decades, the families of terror victims were ignored, left to struggle in silence, and were deprived of justice and support. By offering them government jobs, LG Sinha not only addressed their financial needs but also restored their dignity. Locals said that this step reflects a compassionate approach to governance, and such outreach has helped rebuild public trust in the administration. Some even mentioned that emotional ceremonies held in Anantnag, Baramulla, and Srinagar brought tears to their eyes, as justice was finally delivered to long-neglected families. Overall, this initiative has been seen as a powerful symbol of healing, empathy, and inclusive governance, showing that the administration is serious about addressing past wrongs.

Buyer-Seller meet held to boost Horticulture trade, market linkages in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Department of Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, Jammu and Kashmir, Wednesday organized a Buyer-Seller Meet under the theme "Connecting Farmers with markets", at Convention Centre, Canal Road, with the objective of strengthening the market linkages and promoting agri-business partnerships within the Union Territory's flourishing horticulture sector.

The event was chaired by Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmed Dar.

MD JKCIP/HADP, APD, General Manager NABARD, Special Secretary APD, MD JK Agro, MD HPMC, Director Command and Heads of the different Agriculture and allied departments such as Horticulture, Agriculture, Animal & Sheep husbandry, fisheries, sericulture and others.

The meet brought together a diverse range of stakeholders including prominent horticulture growers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), traders, exporters, agri-entrepreneurs and representatives of organized retail chains from across the country. It served as a vibrant platform for direct engagement between buyers and sellers, aiming to enhance transparency, ensure better price realization and open up new market avenues for J&K's premium horticultural produce such as Apples, Walnuts, Basmati Rice, Cherries, Pecannuts, Pears and Apricots.

The event featured focused B2B interactions, technical sessions and knowledge-sharing discussions on topics like "Export potential of horticultural produce, Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Integration with e-market platforms like e-NAM, Innovations in packaging and logistics."

The department reiterated its commitment towards empowering the stakeholders through targeted training, capacity-building programs, and facilitation of market access at both national and international levels.

This initiative is part of the UT Government's broader vision to strengthen horticulture-based livelihoods and boost the agri-economy of Jammu and Kashmir by creating a market-driven and sustainable ecosystem.

Javid Dar appreciated the initiatives taken by the department to boost horticulture sector in J&K. He advised the participants to avail the benefits of various schemes launched by the Government for betterment of growers and buyers of J&K.

The Minister said that the government is very keen to uplift Horticulture sector for uplift of economy of Growers of J&K. It shall continue to explore the possibilities for launching similar flagship programs to boost the Horticulture/Agriculture sector.

The Minister assured that every district will have Centre of Excellence, which will provide farmers with access to modern technology, expertise and resources. He directed the concerned officers to focus on developing rainfed areas in various sectors like horticulture, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry to prevent migration due to livelihoods.

The event facilitated direct interaction between the farmers, FPOs and institutional buyers, enabling transparent price negotiation and long-term business opportunities. Various local products including walnuts, saffron and processed items were showcased during the event.

The meet also highlighted modern marketing platforms like e-NAM and promoted B2B partnerships. Earlier in his inaugural address, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, Director, Horticulture Planning and Marketing, reaffirmed the Government's commitment towards developing a robust mechanism for creating marketing linkages between the local sellers and buyers within and outside UT and integrated value chain in the horticulture sector. He highlighted key initiatives under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) & Jammu & Kashmir Competitive Investment Project (JKCIP), including establishment of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) stores, integrated pack houses, grading and sorting lines and expansion of cold chain infrastructure, all aimed at minimizing post-harvest losses and improving product quality.

The officials emphasized the government's commitment towards developing a sustainable horticulture ecosystem through infrastructure, market interventions and capacity building. The initiative is expected to significantly boost farmer incomes and promote value chain development across the region.



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Sakeena Itoo Visits Bereaved Family of Electrocution Victim in Budgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Wednesday visited Ichgam Budgam to offer condolences to the family of young student who lost his life in tragic electrocution incident yesterday.

MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar; MLA Khan Sahib, Saif-ud-din Bhat; Director School Education Kashmir and other senior officers of district administration also accompanied the Minister.

During the visit, the Minister met the bereaved family to offer condolences and express solidarity with them during this difficult time. She assured them that accountability will be fixed on this unfortunate incident and swift action will be taken against those responsible for this negligence.

The Minister further assured the family that government stands with them in this moment of grief and all necessary support and assistance will be provided to them.

The Minister, earlier, visited the site of incident and took on-spot assessment of circumstances leading to this unfortunate incident.

Later, the Minister also held a brief meeting with the Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat and other senior officers of district administration at Dak Banglow on this incident.

The Minister issued strict directions to the district administration to ensure transparent and time-bound enquiry into this incident and fix responsibility on those found guilty of negligence and take action against them as per law.

She also directed the district administration to review safety measures near all schools and other public institutions so that these kind of incidents can be prevented in future.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner informed the Minister that an enquiry committee has already been constituted to investigate the incident and ascertain how the electrocution incident occurred, identify any lapses and ensure that accountability is fixed.

Committee on Estimates reviews functioning of RD&PR, H&UD

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The House Committee on Estimates Wednesday convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to review functioning of the Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (RD&PR) and Housing & Urban Development (H&UD) Departments.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairperson Shamim Firdaus, which was attended by the members including Abdul Majid Bhat (Larmi), Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, Chander Prakash Ganga, Gharu Ram Bhagat, and Pyare Lal Sharma.

Among senior officials who attended the meeting were Commissioner Secretary H&UD, Mandep Kour; Commissioner Secretary RD&PR, Babila Rakwal; Director General Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra; Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Fayaz A. Lone; Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita; Vice Chairpersons of LCMA and SDA; MD JKHB, MD JKRLM; Director PR; Commissioners of SMC and JMC; Director ULB; CEO IWMP; CE SSSL and other concerned officers and officials.

The Chairperson stressed the need for effective implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission, particularly in rural areas. She directed the concerned officers to ensure daily garbage collection, scientific segregation and timely disposal to maintain effective sanitation across all villages.

To facilitate holistic development in rural and urban areas, the Chairperson emphasized involving public representatives (MLAs) in planning and execution. She also underscored the urgent need for construction of Panchayat Ghars in all panchayat haalqs, currently with no such infrastructural facilities.

The Committee strongly called for conservation of water bodies, including Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes. It directed for immediate removal of encroachments, particularly in the Brarimbal area of Srinagar.

The officers were further instructed to take tangible steps for rejuvenation and restoration of clogged springs across Jammu and Kashmir and submit detailed reports on restoration of defunct ones.

Addressing the urban concerns, the Chairperson highlighted the need for a robust drainage system in affected areas and called for action to control the growing stray dog population in Srinagar. The Committee also emphasized inter-departmental coordination to ensure seamless service delivery and successful scheme implementation. It resolved to continue monitoring the performance of key departments while thoroughly scrutinising the budget estimates, revised allocations and actual expenditures to promote accountability and transparency in developmental works.

The delegation highlighted the difficulties faced by the distributors and consumers due to recurring gas shortages. The delegation raised the issue of frequent disruptions in LPG supply, attributing the situation to repeated closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and ongoing maintenance works that are hampering timely transportation of gas cylinders to various regions, particularly in the Kashmir valley and remote areas.

They urged the Minister to grant special permission for LPG distributors to stock additional gas cylinders beyond the current regulated limits. They emphasized that such a provision would help prevent shortages during periods of road blockage or adverse weather, especially in hilly and high-altitude areas.



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Kashmir LPG distributor Association calls on Satish Sharma

Seeks Permission for Stocking Extra Cylinders amid Highway Closures

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Information Technology, and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma Wednesday met a delegation of Kashmir LPG distributor Association, led by Jag Mohan Singh Raina.

The delegation highlighted the difficulties faced by the distributors and consumers due to recurring gas shortages. The delegation raised the issue of frequent disruptions in LPG supply, attributing the situation to repeated closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and ongoing maintenance works that are hampering timely transportation of gas cylinders to various regions, particularly in the Kashmir valley and remote areas.

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H&H Dept to organize Trainee Product Sale at Numaish Gah on Aug 7

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, Wednesday extended an invitation to all craft lovers to visit Kashmir Haat, Srinagar, on August 7 for a Trainee Product Sale to commemorate the 11th National Handloom Day.

Stalls from all 10 districts of Kashmir Division, along with registered Cooperative Societies, shall be on display for sale of trainee products made across 432 training centres of the department.

In a press release issued here today, Deputy Director (Trainings), Mirza Shahid Ali, stated that the Trainee Product Sale shall begin at 11.00 am in which various craft products like hand-knotted woolen carpets, Sozni embroidered Shawls, hand-woven Pashmina, Crewel, Namdha, Gabba, Chain Stitch along with non-textile items like Papier Mache and Walnut Wood Carving and Willow Wicker shall be available on nominal rates. "The products are available at affordable prices as no labour cost or surcharges are added," he explained.

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has deposited revenue remittances of over ₹1.00 Cr in Government Treasuries over the last three years, by way of sale of such trainee products. Apart from District Stalls, stalls from IICT and CDI, along with LIVE demo by School of Design is also available. "The Poshish brand products of Handloom Development Corporation shall also be available for sale on discounted rates," he added.

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Shining Star vs. Star Barpura

CRPF Tournament Ends with Nail-Biting Finale

AKHTAR ABBAS

PULWAMA: The 182 Battalion of CRPF Pulwama successfully organized the final match of the Volleyball Knockout Tournament at its Battalion Headquarters on Wednesday. The tournament, featuring four competitive teams, culminated in an exciting clash between Shining Star Chandgam and Star Barpura.

After a fiercely contested match, Star Barpura emerged as the champions, showcasing exceptional skill and teamwork. The winning team was honored with a trophy and volleyball kits for their outstanding performance.

Commandant Anil Kumar, the chief guest, commended all participating teams for their talent, sportsmanship, and dedication. He emphasized the



importance of sports in fostering physical fitness and a healthy competitive spirit among the youth.

Special recognition was given to Ct. Shivban for his dynamic and engaging commentary, which

added vibrancy to the event. Senior CRPF officials, including Deputy Commandant Sandeep Rettu, Deputy Commander Atendra Singh, and Officer Jitendra Mishra, were also present to encourage the

players. The tournament underscored CRPF's commitment to promoting sports and unity in the region, leaving a lasting impression on players and spectators alike.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-mail: id_xenmhdhandwara@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT No:	M&HDH/TS/2025-26/eNIT/13
Date:	04/08/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from Experienced registered/reputed firms or authorized dealer's/workshop holders for the below mentioned works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Repairs/replacement works and periodic maintenance to various Front End Loaders at SCCR Dawar Gurez of Mechanical and Hospital Sub-Division-II Handwara.	2.06	200	4200	15days	Accorded	Accorded

Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 04-08-2025(18.00hrs)

- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 05-08-2025(10:00hrs) to 23/08/2025 (1200hrs) in two covers.
- Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 23/08/2025 (1400hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
- The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

No: - M&HDH/TS/783-89
Dated: 04/08/2025
DIPK-4871-25
DT: 06/08/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

Tribal Communities Guardians of India's Cultural Diversity: LG Sinha

Inaugurates 2-Day National Tribal Festival at Gurez

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday highlighted the significant contributions of the tribal community to India's cultural diversity, calling their rich traditions a "guiding light" for the nation.

"I consider the Dard-Shina tribal community to be the most precious treasure of India, which is inspiring the people to preserve their traditions and rituals. Its rich traditions are a guiding light for us. The Dard-Shina community's deep connection to nature has shaped a unique culture and set of values. They impart a powerful lesson to humanity to lead a sustainable lifestyle in harmony with nature," LG said while inaugurating the National Tribal Festival at Gurez through virtual mode.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the priceless tribal culture is being preserved and their ancient glory and dignity is restored," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Central Government has always focussed on empowering the tribal community and transforming their lives.



"Decades of injustice against tribals ended in August 2019. Various transformative initiatives have enhanced the socio-economic conditions of tribal brothers and sisters. Gurez was connected to grid power in 2023 for the first time since 1947. This reflects our commitment to Gurez and Dard-Shina community," he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor dedicated the Shina Gilgit 88.8 FM Radio Station to the Dard-Shina tribal community. He said the community radio station will inspire young generation to preserve and cherish the

values, knowledge and traditions of the community. The Lieutenant Governor suggested that the new radio station should broadcast the rich history of the tribal community, through a dedicated weekly program.

"Gurez was developed and established as the most favourite offbeat tourist destination of the country. Today Gurez is ranked as a top travel destination of the country and it is considered as a haven for outdoor enthusiasts with its serene landscapes and picturesque villages. The community radio programmes must reflect

its natural, artistic and cultural heritage," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the Indian Army, Tribal Affairs Department, District Administration and various voluntary organizations for their dedication to promote the priceless cultural heritage of Dard-Shina community.

Captivating performances by the Artists from J&K and other states celebrating "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" received special appreciation from the Lieutenant Governor.

Members of the tribal community were also honoured for their service to the society and the Indian Army.

Shri Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment; Shri Nazir Ahmad Khan, Member of Legislative Assembly from Gurez; Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department; Shri Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, senior officials of security forces, civil and police administration, and people from all walks of life in large number attended the inaugural ceremony.

CM Omar Abdullah meets public at Raabita Outreach Office

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A number of delegations and public representatives called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita office here Wednesday to discuss a wide range of issues concerning public infrastructure, traders' issues, higher education, and opportunities for technocrats.

The day's engagements began with a meeting of Members of the Legislative Assembly—Farooq Ahmad Shah (Gulmarg), Sajjad Shafi (Uri), Irshad Rasool Kar (Sopore), Shafi Ahmad Wani (Beerwah), and Pawan Gupta (Udhampur West)—who apprised the Chief Minister of various constituency-specific issues requiring immediate attention.

Subsequently, a delegation from the Traders Federation of Shopian raised concerns of the local business commu-



nity. They sought the government's intervention to resolve logistical challenges and improve market access for Shopian-based enterprises. A separate delegation from the School of Archi-

ecture, Kashmir, met the Chief Minister to highlight the lack of job opportunities for architects in Jammu and Kashmir. They urged the government to create posts and integrate architectural

expertise for urban development planning.

A deputation representing transporters and shopkeepers of the Old Batmaloo General Bus Stand also met the Chief Minister. They demanded the revival of commercial activity along with basic civic restoration at the Batmaloo.

The Chief Minister also held a separate meeting with former Minister and senior political leader Sajjad Ahmed Kitchloo, who discussed the developmental scenario in the Chenab Valley.

Scores of individuals also called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various personal and public concerns.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all delegations and assured that the issues raised would be appropriately addressed through the concerned departments.

NIT organizes tiranga rally under nationwide 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the nationwide 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday organized a large-scale Tiranga Rally within its campus to celebrate the spirit of patriotism ahead of India's 79th Independence Day.

The rally, aimed at instilling national pride and unity among students and staff, was flagged off by Prof. Roohi Naaz, Incharge Director of NIT Srinagar, in the presence of Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman.

The event witnessed participation from over 1,000 individuals, including deans, heads of departments, faculty members, research scholars, non-teaching staff, and students.

Carrying the national flag and chanting patriotic slogans, the participants marched across the institute's campus in a coordinated display of national unity. The rally began at the administrative block and passed through the Mechanical Department, water resource centre, new guest house and before culminating at the fountain park of the campus.

Speaking on the occasion, Incharge Director Prof. Roohi Naaz said that the rally was not just a symbolic gesture but a reminder of the sacrifices made by freedom fighters.

"This event reflects our deep respect for the nation and its core values. It is a matter of immense pride to see the entire NIT Srinagar fraternity coming together to honour our national flag and the spirit of independence," she said.

Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman said that the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is about reconnecting with our identity as Indians. Through this rally, we seek to foster a sense of civic duty and national consciousness, especially among the youth who are the future of the country," he said.

The Tiranga Rally was part of a broader set of activities being conducted by NIT Srinagar in the lead-up to Independence Day. The Institute has planned a series of events over the next week. It includes cultural programs, patriotic song competitions, debates, and awareness drives to highlight the significance of India's freedom struggle and constitutional values.

White Knight Corps GOC reviews security in Poonch



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's White Knight Corps, Lt Gen P K Mishra, on Wednesday conducted a review of security situation in border district of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch, reinforcing focus on operational dominance and integrated threat response to thwart "nefarious designs" of the enemy.

Lt Gen Mishra was accompanied by GOC, Ace of Spades Division, also known as 25 Infantry Division, Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherjee, during the visit to the area along the Line of Control

(LoC) under the Poonch brigade, officials said.

"He (Lt Gen Mishra) was briefed on the current security situation, threat assessment and operational posture of own forces (during the visit)," Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

It said the GOC of White Knight Corps reinforced focus on operational dominance and integrated threat response to thwart "nefarious designs" of the enemy.

"The Corps Commander interacted with troops, commended their high morale and operational readiness in the face of evolving threats," the post said.

DC Srinagar visits Shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom (R.A)

Review arrangements for upcoming Urs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday visited Shrine of Hazrat Sultan-ul-Arfeen, Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom (R.A) at Makhdoom Sahib area in Shahr-e-Khaas of Srinagar City to review the preparations for the upcoming Urs observance.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, City Drainage, City Roads, KPDCI, Teshildar Khanyar, Chief Sanitation Officer, medical Superintendent Gousia Hospital, Senior Officers of Police & Traffic departments, members of Makhdoom Sahib Shrine Management and other concerned.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the facilities being put in place to ensure smooth observance of the annual religious occasion. He emphasized the need for coordinated efforts by all concerned departments to facilitate devotees expected to participate in large numbers.

The DC reviewed various arrangements, including supply of water & electricity, transport service, parking & traffic management, sanitation & cleanliness measures and medical facilities.

The DC also interacted with Shrine authorities and local representatives to incorporate their suggestions for improving the arrangements for upcoming Urs.

The DC directed the concerned to ensure adequate supply of water at the Shrine for devotees. He emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in & around the shrine and instructed the SMC authorities to take necessary measures for sanitation and dog menace, besides making all street lights functional.

Similarly, the PDD Engineers were directed to ensure an uninterrupted power supply in the area during Urs days. He was apprised that, a Medical team at the Shrine during the Urs days.

The DC directed the Officers of line Departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are diligently put in place to facilitate a peaceful and smooth observance of the Urs.

PM Modi to attend SCO Summit in China later this month

IANs

BEIJING: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to travel to China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit to be held in Tianjin City from August 31-September 1, reports cited on Wednesday. This will be PM Modi's first visit to China since the Galwan clash in 2020, which severely strained bilateral ties.

PM Modi had earlier travelled to China in 2019. He also held a meeting with the Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Russia's Kazan in 2024. The breakthrough in bilateral talks, first after the Galwan Valley face-off between the soldiers of the two countries at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in June 2020, was made possible after New Delhi and Beijing reached an agreement on patrolling along the nearly 3500-km Line of Actual Control (LAC) to end the four-year-long border confrontation.

In July, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar's visited China to attend the Meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers in Tianjin. He also held discussions with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the event. He also called on Chinese President Xi Jinping along with his fellow SCO Foreign Ministers.

Earlier in June, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited China to attend the SCO Defence Ministers' meeting, citing



the exclusion of concerns around terrorism as a key reason.

India stated that it wanted concerns about terrorism reflected in the document, which was not acceptable to one particular country; therefore, the statement was not adopted. During his visit, Singh met his Chinese counterpart Admiral Don Jun and the two leaders had "constructive and forward looking exchange of views on issues related to bilateral ties.

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval also visited China to attend the 20th meeting of the Security Council Secretaries of the SCO Member States in Beijing. In his intervention at the meeting, he highlighted the need to shun double standards in the fight against terrorism and take decisive actions against UN-proscribed terrorists and entities like LeT, JeM and their proxies and dismantle their terror eco-systems.

The SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation established in Shanghai on June 15, 2001. The member states of SCO include India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.

Anti-terror operation in J&K's Kulgam enters 6th day

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The anti-terrorist operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district entered the sixth day on Wednesday as security forces continued to battle the ultras hiding in the deep forest area.

A senior police official

said the security forces were using all means, including drones and helicopters, to track down the terrorists in the difficult terrain in the forest area.

"The operation has entered its sixth day and is going on," the official said, adding intermittent exchange of firing is going on.

Two terrorists have been killed while at least two security forces personnel were injured in the gunfight which began on Friday after security forces launched a cordon and search operation in a forest area at Akhal in the south Kashmir district, following specific intelligence

inputs about the presence of terrorists there.

After an initial exchange of fire between the two sides on Friday evening, the operation was halted for the night, but the cordon was strengthened, and additional reinforcements were rushed to the area, officials said.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
HANDWARA
 Phone No. 01955295181 | Website: www.itihandwara.org | E-mail: govitihandwara@gmail.com

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION NO 2.

Off-line applications on prescribed format are invited from eligible candidates for seeking admission in different trades against vacant seats under reservation quota. The admission form can be obtained from training section of Govt. ITI Handwara with effect from 07-08-2025 to 14-08-2025 against cash payment of Rs.100/=. The last date of submitting a filled application form is 14-08-2025 up to 4:00 PM.

S.No	Name of Trade	ST		EWS	SC	OBC	PWD	Ex Service Man
		ST1	ST2					
01	Electrician	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
02	Electronic Mechanic	2	2	1	2	2	1	1
03	Computer Operator and Programming Assistant (General)	1	1	1	2	2	0	1
04	Computer Operator and Programming Assistant (Women)	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
05	Data Entry Operator	0	1	1	2	0	0	1
06	Stenographer & Secretarial Assistant	2	2	1	2	0	0	1
07	Sewing Technology	2	2	1	2	2	1	1
08	Multimedia Animation and Special Effects	2	2	1	2	0	0	1
09	Plumber	2	2	1	2	2	0	1
10	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technician	2	2	1	2	1	1	1

Note: -
 01. Selection will be made only on vacant seats under reserved category.
 02. Selection will be made on academic merit obtained by the applicant in the qualifying examination.

Sd/=
 Superintendent
 Industrial Training Institute
 Handwara

DIPK-4879-25
 DT: 06/08/2025

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

LG Sinha's Five Years Of Visionary Leadership

As Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha completes five years in office, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the profound transformation the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has undergone under his stewardship. At a time when the region grappled with uncertainty and a challenging narrative, Sinha's leadership has not only altered perceptions but also laid a firm foundation for progress and integration. When he assumed office, Jammu and Kashmir was often viewed through the prism of conflict and instability. The youth, in particular, faced a future clouded with doubt and limited opportunities. Against this backdrop, Manoj Sinha embarked on a mission to rewrite the story of the region, one initiative at a time. A hallmark of his tenure has been a series of bold, inclusive initiatives aimed at development, education, infrastructure, and employment. By fostering connectivity, both physical and digital, the administration has bridged divides and brought the rest of India closer to the hearts and minds of Kashmir's youth. His government's focus on skill development and entrepreneurship has created a new wave of optimism, encouraging young people to envision a prosperous future within the Union Territory. The change is palpable. The once prevalent narrative of despair is being replaced by stories of hope, innovation, and opportunity. Investment in tourism, healthcare, and education sectors under his guidance has sparked economic revival and social empowerment. Notably, the increasing integration of Jammu and Kashmir's economy with the national framework is fostering a sense of belonging and shared destiny. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's tenure demonstrates that with steady leadership, vision, and inclusive governance, even the most challenging circumstances can be transformed. His efforts have kindled a renewed spirit in Jammu and Kashmir, a spirit that looks forward with confidence, ready to contribute dynamically to the nation's progress. As the region charts its course ahead, the positive momentum must be sustained. The onus now lies on all stakeholders, government, civil society, and the youth, to build on this foundation and propel Jammu and Kashmir towards greater heights. Manoj Sinha's five years in office stand as a testament to what can be achieved when commitment meets opportunity. In this evolving journey, the Union Territory no longer looks inward with hesitation but outward with ambition. And that is the true measure of leadership and progress.

Marcos In Delhi: A New Chapter In Indo-Philippine Relations



RISHI SURI

By all accounts, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s August 2025 visit to India is more than a symbolic commemoration of 75 years of diplomatic ties, it was a geopolitical reset. His state visit resulted in the formal elevation of India-Philippines relations to a Strategic Partnership, a milestone that will reverberate far beyond the bilateral corridor. With defence, trade, maritime security, and people-to-people ties at the center, the partnership reflects the strategic convergence of two democracies navigating the turbulence of an increasingly contested Indo-Pacific.

Historic Ties, Renewed Purpose
The India-Philippines relationship has long been warm but under-leveraged. While cultural and civilizational links date back over a millennium, evident in Sanskrit-derived words in Tagalog, and early trade between Indian and pre-colonial Southeast Asian kingdoms, contemporary ties were formalised in 1949, with a Treaty of Friendship signed in 1952. However, for decades the relationship remained modest, with bilateral trade volumes averaging under \$2 billion annually and limited security engagement.

Defence: A Strategic Pivot Anchored in Maritime Security
One of the most striking outcomes of the Marcos-Modi summit was the decision to deepen defence cooperation, including joint maritime patrols, defence manufacturing, and technology sharing. India has already delivered BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines under a \$375 million deal, the first export of this weapon system, and a signal of deepening trust.

The joint statement further revealed that the two sides will collaborate on submarine infrastructure development in the Philippines, marking a bold step towards building indigenous maritime capability in a country that currently lacks a submarine fleet. The Philippines is also modernising its armed forces under the Revised AFP Modernization Program (RAFPMP), and India has emerged as a preferred partner for affordable, reliable defence platforms.

The first-ever joint naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Philippine Navy was conducted in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) on August 3, 2025. This involved Indian warships INS Delhi, INS Shakti, and INS Kiltan, and Philippine ships BRP Jose Rizal and BRP Antonio Luna. The presence of Chinese surveillance ships shadowing the exercise underscored the geopolitical stakes.

India has also offered to supply other equipment, including radars, coastal surveillance systems, and patrol vessels to boost Manila's maritime domain



awareness.

Indo-Pacific: Aligning Strategic Visions

The Philippines, under Marcos, has taken an unambiguous stand on regional sovereignty. In his address in New Delhi, he described the Indo-Pacific as the "correct evolution" of the Asia-Pacific, indicating support for India's vision of a free, open, and rules-based region.

India's "Act East Policy" and the Philippines' own pivot to multi-alignment in foreign policy find synergy here. Both nations are members of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercises (AIME). They also support the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Tribunal ruling, which invalidated China's expansive claims in the region, a ruling China continues to ignore.

Economics and Trade: Laying the Foundation
During the summit, Prime Minister Modi and President Marcos pledged to double bilateral trade to over \$4 billion by 2028, up from the current \$2.7 billion in 2024-25.

India exported \$1.9 billion worth of goods to the Philippines in 2024, with pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, auto components, iron and steel, and machinery leading the basket. The Philippines, in turn, exported \$0.8 billion to India, mostly in electronics, food products, and copper concentrates.

The leaders jointly called for the early review of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA) to address trade imbalances and reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers. Marcos strongly backed India's inclusion in regional supply chains, especially in pharmaceuticals, digital economy, and renewable energy, sectors where India has a global edge.

India has offered to support the Philippines' push for universal digital health, e-governance, and financial inclusion through platforms like Aad-

haar and UPI, which are being increasingly exported globally.

People-to-People & Tourism: A New Era of Mobility

In a major boost to cultural and economic exchange, India has extended free e-visas to Philippine nationals, while Manila now allows visa-free travel for Indian tourists for up to 30 days. This policy, launched in June 2025, has already led to a 12% spike in Indian tourist arrivals to the Philippines.

The upcoming launch of direct flights between New Delhi and Manila, expected by the end of 2025, is poised to further facilitate tourism, business travel, and academic exchanges.

Philippine professionals in India, especially in the healthcare and education sectors are increasing in number, while Indian students in the Philippines (mostly in medical universities) number over 15,000. Both sides agreed to enhance mutual recognition of degrees and facilitate academic partnerships.

Space, Agriculture, and Tech: Expanding Horizons

India and the Philippines also signed MoUs in space cooperation, including satellite data sharing, weather forecasting, and disaster resilience. The Philippines, highly vulnerable to typhoons and earthquakes, stands to gain from India's ISRO-backed disaster warning systems and remote-sensing technologies.

Agricultural cooperation was another priority, with India offering support in rice seed technology, organic farming, and irrigation. The Philippines, a net food importer, has been looking to diversify supply sources and adopt sustainable practices amid climate-related challenges.

The two countries also pledged cooperation in AI, cybersecurity, fintech, and semiconductor design, areas where India's digital ecosystem can provide scalable, low-cost solutions.

Geopolitical Implications: A Balancing Act

This partnership is as much about bilateral ties as it is about recalibrating regional power dynamics. For India, engaging with Southeast Asia is critical to balancing China's assertiveness and securing its maritime trade routes. For the Philippines, India represents a non-Western, technologically capable, and values-aligned partner who respects sovereignty.

The strategic embrace, however, will be tested by how both countries manage their ties with China. Manila's recent clashes with Beijing over the Second Thomas Shoal and Scarborough Shoal have intensified tensions, even as it remains dependent on Chinese trade and investments. India's own border disputes and competition with China for regional influence further complicate the equation.

Yet the logic of diversification is compelling. India offers the Philippines defence technology without strings, development assistance without debt traps, and partnership without patronage.

As the dust settles on President Marcos Jr.'s India visit, the message is clear: India and the Philippines have moved from pleasantries to pragmatism, from cooperation to co-strategy. Their new Strategic Partnership is more than an MoU, it is a realignment of interests, values, and capabilities in a world that increasingly demands resilient middle-power coalitions.

The road ahead will require consistency, investments, and political will. But the trajectory is set. As two democratic anchors in Asia, India and the Philippines are no longer on the sidelines of Indo-Pacific geopolitics, they are shaping it.

Rishi Suri is a senior editor covering international affairs at The Daily Milap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper. He can be mailed at rishisuri@dailygoodmorningkashmir.com

Breastfeeding: A Low-Tech Formula To Protect Babies

PALLAVI SINGH PARMAR

Even as the world has made strides in tech-driven health solutions and medical care, breastfeeding remains the simplest and natural way to nurture babies since it is extremely important for their brain development and overall growth.

No medical advancement or formula milk can truly replicate the protective and nutritional benefits of breast milk.

Breast milk offers a unique combination of antibodies, enzymes, and hormones that strengthen a newborn's immune system and support cognitive development—elements that formula feeding simply cannot provide.

At the same time, it's important to highlight that not all mothers are able to breastfeed exclusively due to medical reasons. Therefore, instead of criticising formula feeding, the priority should be to create an environment where every woman is equipped with the information and support she needs. Access to skilled lactation counselling, maternity protection, and community awareness can empower more women to continue breastfeeding and rely on formula milk

only when truly needed, not as a substitute forced by social or structural barriers.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months can prevent over 800,000 child deaths annually. Initiating breastfeeding within the first hour of birth, known as the "golden hour", significantly increases a baby's survival chances by delivering vital nutrients and antibodies.

Breast milk is not just food, it's the ideal food and the first vaccine for infants. It is safe, clean and contains antibodies which help protect against many common childhood illnesses.

Breast milk provides all the energy and nutrients that an infant needs during the first months of life. It continues to provide up to half or more of a child's nutritional needs during the second half of the first year and up to one-third during the second year. Breastfed children perform better on intelligence tests, are less likely to be overweight or obese and less prone to diabetes later in life.

Women who breastfeed also have a reduced risk of breast and ovarian cancers and even postpartum depression. Yet despite these benefits,



breastfeeding remains surrounded by silence, misinformation, and a lack of proper support.

As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), only 63.7% of infants in India are exclusively breastfed for the first six months, a number that falls significantly short of global health targets.

To help guide best practices for infant feeding, WHO and UNICEF recommended the early initiation of breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life, and the introduction of nutritionally adequate and safe complemen-

tary (solid) foods at 6 months, together with continued breastfeeding up to 2 years of age or beyond.

India also launched a multi-pronged approach to enhance maternal and child nutrition. The initiatives like Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Mission POSHAN 2.0 aim to combat malnutrition through a network of over 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres and 13 lakh Anganwadi workers, reaching more than 10 crore beneficiaries with essential nutrition services. The MAA (Mothers' Absolute Affection) program promotes early initiation and exclusive breastfeed-

ing through public awareness campaigns and counselling services at Anganwadi centres. The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) supports pregnant and lactating women with conditional cash incentives to offset wage loss and encourage better health-seeking behaviours.

However, the issue is not just about awareness. Breastfeeding should not be a matter of privilege or secrecy. It is a fundamental right of every mother and every child and a public health priority that requires collective responsibility. While science and policy continue to advance, the simplest, most natural act of nourishing a child still faces complex barriers. Therefore, empowering mothers with accurate information, supportive systems, and the dignity to breastfeed without fear or shame is not just a health goal, it's a societal duty.

As a society, we must shift the lens from blaming women for choosing formula feeding to building an environment where breastfeeding is not only possible, but truly supported, respected, and normalised.

Author is Journalist with a Master's in Gender and Development Studies

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Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editor

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

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Roznamcha Waqiyati

The Patwari's Daily Diary That Anchors Land Governance

MOHD AMIN MIR

In the vast plains of Punjab and the verdant valleys of Kashmir, where governance often arrives late but land disputes erupt early, there exists a document that silently bears witness to rural India's daily truths: the Roznamcha Waqiyati. Inscribed in neat handwriting by the village patwari, this register is not merely a diary of mundane events—it is the pulse of grassroots administration.

From recording boundary disputes to documenting flash floods, from registering official inspections to noting oral agreements over land, the Roznamcha is the first and sometimes only evidence available when questions arise. While policymakers debate land reforms in faraway capitals and digitization sweeps through urban landscapes, this humble register continues to underpin the credibility of rural governance.

In Jammu & Kashmir and across northern India, as the frequency of land conflicts increases and calls for transparency grow louder, the Roznamcha Waqiyati remains an indispensable tool of truth, law, and continuity.

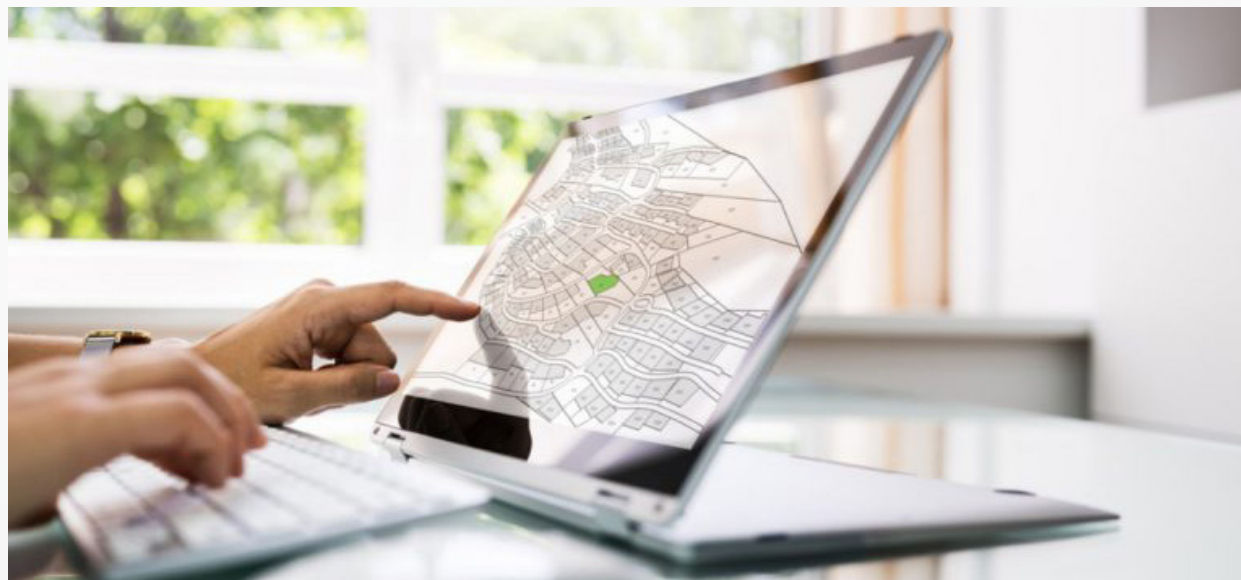
Historical Origins: A Legacy of Empires and Administrators

The Roznamcha is not a colonial artefact alone; it is the modern manifestation of a tradition that dates back to the Mughal era. Sher Shah Suri, the great administrator of the 16th century, laid the foundations of India's land revenue system by introducing standardized measurement, categorization of land, and the appointment of village-level officials to maintain written records.

Emperor Akbar expanded this vision. Under the stewardship of his finance minister, Todar Mal, a system of meticulous documentation was introduced. This included the maintenance of daily records of cultivation, revenue collection, and social events, handled by the village revenue officer. These rudimentary forms of the Roznamcha played an essential role in tax collection and justice delivery at the rural level.

The British colonial administration codified these practices. They created a bureaucratic land revenue system where patwaris became salaried public servants entrusted with maintaining records like the Jamabandi (record of rights), Girdawari (crop inspection), Mutation Register, and the Roznamcha Waqiyati—a logbook of all notable incidents within a revenue halqa.

After independence, the framework was retained with minimal changes in India, Pakistan, and later, post-Article 370, in Jammu & Kashmir under the Union government's control. Today, even with the advent of digitization, the Roznamcha continues to be a legal



document under various state land revenue acts and rules.

What is Roznamcha Waqiyati? A Logbook of Rural Life

In simple terms, the Roznamcha Waqiyati is a government-authorized chronological diary maintained by the patwari of every revenue circle (halqa). It records daily activities and observations relevant to land and governance.

It includes:

- **Land Disputes and Possession Issues:** Any complaint, encroachment, oral boundary agreement, or physical dispute over land is logged.
- **Crop Inspection Details:** Crop damages due to flood, pest attack, or theft are noted here, including dates and affected areas.
- **Revenue Collection:** Dates and amounts of revenue collected or pending dues are recorded.
- **Official Visits and Inspections:** The presence of Tehsildars, Girdawars, ADCs, or any official on field visit is logged.
- **Natural Disasters:** Floods, fires, earthquakes, or landslides affecting cultivation or habitations are noted with location and extent.
- **Public Complaints and Representations:** Any representation submitted by farmers or landholders to the patwari is recorded.
- **Boundary Demarcations or Physical Verifications:** When physical demarcation of land is conducted, the same is entered here with references.
- **This record is not just a register—it is a living narrative of the halqa's legal and administrative history.** Often, when land disputes reach courts or higher revenue offices, it is the Roznamcha entry that is summoned as evidence of past events, possession status, or prior warnings.

Legal Standing and Evidentiary Value

In multiple rulings across Indian courts, entries in Roznamcha Waqiyati have been treated as primary evidence in revenue and civil matters. It is particularly significant in:

- Mutation disputes
- Encroachments or possession claims
- Damage compensation cases
- Natural calamity relief documentation

Verification of oral partitions or family settlements

The legal sanctity of the Roznamcha arises from its official character, its timely maintenance, and its non-retrospective nature. A backdated or tampered entry can be challenged, and thus, the credibility of the patwari becomes crucial.

In many states, including Jammu & Kashmir, patwaris are trained to write Roznamcha entries in black ink for standard incidents and red ink for serious or sensitive matters. Each page is serial-numbered, attested, and open for inspection by supervisory officers.

The Crisis of Neglect and the Call for Revival

Despite its importance, the Roznamcha Waqiyati today faces a crisis of neglect. In many parts of the country:

- Entries are not made daily, but retroactively under pressure.
- Some patwaris treat it as a formality, writing vague or incomplete details.
- Inspections by Girdawars or Tehsildars are often irregular.
- The register is sometimes left in private residences or not updated for weeks.

The consequences are serious. Land grabbers exploit the absence of daily entries to manufacture false claims. Inheritance disputes are complicated when possession history is unclear. And crop damage assessments become impossible without dated field entries.

Recognizing this issue, Mr. Mubashar, District President of the Jammu & Kashmir Patwar Association, Unit Anantnag, recently issued a strong advisory to his tehsil-level presidents. In a virtual meeting held on August 4, 2025, he directed all patwaris to strictly maintain Roznamcha Waqiyati without fail, emphasizing that this register is the first line of defense against land-related corruption and legal ambiguity. He warned that negligence in updating the Roznamcha would not be tolerated, and called for a return to the high standards of honesty and diligence that once defined the patwari institution.

The Digital Dilemma: Should Roznamcha Go Online?

With the digitization of Jamabandi, Girdawari, and Mutation Registers under initiatives like the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), the question arises: should the Roznamcha Waqiyati also be digitized?

Arguments in favor include:

- Instant availability to supervisory officers
 - Time-stamped entries that prevent manipulation
 - Integration with GPS-based location tracking
 - Public transparency
- However, there are challenges:**
- Internet connectivity issues in remote areas
 - Risk of system manipulation or data loss
 - Literacy and tech training gaps among field patwaris
 - Loss of local context and narrative detail

A hybrid model may be the answer—where entries are first made physically, then scanned or transcribed into an official portal weekly. This ensures authenticity while enabling oversight. The Roznamcha Mobile App being piloted in some northern states could offer a scalable solution, provided it complements rather than replaces the

physical register.

Roznamcha as a Governance Tool: Beyond Land

Increasingly, the Roznamcha is being seen not just as a land revenue record but as a rural governance ledger. It helps in:

- Monitoring government schemes (PM-Kisan, Crop Insurance, Soil Health Cards)
- Documenting law-and-order events in collaboration with police
- Recording Panchayat disputes that intersect with land matters
- Disaster relief assessment in coordination with the revenue and irrigation departments

In this way, the Roznamcha Waqiyati serves as a decentralized intelligence system, enabling revenue officers to understand ground realities without relying on third-party reports.

Recommendations: Safeguarding the Sanctity of Roznamcha

To preserve the legal, administrative, and historical value of the Roznamcha Waqiyati, the following steps are recommended:

- **Daily Entry Mandate:** Enforce strict rules for same-day entries and penalize retrospective filling.
- **Regular Inspections:** Tehsildars and Girdawars must inspect the Roznamcha during village visits.
- **Digitization with Checks:** Digital entry should be double-authenticated with physical verification.
- **Training of Patwaris:** Regular training on writing concise, accurate, and legally sound entries.
- **Public Awareness:** Farmers and landowners should be encouraged to refer to the Roznamcha when disputes arise.

The Living Ledger of Rural India

The Roznamcha Waqiyati is more than a register—it is a testimony to the lived experience of rural India. In its pages lie the untold stories of farmers, the silent struggles of tenants, and the evolving relationship between the state and the soil.

As we march toward e-governance, we must not lose sight of such time-less tools that still hold ground truth. The words written by a patwari in a humble village diary may one day decide the fate of a courtroom battle, the release of relief funds, or the legacy of a family.

In the words of Mr. Mubashar, District President of the J&K Patwar Association Unit Anantnag:

"Roznamcha Waqiyati is not a formality. It is the mirror of the halqa. Let it reflect the truth, and let every patwari treat it with the respect it deserves."

Mohd Amin Mir is a policy analyst specialising in rural governance and land administration. He can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

No End To Begging Menace In Jammu And Kashmir

VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

Begging has become a growing concern in Jammu and Kashmir, with a notable increase in the number of beggars in public spaces, particularly in Jammu. This surge has raised concerns about security, public disturbance, and the well-being of citizens. Jammu is the most populous district of the state and begging, one of the social evils, is prevalent at public places, especially places of worship, streets, roadsides, thereby causing inconvenience to the public. The act of begging is instrumental in not only enlightening the individual but also the society as a whole. A beggar enlightens the individual that there still exists a section of the society which is deprived of the basic necessities of life. When a beggar communicates his plight, he may cause the observer to introspect with respect to the responsibility he owes to other needy members of the society.

Begging being an offence under the Act (Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Beggary Act 1960), it is imperative that strict necessary action under law be initiated against the offenders. In a significant development, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court decriminalized begging, terming poverty a human rights issue and asserting that begging manifests the state's failure to ensure basic entitlements like health, food, clothing, and shelter.

No doubt, the Jammu and Kashmir government has banned begging at



public and religious places in Srinagar and directed police to arrest the offenders but it is not strictly implemented. Beggars have created a mess on the city streets. It is almost impossible to keep the windows down near a traffic signal. These beggars move fearlessly catching many pedestrians off guard and are often seen pestering people to succumb to their demands even as policemen watch them. While men usually prefer to remain away from the city and beg

in small towns, women along with their children beg in the city.

They jump in front of the vehicles and harass people demanding money. Many beggars are so young and healthy that they do not deserve charity at all. The deserving cases are very few; those who are crippled, lame, deaf, dumb, blind or handicapped and cannot earn their living. Beggars also rent babies from their mothers each day, to give they are

begging more credibility. They carry these babies who are sedated and hang limply in their arms and claim they have no money to feed them. In the worst of cases, they make that child cry so that you can melt.

It is observed that women beggars, who are mostly from the Rohingya community carrying little children on their laps, are on the rise. People feel pity on them because they look poorer than our own poor which motivates a

person to give money to them. They are becoming potential threat to various bank customers in the area, some of whom alleged to have been pick pocketed. The child beggars follow the passengers' vehicles when they reach at crossing points and stop them and demand money. Beggary has become an organized crime with the worst affected victims being kids. They are forced into beggary and live under the constant duress of their supervisors.

In the absence of strong laws and government-run juvenile homes, begging, the most common urban problem in India, has taken alarming dimensions in the city, with children as young as six-year-olds in shabby conditions roaming the market places and seeking alms. It is contingent upon the administration to take all measures necessary to make the district more citizen friendly and to prevent public nuisance at all costs.

The alarming thing is that the small children who should have been in school as it was the age of their schooling are being used for begging either by their parents or by any agency which has made the begging as a means of earning money. Stringent law is the need of the hour to deal with the menace. The children need rehabilitation and efforts should be made to take action against people involved in pushing kids in such trade.

Author is a freelance Journalist, Writer & Cartoonist, Limca Book of Record holder. He can be mailed at dixitpatrakar@yahoo.in

'Challenges And Opportunities'

Islamia College Organizes Seminar On 'Handicrafts In Shahr-E-Khas'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar organized a daylong seminar on 'Handicrafts in Shahr-e-Khas: Challenges and Opportunities,' Wednesday.

The event brought together a confluence of renowned artisans, academicians, industrialists, researchers, students, and Government officials, all committed to rejuvenating the traditional handicrafts sector rooted in the historic downtown Srinagar popularly known as Shahr-e-Khas.

The seminar was formally inaugurated by the Principal of the College, Professor (Dr.) Tehmina Yousuf, who in her presidential address, emphasized the critical need to preserve and revitalize Kashmir's rich artistic legacy. She underscored the importance of bridging the traditional knowl-

edge systems of artisans with modern market mechanisms through academia-industry linkages and innovation.

Prof. Tehmina stated that such platforms are vital in creating sustainable, entrepreneurial, and economically viable ecosystems for the region's heritage crafts.

Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Jhat, Convenor, Innovation & Incubation Centre elaborated on the College's vision of fostering innov-

ation and entrepreneurship especially among the youth in the realm of traditional crafts.

The seminar witnessed insightful deliberations by eminent speakers including, Prof. Arshad Suleh, Head, Department of Art, College of Education, who deliberated on the existential challenges threatening this traditional sector such as limited global exposure, dwindling artisan engagement, and market compe-

tion from machine-made replicas.

Prof. Fayaz A. Nika, Dean, School of Management Studies, Central University of Kashmir, highlighted the role of higher education institutions and scientific innovation in revitalizing the crafts industry and addressing bottlenecks.

Aamina Asad, Chief Designer, Department of Handicrafts & Handlooms, J&K, and Dr. Yasir A. Mir, Assistant Profes-

sor, NIFT Srinagar, contributed with key insights on design innovation, modern branding strategies, and digital outreach.

The seminar featured panel discussions and interactive sessions, enabling students, young researchers, and budding entrepreneurs to explore innovative start-up models and business frameworks centered around traditional crafts.

Participants deliberated on themes such as heritage conservation, design development, export potential, digitization, marketing, and incubation opportunities.

Several artisans from the downtown areas of Srinagar enriched the event with their lived experiences, highlighting on-ground realities and the resilience of the craft sector. The event also attracted research scholars and experts from reputed institutions and central universities.

Participants deliberated on themes such as heritage conservation, design development, export potential, digitization, marketing, and incubation opportunities.

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE

LG Manoj Sinha's

proposals worth 75,000 crore across diverse sectors including tourism, information technology, healthcare, and manufacturing. This represented a quantum leap from previous years when security concerns had kept investors away. The establishment of 5,000 new industrial units generated employment for over 150,000 local youth, addressing one of the region's most pressing challenges.

A landmark achievement came with the UAE's Emaar Group, developers of the iconic Burj Khalifa, committing 500 crore for developing a world-class shopping mall and IT towers in Srinagar. This marked the first major foreign direct investment in J&K's history and served as a powerful endorsement of the improved business environment.

The administration's single-window clearance system became a model of efficiency, ensuring that 98% of investment proposals were cleared within 15 days. This streamlined approach earned J&K a place among top destinations in ease of doing business rankings, a remarkable achievement for a region that had long been perceived as challenging for investors.

Jammu & Kashmir's tourism sector, backbone of its economy, experienced its most prosperous period under Sinha's leadership. The numbers tell a compelling story of revival and growth.

From 2020 to 2025, Jammu and Kashmir UT saw record tourist arrivals crossing millions of visitors, shattering all previous records. Hotel occupancy rates consistently touched 100% even during traditional off-season months, indicating that J&K had successfully transitioned from being a seasonal destination to a year-round attraction.

A defining moment came in May 2023 when Srinagar hosted the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting. This high-profile international event not only showcased J&K's tourism potential to the world but also signaled the return of normalcy and stability to the region. The successful hosting of the event, attended by delegates from the world's major economies, was a testament to the administration's capability to organize world-class events.

The administration's innovative tourism initiatives played a crucial role in this transformation. The 'Dastarkhan-e-Kashmir' food festivals introduced visitors to the region's rich culinary heritage, while the development of winter sports circuits in Gulmarg expanded tourism beyond the traditional summer season. The Tulip Garden in Srinagar, Asia's largest, became a major attraction, drawing over lakhs of visitors during the bloom season.

LG Sinha's engineering background proved invaluable in executing J&K's infrastructure transformation, addressing decades of neglect and underdevelopment. The strategic Zojila Tunnel project, which will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh, achieved 80% completion during Sinha's tenure. This engineering marvel, when completed, will revolutionize transportation in the region and have significant strategic importance.

The Jammu Ring Road project brought dramatic improvements to the region's transportation network, reducing travel time between key locations by 60%. Similarly, the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link transformed connectivity across the Union Territory.

The road network saw unprecedented expansion with the construction of 2,500 km of new roads and 75 major bridges, connecting previously isolated communities to economic centers. These infrastructure projects not only improved quality of life but also created thousands of jobs during construction and will continue to boost economic activity for years to come.

The Digital J&K initiative became a model for e-governance, bringing government services to citizens' fingertips while enhancing transparency and efficiency.

A comprehensive digital transformation saw 1,028 government services made available online, covering everything from land records to driving licenses. This eliminated the need for citizens to visit government offices for routine matters, reducing opportunities for corruption and bureaucratic delays.

The complete digitization of revenue records brought revolutionary changes to land administration. Property transactions that once took weeks could now be completed in days, with clear digital records eliminating disputes and fraudulent claims.

The 'LG's Mulaqat' online grievance redressal system resolved thousands of public complaints within stipulated timelines, ensuring that citizen concerns received prompt attention at the highest levels of

administration. This direct line between the people and government represented a significant departure from previous eras.

The 2020 District Development Council elections marked another watershed moment in J&K's political evolution. Conducted with remarkable transparency and participation, these elections saw a 74% voter turnout - the highest in decades for any electoral exercise in the region.

Over 35,000 elected panchayat representatives became active participants in governance through innovative programs designed to strengthen grassroots democracy. The 'Back to Village' initiative took governance to doorsteps in remote areas, while the 'My Town My Pride' program transformed urban local bodies into effective instruments of development. Weekly Block Diwas public hearings ensured regular grievance redressal at the block level, creating a system where citizens could directly engage with administrators and see their concerns addressed promptly. These measures collectively represented the most significant devolution of power to local institutions in J&K's history.

Recognizing that J&K's future depended on its youth, the administration made youth empowerment the centerpiece of its development strategy. Comprehensive programs addressed education, employment, and entrepreneurship needs. The results were transformative: 350,000 jobs created through various schemes and initiatives. The 'Mumkin' livelihood scheme provided vehicles to thousands of youth for self-employment in transportation and logistics. 'Tejaswini' empowered 25,000 women entrepreneurs with financial and technical support to start their own businesses.

The security landscape witnessed dramatic improvements that enabled all other development initiatives. A 73% reduction in terror-related incidents compared to 2019 created the stability needed for economic growth. The complete elimination of top terror leadership across all groups removed key obstacles to normalcy. Perhaps most telling was the absence of hartals or forced shutdowns for five consecutive years - a stark contrast to previous decades when such disruptions were frequent. Tourists and locals alike enjoyed unprecedented freedom of movement across the Valley, with bustling markets and crowded tourist spots becoming the new normal.

The administration's focus on inclusive development ensured that the benefits of growth reached all sections of society. One hundred percent saturation was achieved in central welfare schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Ujjwala, and Saubhagya, bringing housing, cooking gas, and electricity to every eligible household.

In a historic move that brought closure to decades of suffering, the administration provided government jobs to 158 families of civilians killed by terrorists. Special scholarship schemes enabled 5,000 students from marginalized communities to pursue higher education, breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty.

J&K's healthcare sector saw quantum improvements that dramatically enhanced access and quality. Two new AIIMS institutions (in Jammu and Awantipora) became operational, providing world-class medical care. Seven new medical colleges increased MBBS seats from 500 to 1,300 annually, addressing the chronic shortage of doctors. The expansion of telemedicine services through 150 e-Sanjeevani centers brought specialist healthcare to remote areas, reducing the need for patients to travel to cities for treatment. This digital healthcare revolution proved particularly valuable during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring continuity of care despite movement restrictions.

Comprehensive reforms in the education sector aligned J&K with national standards while addressing local needs. The implementation of the National Education Policy modernized curricula and teaching methods. Thirty-five new degree colleges expanded access to higher education, particularly for women and rural students. The administration achieved 100% enrollment at the elementary level through special drives that identified and brought every child into the education system. Quality improvements included smart classrooms in 1,000 schools and teacher training programs that enhanced pedagogical skills across the board.

Farmers, the backbone of J&K's rural economy, received unprecedented support. One hundred fifty thousand farmers benefited from the Kisan Credit Card scheme, gaining access to formal credit. The promotion of organic farming across 75,000 hectares opened new premium markets for Kashmiri agricultural products. The establishment of

75 new cold storage facilities dramatically reduced post-harvest losses, while food processing units added value to agricultural output. These interventions collectively increased farm incomes and reduced the vulnerability of agricultural households to economic shocks.

From the depths of conflict to the heights of development, Jammu & Kashmir's journey under LG Manoj Sinha's leadership stands as a testament to what determined governance can achieve. As the sun sets on his tenure, it rises on a new J&K - confident, prosperous, and marching firmly toward a brilliant future. The transformation witnessed over these five years has not just changed infrastructure and economic indicators, but more importantly, it has renewed hope and rekindled aspirations among the people of this beautiful region.

For years, the terror victims in Kashmir were stifled, their pleas for justice ignored. Political regimes, instead of standing with the victims, played into the hands of Pakistan's ISI, emboldening terrorists while leaving survivors to rot. The change began when LG Manoj Sinha decided to break the cycle of neglect. For years, these families endured immense pain, often without adequate recognition or support. Many victims were subjected to horrific acts of violence, including public executions, mutilations, and targeted killings, aimed at instilling fear among the local population. The loss of primary breadwinners pushed numerous families into financial hardship, social exclusion, and psychological trauma.

Official sources revealed that the victims included daily wage laborers, farmers, government employees, and businessmen, ordinary citizens who were caught in the crossfire of terrorism. Their deaths left behind widows, orphaned children, and elderly parents struggling to survive.

True to his word, on June 29, 2025, he visited terror victims in Anantnag, promising jobs and other help. On July 13, LG visited terror victims in Baramulla, and on Aug 5, LG Sinha handed over 149 appointment letters to these families in Srinagar. LG Sinha delivered even sooner, handing out appointment letters in a deeply emotional ceremony in Anantnag, Baramulla, Jammu and Srinagar.

Restoring Peace,

areas—marking a shift towards greater stability. Just three months into office, he conducted the first-ever District Development Council (DDC) elections in J&K during November-December 2020. The polls, covering 280 seats, witnessed an encouraging 51.7% voter turnout—even in separatist-affected areas—highlighting growing public participation in the democratic process.

Administrative Reforms

declared the Roshni Act unconstitutional. Steps were immediately initiated to retrieve encroached land, make beneficiary details public, and order a CBI investigation into the 25,000 crore land scam, demonstrating a strong stand against corruption and illegal land allotments.

Reforms, Empowerment &

improve efficiency and cut costs. Earlier in February, he unveiled a sustainable agriculture roadmap at Horti-Expo 2021, committing to enhance its budgetary share and long-term viability. By August, his administration was actively empowering women and youth through initiatives like Hausla, Tejaswini, Mumkin, and Mission Youth. Over 480 girls and 9 specially-abled students benefited from Pragati and Saksham scholarships, while youth clubs and Tata-led training centers in Baramulla and Jammu were launched to promote entrepreneurship.

Boosting Infrastructure,

the new Industrial Development Scheme. Investment proposals rose to ₹31,000 crore, with expectations to cross ₹51,000 crore by year-end, thanks to reforms in land use policy and attractive incentives. These wide-ranging efforts positioned 2021 as a landmark year of inclusive development and administrative modernization in J&K.

Boosting Budget

volunteer network, e-office implementation, BEAMS, MyGov, and Digilocker

integration. These efforts elevated J&K's ranking among the top Union Territories in e-governance, with high levels of citizen satisfaction.

Education Reforms,

foundations for 500 Atal Tinkering Labs and 188 model kindergartens further strengthened the education ecosystem. In November, under the National Education Policy, the LG administration introduced the e-Samarth portal, biometric attendance systems, and vocational training tie-ups to upskill students across universities, marking 2022 as a year of transformation in youth and education sectors.

Economic Momentum

1.88 crore tourist footfall in 2022, crediting the surge to improved law-and-order. Simultaneously, industrial development accelerated with investment proposals touching ₹70,000 crore, signaling growing investor confidence in the region.

Agro-Industrial Reforms plantations, and the inauguration of Amrit Vatikas and Shilapalaks to symbolize community resolve. On the international front, during the G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting in May, Sinha addressed global delegates, calling out state-sponsored terrorism in J&K and advocating for green tourism, digitalization, and MSME growth aligned with SDG goals.

Youth Engagement

November 4, where he lauded the high voter turnout and reiterated the Centre's commitment to restoring full statehood. Earlier in the year, on February 29, the LG launched the 'JK Youth Conclave 2024' alongside campaigns like Inspire GenZ and Beats of J&K to channel youth energy into creative, social, and cultural arenas.

Inclusive Dev

music school. ₹186.45 crore was allocated for planting 190 lakh native trees, restoring wetlands like Wular Lake and Hokersar, and building eco-parks. The cooperative sector saw a boost with mini super bazaars, food processing units, and ₹25 crore for grain storage. A constitutional amendment cleared hurdles in the Panchayati Raj Act, setting the stage for local body polls—further strengthening grassroots democracy.

Connectivity and

included the world's tallest Chenab arch bridge and the Anji Khad cable-stayed bridge, with Vande Bharat Express service launched between Jammu/Katra and Srinagar. The creation of the standalone Jammu Railway Division in January 2025—Indian Railways' 70th division—marked a milestone in regional railway autonomy. On the economic front, Mission YUVA, launched in January, aimed to create 1.37 lakh enterprises and 4.25 lakh jobs over five years, focusing on youth, women, and innovation-driven ventures. By mid-2025, industrial incentives under the New Central Sector Scheme reached ₹28,400 crore, highlighting a surge in private investment and business expansion.

Justice for Terror Victims

terror links, continuing a crackdown that has resulted in over 70 such terminations since 2020. Furthering his commitment to justice, Sinha announced that all eligible unemployed family members of civilians killed in terrorist attacks over the last three decades would receive government jobs within 30 days. He personally pledged to hand over appointment letters, offering long-awaited recognition and relief to victim families.

Mudasir Dar

Anantnag, and Shopian, previously associated with pronounced disaffection, are now taking part in UPSC preparations, establishing businesses, and competing in national sports. The republic is no longer an outsider; it is a presence felt in roads, schools, hospitals and more importantly, in the imagination.

Kartavya Bhavan to boost administrative efficiency, end fragmented governance: PM Modi

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated Kartavya Bhavan-3 at Kartavya Path, a landmark moment in the government's ongoing efforts to modernise India's administrative infrastructure and promote citizen-centric governance.

The newly inaugurated building is the first among several under the Common Central Secretariat project, envisioned as part of the Central Vista redevelopment plan.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister called the inauguration a "historic milestone" coming ahead of Independence Day and said it reflects a new chapter in the making of modern India.

"August, the month of revolution, has brought yet another historic milestone ahead of 15th August," he said, adding that India is witnessing "key achievements associated with the making of a modern India."

Referring to Kartavya Bhavan and other recent infrastructural additions like the new Parliament building, Bharat Mandapam, and Yashobhoomi, the Prime Minister said these developments are more than physical structures.

"In the Amrit Kaal, the policies shaping a developed India will be formulated in these very structures," he noted. "In the coming decades, the nation's trajectory will be determined from these institutions."

He congratulated citizens and expressed gratitude to the engineers and Shramjeevis who contributed to building Kartavya Bhavan.

Explaining the name, PM Modi



said it was chosen after deep contemplation.

"Kartavya Path' and 'Kartavya Bhavan' echo the core spirit of India's democracy and its Constitution," he said, quoting the Bhagavad Gita to underscore the value of duty above gain.

"Kartavya is both the beginning and the destiny, bound by compassion and diligence... the thread of action, the companion of dreams, and the hope of resolutions," he added.

He called Kartavya Bhavan "the sacred ground for realising the dreams of crores of Indian citizens".

PM Modi criticised the outdated infrastructure of ministries still operating from colonial-era buildings like Shastri Bhawan and Udyog Bhawan. He cited inefficiencies due to poor ventilation, insufficient space, and logistical challenges caused by scattered

offices.

"It is difficult to imagine how an important ministry like the Ministry of Home Affairs has functioned for nearly 100 years from a single building with insufficient infrastructure," he noted.

He pointed out that more than Rs 1,500 crore is being spent annually on rent for over 50 government offices spread across Delhi. The construction of Kartavya Bhavans, he said, will improve working conditions, reduce expenses, and enhance administrative efficiency.

"21st century India requires 21st century modern buildings... exemplary in terms of technology, security, and convenience," he asserted.

Kartavya Bhavan -3 is a state-of-the-art office complex spread over 1.5 lakh sq. metres with two basements and seven floors. It will house key ministries such as

Home Affairs, External Affairs, Petroleum, MSME, and Rural Development.

It features IT-ready and secure workspaces, advanced HVAC systems, rooftop solar panels, rainwater harvesting, waste recycling, e-vehicle charging stations, and targets a GRIHA-4 green rating.

"Kartavya Bhavan embodies a pro-people spirit and a pro-plan structure," PM Modi said, adding, "The vision India is offering to the world is being adopted within the country as well."

PM Modi also highlighted the wider impact of India's development journey: "While Delhi has witnessed the construction of the new Parliament building, over 30,000 Panchayat Bhavans have been built across the nation... more than 300 new medical colleges, 90 new airports, and 1,300 Amrit Bharat railway stations

are being developed."

He reiterated that development is reaching every part of India, aligning with the government's holistic vision for inclusive growth.

The Prime Minister spoke about administrative reforms over the past 11 years, including the elimination of over 1,500 obsolete laws and 40,000 compliance burdens.

He highlighted the impact of the JAM Trinity—Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile—which helped eliminate nearly 10 crore fake beneficiaries, saving Rs 4.3 lakh crore that is now being redirected towards genuine development programs. "India has developed a governance model that is transparent, sensitive, and citizen-centric," he said.

PM Modi announced that the historic North and South Blocks will be converted into a public museum—Yuge Yugeen Bharat Sangrahalaya—to showcase India's civilisational journey.

"Successful nations do not abandon their legacy but preserve it. India is advancing with the vision of 'Vikas aur Virasat,'" he said.

The Prime Minister concluded by urging public servants to approach their work with dedication, mindfulness, and empathy. "A file, a grievance, or an application may appear routine, but for someone, that piece of paper may represent their deepest hope," he said.

He encouraged all officials to carry the spirit of Kartavya in every decision, recognising that their efforts directly impact millions of lives.

"India's dreams of development are nurtured in the womb of responsibility," he said.

Nearly \$30 billion in Indian exports secure from Trump's 50 pc tariff so far



IAN S

NEW DELHI: As US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced to impose 50 per cent tariffs on imports from India, shipments worth more than \$30 billion involving pharmaceuticals and certain electronic items such as smartphones, semiconductors, and energy are so far secure from higher duties as these are still under an exemption list.

India exported drugs and pharmaceuticals as well as electronics products (mostly smartphones) to the tune of \$10.5 billion and \$14.6 billion in FY25, constituting 29 per cent of its overall outbound shipments to the US.

Petroleum exports, worth \$4.09 billion in FY25, are also currently secure from Trump's fresh tariffs thanks to energy being on the exemption list as well. Indian exports to the US stood at \$86.51 billion in FY25.

Trump has not yet included these key industries in the new tariffs that are slated to come into effect in the next 21 days.

India's exports to the US have increased since Janu-

ary this year, as a result of this exemption, because there are no duties on these goods. From January to June 2025, the US's percentage of India's merchandise exports increased from 17-18 per cent to over 20 per cent.

This growth reflects front-loading by exporters ahead of the tariff hike in August and the tariff exemptions on smartphones and drugs, which were spared from the 10 per cent baseline duty introduced in April, according to industry experts.

Although India's total exports grew less than 2 per cent in Q1 FY26 and contracted more than 4 per cent in Q4 FY25, according to Commerce Ministry data, exports to the US made up roughly 23 per cent of India's total shipments in the June quarter of FY26 and the first quarter of FY25.

However, there are still risks because Trump has threatened to impose tariffs of up to 200 per cent on drugs made abroad, and depending on future US decisions, smartphone exemptions might also be removed.

Trump tariff actions 'unfair, unjustified', national interest top priority: India



IAN S

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday reiterated that the latest tariff actions by US President Donald Trump are "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

Trump has signed an executive order imposing an additional 25 per cent tariff on imports from India, citing the country's continued purchase of Russian oil.

"We reiterate that these actions are unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable. India will take all actions necessary to protect its national interests," an MEA spokesperson said in a statement.

The United States has in recent days targeted India's oil imports from Russia.

"We have already made clear our position on these issues, including the fact that our imports are based on market factors and done with the overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of

India," the MEA spokesperson said.

"It is therefore extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also taking in their own national interest," said the official statement.

In the executive order, Trump said the decision is aimed at strengthening measures taken under earlier sanctions against Russia following its actions in Ukraine.

The order states that India is directly or indirectly importing oil from Russia, which the US considers a threat to its national security and foreign policy.

"Accordingly, and as consistent with applicable law, articles of India imported into the customs territory of the United States shall be subject to an additional ad valorem rate of duty of 25 per cent," the order reads.

PM Modi slams past govts for 10 crore 'farzi' beneficiaries, highlights Rs 4.3 lakh cr savings

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while inaugurating the newly constructed Kartavya Bhavan in the heart of the capital, came down heavily on previous governments for facilitating what he termed as one of the "biggest beneficiary frauds" in the country's history.

Highlighting the game-changing impact of the JAM trinity, Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile, the Prime Minister revealed that nearly 10 crore fake beneficiaries were identified and removed from various welfare schemes.

"People are shocked to learn that over 10 crore beneficiaries listed under government schemes never even existed," PM Modi said.

According to the PM, the clean-up drive - powered by JAM - has plugged massive leakages, saving over Rs 4.3 lakh crore of public money. "Just imagine how much theft was happening. Today, this money is being used for real development, for genuine beneficiaries," he said.

Names were fabricated, be it for ration cards, LPG subsidies, or scholarships. These fake entries were tools used by middlemen to siphon off public funds, the PM stressed. PM

Modi emphasised that the transformation wasn't just about fighting corruption, but also about improving the overall delivery and efficiency of government schemes.

"Not just leakages and corruption, even outdated and unnecessary laws were hurdles in governance. We have scrapped over 1,500 redundant laws, many from the British era, and reduced over 40,000 compliance issues," he added.

Highlighting steps to improve government efficiency, PM Modi mentioned the restructuring of ministries, ending overlapping functions, and forming new departments like the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Fisheries. He also touched upon initiatives like Mission Karmayogi aimed at technologically empowering government officials.

Encouraging the officials at the event, the PM said the new building should inspire a fresh mindset.

"A single file may look routine to us, but for someone, it could be a matter of life and hope."

He also announced that the North and South Blocks will be converted into public museums, showcasing India's administrative journey.

EC sends reminder to Tejashwi Yadav amid dual EPIC card row

IAN S

PATNA: The Election Commission has issued a reminder notice to Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, urging him to respond by August 8 regarding the alleged dual EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Card) matter.

The notice, dated August 6, follows up on an earlier request made after Tejashwi displayed a voter ID card during a press conference held on August 2, 2025.

During the investigation, it appeared that Tejashwi Yadav has two EPIC numbers, one

displayed by Tejashwi Yadav and the other claimed by the Election Commission.

In the letter, the Election Commission stated: "You (Tejashwi Yadav) were requested to provide the details of the mentioned EPIC card along with the original copy of the card mentioned in the press conference... but till now the desired documents have not been provided by your level."

The Commission has asked for the submission of both the card details and the original copy to facilitate a thorough investigation.

Tejashwi Yadav, on his

part, stated earlier on Tuesday that he would respond to the Commission's notice, but also demanded that the EC respond to the irregularities raised during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list.

Meanwhile, the RJD has intensified its criticism of the Election Commission's handling of the voter list revision. RJD spokesperson Chitranjan Gagan raised concerns over the lack of transparency in the deletion of nearly 65 lakh names from the electoral rolls, as per the draft published on August 1. Gagan questioned why

the category-wise breakup of the deletions — such as dead, displaced, duplicate, or unverified voters — has not been made available, despite repeated requests.

"The partial list being shared with political parties does not mention the reasons for deletion," he said.

He also referred to the memorandum submitted by the INDIA bloc to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Bihar on August 1, as well as a formal letter written by RJD state president Mangani Lal Mandal on August 5 (letter no. 170-15.8.25), reiterating the demand for transparency.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA

e-mail, id, xemhdbla@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No:	M&HDB/TS/2025-26/24/1143-47
Date:	04-08-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs / Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	Preventive Maintenance / POL Change with filters of Snow Clearance Machines pertaining to Snow Clearance Unit Baramulla for the upcoming winter season 2025-26.	2.09195	200.00	4184/-	10 days

Note:-

- AAA- Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Engineer M&H Kashmir vide No. M&HED/K/ Acctt/35 of 2025-26 Dt: 08-05-2025
- Technical Sanction:- Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/12 of 07/2025 Dated:- 29-07-2025.
- Executing Agency:- Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	04-08-2025
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 04-08-2025 to 12-08-2025
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 04-08-2025 (18:15 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	12-08-2025 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	13-08-2025 (13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKA0TEHSIL Account No.: 021301020000051.
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 5% Performance Guarantee from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. /Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Assistant Executive Engineer.

Note:-

- The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
- No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.
- Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
- Contractor/ Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.
- Cover-II shall contain:
 - Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
 - The complete bidding process will be online.
 - The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&H Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
 - Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
 - The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
 - Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar/blacklist such firm(s).
 - Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
 - Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee within 07 days after opening of price bid as per the relevant clause of J&K (PWD) Engineering Manual 2020.
 - The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&H Baramulla.

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-24/1143-47
Dated:- 04-08-2025
DIPK-4845-25
DT:06/08/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

USBRL made India proud, says Railway Minister

Describes it as one of most difficult projects post-independence

UMAISAR GUL GANAIE

NEW DELHI: Describing Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) as one of the most difficult projects, Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnawi on Wednesday said that it (the project) has made every Indian proud.

The Minister in a written reply, informed Lok Sabha that Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project of total length 272 Km was recently commissioned and it covers the districts of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The USBRL project is one of the most difficult new railway line projects undertaken in the country post-independence. The terrain passes through young Himalayas, which are full of geological surprises and numerous problems," he said.

"In this project, Railway has made the world's highest Railway Bridge over Chenab river in Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir. The iconic Chenab Bridge is 1315 m long having an arch span of 467 m and height of 359 m above river bed. Indian Railway's first cable-stayed bridge has been constructed over Anji Khad in this project. Its bridge deck is 331m above the river bed level and height of its Main pylon is 193m," the

Railway Minister said.

"The USBRL project has made substantial socio-economic contributions to the region, with employment generation being a significant aspect of its impact. The project has generated more than 5 Cr. man-days of employment. Another crucial facet of the USBRL Project's socio-economic development efforts has been the construction of over 215 km of approach roads, which include construction of a tunnel and 320 small bridges. This road network has helped the local population in improvement of their connectivity with other areas and also improvement in socio-economic states," he added.

"In accordance with international norms, adequate safety provisions have been kept in the USBRL project. All tunnels having length more than 2 Km have been provided with mechanical ventilation systems to ensure air quality. Firefighting systems comprising fire hydrants and fire extinguishers have been provided to promptly address and contain potential fire incidents in all the tunnels. Further, to ensure the safety of passengers, escape tunnels have also been made where the length of the tunnel is more than 3 Km. A total of 66 Km escape tunnels have been made in this project," Vaishnawi said.

"To ensure minimum disturbance to Himalayan ecol-



ogy, due care has been taken for slope stabilization and the best institutes of the world were roped in for execution of this project. Comprehensive schemes for slope stabilization have been adopted as per NEERI guidelines and Detailed Design Consultants' suggestions to prevent erosion and damage to natural terrains," he added.

"Slope stability at Chenab Bridge was designed by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore & IIT/Delhi. Other global firms having experience of

such works were also engaged for independent check for slope stability for Chenab Bridge. Slope stability at Anji Khad was also designed and proof checked by experienced global firms," Vaishnawi said.

"Further, Environmental Impact Assessments due to construction of Katra-Qazigund new rail line, including Chenab and Anji Khad bridges have also been conducted through National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur. Extensive safeguards and mitigation mea-

sures have been implemented based on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) prepared by NEERI," he said.

"Sedimentation tanks have been constructed at tunnel outlets before discharging into natural nallas to manage tunnel excavated material. Alternative water sources were provided to villages where natural sources were disrupted by resorting to reverse pumping. Proper lined drains and stepped chutes were constructed at required locations to ensure smooth flow of surface water and prevent ero-

sion at muck yards," the Railway Minister said.

"Advanced techniques of controlled blasting were adopted during tunnelling to minimize vibrations and environmental damage. Sensors have been installed in all tunnels in the Katra-Banihal section to monitor the Air Quality during the operational phase also. The entire rail project is electrified using an overhead conductor system in tunnels and in open stretches. Rail transportation is the most environmentally friendly transportation mode, significantly reducing carbon footprint compared to diesel traction," he added.

"While specific measures for biodiversity conservation are delineated in the EMP, the overall environmental mitigation efforts contribute to protecting local ecology. Guidelines for site preparation for plantation activity on dumping sites include planting native species and turfing with grass for eco-restoration. With the all-weather, reliable and comfortable rail connectivity of the valley portion with the rest of the Indian Railway network, tourism will get a big boost," he said.

"The USBRL project (272 Km) has been constructed completely in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Land acquisitions were carried out as per the prevalent 'Jammu & Kashmir State Land

Acquisition Act 1990'. The Land Acquisition was conducted through Collector Land Acquisition, appointed by the District Administration. Assessment of land ownership, structures, identification of beneficiaries, calculation of compensations for land & structures, trees etc was done. Awards in this regard were published and disbursed the compensation amount," the Railway Minister said.

"Total land acquired for USBRL Project includes 1559.48 Hectares of Private land and 276.71 Hectares of Govt. Land. Complete payment of these land acquisitions amounting to Rs. 816.21 crores, has already been deposited with concerned Collector Land Acquisition. The mechanism for resolving pending claims related to land acquisition is already included vide section 18 of Jammu & Kashmir State Land Acquisition Act 1990," he said.

"Railway acquires land through concerned State/District Authorities. All the activities in connection with land acquisition like assessment of amount of compensation to land losers etc. are under purview of the State Government. Compensation for land acquisition is made to the land losers by the Revenue Department after demanding the same from Railways," Vaishnawi said—(KNO)

J&K government unveils draft of building bye-laws for rural areas

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the J&K government has unveiled a draft of "The Jammu & Kashmir Unified Building Bye-Laws Rural, 2025" to regulate construction activities in areas falling under Panchayats in the Union Territory.

According to the draft accessed, the bye-laws will be applicable to Halqa Panchayat areas of the Union Territory. They will not extend to areas under municipal corporations, councils, committees, tourism development authorities, or any other statutory bodies empowered to grant building permissions under existing laws.

The draft of the building bye-laws has been put in public domain by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

The bye-laws categorise constructions into residential individual houses; commercial buildings, including shops, stores, markets, godowns, and facilities for money transactions, wholesale or retail sales, and storage; and other buildings, such as group housing, low-rise group housing, studio apartments, integrated townships, industrial buildings or complexes, government buildings, buildings constructed for charitable purposes, religious buildings, schools, private hospitals, nursing homes, and telecom towers.

As per these bye-laws, the authority for granting permission for residential individual houses lies with Sarpanch of the Halqa Panchayat or BDO concerned, Secretary Panchayat, Junior Engineer and Patwari Halqa.

The permission for

construction of commercial buildings and other types of structures shall be granted by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of the concerned area or Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Tehsildar, Town Planner or Assistant Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing or Assistant Engineer REW, Block Development Officer concerned and Sarpanch of the Halqa Panchayat.

The administration has proposed a fee structure for granting building permissions across different categories.

As per the fee structure, applicants will be required to pay a construction fee ranging from Rs 3 to Rs 15 per sq ft in rural areas.

A fee of Rs 3 per sq ft will be levied for residential individual houses, while Rs 15 and Rs 10 per sq ft will be charged for commercial buildings and other types

of buildings, respectively.

As per these the bye-laws, the application for seeking construction permission shall be accompanied by site plan, building plan, ownership document of land and an undertaking.

The permission shall remain valid for a period of five years and the validity period of permission for additions/alterations, of all categories, shall be two years from the date of permission, the draft bye-laws state.

"If the construction of the new buildings or extension or alteration of any existing buildings is not completed within the stipulated period, the permission shall require re-validation, on application, on payment of 10% of the total fee/charges, subject to the rules then in force," reads the bye-laws—(KNO)

Govt forfeits 25 books promoting 'secessionist narratives'

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: In a move aimed at countering the spread of false narratives and secessionism, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has announced the forfeiture of 25 books identified as promoting anti-national ideologies and inciting violence.

This decision, made under the provisions of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 in order to safeguard the sovereignty and integrity of India, especially in the sensitive region.

The action follows detailed investigations and credible intelligence reports that highlighted the role of certain literature in radicalizing the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

These books have been found to distort historical facts, vilify security

forces, glorify terrorists and promote a culture of grievance, victimhood and terrorism.

The government said that such literature, often disguised as historical or political commentary, plays a critical role in misleading the youth, glorifying terrorism, and fostering an environment conducive to violence.

The notification issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Home Department, declares these 25 books and their copies "forfeited" under Section 98 of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. The government stated that the continued circulation of these books poses a direct threat to national security, peace, and the integrity of the country.

The forfeited books, which have now been banned for publication or

circulation in the region, cover a wide range of topics related to Kashmir's political and social issues.

Among the books listed are "Human Rights Violations in Kashmir" by Piotr Balcerowicz and Agnieszka Kuszewska, "Kashmir's Fight for Freedom" by Mohd Yosuf Saraf, and "Colonizing Kashmir, State-Building under Occupation" by Hafsa Kanjwal.

Other books, such as "Do You Remember Kunan Poshpora?" by Essar Batool and "Mujahid ki Azaan" edited by Imam Hasan Al-Bana Shaheed, further reflect the deeply contentious narratives that have been promoted through these publications.

Also included in the list are works like "Independent Kashmir" by Christopher Snedden, "Kashmir Politics and Plebiscite" by

Dr. Abdul Jabbar Gokhami, and "Azadi" by renowned author Arundhati Roy.

These books have been linked to propagating the secessionist ideologies that fuel the ongoing insurgency in the region, with some even openly questioning the sovereignty of India over Jammu and Kashmir.

In particular, the government highlighted the role of digital formats and online distribution networks that have allowed such literature to spread beyond traditional bookstores, reaching a wider audience.

In declaring these books forfeited, the Jammu and Kashmir government has made it clear that any attempt to destabilize the region through misinformation and radical narratives will not be tolerated—(KNO)

Terror funding network busted in Delhi, two Kashmiri's held: CIK

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major breakthrough and high-stakes operation, the Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) unit of Jammu & Kashmir Police struck deep into the financial underbelly of terrorism, conducting swift and surgical raids in a business unit titled 'Shalimar Textiles' Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi, aimed at dismantling a sophisticated cross-border terror funding syndicate.

The raids, conducted under FIR No. 02/2024 registered at Police Station CIK Srinagar, were backed by legal sanction through search warrants issued by the Hon'ble Special Judge designated under the NIA Act at Srinagar, and are part of a wider investigation under UAPA Sections 13, 38, 39, 40 r/w 120-B IPC, the statement said.

The case unravels a chilling conspiracy orchestrated by handlers and commanders of proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from across the LoC, who in connivance with Pakistani nationals settled in Gulf nations and other foreign territories, are pumping terror money into the heart of Kashmir through a network of couriers disguised as pilgrims, business-

men, and expatriates, it said.

In a stunning revelation, it has come to light that Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, a resident of Budgam, who operated a business establishment titled 'Shalimar Textiles' in Lajpat Nagar, was masquerading as a legitimate trader while acting as a key financial conduit for LeT's terror activities in the Valley. Working hand in glove with him was Mohammad Rafiq Shah, a resident of SDA Colony Bemina, Srinagar, both of whom were at the nerve centre of this covert financial operation.

Explosive digital evidence, including suspicious communications with Pakistani handlers, foreign remittances routed through underground hawala networks, and encrypted chats with terror affiliates, has been seized. The devices and documents recovered are being forensically analyzed and are expected to blow the lid off a larger, deeply entrenched funding web, it added.

Acting on confessions and technical leads, CIK teams along with Delhi Police teams searched premises in Lajpat Nagar, recovering vital documentary and electronic evidence that is expected to fuel the next stage of this high-profile investigation.

Rs 43,010 Cr greenlit for 3 new highways to transform J&K connectivity

PEERZADA UMMER

SRINAGAR: In a major infrastructural boost for Jammu and Kashmir, the central government has approved three major National Highway projects aimed at transforming connectivity and enhancing security and tourism in the region.

The first of these is the ambitious four-lane highway project from Samba to Udhampur, with an estimated cost of Rs 7,418 crore. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this stretch is already prepared and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has set a target to complete the construction within the next three years.

Once operational, this highway will drastically reduce the travel time between Pathankot and Udhampur, cutting the current journey, which takes over four hours via existing routes passing through two military areas, to just about two hours.

Spanning 43 km from Samba to Udhampur, this new route will also provide an alternative for tourists heading to Srinagar, allowing them to bypass Jammu



entirely. This crucial corridor has been selected under the Bharat Mala project, underscoring its national importance.

The second major project is the Kathua-Bhaderwah-Doda four-lane highway, with a staggering budget allocation of Rs 28,679 crore. This road will start from Lakanpur—the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir—passing through Kathua, Basohli, Bani, and Bhaderwah, before reaching Doda.

Designed to connect with National Highway-44 in Doda, the route is currently a state highway but will see a massive upgrade under the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans. Additionally, there are plans to connect Bhader-

wah to Chamba in Himachal Pradesh through a 130 km double-lane national highway, at an estimated cost of Rs 6,913 crore, further strengthening inter-state connectivity.

Officials revealed that the DPRs for these projects are complete and the necessary budget provisions have been made. The state administration has given its nod to move forward, clearing the way for construction to begin soon. "These projects are expected to bring multiple benefits not only by improving security and boosting tourism but also by significantly easing travel for local residents, who will be able to move between regions in much less time."—(KNO)

'J&K enacts selective power cuts if central allocation falls short'

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir temporarily reduces electricity demand by disconnecting power to certain areas or customers if unavailability of additional quantum under unallocated quantum from Ministry of Power (MoP).

According to the official documents available, authorities from Jammu and Kashmir has informed CERC that, "J&K SLDC submitted that J&K manages the shortage through Term Ahead Market (TAM), Day Ahead Market (DAM) and Real-Time Market (RTM) banking, Un-Requisitioned Surplus (URS) and additional quantum under unallocated quantum from MoP. If the power is not available they resort to load shedding."

"J&K SLDC and HPSLDC have submitted that they have acute shortage of manpower. Member (Technical), CERC advised them to take up the matter with the competent authorities," it reads.

The documents further state that in the northern region, shortages for October-2024 was mostly declared by J&K and



Ladakh (UT) only.

In the meantime, another document revealed that "Ministry of Power has allocated 100 MW power as specific allocation from the UA pool of CGSs in Western Region to J&K for the year around."

"Keeping in view the change in the requirement of power of Northern States, UTs with the onset of summer season, it has been decided by the competent authority to revise the allocation of power to the States and UTs from unallocated quota of Central Sector Generating Stations (CGSs) of Northern Region, after accounting for specific allocation already made by Ministry

of Power," it reads.

The document further reveal that Ministry of Power has allocated 300 MW as specific allocation to State of Rajasthan from specific allocation to Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh from UA pool of NR from 01.04.2025 to 30.06.2025 and 179 MW from NTPC Dadri Stage-1 from 01.04.2025 to 30.06.2025 from the relinquished share of Delhi.

"Haryana, NDMC and Jammu and Kashmir has been allocated 393.94 MW, 196.97 MW and 393.94 MW respectively of power in the latest bidding process under B(v) of SHAKT Policy for 5 years," it reads—(KNO)