

Good Morning

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■ Budget Session

Govt. Committed To Phased Regularization Of Daily Wagers: CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Reaffirming its commitment to regularisation of daily wagers in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the process will be initiated in a phased manner during the current financial year.

He made these remarks while responding to a bill moved by MLA Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami which read, “A Bill to provide for regularisation of services of casual and other workers working in various Departments of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and for the matters incidental thereto (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 45 of 2025)”.

The Chief Minister said that he does not oppose the intent behind the proposed legislation on regularisation, but expressed reservations regarding the timing of its



introduction.

“Government has already made a clear commitment that the process of regularisation will be initiated in a phased manner during the current financial year and we stand by that commitment,” he said. ●P-06

Govt Tightens Regulation To Promote Responsible Tourism In J&K: CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday said that the Tourism Department is taking steps to strengthen training, registration and regulatory mechanisms for tourism stakeholders to ensure safety, quality and responsible tourism practices across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister was

replying to a question raised by MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly.

He informed the House that licensing and registration of tourism stakeholders are already regulated under the relevant laws. However, he added that no specific proposal for mandatory ●P-06

■ Targets 100% Voter Enrolment

J&K Election Comm Reviews Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commissioner, Shantmanu, Wednesday convened a meeting with the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and Panchayat Block Electoral Officers (PBEOs) to review the ongoing revision of the Panchayat Electoral Rolls, 2026.

The revision process was initiated on 27 March 2026 with the release of the draft electoral roll, inviting claims and objections for new enrolments, deletions or transfers of voters across the Union Territory.



The Election Commissioner emphasised house-to-house outreach by the field staff to ensure all eligible voters who turn 18 years by the cut-off date of 1 April 2026 are enrolled in the Panchayat Electoral Roll.

The last date for filing claims and objections has been set as 29 April 2026. Shantmanu ●P-06

Border Villages First Line Of Defence, Top Priority: LG Sinha

Says Residents Of Border Villages Are Serving Nation Every Single Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: “Border villages are India’s first line of defence, and the residents are the first face of India that any outsider sees. Border residents are not only first in courage, sacrifice, and patience but you also stand first in the priorities of our Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji,” Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said this on Wednesday.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the residents of border village are serving the nation every single day. That service must not be honoured only in words, but reflected clearly in the quality of life of every family, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at a public event, organised under the Phase-II of Vibrant Villages Programme, at the vibrant border village of Makwal in Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor



directed the officials to ensure that no family is left out and no genuine need go unnoticed.

“Where existing schemes fall short in Makwal and other border villages, solutions must be created on priority, because for me, the development of border villages

is a sentiment, a resolve, and a responsibility,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said there must be no gap between what the government promises and what people actually receive.

“While planning or execut-

ing any scheme, always remember that every family in Makwal and in our other border villages is not just living on the border, but standing guard for India,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that a border village is not the last but first village of India.

“To live here, to build a prosperous society here with complete dedication in the service of nation-building and national security is an act of extraordinary courage. Every moment of residents of border villages is the most powerful symbol of patriotism.

More than decade ago, border villages were routinely neglected. That time is over. Under the leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, whether it is Jammu Kashmir or the border villages of the North-East, the distance from Delhi has shrunk in a real sense,” the Lieutenant Governor ●P-06

LG Sinha Calls For ‘Zero Tolerance’ Policy Against Drug Menace

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday directed for adopting a ‘Zero Tolerance’ Policy against the

drug menace in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. He was chairing a high-level meeting with Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and senior officials of the Civil and Police admin-

istration at Lok Bhavan, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized on a multi-pronged strategy: Strengthening law enforcement to dis-

mantle trafficking networks. Intensive mass awareness campaigns to deter potential users, enhancing treatment and counselling and rehabilitation, to make ●P-06

No Need To Ban Imported Frozen Food: Govt Promises Crackdown Against Offenders

WARIS FAYAZ

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said there is no need to impose a ban on the import of frozen and chilled food items, asserting that enforcement of existing laws will be strengthened to ensure food safety and curb violations.

Health minister Sakina Itoo, said the government is focused on strict implementation of food safety regulations rather than imposing a blanket ban.

She informed the House that 3,700 inspections have been conducted, with 1,346 samples collected for testing. Of these, 1,292 reports have been processed, while 601 cases have been registered under relevant provisions of the law.

The minister said authorities have seized 22,026 units of food items and imposed fines amounting to Rs 30.8 lakh.



She said the government is working to curb illegal practices and ensure that people get safe and hygienic food, adding that strict action will be taken against violators.

The Minister also said the task force wing will be strengthened to ensure better enforcement and compliance on the ground.

She acknowledged that aware-

ness around food safety was limited in the past but said the department is now working to improve implementation and introduce additional safeguards.

The minister assured the House that suggestions raised by MLA Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, during a private members bill, which sought a complete ban on such imports ●P-06

Bureaucrats’ Absence Triggers Assembly Protest



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Cutting across party lines, MLAs on Wednesday expressed concern over the absence of bureaucrats in the Legislative Assembly during Question Hour.

As Question Hour was nearing its end, NC MLA Nazi Gurezi alleged that bureaucrats were taking the House lightly.

Pointing to the officers’ gallery, the legislator said, “You look towards the gallery. This House is being taken lightly. I have been a member of this House for 22 years. This gallery used to be

packed. The Chief Secretary used to be present during Question Hour. Commissioner Secretaries used to remain present. They think idle people (legislators) are sitting here.”

He urged the Chief Minister to take action against the bureaucrats. “They should come to the House. The CM should take action against these people. Why are they not coming to the House? Do they think they are above the CM and the House? What do they think of themselves? They are government servants; we are public representatives,” he said.

Gurezi was ●P-06

PM chairs second CCS review meet amid Middle East Conflict

Says Efforts Must Be Made To Safeguard Citizens From Conflict Impact

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to review measures taken by various Ministries and Departments and also discussed further initiatives to be taken in the context of the ongoing Middle East conflict at his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. This was the second special CCS meeting on this issue.

According to a statement, issued, Cabinet Secretary briefed about the action taken to ensure supply of petroleum products, particularly LNG/LPG, and sufficient power availability.

He said that sources are being diversified for procurement of LPG with new inflows from different countries. Similarly, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is being sourced from



different countries.

He further briefed that LPG prices for domestic consumers have remained the same and Anti-diversion enforcement to curb hoarding and black marketing of LPG is being conducted regularly.

The statement reads that initiatives have also been taken to expand Piped Natural Gas connections. “Measures like exempting the gas-based power plants with a capacity of 7-8 GW from gas pooling mechanism and increasing of

rake for positioning more coal at thermal power stations etc. have also been taken to ensure availability of power during the peak summer months”.

Further, interventions proposed to be taken for emerging challenges in various other sectors such as agriculture, civil aviation, shipping and logistics were also discussed.

It added that various efforts like maintaining urea production to meet requirements, coordinating with overseas supplies for DAP/NPKS sup-

pliers are being taken to ensure fertilizer supply. “State governments are being requested to curb black marketing, hoarding, and diversion of fertilizers through daily monitoring, raids, and strict action”.

It reads that the retail prices of food commodities have been stable over the past one month. “Control Rooms have been set up for constant monitoring and interaction with States/UTs on prices and enforcement of Essential Commodities Act. The prices of agricultural products, vegetables and fruits are also being monitored”.

It further reads that efforts to globally diversify our sources for energy, fertilisers and other supply chains, and international initiatives for securing safe passage of vessels through the strait of Hormuz and ongoing diplomatic efforts are being taken.

“Enhanced ●P-06

Weather To Remain Erratic Till April 10: MeT

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The India Meteorological Department on Wednesday said erratic weather conditions are likely to continue across Jammu and Kashmir till April 10, with spells of rain, snow, thunderstorms and gusty winds expected over the next several days.

An official of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said that light rain or snow may occur at a few places on April 1 and 2, while widespread precipitation is expected between April 3 and 4, accompanied by thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds. Moderate to heavy rain or snow is also expected at isolated higher reaches.

Fresh spells of precipitation are likely between April 7 and 9, while April 5 and 6 may remain partly cloudy with isolated light rain.

The MeT department has warned of gusty winds (40-50 kmph), landslides, shooting stones and waterlogging at vulnerable locations, ●P-06

J&K Records 34% Rainfall Deficit In 1 Month



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a 34 per cent deficit in seasonal rainfall between March 1 and April 1.

Data released by the India Meteorological Department, states that the Union Territory received 101.4 mm of rainfall during the period against a normal of 154.6 mm.

Most districts in Kashmir division reported deficient rainfall, with Shopian recording the highest shortfall at 74 per cent, followed by Kulgam at 61 per cent and Doda at 52 per cent.

Anantnag and Budgam also witnessed significant deficits of 47 per cent and 45

per cent respectively, while Srinagar recorded a 24 per cent shortfall.

In North Kashmir, Kupwara reported 21 per cent below normal rainfall, while Bandipora saw a 35 per cent deficit.

In contrast, a few areas recorded normal or above-normal precipitation. Ganderbal received seven per cent above normal rainfall, while Poonch and Samba recorded excess rainfall of 25 per cent and 35 per cent respectively.

Kargil in Ladakh registered an exceptionally high departure from normal at 782 per cent, though overall precipitation levels remained low in absolute terms.

Officials said the ●P-06

DDC Anantnag convenes Public Durbar at Dandipora

Calls for effective grassroots planning, inclusive development

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: To address the concerns and grievances of the local community and ensure efficient public service delivery, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat Wednesday convened a Public Durbar and grievance redressal camp, at Dandipora, Larnoo.

The program was attended by ADC, GM DIC, CPO, ACD, CAO, CEO, CAHO, DD Fisheries, ARTO, DMO, AD FCS&CA, BMO, Tehsildar and BDO Larnoo, CDPO, Exen PDD, AEEs of PHE, PMGSY and R&B, TSWO, LDM, officials from various other departments besides representatives from SHGs and civil society and ex PRI members and the general public.

During the program, the DDC gave a patient hearing to the residents who raised issues pertaining to road connectivity, healthcare services, banking facilities, school infrastructure, beautification and tourism promotion, land compensation, Ration Cards, electricity bills, among others.

The demands included completion of NH-44 stretch and widening of bridge at Vailoo,

provision of sumo stand at Vailoo, pending land compensation for Lessu-Raen, roads, disbursement on MGNREGA material component, clearance of previous liabilities of works, Hols for HSSs, telecom towers at Halan and Sinthan Top, construction of Gadvail-Dandipora and Khreti bridges, developing waste segregation sheds, ATMs for Dandipora and Bidhard, Ek Lavya Model School, adequate number of passenger sheds, inclusion of eligible families in PHH & AAY categories, building civil libraries and reading rooms, development of playfields and sports infrastructure and banking facilities at Guridraman.

SHG representatives asked for effective coordination with departments like Animal Husbandary, Fisheries and Rural Development, swift loan disbursement through banks and execution of certain public works through them.

The DDC issued on spot directions to revenue authorities to identify suitable land for sumo stand, in consultation with the stakeholders. He further asked the RDD authorities to conduct field survey for identification of suitable land for waste segregation



tion sheds and civil libraries in Panchayats. ACD was directed to submit detailed report on Gadvail Vailoo bridge so that the issue is resolved in a time bound manner.

Responding to the issues raised by SHG members, the

DDC said that it is heartwarming to know about the financial achievements made by women and asked the banks to sort out the issues on credit disbursement on priority.

CEO was directed to expedite the formalities on Ek Lavya

Model School for which the land has already been identified. LDM was asked to explore the possibilities of providing ATM services at Dandipora and Bidhard and properly follow up the anticipated approval for banking services at Guridraman. Further, R&B, PMGSY and Revenue authorities were instructed to process the pending compensation claims under rules.

On the occasion, Tehsildar Larnoo informed that the land for telecom towers at Halan and Sinthan Top has been identified while the R&B authorities informed that work on Khreti bridge, damaged during recent floods, will commence soon.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC assured that major issues would be taken up with the suitable authorities and emergent ones shall be resolved by the concerned departments in a time bound manner. For sustainable, inclusive and holistic development, it is imperative that people participate in planning process at the Gram Sabha level especially in education, health, road connectivity, sanitation, cleanliness and other important matters, he remarked. He further

instructed the RDD department to ensure proper conduct of Gram Sabhas so that all villagers participate in grassroots governance and realistic plans are projected.

Terming public welfare paramount responsibility of district administration, the DDC enjoined upon the officers to visit the Panchayats and villages frequently and get valuable feedback from the people so that the beneficiary oriented schemes and development initiatives are implemented effectively. He noted that people possess remarkable abilities to be the forces of change through community participation (Jan Bagidari) and departments should act as facilitators to ensure public development.

Dr. Bilal also called for active involvement of women in planning adding they have great abilities to be the drivers and leaders of inclusive and holistic development, transcending generations.

Regarding playfields, the DDC said these facilities will be developed at Panchayats and the existing sports infrastructure will also be upgraded across the district.

Advising youth to avail benefits of self employment and livelihood generation schemes, the DDC asked the concerned departments to create proper awareness of the flagship initiatives like Mission YUVA, HADP, Spurring Entrepreneurship, PMEGP etc. and conduct awareness-cum- registration camps in far flung areas of the district for their facilitation and enrollment. He further asked the people to engage with the administration on fight against drug abuse so that this menace is eliminated from the society. There is need for early identification of substance abuse victims, their treatment and rehabilitation through self employment opportunities while avoiding their stigmatisation, he observed.

Calling cleanliness a necessary civic virtue, the DDC said the villagers should contribute towards cleanliness of the hamlets so that visible changes on sanitation are made and aesthetic quotient of the rural areas is enhanced.

Local public and civil society members hailed the initiative hoping such programs will continue for their overall welfare and community development.

Zero Hour in LA

Legislators raise several public interest issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Zero Hour in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Wednesday witnessed wide-ranging deliberations, with the Members raising pressing public issues and seeking timely intervention from the government in redress of these concerns.

MLA Reyaz Ahmad Khan urged the government to take immediate steps to facilitate safe return of students from Jammu and Kashmir presently stranded in Iran. He emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to ensure their well-being and early evacuation.

MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay called for constitution of a committee to examine the discrepancies between officially claimed sports infrastructure and the actual facilities available on the ground. He highlighted concerns over the mismatch between records and reality, stressing the importance of transparency and accountability.

MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia demanded prompt action on the findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), particularly regarding unspent and unaccounted funds in various government departments. He underscored the need for financial discipline and adherence to audit observations.



MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat drew attention to the shortage of specialist medical staff at District Hospital Bandipora, specifically absence of a Surgeon Specialist following a recent retirement. He urged the concerned authorities to address the gap to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services to the public.

The House also witnessed detailed discussion on the issue of legislators' salaries, allowances, and related privileges.

MLA Dr. Narinder Singh Raina advocated for a structured and periodic revision of legislators' salaries, aligned with the patterns followed for government employees.

MLA Javid Hassan Baig emphasized that salaries constitute a legitimate entitlement of legislators and called for their rational revision in line with parliamentary practices, while maintaining discretion in public discourse given the diverse socio-economic backgrounds of Members.

Supporting this view, MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania stressed the need for an institutionalized mechanism for revising legislators' emoluments. Referring to the principle articulated by former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee, he noted that such matters should be addressed through an

independent and credible framework, safeguarding the dignity and sovereignty of the House.

MLA Sajad Gani Lone described the issue as a test of the authority of the Legislature and called for a review of the factors delaying implementation of the House's recommendations.

MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat further linked the matter to broader concerns of legislators' privileges and protocol, advocating for a comprehensive and merit-based resolution to settle the issue conclusively.

MLA Muzaffer Iqbal Khan observed that the proposed increase in salary was relatively modest, while a larger enhancement had been suggested in allowances to meet the growing expenditure associated with legislative responsibilities.

Reiterating his earlier concerns, MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay highlighted the need to enhance the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) allocated to legislators. He noted that the current annual allocation of ₹4 crore per constituency is insufficient to meet the developmental expectations of the public.

ADDC Shopian reviews District-Level planning for Mission Gyan Bharatam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Wednesday chaired a review meeting at the Meeting Hall, Mini Secretariat Shopian to assess the implementation of the newly launched Mission Gyan Bharatam in the district.

At the outset, the ADDC briefed officers and field-level surveyors, including Panchayat Secretaries and Supervisors, about the objectives and significance of the mission.

He highlighted that Mission Gyan Bharatam, is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, aimed at preservation of India's rich manuscript heritage.

The ADDC informed that dedicated teams comprising linguistic and historical experts have been constituted to undertake village-level surveys across the district.

These teams will systematically identify, verify and document rare manuscripts and valuable traditional knowledge resources

preserved by individuals and institutions.

Emphasising grassroots outreach, the ADDC directed the field staff to conduct "Har Ghar Dastak" prior to undertaking the survey to ensure maximum coverage.

He further instructed that all identified materi-

tion of manuscripts using modern tools, including artificial intelligence, to create a comprehensive national digital repository accessible to scholars, students and the general public.

He also urged officers and surveyors to actively



als and related data must be uploaded on the Mission Gyan Bharatam mobile application in a timely and accurate manner.

Highlighting the technological dimension, the ADDC stated that the mission focuses on scientific conservation and digitiza-

tion of manuscripts using modern tools, including artificial intelligence, to create a comprehensive national digital repository accessible to scholars, students and the general public.

He also urged officers and surveyors to actively

Iqbal, Head, Department of Persian, University of Kashmir, Srinagar and UT Coordinator, Mission Gyan Bharatam (J&K), delivered a detailed presentation. He highlighted the historical backdrop and significance of the mission, emphasising the urgent need to preserve India's vast manuscript heritage.

He elaborated that manuscripts are handwritten documents on materials such as paper, palm leaves, cloth or bark, containing invaluable knowledge related to history, science, medicine, literature, philosophy and culture, which require systematic preservation for future generations.

A detailed demonstration of the Mission Gyan Bharatam mobile application was also conducted by NIT guiding participants on its usage, data entry protocols and operational procedures.

The meeting was attended by the ACD, CEO, CDPOs, BDOs, besides employees from the Rural Development Department, Child Development Protection Office and Municipal Council Shopian.

Additional IGR reviews progress of digitization of Legacy Registration Records

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Additional Inspector General of Registration (IGR), J&K, Abid Hussain, along with the Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din, and the Sub-Registrar Budgam, Wednesday visited the Court Complex Budgam to review the progress of digitization of legacy registration records.

During the review, it was informed that nearly 70 percent of the digitization work has been successfully completed. The officers took detailed stock of the ongoing process and emphasized the need for timely completion of the remaining work to ensure seamless integration of all records.

The digitization of legacy registration data, previously held by the judiciary, and its subsequent transfer to the Registration Department forms a key component of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP). The initiative aims to centralize land records, minimize litigation related to property transactions, and provide citizens with faster, transparent, and secure access to registration services. Special focus is being laid on uploading legacy data of the past two decades onto the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS).

It was further highlighted

that in Jammu & Kashmir, the registration of property documents was earlier undertaken by the judiciary. Although the responsibility now rests with the Registration Department, legacy records continue to remain with the courts, necessitating their digitization for streamlined public service delivery.

The Additional IGR appreciated the cooperation and support extended by the judiciary in facilitating the digitization process and expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved so far. He reiterated the importance of completing the remaining work within stipulated timelines to ensure the full realization of the objectives of the programme.

CS inaugurates orientation workshop for DYSS officers, officials

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A two-day orientation course cum workshop for the officers and officials of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) J&K began Wednesday at the Convention Centre, marking a key step towards enhancing the sports infrastructure and talent development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Dr Shahid Iqbal, inaugurated the workshop, emphasising the need for sustained support to drive sports development and robust youth engagement

programs. "This initiative reaffirms DYSS J&K's commitment to build a robust sports ecosystem, empowering youth, and positioning the region as a powerhouse in Indian sports," he said.

The workshop drew participation from the District Youth Services and Sports Officers, officers and officials from various wings, Physical Education Masters and Teachers from across J&K.

Dr Iqbal advised the participants to leverage the workshop for efficient program implementation and flawless execution of sports activities.

Director General Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta, highlighted ambitious targets for nurturing young talent and elevating J&K's sports ecosystem to national prominence.

The workshop focused on streamlining sports activities, talent scouting, and strategies to boost J&K's medal tally on the national stage.

The Chief Guest felicitated the best-performing districts in online events on the MyBharat portal, recognising winners in Aorohan Quiz, Volleyball, Cricket, Football, 8 on 8 Challenge and Green Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Kupwara visits Villagam, reviews Developmental Works



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse Wednesday visited Villagam area to review developmental works and assess the functioning of various departments.

During the visit, the DC inspected the Block Development Office (BDO) Villagam, where he was received by Tehsildar Villagam, Tehsildar Tarathpora, Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Block Development Officer Villagam, besides senior citizens and members of civil society.

During the programme organized under the banner of Future Seed Foundation (Trust), the DC felicitated meritorious students for their

outstanding academic achievements and also honoured individuals actively working against drug abuse in the area. Highlighting the significance of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, he stressed the need for collective efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs and build a healthy society.

Later, the DC visited Tehsil Office Villagam, where he reviewed the functioning of the revenue administration. He inspected the progress of Digital Crop Survey, digitization of records, and disposal of backlog mutation cases, and directed the concerned officers to expedite these processes to ensure efficient and timely public service delivery.

DC Kulgam chairs meeting with stakeholders to reviews Traffic Management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Wednesday chaired a meeting with concerned officers and stakeholders, including representatives of transporters, to review and

ensure the smooth flow of traffic across the district.

During the meeting, various issues related to traffic management, road congestion, parking facilities and regulation of transport services were discussed in detail.

The DC stressed the

importance of coordinated efforts among departments and transport stakeholders to streamline vehicular movement and minimize inconvenience to the public.

Representatives of the transporters also shared their concerns and sug-

gestions regarding traffic regulation, passenger management and operational challenges. The DC assured that all genuine issues would be examined and addressed in a phased manner.

Shahzad Alam directed the concerned departments

to strengthen traffic management measures, ensure proper enforcement of traffic rules and create designated parking spaces at key locations to ease congestion.

He also emphasized the need for public cooperation and urged transporters to strictly adhere to traffic

regulations for maintaining smooth and hassle-free movement of vehicles in the district.

The meeting was attended by ARTO and other officers from concerned departments, traffic authorities and representatives of transport unions.

Members withdraw bills after assurances from Govt, two bills rejected

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Several Members Wednesday withdrew their bills after assurances from the Government.

Member, Ajaz Ahmad Jan moved a bill which reads "a bill to amend the public men and public servants declaration of assets and other provisions act, 1983 (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 39 of 2025)".

Member, Ranbir Singh Pathania also withdrew the bill which read, "a bill further to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011 (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 32 of 2025)".

Legislator, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, moved a bill which reads, "a bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralization and Recruitment) Act, 2010 (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 38 of 2025)." However, the Member withdrew the bill after assurances from the Government.

Member, Arjun Singh Raju also moved a bill which reads "A bill to provide better for the

better management, protection, administration and governance of Kashmiri Hindu Shrines and religious places in the Union Territory and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 39 of 2025)."

While responding to these Bills, the Chief Minister assured the Members that their issues and concerns shall be addressed.

Later the Members withdrew their bills after satisfactory reply from the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, Member, Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larimi), moved a bill which read, "A bill to provide prohibition of private practice by the Government doctors in order to strengthen the public health delivery system, ensure full time availability of medical professionals in government institutions like, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 40 of 2025)."

Responding to Bill, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo said that there is complete ban against



the private practice by Government doctors during duty hours and both seniors doctors are available on call duty during night hours along with availability of junior doctors at all health institutions.

Meanwhile a bill moved by the Member, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah reads, "A bill to impose a complete ban on the import of frozen/ chilled food items from outside Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in

order to protect the local food industry and safeguard public health (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 43 of 2025)".

Responding to Bill, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo said that

various measures have been undertaken to ensure import of quality food import to Jammu and Kashmir.

She said that Food Safety Department is working to address these issues and there are many testing labs functioning and additional machinery is being put into service for testing purpose.

Another bill moved by Mir Saifullah reads, "A Bill to provide for creation of gainful employment opportunities and for payment of unemployment allowance/stipend to unemployed youth and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 5 of 2025)".

Mubarik Gul moved a bill which read, "A Bill to provide social security to unemployed technocrats/professionals in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 18 of 2025)".

Also, a bill moved by MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania reads, "A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (L.A. Private Mem-

bers' Bill No. 33 of 2025)".

The House also continued discussion on bill moved by legislator Pawan Kumar Gupta yesterday which read, "A Bill to provide compassionate appointments to the next of kin of deceased government employees, security personnel and civilians affected by militancy or enemy action (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 27 of 2025)".

The Members withdrew these Bills after satisfactory assurances by the Government.

Legislators Balwant Singh Mankotia and Dr. Syed Bashir Ahmad Veeri pressed their respective bills for introduction.

The bill moved by MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia reads "A Bill to provide vesting of ownership rights of evacuee property to the occupants (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 15 of 2025)".

Another bill moved by Dr. Syed Bashir Ahmad Veeri reads, "A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 24 of 2025)". The bills were later rejected through voice vote.

LG chairs meeting to discuss SKUAST-J, IFPRI Collaboration for Agri Transformation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to discuss a strategic collaboration between SKUAST Jammu and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) for strengthening evidence-based policy-making and sustainable agricultural transformation in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Shri Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; Dr. Shahidur Rashid, Director, IFPRI-South Asia; Dr. Anjani Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI-South Asia; Dr. Sagar Doifode Dattatray,



Mission Director, HADP; HoDs, faculty of SKUAST Jammu and other senior officials.

The Lieutenant Governor welcomed the proposed collaboration with IFPRI, noting that its global expertise would significantly strengthen institutional capacities in the region.

The meeting discussed the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Food Policy and Data Analytics at SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with IFPRI. The proposed Centre is envisioned as a knowledge hub to sup-

port continuous monitoring, policy evaluation and data-driven decision making while also contributing to national and global discourse on agricultural transformation, particularly in mountain and high-value production systems.

Experts from IFPRI, including Dr. Shahidur Rashid, Director, IFPRI-South Asia and Dr. Anjani Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI-South Asia, shared insights on institutional and technical support required for revitalizing agriculture and rural economies. During the

meeting, Dr. Anjani Kumar presented a detailed presentation on "Institutional and Technical Supports for Revitalizing Agriculture and Rural Economies in Jammu & Kashmir."

The deliberations also underscored the importance of convergence across key initiatives such as HADP, JKCIIP and Mission YUVA with a focus on improving farmer incomes, generating employment, strengthening value chains and promoting inclusive growth, particularly for smallholders, women and youth.

Div Com reviews preparations for Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting with senior officers to assess preparedness and finalize arrangements for the pilgrimage to the Holy Cave.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag, Budgam, Ganderbal, Bandipora, and Srinagar along with the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation and senior officials from multiple departments, including ULB, FCS&CA, RTC, RTO, Rural Sanitation, SASB, KPDCIL, R&B, PHE, I&F, AYUSH, BEACON, Animal Husbandry, Labour, Health, Information, Fire & Emergency Services, IMD, Tourism, SDA, PDA, Forests, Wildlife, SDRF, district SSPs, ITBP, NHIDCL, and NHAI. Representatives from service providers including G-Max, Jio,



Airtel, and BSNL also participated.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed departmental proposals under Revenue and Capital Expenditure (Capex) heads. He also assessed the status of works to be executed by BEACON, including snow clearance, repairs, and track widening along the Pahalgam route.

Emphasizing timely infrastructure readiness, he directed the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department to expedite macadamization of roads around Yatra base camps, development of parking facilities and pony stands, and ensure restoration of helipads.

With regard to tentages along the Pahalgam and

Baltal axes, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of quality, safety, and aesthetics. He instructed that tents must be installed only in secure, non-vulnerable areas.

To strengthen disaster preparedness, he directed the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag to coordinate resource pooling and conduct detailed assessments of flood-prone zones, ensuring safe placement of camps and regulated movement of pilgrims.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the capacity and amenities at base camps, directing departments to maintain adequate fire safety measures, including designated fire gaps between tents and deployment of fire tenders and personnel. He under-

scored the need for robust sanitation arrangements at camps and along the Yatra routes, tasking the concerned departments with ensuring cleanliness throughout the pilgrimage.

On registration, he instructed that all processes for yatris and service providers be completed well in advance of the Yatra's commencement.

Further, he reviewed healthcare facilities along both routes and called for increased deployment of ambulances. Directions were also issued regarding accommodation for security personnel, provision of RTC buses for pilgrim transportation, installation of public address systems and signage, dissemination of timely weather updates, and strengthening of disaster management mechanisms.

Telecom service providers were instructed to ensure seamless network coverage across all routes and camps, enabling effective communication and facilitating RFID-based tracking systems.

CEO SSCL conducts On-Ground inspection at Lal Chowk

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a proactive move to strengthen civic service delivery and ensure responsive governance, Faz Lul Haseeb, Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), conducted a comprehensive on-ground inspection at Lal Chowk.

During the visit, the CEO engaged directly with traders, shopkeepers, and other stakeholders to gather first-hand feedback on pressing civic issues, including sanitation, drainage, and public utility services. The interaction provided a platform for stakeholders to voice their concerns, which were attentively heard and acknowledged on the spot.

Traders and business owners welcomed the initiative, appreciating the administration's hands-on approach and commitment to resolving long-standing issues through direct field engagement.

Taking immediate cognizance of the grievances raised, the CEO issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for swift and effective redressal. The Drainage Wing was instructed to urgently address bottlenecks and ensure the proper functioning and maintenance of the drainage network in and around Lal Chowk.



The Chief Sanitation Officer of Srinagar Municipal Corporation was directed to further intensify sanitation drives and maintain sustained cleanliness standards in the area, keeping in view its significance as a high-footfall commercial and public space.

Additionally, officials of SSCL were directed to prioritize the resolution of electrical and allied infrastructure issues to ensure seamless public utility services for traders, commuters, and visitors alike.

The inspection underscores the administration's continued focus on robust field monitoring, inter-departmental coordination, and time-bound grievance redressal, aimed at enhancing the quality of urban services and improving the overall civic experience in Srinagar.

The CEO was accompanied by the Chief Engineer, SSCL; Chief Sanitation Officer, SMC; Executive Engineer, Drainage Wing; and other senior officials from SSCL and SMC.

Budget Session

House allows introduction of two Private Members' Bills for discussion

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Wednesday allowed the introduction of two Private Members' Bills moved by Legislators Tanvir Sadiq and Sajad Shaheen for discussion.

The Bills seek restoration of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 1960, and the establishment of a university campus at Banihal in Ramban.

Legislator Tanvir Ali Sadiq introduced a Bill which reads: "A Bill to restore the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 1960, and the rules framed there under to the original

form as it existed prior to the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 2022; to protect the rights of existing lessees and occupants; and to ensure that public land serves the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 35 of 2025)."

Speaking on the Bill, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that the Government would not oppose the Bill at this stage and would like the House to discuss it.

The Chief Minister said that the Government would like the House to deliberate on the matter in detail. "After that, the Govern-

ment will take a decision on whether to support this Bill or not. Therefore, at this stage, I will not oppose its introduction," he said.

The Bill was subsequently allowed to be introduced through a voice vote.

Another Bill introduced by MLA Sajad Shaheen reads: "A Bill to provide for the establishment of a university campus at Banihal in District Ramban to promote higher education, research, and socioeconomic development in the region and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 46 of 2025)."

Assembly grants two month extension to JJM House Committee for report submission

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Legislative Assembly Wednesday granted two months' extension to the House Committee on Jal Jeevan Mission to submit its report.

The motion was accepted and extension was granted through voice vote.

The Chairman of the House Committee, Justice Hasnain Masoodi, moved a motion which reads, "that this house do extend the tenure of the House Com-

mittee on Jal Jeevan Mission for a further period of three (3) months to enable it to complete its assigned task and submit report."

The House noted that the Committee required time to check works executed under JJM across Jammu and Kashmir and granted three months extension to it to submit the report.

Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, said that major part of the work has been

completed by the House Committee, however, it requires more time to submit the report as there are 3200 WSSs to be examined.

Earlier, Legislators Aijaz Jan, Sham Lal Sharma, Sajad Gani Lone, Mir Saifullah, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah raised issues and concerns regarding the implementation of JJM.

Rs 9.78 cr road constructions under execution in Beerwah: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Wednesday said that the about 30 road construction works have been undertaken for execution under both Pothole and Cities and Towns (C&T) programmes during 2025-26 fiscal.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question, raised by the Legislator Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani in the Legislative Assembly.

Sharing details, the Deputy Chief Minister informed that the works worth an estimated cost of Rs 519.34 lakh undertaken under Potholes programme for execution included improvement of link road from aarath to Rassu, inner links of Checki Kawoosa and Kawoosa khalisa, Mazhama and Batpora, S.K. Pora and Shipora, Chayars kulchi Road, Lalpora Road, inner Links of Gooripora, Peth Kanihama and Hajibagh Paripora, Peth makhama, Bonmakhama, inner links of Bonhama, upgradation of Meri Pora Rathsuna, Pethkanihama to Cheyra Khalchi Road, Mokdam Mohalla link road at Watnagam, inner links at Pethmakhama, Rathsu, Rathsun and Chewdara.

He added that other works including upgradation/improvement of link roads at Narbal, improve-



ment of Beerwah Budgam Road, Iskanderpora Loolipora road and macadamization of inner links at Sonapah are under execution in the Beerwah Constituency.

Similarly, the Deputy Chief Minister, said that as many as 12 works worth Rs. 459 lakh under Cities & Towns have been undertaken for the year 2025-26 in Beerwah Constituency.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the remaining road construction works in Beerwah Constituency shall be executed in near future. He said that no DPRs (Detailed Project Reports) under the nomenclature "Pethkoot-Dasan" and "Hokhlateri" roads are presently under formulation or consideration in the Department under NABARD or any other scheme.

Legislator Saif Ud Din Bhat raised the supplementary question.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

A Timely Step To Bring Students Back On Track

Sometimes, action delayed is still action worth taking. The recent police crackdown on students skipping school and spending time in parks across the Valley may have come late, but for many parents, it is a much-needed and welcome move.

For some time now, there has been growing concern over school-going children, especially teenagers, bunking classes and gathering in public spaces like parks and along the banks of the Jhelum River during school hours. What may seem like harmless time-pass often hides a deeper issue, lack of supervision, declining discipline, and increasing detachment from academics. Reports of students removing their uniforms to avoid being identified, and even being found smoking in some cases, make the situation more worrying. These are not isolated incidents but signs of a pattern that needed attention. The police intervention, therefore, is not just about catching students, it is about guiding them. Counselling them on the spot and reminding them of the importance of education is a step in the right direction. It sends a clear message that their future matters. But this responsibility cannot rest on the police alone. Parents have a crucial role to play. Keeping track of children's daily routines, knowing their company, and staying involved in their lives has never been more important. Schools, too, must ensure better attendance monitoring and create an environment where students feel motivated to attend rather than skip classes. At the same time, authorities can explore practical steps like limiting access to parks for students during school hours, without making public spaces feel restrictive. The real issue goes beyond bunking classes, it is about direction and guidance. When young minds are left unchecked, even small habits can lead to bigger problems over time. This crackdown should be seen as a reminder, not just an enforcement drive. A reminder that shaping the future of our children is a shared responsibility, one that requires attention, care, and consistent effort from everyone involved.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

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Stuck In Silence: Living With Helplessness

ABID HUSSAIN RATHER

All of us must have observed that there comes a moment in our lives when our efforts seem useless and futile. We try our best, we push hard and we wait patiently, but nothing changes and the situation remains unaltered. The world moves on but we remain stuck, watching from the sidelines. This feeling usually called as helplessness is silent, heavy, deeply exhausting and disturbing. Helplessness does not announce itself loudly. Its entry is slow and silent. At first, it is just disappointment. Then it becomes frustration. And before we realize it, it settles into our hearts like a permanent resident. A person begins to believe that whatever he does will not make a difference at all. This belief, more than any failure, becomes truly dangerous and disastrous.

In present times, helplessness has become disturbingly common. Despite advanced technology, instant communication and endless information, people feel much more powerless than ever. Economic pressure, unemployment, rising costs of living, health crises and social uncertainty have pushed many into a corner where choices feel limited, hope feels fragile and purpose feels vague.

For every individual, helplessness is deeply personal. It appears when dreams remain unfulfilled, when hard work goes unrewarded or when circumstances seem unfair and unfavourable. A student studies sincerely but despite working hard he fails repeatedly. Parents works day and night yet struggle to provide basic comfort to their children. A patient follows every instruction but does not recover at all. Slowly, the question arises: What is the point of trying?

This question is toxic. When helplessness takes hold, it does not remain confined to a single problem. It spreads in every direction. It weakens our confidence and fades motivation. Even a small challenge begins to feel impossible and a slight problem looks unlovable. We start doubting our own abilities, our worth and sometimes even our very existence. Our mental peace disappears and it is replaced by anxiety, sadness and anger.

On a social level, helplessness becomes even more dangerous. When entire communities face poverty, injustice or lack of opportunity, frustration turns collective. People stop believing in systems, institutions and sometimes even in one another. Silence replaces protest and indifference replaces compassion. This kind of helplessness does not just hurt individuals but it weakens social bonds and slowly damages the soul of the society.

Psychologists often say that the human mind can endure pain, but it struggles with hopelessness. When a person believes that suffering has no end, emotional and physical health



In present times, helplessness has become disturbingly common. Despite advanced technology, instant communication and endless information, people feel much more powerless than ever. Economic pressure, unemployment, rising costs of living, health crises and social uncertainty have pushed many into a corner where choices feel limited, hope feels fragile and purpose feels vague.

both begin to collapse slowly. Sleeplessness, stress and depression related illnesses are often not just medical problems; they are symptoms of long term helplessness.

Helplessness is not the end of the story. On a keen analysis, history, personal experience and even everyday life remind us of one simple truth: no state remains permanent. Just as night inevitably gives way to morning, moments of helplessness also carry within them the seed of change. That seed is hope. Hope does not always arrive dramatically. Sometimes it comes quietly—as a small opportunity, a kind word, an unexpected support or a renewed inner resolve. It may not change everything at once but it changes our perspective which is very important for continuing the journey of life forward.

When a person begins to believe that change is possible, efforts regain meaning. Failure becomes a lesson rather than a verdict. Struggle turns into preparation.

Hope does not deny difficulties; it simply refuses to accept defeat as final.

Importantly, hope is not a luxury but it is a necessity. It gives us the strength to stand up one more time, to try again even after repeated setbacks. It reminds us that circumstances may be out of our control, but our response is not and our judicious response can change the circumstances. Equally important is the role of human connection. Helplessness grows in isolation but weakens in company and association. When people support each other—listen without judgment, help without conditions and stand together in difficult times—the weight of helplessness becomes lighter. Sometimes, just knowing that someone understands our pain is enough to restore our faith.

Societies that survive crises are not those without problems, but those where people refuse to abandon one another. Compassion, empathy and collective responsibility act as antidotes to

despair and hopelessness. They transform helplessness from a personal burden into a shared challenge. Shared challenges are always easier to face.

In the end, helplessness can become a teacher. It forces reflection. It reveals our weaknesses but also uncovers our hidden strength. Many people discover their true resilience not during success but during their lowest moments. What once felt like an unpleasant ending often turns out to be a beautiful beginning in disguise.

Life does not promise ease, but it does offer possibilities. Every problem carries a solution, though it may take time, patience, and courage to find it. As long as hope remains alive, helplessness loses its power. And perhaps that is the most important lesson of all: even in the darkest moments, a small ray of hope is enough to guide the way forward.

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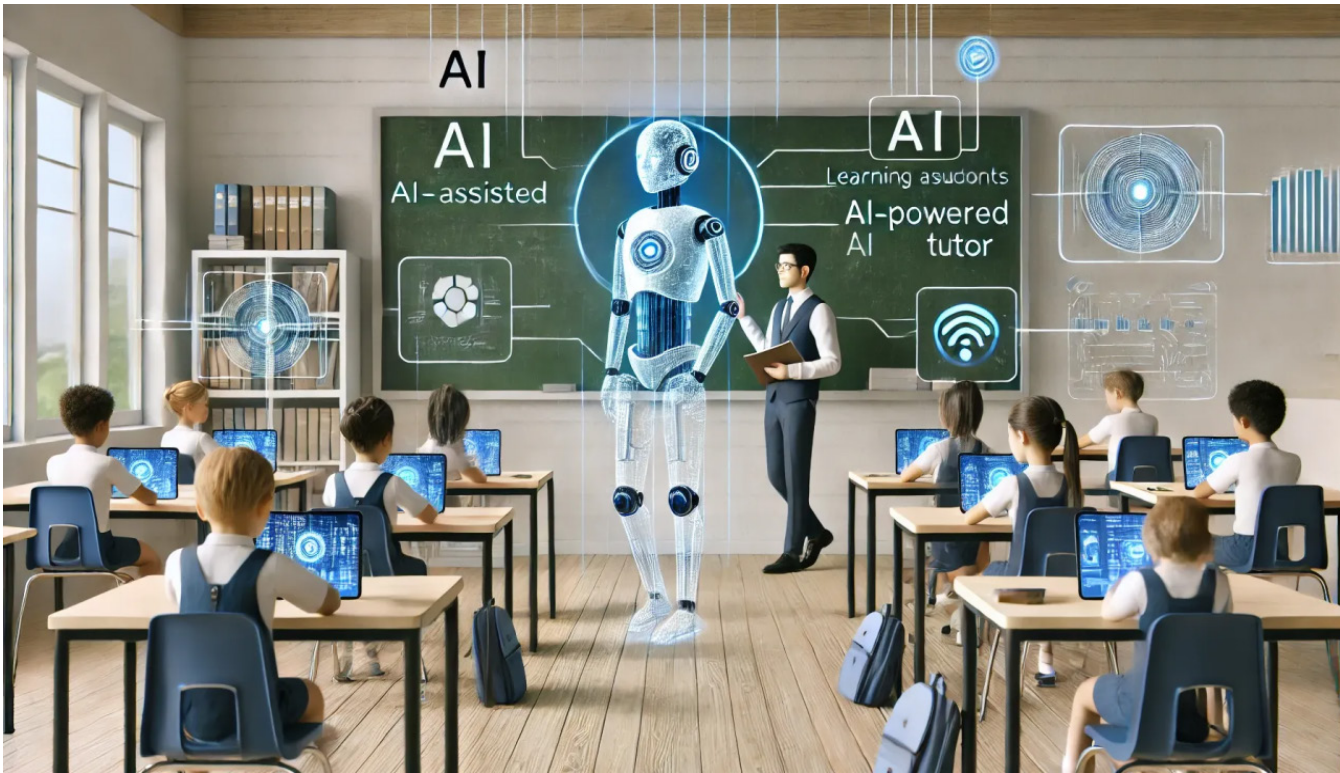
Teachers As Cognitive Architects In The AI Era



DR. ANJUM NAZIR QURESHI

Artificial Intelligence is set to change the education sector. While many fear losing of teaching jobs, experts say that it will cause a shift in the nature of jobs. The responsibility of the teacher may remain the same, like teaching in a class, but its way of working and the outcomes expected will surely change. The normal teaching pattern that is being observed presently is that teachers are content deliverers. They prepare a topic and teach it in the class. Sometimes they may use activities and other methods to make the class engaging. But as we are living in an era where information is easily accessible, the role of a teacher as a content deliver has to be changed as a cognitive architect of education in the AI era.

In the age of Artificial Intelligence, where AI streamlines various tasks for educators—such as creating quizzes, designing assessments, facilitating personalized learning, and generating performance reports—it is understandable that teachers may feel apprehensive about job security as many responsibilities are increasingly handled by AI. To navigate this landscape, educators must adapt their



mindsets and approaches to work without the fear of obsolescence. A crucial aspect of this transition involves re-evaluating their roles to focus on fostering students' ability to connect ideas, think critically, and effectively communicate their thoughts with others.

The evolving educational landscape necessitates viewing teachers as emotional anchors within the classroom. This pivotal role requires educators to cultivate a heightened awareness of their own emotions, which in turn fosters positive relationships with their students. When teachers effective-

ly manage their emotions, they gain a deeper understanding of their students, allowing them to transition from a judgmental stance to one of support. For instance, rather than criticizing a student for underperformance, a teacher might seek to uncover the underlying causes of that behavior. This approach not only creates a safer environment for students but also encourages resilience and enhances their focus on academic pursuits, ultimately leading to a more productive learning experience.

Teachers must prioritize designing meaningful learning experiences, recognizing

that each child is unique. While a teacher may possess strong skills, it is essential to shift the focus from merely delivering lessons to developing teaching methods that facilitate genuine understanding. Learning should extend beyond rote memorization; it should connect classroom content to students' lives, enabling them to see the relevance of what they are taught.

The real challenge lies not in artificial intelligence itself, but in the willingness of educational institutions to adapt their mindsets and methodologies. Those that embrace AI will undoubtedly thrive,

as it represents a significant advancement in the teaching profession. To remain relevant, educators must evolve their approaches and avoid attributing job losses to technology. By shifting our mindset towards continuous learning and supporting others in their educational journeys, we can navigate the landscape without the anxiety of job displacement. It is crucial to recognize that AI is merely a tool, not a panacea for all educational challenges.

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

India’s Soil Crisis Needs Legal Imperative

Without Binding Legislation, Food Security And Ecological Balance Will Collapse Under The Weight Of Degradation And Population Growth.



DR. SRINIVAS KATHERASALA
DR. RAM SHEPHERD

Agriculture has been the bedrock of human civilization for over 12,000 years, beginning with the Neolithic era when humanity shifted from hunting and gathering to farming. Soil became the very foundation of survival, enabling settled life and the flourishing of societies. The Fertile Crescent, where wheat and barley were first cultivated, marked the dawn of human progress. Farming demanded patience, skill, and resources, but it gave stability to communities and allowed civilizations to thrive. Yet in our technological age, we often forget that soil is not inert matter beneath our feet but a living system that nurtures plants, animals, and people alike. Soil is the medium through which seeds germinate, roots anchor, and nutrients flow into food. It regulates water cycles, filters pollutants, and stores carbon, making it a critical ally in combating climate change.

Tragically, modern farming has reduced soil to a mere input for production. Excessive use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and chemicals has stripped it of vitality, while monocropping and over-tillage have weakened its structure. Rapid urbanization has swallowed fertile land, replacing fields with concrete jungles. When soil is degraded, yields decline, water is polluted, and climate systems destabilize. Despite this, policies remain weak, and both governments and farmers often ignore the urgency. For the sake of future generations, we must recognize soil as a life-giving substance, not just a commodity, and treat it with the reverence it deserves.

Soil Under Siege: Why India Must Act Now

Healthy soil is the silent partner of civilization. Protecting it through law is the only way to secure our future. Globally, soil fertility has declined by more than 40%, a staggering figure linked to unsustainable practices, erosion, chemical dependency, poor crop diversity, and reckless land use. By 2050, the world’s population will approach 10 billion, and feeding this population will require healthy soil. Yet less than 23% of the planet’s land



is suitable for cultivation, and much of it is already under stress. India’s challenge is particularly acute. With its vast population and dependence on agriculture, the country cannot afford to lose fertile soil.

Degradation continues unchecked, and the rise of chronic diseases, including cancers and lifestyle disorders, is linked to the chemical-laden food chain created by unsustainable farming. If this trajectory continues, food insecurity will become a certainty, not a distant fear. The unequal distribution of arable land adds to the crisis. Only 29% of Earth’s surface is land, and much of it is unsuitable for farming. Nations such as Saudi Arabia (98.5% non-arable), Canada (93.2%), and Russia (86.8%), have limited agricultural potential. This stark reality means that countries like India, China, Australia and the United States shoulder the responsibility of feeding not only their own populations but also contributing to global food supply. For India, this responsibility is immense, and protecting soil resources is non-negotiable. Without fertile soil, India cannot sustain its people or contribute to global food security. This is why a strict, binding law to regulate

agriculture is urgently needed.

From Global Decline to India’s Duty: A Soil Law is Essential

With 40% of global fertility lost and India’s farmland under stress, legislation is the only safeguard for generations ahead.

The European Union has already recognized the gravity of soil degradation and introduced the Soil Monitoring Law (SML), the first comprehensive legal framework to safeguard soil health. This law acknowledges soil as a critical natural resource, directly tied to ecological balance, water management, and climate stability. The EU acted because it had already suffered from excessive land degradation and urban expansion.

India must draw lessons from this example. While the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have guided global efforts for the past decade, they are insufficient. Soil protection requires binding legislation that enforces sustainable farming, discourages harmful chemicals, and promotes ecological methods. A law must go beyond policy statements; it must be enforceable, practical, and visionary. India’s agricultural future hinges on healthy soil, and a strong,

scientifically designed law is essential to regulate farming practices, conserve fertility, and secure food for generations. Such a law should be implemented at the grassroots, involving farmers directly, while promoting awareness about soil health and the dangers of synthetic inputs.

It should encourage organic and regenerative farming methods, integrate soil protection with climate change and water policies, and provide incentives for sustainable practices alongside penalties for harmful ones. Without such a framework, India risks losing its agricultural foundation, intensifying food insecurity, and causing irreversible ecological damage. A rigorous soil law would also strengthen accountability, ensuring that both government agencies and private actors adhere to sustainable standards. It would empower communities to monitor soil health, create transparency in agricultural practices, and align India’s policies with global environmental commitments.

Global Soil Fertility Decline

Healthy Soil 60%
Degraded Soil 40%
Four out of every ten hectares world-

wide have lost fertility due to unsustainable farming.

Global Arable vs Non-Arable Land

Arable Land	23%
Non-Arable Land	77%

Only one-fifth of Earth’s land can be farmed, and this resource is shrinking fast.

Non-Arable Land by Country	
Saudi Arabia	98.5%
Canada	93.2%
Russia	86.8%
Germany	66.9%

Many nations have limited farming potential. India must shoulder a greater share of global food security.

India’s Dual Challenge

Soil Degradation ~30%
Population Growth ~17%
India faces rising soil degradation alongside rapid population growth. Without a strict soil law, food insecurity will intensify.

Conclusion: Soil as the Silent Partner of Civilization

Soil is the silent partner of human civilization. It has sustained us for millennia, but today it is under siege. India cannot afford complacency. A strict soil law, designed with scientific insight and implemented with administrative resolve, is urgently needed. Healthy soil regulates water cycles, reduces greenhouse gases, and supports biodiversity. When soil is degraded, the balance of nature collapses, leading to floods, droughts, and declining food quality.

Protecting soil is therefore protecting life itself. Such legislation will ensure that soil remains fertile, agriculture remains sustainable, and food security is guaranteed for future generations. Soil is not mere dirt; it is a living entity beneath our feet. Protecting it is protecting ourselves. The time to act is now, before the ground that sustains us loses its ability to give life. A rigorous law will not only safeguard agriculture but also secure India’s ecological future, ensuring that the nation can meet the demands of its people while contributing to global food security. Soil is the foundation of civilization, and its protection must be enshrined in law, for without it, the very fabric of human survival will unravel.

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Elder Care: From Moral Duty To Legal Accountability

LALIT GARGG

In Indian culture, parents have always been regarded as equivalent to gods, “Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava.” This is not merely a scriptural line but the very soul of our social structure. Therefore, it is extremely shameful for any civilized society if parents, who gave birth and devoted their lives to raising their children, have to face neglect, humiliation, and financial insecurity in the evening of their lives, and are forced to seek legal and administrative support to receive maintenance from their own children. Unfortunately, this is becoming a harsh reality of our times. Old age itself is a major challenge. With advancing age, physical strength declines, illnesses increase, and sources of income almost disappear. Whatever little savings people accumulate by the time of retirement are often spent on children’s education, marriages, and building houses. Government employees may still receive pensions, but those associated with the private sector or small businesses often face greater difficulties. In such circumstances, if children do not take care of their parents, it is not merely a family failure but can be considered a social crime.

Keeping these circumstances in mind, the “Telangana Employees Accountability and Parents Support Monitoring Bill 2026,” passed by the Telangana Assembly, has emerged as an important and historic initiative. The objective of this bill is to ensure that if children fail to take care of their parents, a fixed amount will be deducted from their salaries and given to the parents. This law will apply not only to government employees but also to private sector employees,

Members of Parliament, MLAs, and local body representatives.

Thus, this law is not merely a legal provision but an attempt to give legal form to social responsibility. Although India already has the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, the new Telangana bill is considered more comprehensive, sensitive, and effective. It provides that if children fail to take care of their parents, then upon complaint, fifteen percent of the salary or ten thousand rupees (whichever is lower) will be deducted and deposited into the parents’ account. The complaint will be resolved within sixty days by the District Collector, and a Senior Citizens Commission will also be formed for this purpose. Another important aspect of this law is that not only biological parents but step-parents can also file complaints.

This law is also significant because the Indian family system is rapidly changing. Joint families have broken down into nuclear families, and now even the concept of single-person families is emerging. Career competition, economic pressures, urban lifestyle, consumerism, and the growing sense of individual freedom have weakened the traditional family structure. In many cases, parents are sent to old-age homes, and even if they are kept at home, they often face neglect, disrespect, and mental suffering. Sometimes even their medicines, food, and care are neglected. In such a situation, an important question arises, can the service of parents be ensured only through values or is there also a need for law?

Ideally, values alone should be sufficient. Indian history and tradition provide many inspiring examples of devotion to parents. The example of Shравan Kumar is considered an ideal



symbol of a devoted son in Indian culture, who carried his blind parents on his shoulders on a pilgrimage. Similarly, Lord Rama accepted exile to honor his father’s promise. These are not merely religious stories but moral ideals of Indian society.

In history, personalities like Chhatrapati Shivaji, Mahatma Gandhi, and Swami Vivekananda also demonstrated deep respect and devotion towards their parents. This clearly shows that respect and service towards parents have always been the core spirit of Indian culture. However, as values weaken today, society is compelled to take the support of law. But it would not be appropriate to view this issue from only one side. It is also true that sometimes parents impose excessive discipline, control, and expectations on their children.

They want their children to live strictly according to their wishes and not make independent decisions regarding marriage, career, or lifestyle. Sometimes parents interfere excessively in their children’s per-

sonal lives, which creates tension within the family. In such situations, distance increases between parents and children, and the family environment becomes stressful.

Therefore, the solution to this problem is not only law but also balance, dialogue, and mutual understanding within the family. Children should understand that their parents devoted their entire lives to them, and therefore serving and respecting them in old age is their moral duty. At the same time, parents must also understand that times have changed and the new generation has a different lifestyle and mindset; therefore, they must learn to understand their children and give them independence. In reality, a family is an institution that runs on love, sacrifice, respect, and dialogue — not merely on authority and discipline. Where there is only authority, there will be conflict; where there is only sacrifice, there will be imbalance; but where there is love and balance, the family will be strong.

The Telangana law is an impor-

tant initiative, but it is not the final solution. Law can compel children to maintain their parents, but it cannot create love, respect, and sensitivity. For that, society needs moral education, family values, and social awareness. Schools, social organisations, and religious institutions should teach respect and care for parents and elders. Today, we talk about a “New India” and a “Developed India,” but economic development alone is not sufficient. If the elderly in society remain insecure, neglected, and humiliated, development will remain incomplete. True development is that in which every section of society, children, youth, women, and the elderly — can live a secure and dignified life.

Therefore, it is necessary to work on three levels: First, the government and laws should ensure the economic and social security of the elderly. Second, values of respect and service towards parents should be developed in society. Third, balanced and dialogue-based relationships should be established between parents and children within families. If these three levels become strong, not only will the lives of the elderly become secure and dignified, but the family institution will also become stronger and human values will remain alive in society. It can certainly be said that parents are not just a part of the family, they are the roots of the family. If the roots are weak, the tree will also be weak. Therefore, respect and protection of the elderly is not merely a family or legal issue, but a test of the morality and civilization of society. A society that does not respect its elders can never become truly great.

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Resolution on transfer of NHPC projects to J&K Govt on Assembly agenda today

AGENCIES

JAMMU: A crucial resolution seeking the transfer of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)-owned projects in Jammu & Kashmir to the Union Territory Government is set to be taken up in the J&K Assembly today.

The resolution, submitted by NC MLA Sajad Shaheen, has been listed in the business of the House for April 2-one of the two days fixed for Private Member Resolutions. It is among seven

resolutions selected through balloting.

The text of the resolution reads: "This House resolves to recommend that the Government of India may be urged to consider, in consultation with the Union Territory Government and other stakeholders, a phased and mutually agreed transfer of operational control and/ or ownership rights of the hydroelectric power projects presently operated by NHPC within the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to the UT Government,

in accordance with constitutional provisions and existing inter-governmental arrangements."

The mild-worded resolution is expected to be the center of attention during proceedings tomorrow.

In the past, J&K's regional parties made the return of power projects a top priority in their election manifestos but failed to achieve substantial progress. In their Agenda of Alliance, the PDP-BJP coalition promised that the "State Government will work with the Union Government

to explore modalities for transfer of Dulhasti and Uri hydro power projects to J&K as suggested by the Rangarajan Committee Report and the Round Table reports."

The issue also featured prominently in the manifesto of the National Conference for the 2024 Assembly polls, which stated: "Impress upon the Union of India to implement the recommendations of the C. Rangarajan Committee report in letter and spirit. All other hydro power projects be transferred to Jammu and Kashmir as per agreement."—(KNO)

JKBOSE allows migration of CBSE, other Board students for 2025–26 session

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has allowed students from CBSE and other Government-recognised Boards across the country to seek admission in JKBOSE-affiliated institutions for the Academic Session 2025–26.

An official notification issued by JKBOSE in this regard reads that students the students who have passed and are otherwise eligible or have appeared in their Class 9th Secondary School Examination (Class 10th), Higher Secondary

Part-I (Class 11th) as the case may be, from CBSE or any other Govt. Recognised Board of the country and are desirous to migrate to J&K Board of School Education for seeking admission in its affiliated institutions for the Academic Session 2025-2026 in their next higher classes, i.e., 10th, 11th and 12th respectively will be allowed to do so provisionally on the same analogy as is being done in case of candidates of this organisation (JKBOSE) who appear as Regular candidates.

"The admissions shall be, however, regularised by the concerned Registration Sections (K.D/ JD) and Sub / Branch offices of the JKBOSE subject to production of their pass certificates including other requisite documents of the corresponding qualifying examination(s) conducted by their respective Boards and determination of the eligibility by the J&K BOSE and applicable fee etc, failing which their provisional admission shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio", the notification reads.

The heads of institutions have also been directed to obtain an undertaking from migrating students acknowledging possible cancellation of admission in case of non-qualification, it adds

JKBOSE further informed that admissions under the eligibility-cum-migration category will remain open till May 21, 2026.

Pertinent to mention, Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo while chairing a review meeting of JKBOSE on 30th March, 2026 had issued strict directions to JKBOSE authorities to streamline migration process of CBSE, other Board students to JKBOSE.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Govt. Committed To

He emphasized that the opposition was not to the sentiment of the Bill, but to its introduction at this stage, particularly when the Government has recently made an announcement on the matter. "Not even a month has passed since the commitment was made. I think that raising the issue on the very first day of the financial year appears meaningless," he said.

Chief Minister reiterated that the Government fully acknowledges the concerns of employees who have devoted the prime years of their lives in service and affirmed that their regularisation remains a priority.

Calling for a constructive approach, he said that the matter is currently under examination by a Committee and urged that its report be awaited. He appealed to legislator Tarigami to withdraw the Private Member's Bill in view of the Government's assurance and ongoing process.

Later, satisfied by the assurances from the Chief Minister, legislator Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami withdrew his bill.

Another bill on the same subject moved by MLA Waheed ur Rehman Para, that reads "A Bill to provide for regularization of adhoc, Daily wagers, need based and other Temporary workers (L.A. Private Members' Bill No. 8 of 2025)," was rejected through voice vote.

Govt Tightens Regulation

rating or certification of all stakeholders is presently under consideration.

Highlighting the importance of service standards, the Chief Minister said that visitor experience, behaviour of service providers and hospitality standards are crucial for the growth and sustainability of a successful tourism economy. He noted that harassment, overcharging or unprofessional conduct can adversely impact the image of a tourist destination.

Responding to a query regarding decline in tourist inflow due to such issues, he said that no such instance has been reported in the Tourism Department where tourist inflow suffered on account of harassment, overcharging or poor behaviour by stakeholders. "However, isolated complaints have been reported and are being addressed as per rules," he added.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, further informed that regular training and capacity-building programmes are being conducted for stakeholders. These cover areas such as hospitality, etiquettes, housekeeping, guiding, front office operations, food & beverage services, homestays, first aid & CPR, rescue operations, responsible tourism and risk management. He reiterated that there is no separate proposal for mandatory certification of all stakeholders at present.

He also stated that a robust grievance redressal and monitoring mechanism is in place through Tourist Reception Centres, tourism helplines, online grievance portals, email channels and Tourist Police. "Complaints are examined and action is taken as per rules. From January 2025 till date, 508 complaints have been received, of which 413 have been disposed of," the Chief Minister said.

MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmed Khan raised a supplementary question.

Border Villages

said. The Lieutenant Governor directed that all government officials must remove obstacles and ensure that Makwal and all other border villages receive every required resource.

"Our effort will be to ensure that more resources reach Makwal and other border villages than even the cities of UT. The number of villages formally notified as Vibrant Villages in Jammu District may be limited, but it is the clear effort of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah that all 541 border villages of Jammu district develop with the same energy and vision," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further directed for dedicated Nodal officers for border villages and submission of monthly progress report of the villages under Vibrant Villages programme.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his resolve to ensure every border village is connected with better roads, fully functional schools, and abundant opportunities for the youth. With this mindset, we must work

together to transform all our border villages into model villages, he said.

"We want every child in Makwal to receive the same standard of education that a child in any major city of India receives. We want every farmer here to have access to better seeds, assured irrigation, and reliable markets," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Assuring all the necessary support and assistance to the youth, the Lieutenant Governor said that there is no shortage of talent in Makwal and other border villages.

"What is needed today is the right direction for that talent. We must strengthen youth entrepreneurship and women's self-help groups so that our youth, mothers and sisters are not only the backbone of their own families but also drivers of social and economic progress across the region

Our aim is to make Makwal and other border villages such model villages that young people can see their future here instead of migrating to the cities. For this, all stakeholders must come together to promote entrepreneurship and provide our youth with training, financial support, and consistent mentoring," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the Government of India is reaching doorstep of every family in border villages with all the central schemes, and in the last 5–6 years we have tried to ensure that every border village in Jammu Kashmir becomes more prosperous, more vibrant, and truly inspiring.

"Before 2019, around one-third of families in our border blocks were below the poverty line. In the last 5–6 years, a significant proportion of these families has moved out of poverty, and we have sharply expanded road connectivity to nearly every border village. Electricity, which earlier reached only a part of our border hamlets, has now reached almost every home. Telecom connectivity, once limited to a few villages, has now been ensured in all 541 villages, so that no border family remains cut off from the rest of the country," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that since 2020, we have placed special focus on agriculture, dairy, allied sectors, and tourism, leading to notable growth in farm and dairy output and a visible rise in local incomes through initiatives such as fairs and border tourism events.

"Earlier, a sizeable number of families migrated to cities in search of livelihood; after 2019, with new opportunities in self-employment, self-help groups, agriculture, and allied sectors, migration has reduced and village incomes have risen significantly," he further said.

Responding to the demands, the Lieutenant Governor assured that appropriate action will be taken to address the issues of the residents of Makwal.

On land ownership rights of POJK Displaced persons, Lieutenant Governor said that the directions in this regard issued in 2024 are under implementation. He entrusted upon the Divisional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to ensure their timely implementation.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor initiated various development works through Own Sources of Revenue (OSR). These include: Model Anganwadi Centre, Synthetic Volleyball and Badminton Court, Community Hall with provisions of Library and Computer Lab, Health Sub-Centre at Makwal and Veterinary Dispensary at Sohajana.

The Lieutenant Governor handed over handheld X-Ray Machine to the health department, and also felicitated TB Warrior, progressive farmers and land donor for establishment of Model Anganwadi Centre.

Appointment orders and Sanction letters were also handed over to various youth of the village and beneficiaries under Mission Yuva and other different schemes.

Shri Surinder Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Marh; Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Shri Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Ms R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Planning and Information; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti; IGP Jammu; Shri Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; senior officials of army, police

and civil administration and people in large number were present.

LG Sinha Calls For

Jammu Kashmir drug-free Union Territory.

"Action against drug abuse must be our top priority. We need a collective mechanism to safeguard our youth and ensure a healthy future for Jammu & Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also directed for strengthening grassroots intelligence and coordinated and stringent action against drug smugglers.

The meeting discussed the series of activities planned for a dedicated three-month campaign under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan. The Lieutenant Governor exhorted the senior officials to lead the campaign from the front and ensure participation of every section of the society and stakeholders to make this campaign a people's movement.

The meeting was attended by Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabbhat, DGP; Shri Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home; Shri S.J.M Gillani, Special DG (Coordination); Shri M.K. Sinha, ADGP Headquarters; Shri Nitish Kumar, ADGP CID; Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Divisional Commissioners, IGP, DIGs, Deputy Commissioners, Director Information, SSPs and other senior officials.

Shreya Singhal

engagement with the stakeholders.

Joint Director Information (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director Information (PR&AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; other senior officers and officials of DIPR were present on the occasion.

J&K Election Comm

instructed the officials to strictly adhere to the timeline for disposing of claims and objections and submit daily progress reports to the Commission. He asked the Block Development Officers to launch awareness campaigns at each Panchayat Halqa to widely publicise the roll revision process.

The Election Commission will also obtain continuous feedback from the district-appointed Roll Observers to monitor the process and achieve 100 percent enrolment of eligible voters in the Panchayat electoral rolls.

No Need To Ban

to protect the local food industry and public health, will be examined to improve the effectiveness of the existing law. Following the assurances, the bill was withdrawn—(KNO)

Bureaucrats' Absence

supported by all BJP legislators, who stood up in protest against the absence of bureaucrats. Soon, MLAs from NC, PDP, Congress, PC and independents also stood up in protest.

Intervening in the matter, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said that the topmost officers of the department whose questions are to be taken up should remain present in the House. "We cannot ask the entire secretariat to sit in the House. There is not much space in the officers' gallery," he explained.

Raising the issue, BJP's Sham Lal Sharma said that the rulebook mandates the presence of the concerned administrative secretary of the department whose questions are to be taken up. He suggested that the business of any department whose officers are absent from the gallery should be deferred.

His party colleague Pawan Gupta also questioned the absence of bureaucrats in the House. "The executive is responsible to the legislature. Why are they not coming to the House? Why are they absent?" he asked—(KNO)

PM chairs second CCS

coordination, real-time communication,

and proactive measures across central, state, and district levels to drive effective information dissemination and public awareness amid the evolving crisis is being undertaken".

PM Modi assessed the availability of critical needs for the common man. He discussed availability of fertilisers in the country and steps being taken to ensure its availability in the Kharif and Rabi seasons.

He said that all efforts must be made to safeguard the citizens from the impact of this conflict. He also emphasised smooth flow of authentic information to the public to prevent misinformation and rumour mongering.

The Prime Minister directed all concerned departments to take all possible measures to ameliorate the problems of citizens and sectors affected by the ongoing global situation—(KNO)

Weather To Remain

advising farmers to suspend operations on April 3 and 4.

Meanwhile, traffic authorities issued advisories for multiple key routes across the Union Territory.

An official said, "On the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), slow movement was reported due to single-lane stretches, with commuters advised to travel during the day and avoid overtaking. Traffic is expected to ply from both sides subject to weather conditions."

"On the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road (SSG Road), only one-way traffic will be allowed from Srinagar towards Kargil for light motor vehicles, while heavy vehicles will be permitted up to a specified cut-off time, subject to clearance and weather conditions. The Mughal Road will allow only light motor vehicles and passenger cars from both sides, with heavy vehicles barred due to maintenance work. Cut-off timings have been fixed for both directions.

On the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road (NH-244), vehicular movement remains temporarily suspended as per orders of the authorities," he said, adding, "Security force vehicles will be allowed separately on NH-44, and commuters have been urged to check the latest road status before undertaking travel."—(KNO)

J&K Records 34%

uneven distribution of rainfall across the region could have implications for agriculture and water availability if the trend persists—(KNO)



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Calling Attention Motion

Water level at Sangam MS rises to 7 feet after recent rains: Javed Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmad Rana Wednesday informed the House that due to persistently low temperatures during winter, the gauge readings at the Sangam monitoring station in the Jhelum River basin remained around one foot for most of the season.

The Minister stated this while replying to a Calling Attention motion moved by MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly during the ongoing Budget Session.

He said that snowmelt in the Jhelum River generally becomes noticeable during March and April as temperatures begin to rise. Following the recent spell of rainfall, the gauge level at the Sangam monitoring station has been recorded at around seven feet. He added that the contribution of snowmelt in river runoff typically continues till the end of May, provided there are no intermediate weather disturbances. With the arrival of the monsoon in late June or early July, runoff levels in water bodies increase again.

The Minister further informed that the Directorate of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing



(DEERS) has prepared a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) report, which provides a preliminary vulnerability assessment of downstream habitations and bridges using basic GIS analysis. The draft report is presently under consultation.

He said that although the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department, Kashmir does not have a direct mandate to assess GLOF risks, the Morphology and Climate Directorate of the Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring the glacial lakes and water bodies across the Himalayan and Tibetan regions that drain into India and regularly uploads monitoring reports on its website.

Highlighting the flood monitoring mechanism,

the Minister said that in the Jhelum basin, the I&FC Department has installed 22 Automatic Water Level Recorder (AWLR) sensors and 8 rain gauges at key nodal points across the valley to record hourly water level round the clock. The data helps generate flood forecasts and advance warnings, enabling the administration to take timely preventive measures during flood situations.

He added that the Kashmir Flood Watch app, developed by I&FC Kashmir and available across all digital platforms, also helps alert the residents about changing flood conditions and potential risks.

The Minister further said that to strengthen the climate resilience and

water security, several initiatives have been undertaken. These included the promotion of modern irrigation techniques such as micro-irrigation, development of artificial water storage structures and rejuvenation of natural water bodies like lakes and ponds. These efforts are being supported under various schemes including Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority and the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain initiative.

The Minister also informed that DEERS is currently revising the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC), which is at an advanced draft stage. The revised plan is based on updated temperature and precipitation projections along with sector-wise and district-level vulnerability assessments to enable science-based and location-specific climate interventions.

He said the revised SAPCC proposes 58 mitigation strategies and 98 adaptation measures across priority sectors. Adaptation efforts focus on slope stabilization, watershed management, forest landscape restoration, ecosystem-based adaptation and

climate-resilient infrastructure, while mitigation strategies aim at reducing the greenhouse gas emissions through expansion of clean energy, improved power efficiency, enhanced energy efficiency in buildings, accelerated electric mobility and improved scientific solid waste management.

The Minister further informed that a State Specific Action Plan (SSAP) for the water sector is also being prepared by the I&FC Department in consultation with the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu under the guidance of the National Water Mission, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. The plan aims to ensure sustainable and equitable water resource management while addressing the regional challenges.

He added that the Status Report on water availability and demand across districts has already been prepared, deriving the water budget for each district and Jammu and Kashmir. An interim report assessing the impact of climate change on water budgets for the years 2032, 2042 and 2052, using the CMIP-6 climate model, is currently under preparation and will form the basis for the final action plan.

Sakeena Itoo flags off group of students for ‘Watan Ko Janoo’ exposure tour

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday flagged off a group of students embarking on an educational exposure tour under the flagship ‘Watan Ko Janoo’ Youth Exchange Programme from K K Hakku Hockey Stadium here.

The Exchange Programme has been organised by J&K Rehabilitation Council of Social Welfare department in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Sarmad Hafeez, senior officers of Social Welfare department and J&K Rehabilitation Council, large number of students, their parents and teachers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister Sakeena Itoo highlighted the importance of experiential learning beyond classrooms, emphasizing



that exposure visits provide students with opportunities to understand cultural diversity, educational innovations and developmental achievements across country first-hand. “Act as ambassadors of their respective areas and make most of the learning experience by engaging actively with new environments and ideas during the tour,” the Minister told the students.

The Minister remarked that the ‘Watan Ko Janoo’ initiative plays a significant role in nurturing confidence, leadership qualities and mutual understanding among youth.

She added that such programmes help students

develop a broader national perspective while strengthening bonds among different regions of the country.

The Education Minister reiterated the commitment of Omar Abdullah led Government towards providing a holistic educational opportunities and creating platforms that promote learning, cultural exchange and national unity among the youth. The Minister also interacted with students and extended her best wishes for a safe and enriching journey.

She urged them to share their experiences with peers upon return so that the benefits of the programme reach a wider student community.

BUDGET SESSION

Rs 18 cr DPR prepared for protection works on Basholi water bodies: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Wednesday informed the House that Rs. 18 crore DPR has been prepared for protection works on Behani Khad, Sewa river and other local Nallahs in Basholi area of Kathua district.

The Deputy Chief Minister said this while replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator Darshan Kumar in the Legislative Assembly today on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that 22 families in the villages Jankher (Mora Kund) and Draman (Mora Tikri) falling under Tehsil Basohli, were affected by landslides and heavy rains and temporarily shifted to safer locations by the district administration Kathua. He added that relief under SDRF norms, along with essential relief material including tents/tarpaulins, blankets and ration kits was also provided to them.

He also informed that some affected families have applied for allotment of land and their cases are presently under consideration as per the norms.

The Deputy Chief Minister further said that the IFC department is primarily dealing with the works related to flood protection and anti-erosion measures pertaining to River/Nallah/Khads. He said that DPR for construction of Flood river training protection works on Behani Khad, Sewa river and other local Nallahs falling under FCSD Basohli amounting Rs 1800 Lakh under NABARD has been submitted by the IFC Division Kathua to higher authorities.

Govt realizes over ₹3.83 cr for Sgr-B'la Highway diversion: Javed Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: An amount of over Rs. 3.83 crore has been realized under Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and Net Present Value (NPV) on account of forest land diversion for the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway.

This was stated by Minister for Jal, Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana while replying to a question raised by Legislator Dr Sajjad Shafi in the Legislative Assembly Wednesday.

The Minister said that the user agency has deposited the requisite compensatory levies, including Rs. 96,43,949 for compensatory afforestation and Rs. 2,87,31,678 as Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land.

Javed Rana said that compensatory measures, including afforestation and ecological restoration, have been undertaken in lieu of forest land diverted for widening of the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway.

Further, a proposal for plantation of 27,000 saplings

over 27 hectare of degraded forest land has been prepared and approved by the competent authority. It was also stated that no separate plantation target has been fixed for the year 2026, as plantation activities were completed during 2024-25.

With regard to environmental protection and ecological restoration, the Minister stated that slope stabilization works are being carried out by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) along the affected stretch. These included construction

of breast walls and retaining walls at various locations, with 22,315 metre envisaged under DPR, of which, 15,900 metre has been completed, so far.

The Minister said that total area diverted for construction of the Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Road (Section-4) under the Border Roads Organisation in District Baramulla, is 20.9352 hectare under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The final forest diversion approval has been accorded by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS

e-NIT No. 133/EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl of 2025-26 under Endorsement No.:14611- 16 Dated:- 28-03-2026

For and behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class Of Contactor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	Remodelling of Washrooms at Deputy Commissioner's Residence Ganderbal	Rs.6.48 Lacs	Rs.300/=	Rs.12,960/=	15-Days	CEE/DEE

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28-03-2026
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents	28-03-2026
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	28-03-2026 from 05:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	03-04-2026 upto 04:00 PM
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	04-04-2026 at 11:00 AM in the Office of PW(R&B) Division Ganderbal.

1.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal. NOTE:- The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-Responsive.

2.

The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

3.

The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Allotted Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal within 03 days before Fixation of contract and shall be released after completion of DLP and the 2% EMD shall be released in favour of successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% Performance Security. 4. Unbalanced Bid:- As per the Circular Instructions of Finance Department Vide No. (Principal Secretary to Government Finance Department's circular issued under endorsement No: FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:- 08.08.2025), which is reproduced as:-

►

Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

►

Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

►

The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

►

The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.

In case bid of the bidder is unbalanced. The lowest bidder (L-1) has to provide additional performance security, immediately after issuance of LOA/LOI. The successful bidder shall submit the additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 days after the issuance of LOA/LOI and in case of the delay in submission of additional performance security, the tender shall be re-advertised without any notice at the cost, risk and responsibility of the L-1 or penalty shall be imposed as per the rules.

5.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Website in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.

6.

The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a).

Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b).

Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c).

Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

34.

The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement as laid in the NIT.

35.

All other terms and conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

No.:14611-16

Dated: 28-03-2026

DIPK-12-26

DT: 01/04/2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

PW(R&B) Division

Ganderbal

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Date: 01-04-2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF NEWSPAPERS/MAGAZINES

Sealed Quotations affixed with revenue stamps of ten rupees are invited from registered news agencies/ Firms/Companies etc. for the supply of Newspapers/Magazines (Local and National) to Govt. Degree College for Women, Anantnag for the financial year 2026/2027. Interested firms may send their quotations to the office of the Principal, Govt. Degree College for Women, Anantnag within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice,

DIPK-34-26

DT: 01/04/2026

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Principal

Librarian

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OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER GANDERBAL

Tel. No. /Fax – 0194-2416128,

Block -1, 2 nd Floor Qadri Complex Beehama

Subject: - Publication of Tender notice of dietary item KGBV Gutlibagh.

Reference: - KGBV/G/1058, Dated: - 09/3/2026.

EXTENSION NOTICE

Due to poor response to the tender notice published by this office vide No. ZEO/Gbl/Tender/KGBV/6676, Dated:- 24/3/2026 is hereby extended for the period of 7 more days from the date of publication of extension notice. However, terms and condition shall remain same.

DIPK-16-26.

DT: 01/04/2026

Zonal Education Officer

Ganderbal

Annexure “A”

Form No.

Sessions Judge

IN THE COURT OF MR. MANJEET RAI

ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE TADA/POTA

Special Judge Designated under NIA Act, Srinagar.

Cr. Misc. Applications/70/2026

UT of JK through SIA Kashmir FIR No. 33/2024 of Police Station Kulgam V/s Sajjad Ahmad Mir and Others

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that Manzoor Ahmad Shah S/o Ghulam Ahmad Shah R/o Kulpura, Salkoot, Kupwara has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offences punishable under section 13, 18, 39, 40 ULA(P) Act, 124-A, 124-B IPC and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Manzoor Ahmad Shah S/o Ghulam Ahmad Shah cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Manzoor Ahmad Shah S/o Ghulam Ahmad Shah is evading arrest and has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant): Proclamation under section 82 CrPC is hereby made that the said Manzoor Ahmad Shah S/o Ghulam Ahmad Shah required to appear before this Court within thirty days from the date of publication of the proclamation.

Dated, this day of 24-03-2026

S/d

Additional Sessions Judge TADA/POTA

Special Judge Designated under NIA Act, Srinagar

DIPK-35-26

DT: 01/04/2026

 Call 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets