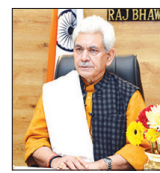


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG & J&K
@OfficeOfLGJ&K



Ayodhya is the cradle of civilisation & eternal fountainhead of consciousness. When we invoke Ayodhya, we summon that very consciousness which is prabhu Shri Ram's benediction and which has given meaning to human civilisation.

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Upper Reaches Get Snow, Rains Lash Kashmir Plains

Weather To Remain Erratic Till April 10; MeT Warns Of Heavy Showers



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Even as the Meteorological Department predicted that the wet spell would continue for over next 24 hours, upper reaches of Kashmir on Friday received fresh snowfall, while rain lashed the plains.

Officials said that snowfall was recorded in Gurez, Tulai, Razdan Top and other upper reaches of North Kashmir, while rainfall was reported from the plains, including Srinagar city.

The Meteorological Department predicted that erratic weather conditions would prevail across Jammu and Kashmir till April 10, with intermittent rain and snowfall expected in several parts of the region.

According to the MeT office, generally cloudy conditions with light to moder-

ate rain or snowfall at many places, accompanied by thunder, hailstorm and gusty winds, are likely on April 3 and 4. Some areas in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions may receive moderate to heavy precipitation, with brief spells of intense showers.

Weather is expected to improve slightly on April 5 and 6, with partly cloudy skies and chances of light rain at isolated locations.

Fresh spells of light to moderate rain or snowfall in higher reaches, along with thunder and gusty winds, are likely at many places between April 7 and 9.

On April 10 and 11, brief spells of light rain or snowfall in higher reaches are expected at a few places, while the weather is likely to remain generally dry from April 12 to 15.

The MeT • P-06

Ayodhya Cradle Of Civilisation, Eternal Fountainhead Of Consciousness: LG Sinha

Says World Must Learn From Ideals Of Lord Ram's Rectitude, Dharma, Duty And Sacrifice

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: "Ayodhya is the cradle of civilisation and eternal fountainhead of consciousness. When we invoke Ayodhya, we summon that very consciousness which is Prabhu Shri Ram's benediction and which has given meaning to human civilisation," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the significance of internalising Ayodhya's idea with Prabhu Shri Ram's blessing and to carry forward that timeless flame which has burned for millennia and will continue to illumine generations to come.

"The world must learn from the ideals of Lord Ram's rectitude, dharma, duty and sacrifice. His life is living proof that those who walk the path of truth and righteousness ultimately prevail," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the 8th Ayodhya Parv, organised by Shri Ayodhya Nyas, in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) and Pragma Sansthan at IGNCA, New Delhi.

The Lieutenant Governor



GMK NEWS NETWORK

observed that to understand Ayodhya is not to understand a city and its geography, but to understand oneself.

"Ayodhya is the living consciousness of the present and the compass of the future. It is not just a city; it is our root. Ayodhya is not only a shrine; it is the nation's dynamic inspiration.

Ayodhya is urging us to awaken our inner consciousness. It instils in us the confidence that however high the obstacles or however much

times may change, if faith and awareness remain alive, tradition never ends," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Ayodhya stands as a symbol that values such as duty, dignity, compassion, sacrifice and balance were not merely taught there but they were lived.

"As an idea, Ayodhya teaches us that strength and sensitivity can walk together, because leadership is not only governance but service.

Ayodhya is not only the city of our revered Lord • P-06

before us as a guide," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Ayodhya stands as a symbol that values such as duty, dignity, compassion, sacrifice and balance were not merely taught there but they were lived.

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Ayodhya is not only the city of our revered Lord • P-06

THE WORLD MUST LEARN FROM THE IDEALS OF LORD RAM'S RECTITUDE, DHARMA, duty and sacrifice. His life is living proof that those who walk the path of truth and righteousness ultimately prevail,"

LG Orders Magisterial Probe Into Ganderbal Encounter



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday ordered a thorough and impartial magisterial probe into the killing of an alleged terrorist in an encounter in the Arhama area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

In a post on X, office of LG, informed that he has ordered a thorough and impartial magisterial inquiry into Arhama, Ganderbal incident.

"The inquiry will examine all aspects related to the incident and ensure that justice is served," he said.

Meanwhile, in a communication to the District Magistrate Ganderbal the Under Secretary to the government the issue has been examined and accordingly, you are requested to get a thorough and impartial magisterial inquiry.

The magistrate has been asked to ascertain the facts and circumstances leading to the death of Raashid Ahmad Mughal son of Late Gull Zaman Mughal. • P-06

JERC Creates Separate BPL Consumer Category For J&K

Allows Relief Of 30 Free Units On Power Consumption To Socio-Economic Backward Consumers

RIYAZ BHAT

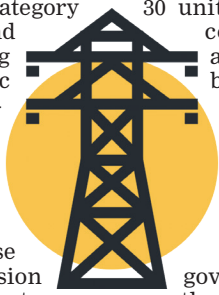
SRINAGAR: The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) has created a separate Below Poverty Line (BPL) consumer category for the Jammu and Kashmir—allowing the socio-economic backward consumers relief on power consumption up to 30 units a month.

The government recently informed the house that the Commission has created a separate BPL consumer category to provide relief to socio-economic backward consumers for consumption of up to 30 units per month. "It should be noted that only those consumers who submit a BPL certificate from a competent authority of the State Gov-

ernment will be included in the BPL category," the government said.

It also informed the house that in case consumption within this category exceeds 30 units per month, the consumption over and above it would be charged as per the applicable rates for the domestic metered category in accordance with the relevant consumption slab.

Furthermore, the government also said that the commission has fixed the applicability of the domestic tariff for supplies pertaining to domestic premises, religious institutions, group housing societies, orphanages, old-age and infirm homes, charitable institutions providing services free of • P-06



'Ghar Wapsi Will Take Place Soon'

All India Imam Organisation Chief Says PoK Will Be Reintegrated With India

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chief Imam of the All India Imam Organisation, Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, on Friday said Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) would "very soon" be reintegrated with India.

"I want to say one thing to our neighbouring country from standing here in Kashmir that PoK, which is an integral part of India, will definitely rejoin India because the people of PoK want to have a referendum there," Ilyasi told reporters here.

He claimed that the residents of PoK are keen to reintegrate with India, citing the development and prosperity witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir.

"God willing, their 'ghar wapsi' will take place soon. It is the people there who want it. They are happy to see the devel-



opment of Kashmir. Seeing how Kashmir is progressing today, PoK will be rejoined with India very soon," he said.

The chief Imam said he was very happy to see a "transformed" Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370.

"It has become a new Kashmir. Today's Kashmir has become excellent; there is prosperity throughout, and tourism

has increased. The people here are prosperous. There was a time when young people and children here used to throw stones. Today, they have pens in their hands. They are studying," he said.

Referring to last year's terror attack in Baisaran meadows in Pahalagam that left 25 tourists and a local pony handler dead, Ilyasi said tourism had briefly declined after the • P-06

Over 3.07 Lakh Drinking Water Samples Tested In J&K In 2025-26: GoI

RAJIA SYED

SRINAGAR: The Government of India said that over 3.07 lakh drinking water samples were tested in laboratories across Jammu and Kashmir during the current financial year 2025-26 (till March 31).

Replying to an unstarred question in Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said that under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), water quality testing is being carried out regularly to ensure safe drinking water supply to rural households.

As per official data accessed, Jammu & Kashmir recorded testing of 2,53,364 samples in laboratories and 34,793 through Field Testing Kits (FTKs) in 2023-24. In 2024-25, 2,66,547 samples were tested in labs and 2,129 using FTKs.

In the ongoing financial year 2025-26, the number of

laboratory-tested samples has increased to 3,07,793, while only 32 samples were tested using FTKs.

The government said that drinking water remains a State subject, and the responsibility for planning, implementation and maintenance of water supply schemes lies with the respective State/UT governments. The Centre provides financial and technical assistance to support these efforts.

It further stated that an online Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) portal has been developed under JJM to monitor sample testing, contamination levels and remedial actions. The data is available in the public domain for transparency and awareness.

The Ministry also said that dashboards at • P-06



Over 1,436 Km Of National Highways Built In J&K Since 2018: Centre

Says Action Taken Against Deficiencies, Delays

RAJIA SYED

SRINAGAR: Around 1,436 kilometres of National Highways have been constructed in Jammu and Kashmir since 2018-19, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha.

According to official data accessed, the Union Territory witnessed fluctuating highway construction over the years, with 95 km built in 2018-19, 46 km in 2019-20, 234 km in 2020-21, 263 km in 2021-22, 217 km in 2022-23, 243 km in 2023-24, 214 km in 2024-25 and 124 km during 2025-26 till February.

The Centre also informed that expenditure on development and maintenance of National Highways in Jammu and Kashmir has seen a steady rise in recent years. The spending increased from Rs 2,932 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 6,817



FILE PHOTO

SEVERAL measures have been taken to reduce delays, including faster land acquisition through digital platforms,

three years and the current year. Action against defaulting contractors includes penalties, termination of contracts, debarment and blacklisting, depending on the severity of defects.

The government further informed that 85 National Highway projects, including those under Bharatmala Pariyojana, are delayed by more than three years due to issues such as land acquisition, clearances, utility shifting and financial constraints.

"Several measures have been taken to reduce delays, including faster land acquisition through digital platforms, streamlined environmental clearances and regular monitoring of project progress," it said—(KNO)

crore in 2021-22, Rs 7,370 crore in 2022-23 and Rs 10,528 crore in 2023-24, before slightly declining to Rs 10,204 crore in 2024-25.

The government said that it is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways, while execution is carried out through various agencies.

On road safety, the Centre

said that nationwide data indicates a rise in accidents and fatalities on National Highways, with 1.28 lakh accidents and 56,007 deaths reported in 2021, increasing to 1.50 lakh accidents and 64,772 deaths in 2024.

The minister further said that 67 highway stretches across the country have reported major deficiencies in the last

Earthquake Of Magnitude 5.9 Jolts Kashmir

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Earthquake tremors were felt in several parts of north India on Friday night, including Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana, officials said.

The tremors, which lasted a few seconds, occurred around 9:45 pm. There were no immediate reports of any damage.

An official in J-K said the quake was of 5.9 magnitude.

The epicentre of the quake was Afghanistan at a Latitude of 36.398 degrees North and a Longitude of 70.878 degrees East, the official said.

The depth of the quake was 150 km, he added.

"I felt a strong jolt which lasted for a few seconds," Baldev Chand, a Chandigarh resident who lives in a flat on the second • P-06

272-Km Udhampur-B'la Railway Link Completed: GoI Informs LS

Says Infrastructure Boost Enhances Connectivity, Economy, Development In J&K



RAJIA SYED

SRINAGAR: The 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla link has been completed as part of a major railway infrastructure expansion under the National Rail Plan, the Government of India informed the Lok Sabha.

In a reply to a starred question, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the project is among key railway developments aimed at enhancing connectivity and capacity across the country.

The government said Indian Railways has significantly expanded its network

and capacity over the past decade, with a focus on new lines, doubling of tracks and electrification to improve regional connectivity and freight movement.

The completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link is expected to strengthen connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir and improve the transportation of passengers and goods in the region.

Officials said that railway infrastructure projects play a key role in socio-economic development by enabling faster movement of goods, reducing • P-06

Dir SEK conducts surprise visits across several Schools in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director of School Education Kashmir (SEK), Naseer Ahmad Wani, Friday conducted a series of early morning surprise inspections across several schools in Srinagar within the first half hour of their opening, with a focus on ensuring punctuality, discipline, and institutional accountability.

During the visits, the Director SEK, closely monitored the attendance of teaching staff and assessed the overall functioning of schools during the crucial opening period. He visited Government Middle School Alooichi Bagh at around, where he personally verified staff attendance and later joined the students in the morning prayer.

Interacting with the staff, the Director stressed that the initial moments of school opening set the tone for the entire day and therefore must reflect discipline, commitment and a sense of purpose. He directed that



morning assemblies be conducted with full enthusiasm, incorporating moral and value-based education as an essential component.

Highlighting the importance of structured academic functioning, Wani emphasized that all teaching-learning activities should be carried out in

an organized manner and strictly in accordance with the academic calendar prescribed by the department.

Reaffirming the importance of regular monitoring, the Director instructed all Zonal Education Officers across Kashmir Division to ensure 100% inspection of schools under their

jurisdiction and submit weekly reports to the Directorate without fail.

The Directorate reiterates its commitment to strengthening accountability, improving academic standards and fostering a disciplined and value-driven educational environment across all schools in the region.

Bashir Ahmed Shah Re-Elected as PSAJK Ganderbal District President



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Bashir Ahmed Shah has been unanimously re-elected as the District President of PSAJK Ganderbal for a second consecutive term, reaffirming strong confidence in his leadership.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the Executive Body of PSAJK Ganderbal held on Thursday, which witnessed participation from all zones of the district through their respective Zonal Presidents. Shah was elected unopposed, reflecting broad-based support across the organization.

The election process was conducted under the supervision of the Convener of the PSAJK Election Commission, Farooq Ahmed Ashai, with Majid Butt serving as a member

of the panel. The meeting was also attended by the State President of PSAJK, Dr. Baba Nazrul Islam, who oversaw the proceedings and extended his support.

During the session, members resolved to prioritize the promotion of sports activities and staff upskilling in the upcoming academic session, signaling a renewed focus on holistic development within the district.

Executive members congratulated Bashir Ahmed Shah on his re-election and expressed confidence in his ability to effectively lead the organization. He was formally entrusted with the responsibility of steering PSAJK Ganderbal and addressing upcoming organizational challenges in the presence of election officials.

Budgam admin bids farewell to outgoing SSP Nikhil Borkar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Administration Budgam, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Friday organized a warm farewell function in honour of the outgoing Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Budgam, Nikhil Borkar, on his transfer from the district.

The function was attended by senior officers of the civil and police administration, including the Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Senior Police Officers, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Police Officers, Tehsildars, Station House Officers, and officers and officials from various departments.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC Budgam, appreciated the dedicated services rendered by outgoing SSP during his tenure in the district.

He highlighted his professional competence, effective leadership, and close coordination with the civil administration in maintaining law and order and ensuring public safety.



The DC noted that outgoing SSPs tenure was marked by proactive policing, responsiveness, and strong public engagement initiatives that strengthened public confidence in the administration.

During the farewell, several officers shared their experiences of working with Nikhil Borkar commending his commitment, discipline, and people friendly approach to policing.

While addressing the gathering, outgoing SSP expressed heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration, Budgam Police, and all stakeholders for their cooperation and support throughout his tenure. He acknowledged the collective efforts of the police personnel and civil administration in maintaining peace and serving the people effectively.

DC Kulgam visits EMRS Tangmarg; Reviews progress on Hostel



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Friday visited Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) Tangmarg to take stock of the functioning of the institution and review the progress of ongoing infrastructure works.

During the visit, the DC inspected various sections of the school and assessed the facilities being provided to students.

He directed the concerned authorities to expedite the completion of the hostel building, principal's residence and boundary wall of the institution within the stipulated time-frame.

The DC also instructed the concerned department to ensure extension of electricity connection to the newly constructed building at the earliest so that the facilities can be made fully functional.

Later, the DC visited ITI K.B. Pora, where he reviewed the functioning of the institute and inspected various training sections. He also interacted with the students and patiently listened to their demands regarding the strengthening of infrastructure and facilities at the institute.

The DC assured that

the genuine issues raised by the students would be taken up with the concerned authorities.

While interacting with the trainees, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of skill development in enhancing employability and entrepreneurship among youth.

He also asked for recommendations on introducing new courses that are in demand in the area so that the institute can better cater to local employment needs.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner also visited solid waste management sheds in different areas and inspected their condition.

He directed the concerned officials to ensure proper cleanliness and effective utilization of these sheds so as to strengthen waste management practices in the district.

The DC emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among departments to ensure that public institutions function efficiently and provide better services to the people.

The DC was accompanied by JDP, Malik Suhail; SDM D.H. Pora, Bashir Ul Hassan; ACD Kulgam, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, Executive Engineers from Jal Shakti R&B, CEO Kulgam Tehsil, D.H. Pora and other concerned officers.

ADC Handwara reviews flood preparedness, issues directions for disaster Mgmt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

HANDWARA: In view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions and the likelihood of heavy rainfall leading to floods, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi Friday chaired a meeting to review flood preparedness and disaster management measures across the sub-division.

During the meeting, the ADC issued important directions to ensure prompt and effective response to any

emergency situation. All field functionaries were directed to remain on high alert, particularly in flood-prone areas, and to maintain close coordination with concerned departments.

Tehsildars and Block Development Officers (BDOs) were instructed to ensure the readiness of emergency response teams and to keep essential resources, including rescue equipment, food supplies, available. They were also directed to identify vulnerable locations and take preventive measures to minimize risks.

DLSA Budgam conducts awareness Programme on Dowry, allied Social Evils

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, in collaboration with the Boys Higher Secondary School, Khan Sahib, under its Legal Literacy Club (LLC), organized an awareness programme on the issue of dowry and allied social evils.

The programme also incorporated an important session on the rights, protection, welfare, and entitlements of senior citizens, emphasizing the need to ensure dignity, security, and legal protection for the elderly in society. Participants were sensitized to the challenges faced by senior citizens and the legal safeguards available to them under existing laws.

The primary objective of the programme was to create awareness among students and participants regarding the serious social and legal consequences of the dowry system, while also educating them about

the legal mechanisms in place to curb such practices. The initiative further aimed at fostering a sense of responsibility among the youth to stand against social evils and uphold the values of equality, respect, and justice.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, who actively engaged with the resource persons through interactive discussions and queries. The programme provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, enabling participants to better understand the social realities and legal implications associated with dowry and the neglect of senior citizens.

On the occasion Resource Persons delivered comprehensive and insightful lectures highlighting the multifaceted nature of the dowry system and its adverse impact on society.

The resource persons elaborated on the provisions of the Dowry Prohi-

bitution Act, 1961, explaining that the Act strictly prohibits the giving, taking, or demanding of dowry and prescribes stringent penalties for those found guilty of such offences. They emphasized that what was once considered a voluntary exchange of gifts has now transformed into a coercive and exploitative practice, often leading to harassment, cruelty, domestic violence, and even dowry-related deaths.

They further underscored the importance of the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court in State of Uttar Pradesh vs. Ajmal Beg, wherein the Court called for strict enforcement of laws relating to dowry and stressed the urgent need to spread legal awareness to effectively combat such social evils.

In addition, the speakers highlighted the legal rights of senior citizens, stressing the duty of society and family members to ensure their well-being and protection. The participants were

informed about the legal remedies available to senior citizens in cases of neglect, abuse, or abandonment.

Through such awareness programmes, the Legal Literacy Club continues its endeavour to empower young individuals with knowledge of their legal rights and responsibilities.

These initiatives play a vital role in shaping socially conscious citizens who can contribute towards the eradication of harmful practices and the promotion of a just and equitable society.

The general public, students, and stakeholders were encouraged to actively participate in such programmes and become agents of positive social change.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks, wherein the efforts of DLSA Budgam and all stakeholders were appreciated for their commitment to promoting legal literacy and awareness among the youth.

Repair works on Sindh Power Canal Water supply to remain disrupted in several parts of Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Executive Engineer, Water Supply Master Plan, Division Srinagar has informed that due to urgent repair works on the Sindh Power Canal, scheduled to be carried out by the Civil Investigation & Design Wing of JKPDC, Kashmir, at Ganderbal on April 06, 2026, the raw water supply to Water Treatment Plants at Alusteng and Rangil will be affected.

Consequently, the potable water supply to several parts of Srinagar city and its adjoining areas shall remain disrupted for a period of 24 hours, commencing from 6:00 AM on Monday (April 06, 2026) to 6:00 AM on Tuesday (April 07, 2026).

The areas likely to be affected include Zakoor, Gulab Bagh, Habab, Naseem Bagh, Malla Bagh, Ahmad Nagar, Illahibagh, Buchpora, Soura, Anchar,



Bohlochipora, Zoonimar, Nowshera, Bagh-i-Ali Mardan Khan, Sikhbagh, Zadibal, Hawal, Alamgari Bazar, Rajouri Kadal, Nallahmar, Nawakadal, Bohri Kadal, Nowhatta, Lal Bazar, Hazratbal, Sadribal, Karan Nagar, Kakasarai, Balgarden, Chattabal, Kawdara, Eidgah, Mahraj Gunj, Zaina Kadal, Saidpora, Firdous Abad, parts of Batmaloo, Qamarwari, Zainakoot, Noorabad, Lawaypora, Mungund, Bemina, Iqbalabad, Usmanabad, Sir Syedabad,

Mansoor Colony Bemina, Boatman Colony, Gousia Colony, EWS Colony, HIG/MIG/LIG Colony Bemina, Qamarabad, Nundreshi Colony Bemina, Tengpora (partly), JVC Hospital, Government Dental College, GMC Hostel Bemina, New Children Hospital Bemina, New Court Complex Mominabad, Hajj House Bemina, Parimpora, Shalteng, HMT, Umarabad, Gund Hassi Bhat, Maloora, Panzinaara and adjoining areas.

The general public is advised to store sufficient quantity of water in advance to meet their requirements during the disruption period.

For any complaints or grievances regarding water scarcity or shortage, the public may contact the PHE Provincial Control Room (0194-2477207, 0194-2452047, 9419413914, 9419413915), which shall remain functional round the clock.

Kupwara admin bids farewell to outgoing ASP Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: District Administration Kupwara Friday organized a farewell in honour of the outgoing Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Kupwara, Syed Javid Ahmad, as his transfer from the district.

During the farewell function, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse along with SSP Kupwara, Syed Al Tahir Gilani and other officers from the district administration appreciated Syed Javid Ahmad for his professionalism and commitment during his tenure in Kupwara.

His proactive approach and close coordination with the civil administration was lauded by the administration.

Email ID: xenbemina@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BEMINA SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.01/EE/R&B/BM/CS/124-132 of 2026-27 DATED:03.04.2026

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	4	6	7	8
1.	Development of Public Park at Boatman Colony Sector B Bemina Ward No. 26	8.25054	600/-	16,501/-	60 days	CDF	CEE/DEE

Position of AAA: Accorded by District Development Commissioner Srinagar vide Order No. 47-DDCS of 2026 Dated: 25.03.2026 (8.50 Lacs)
Position of funds: Available
Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Srinagar.

- 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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03.04.2026.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	04.04.2026 from 10.00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	04.04.2026 from 10.00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	14.04.2026 upto 16.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15.04.2026 at 12.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.
- Abnormally Low Bid Price: As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide 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 security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance Security shall be taken only after approval of next Higher authority. The bidder declared as L1 has to Provide additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the break up given above at the time of allotment.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message to their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

No.: EE/R&B/BM/CS/124- 3 2
Dated: 03.04.2026
DIPK-121-26
DT: 03/04/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Bemina
Srinagar.

Sakeena Itoo dedicates 1.5 Tesla MRI facility to Public at GMC Anantnag

Also inaugurates 3 Modular OTs, Virectomy Machine for advanced eye surgeries

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo dedicated the state-of-the-art 1.5 Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) facility to the public at Government Medical College (GMC) here Friday. She also inaugurated Three Modular Operation Theatres (OTs) and Virectomy Machine in the Ophthalmology department of the Associated Hospital of GMC Anantnag.

MLA Anantnag-West, Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi); MLA Rajpora, Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir; MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi; MLA Zainapora, Showkat Ahmad Ganie; MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad; Principal GMC Anantnag, Dr. Rukhsana Najeeb; Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Jehangir Bhakshi; HoDs of different faculties of GMC, Medical Superintendent, CMO Anantnag, other senior officers of district administration and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister underlined that

this significant development of establishing MRI facility at GMC Anantnag reflects the firm commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led Government to modernize healthcare services and ensure equitable access to advanced medical technologies for all sections of society.

"The Government is focused on transforming public healthcare by strengthening diagnostic capabilities at district and medical college levels. The commissioning of this MRI facility at GMC Anantnag will significantly enhance patient care and ensure timely diagnosis of patients closer to homes," the Minister stated.

Crediting Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah for the already functional Cath Lab at the GMC Anantnag, Sakeena Itoo said that this Cath Lab has turned a game-changer for saving the lives of people in South Kashmir districts as well as Pir Panchal region. "Earlier numerous patients referred from this hospital lost their lives as they couldn't reach Srinagar Hospitals in golden hour period, but due to functional Cath Lab now at this GMC people are receiving advanced treatment for cardiac issues here", she said.

She added that with the establishment of Cath Lab, in GMC Anantnag, cardiac care facilities have been boosted in entire South Kashmir.

The Minister highlighted that that improved and advanced diagnostic infrastructure forms a critical pillar of the Omar



Abdullah led Government's broader healthcare reform agenda, aimed at reducing waiting times, improving treatment outcomes and enhancing overall service delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

Outlining other remarkable achievements made in the health sector of Anantnag district, Sakeena Itoo said that

with the personal efforts of Chief Minister, the shifting of Paediatric section from Sherbagh hospital was made possible, adding that this was a long pending demand from people of this area. She also said that a Sarai has also been made functional in this GMC to provide housing and other facilities to the attendants during their stay

in the hospital. The Minister also said that with the consistent efforts of this Government, medical seats have been increased in various specialities and super specialities in various GMCs across Jammu and Kashmir, including GMC Anantnag.

Calling doctors as life savers, the Minister said that the doctors and paramedics need to be more emphatic towards patients, adding that public trust in Government Hospitals depends on conduct and compassion of doctors and paramedical staff.

Reiterating the Government's vision, Sakeena Itoo said that several initiatives are underway to upgrade hospitals, augment manpower and introduce cutting-edge medical technologies across Jammu and Kashmir, with special focus on rural and peripheral areas. She added that the Government remains committed to building a resilient and patient-centric healthcare system aligned with modern medical standards.

The Minister also interacted with doctors, technicians, and hospital administrators, appreciating their efforts in improving healthcare services and urging them to maintain the highest standards of patient care and professionalism. She stressed the importance of optimal utilization and regular maintenance of advanced medical equipment to ensure uninterrupted services.

Pertinently, the inauguration of MRI and other facilities at GMC Anantnag marks a major milestone in expanding access to advanced diagnostic services for patients in South Kashmir as well as some areas of Oir Panchal region. The newly installed MRI facility is equipped with modern imaging technology designed to deliver high-precision diagnostic results, enabling early detection and accurate evaluation of complex medical conditions, including neurological disorders, musculoskeletal injuries, cardiovascular ailments, and oncological cases. The facility is expected to substantially reduce patient referrals to tertiary care hospitals outside the district, thereby easing financial and logistical burdens on patients and their families.

Railways charts roadmap to boost Kashmir's fruit trade via Parcel Trains

High-level meeting focuses on strengthening rail-based supply chain, enhancing market access

AGENCIES

JAMMU: A high-level meeting was convened today in the Jammu Division to strategize measures aimed at transforming the economic landscape of the Kashmir Valley by linking its renowned fruit industry and parcel trade with national markets.

According to a statement issued, the meeting was presided over by the Additional Member (Commercial) of the Railway Board and attended by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal, along with parcel traders from Kashmir, prominent fruit growers, and key cargo aggregators.

The primary objective of the deliberations was to develop a comprehensive roadmap to enhance parcel traffic from the Kashmir region.



Discussions focused on positioning rail transport as a reliable, time-bound, and cost-effective alternative to roadways, particularly for the transportation of cherries and other perishable produce.

Key strategies included increasing the occupancy of the JPP-RCS Parcel Train, which departs from Badgam at 6:15 AM and

reaches Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, at 5:30 AM the following day via Bari Brahmana and Ambala Cantt, ensuring timely delivery of goods to markets.

Participants also agreed on collaborating with cargo aggregators to support small-scale traders by enabling consolidation of smaller consignments for efficient rail transportation.

Plans were further shared to upgrade loading infrastructure at Badgam, Srinagar, and Pampore railway stations to facilitate smoother operations.

To incentivize greater usage of rail services, the Railway administration discussed offering competitive freight rates and introducing concession schemes for bulk bookings by aggregators.

Speaking on the occasion, Uchit Singhal emphasized the unique global identity of Kashmir's products and highlighted the Railways' commitment to establishing a seamless supply chain.

He noted that the initiative aims to empower farmers and traders by enabling uninterrupted transport of goods across the country, positioning the Railways as a key partner in the region's economic growth—(KNO)

Rana lays foundation for Tawi embankment works; hails river as Jammu's pride

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, Friday laid the foundation stone for two important flood protection projects along River Tawi aimed at strengthening the riverbanks and safeguarding vulnerable areas from future flood risks.

The projects included restoration of the earthen embankment on the left bank of River Tawi at Bikram Chowk upstream, allotted at a cost of Rs. 3.05 crore and scheduled for completion within six to nine months. The construction of damaged flood protection works on the right bank near Hari Singh Park has been allotted at a cost of Rs. 82 lakh and is expected to be completed within two years.

MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, Chief Engineer I&FC Manoj Gupta, officers from the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Jal

Shakti (PHE) Department and other concerned agencies besides local representatives and residents were

reiterated the commitment of the Omar Abdullah government to undertake all necessary measures for



present on the occasion.

Speaking at the ceremony, Javed Rana said that these projects will significantly enhance the flood resilience and protect critical infrastructure and residential areas from future risks.

Describing River Tawi as the pride of Jammu, he

its protection and beautification. "The major river protection initiative along River Tawi underscores our unwavering commitment to flood mitigation and the protection of lives and livelihoods in the region. No effort will be spared to ensure the safety and well-being of every

resident," he maintained.

The embankment restoration and bank protection works are designed to address the longstanding vulnerabilities in the river's flood management infrastructure. The proposed works included construction of crate revetments, strengthening of existing structures with concrete panels and necessary backfilling to stabilise the eroded sections.

The Minister emphasised that such projects form part of a broader strategy to modernise the flood control and water resource infrastructure across the Union Territory, complementing the ongoing efforts under Central and UT-level schemes.

He informed that all damages caused by the recent floods will be taken up on priority, with necessary restoration and protection works being planned to ensure timely relief and long-term resilience for the affected areas.

Two J&K Recruiters Selected for MEA's Russia Outreach

MoS Jayant Chaudhary to Lead Delegation at Russia Skill & Employment Forum

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to expand global job avenues for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, has nominated two registered recruiting agencies under the Chandigarh jurisdiction to be part of an official international delegation to St. Petersburg, Russia.

The nominated agencies are AL-YAFUR Pvt. Ltd., represented by Majid Shafi, and Overseas Recruitment Bureau, represented by Tahir Sufi. Their inclusion underscores a strategic push to facilitate overseas employment opportunities for job seekers from the Union Territory.

The high-level delegation is scheduled to visit St. Petersburg from April 8 to 14. During the tour, members will engage with leading international companies to discuss potential recruitment partnerships, workforce collaborations, and skill-based placements. The focus remains on creating sustainable livelihood options for Indian youth, particularly from the Jammu & Kashmir region.

Adding further weight to the



mission, the delegation will be accompanied by Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India. His presence highlights the Centre's commitment to bridging skill development initiatives with global employment markets.

Speaking on the nomination, Sufi of Overseas Recruitment Bureau added, "The MEA's trust in our agency reflects the growing credibility of recruitment bodies from the region. We aim to open new corridors for Indian workers in Russia."

The development is being seen as a step toward diversifying international job placements for Indian workers, especially in emerging markets like Russia, amid increasing global demand for skilled and semi-skilled manpower.

Pharmacist accused of corruption, absenteeism, Rs 20 lakh fraud

Complaint seeks high-level probe into alleged bribery racket, unauthorised posting

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Serious allegations of corruption, abuse of authority, and financial misconduct have surfaced against a pharmacist in Jammu and Kashmir's Health & Medical Education Department, raising questions about administrative oversight and accountability within the system.

A formal complaint submitted to the Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, has accused Mohammad Salim Wani, a pharmacist substantively posted at Tangdhar in Kupwara district, of willfully defying government orders, engaging in corrupt practices, and misusing official proximity to influence postings and extract money.

According to the complaint accessed, Wani was transferred from Srinagar to Tangdhar in October 2025 under Government Order No. 670-JK(HME) of 2025, issued in the interest of administration following earlier allegations of mis-

conduct. The order explicitly directed him to report to his new place of posting "forthwith", deeming him relieved from his previous assignment at the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir.

However, the complainant alleges that Wani never joined his designated posting and instead continued to remain stationed in Srinagar, with his absence from Tangdhar allegedly corroborable through official and local verification.

More alarmingly, the complaint states that Wani allegedly functioned unofficially as a Personal Assistant to senior officers within the Directorate of Health Services without any formal authorisation. Even after administrative changes, he is said to have "repositioned" himself within the Directorate without any valid government order, suggesting a pattern of unauthorised attachment and defiance of transfer directives.

The allegations go beyond absenteeism. The complaint accuses Wani, in alleged col-

lusion with another official, of running a bribery and influence network within the department, demanding and accepting illegal gratification from officers in exchange for favourable transfers and postings. The complaint further claims that undue pressure was exerted on officials by leveraging proximity to decision-making authorities.

In one of the most serious charges, the complainant has alleged that Wani was involved in a financial fraud exceeding Rs 20 lakh during an emergency or crisis period, pertaining to the procurement of emergency items without adherence to codal procedures, raising concerns of misuse of public funds during a critical time.

The complaint has urged the government to initiate a thorough and time-bound inquiry, fix accountability, and take strict action against all those found involved, while also calling for a deeper examination of systemic loopholes that allow such alleged practices to persist—(KNO)

Traffic plan issued for two-day Radha Soami Satsang in Vijaypur

YOGESH

JAMMU: Ahead of the two-day Radha Soami Satsang scheduled to be held on April 4 and 5 at Thandi Khui in Vijaypur along the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway, SSP Traffic Rural Jammu, Farooq Qaiser, has issued a comprehensive traffic management plan to regulate the expected heavy influx of devotees.

The SSP, as reported, said the religious congregation is likely to attract more than five lakh followers from across Jammu and adjoining regions, prompting authorities to implement elaborate traffic diversions and access control measures to ensure smooth vehicular movement and public safety.

According to the advisory, special diversions will be enforced on key stretches of the Jammu-Pathankot highway, particularly near Vijaypur and adjoining rural links leading to Thandi Khui. Vehicles coming from Jammu towards Pathankot have been advised to take the Ring Road via Satwari-Mira Sahib before Vijaypur towards alternate rural roads to ease congestion near the satsang site.

Traffic from Pathankot heading towards Jammu is expected to be regulated and staggered, with possible diversions through link roads connecting Bari Brahmana and Samba sectors. Heavy motor vehicles may be restricted or diverted

during peak hours of the satsang to prevent bottlenecks on the highway. Traffic officials have stressed that commuters should follow on-ground signage and instructions from deployed personnel, as diversions may be adjusted dynamically depending on traffic density.

Separate parking areas have been earmarked at a safe distance from the satsang venue, with shuttle or walking access to the main congregation area. Authorities have urged devotees to avoid random stopping on the highway and instead use only designated parking and entry routes.

The traffic department will deploy adequate personnel at strategic junctions, diversion points, and entry gates to regulate movement. Real-time monitoring and public announcements will be used to guide commuters, while temporary signage will assist drivers unfamiliar with the area.

Commuters travelling on the Jammu-Pathankot highway during April 4 and 5 have been advised to plan their journeys in advance and allow extra travel time. Non-essential travel through the Vijaypur-Thandi Khui stretch has been discouraged during peak hours. The public has also been asked to stay updated through official advisories issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police, as traffic arrangements may change depending on crowd size and road conditions—(KNO)

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

A Wake-Up Call On J&K's Financial Management

The recent audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has brought to light serious financial irregularities in Jammu and Kashmir, raising important questions about how public money is being managed. Over 100 crore in discrepancies is not a small matter. When 104.51 crore is marked as doubtful recovery, 6.88 crore is lost as avoidable interest, and 2.65 crore remains unused, it points to more than just minor lapses—it reflects gaps in planning, delays in decision-making, and weak monitoring. These figures are not just numbers on paper. They directly impact development on the ground. Money that remains idle or is poorly managed could have gone into building roads, improving health-care, strengthening education, or creating jobs. Instead, inefficiencies slow down progress and reduce the impact of government spending. What is particularly concerning is the pattern highlighted in the audit. Funds being parked without timely use shows a lack of proper planning. Avoidable interest payments suggest delays that could have been prevented. Doubtful recoveries raise concerns about accountability and whether due processes are being followed.

For a region like Jammu and Kashmir, where development and efficient governance are crucial, such shortcomings can have long-term consequences. Public trust depends not just on how much money is allocated, but on how effectively it is used.

The way forward is clear. There is a need for stronger financial discipline, better monitoring of expenditures, and greater accountability within departments. Timely utilization of funds and regular follow-ups can prevent such issues from recurring. Most importantly, these findings should not be ignored or treated as routine observations. They should act as a push for real reform. Ensuring that public funds are used wisely is not just an administrative duty—it is essential for delivering real change on the ground. The challenge now is whether the system responds with corrective action or lets these warning signs pass by.

Pakistan's Global Posturing Vs Its Domestic Reality



RISHI SURI

Acarefully crafted narrative about Pakistan is increasingly being amplified on international platforms, social media, and through certain lobbying ecosystems abroad. The story being sold is one of a country punching above its weight, mediating between the United States and Iran, facilitating safe maritime passage through the Strait of Hormuz, and emerging as a consequential global player.

It is a compelling narrative. But it is also deeply misleading.

In international relations, real influence is not built on perception alone. It rests on economic stability, institutional strength, and domestic cohesion. On all three fronts, Pakistan today finds itself in deep crisis. Its economy remains fragile, foreign exchange reserves are under strain, and its debt burden has reached levels that raise serious questions about long-term sustainability.

The recent hike in fuel prices by over 40 percent is not merely an economic adjustment. It is a stark reflection of a state struggling to manage its finances. For ordinary citizens, already grappling with inflation and unemployment, this translates into further hardship. It also signals a deeper structural weakness that cannot be masked by diplomatic optics.

This raises a fundamental question: how can a country that is unable to provide economic stability at home convincingly project itself as a major player on the global stage?



convincingly project itself as a major player on the global stage?

This pattern is not new. Pakistan has, in the past, often relied on its geo-strategic positioning to remain relevant internationally. Whether during the Cold War or the post-9/11 era, it has sought to leverage external alignments to offset internal weaknesses. But such relevance has always been contingent and temporary, not a reflection of intrinsic strength.

The current narrative around maritime access in the Strait of Hormuz is another example of exaggeration. Global shipping lanes operate under established international norms and security frameworks. Suggesting that routine passage of vessels is a result of

Pakistan's rising diplomatic influence is less an analysis and more an attempt to construct an image.

At its core, this is about narrative management. When domestic realities are difficult, there is often a temptation to manufacture external success stories. These narratives are designed to shift attention away from internal crises and create an illusion of upward momentum. However, narratives cannot indefinitely override lived realities.

The economic indicators are clear. A country dependent on repeated financial bailouts, struggling with currency instability, and facing rising costs of basic commodities cannot credibly sustain claims of global ascendancy. Over time, the gap between projection and

reality becomes too large to ignore.

For Pakistan, the path forward does not lie in amplifying its global role beyond its current capacity. It lies in addressing its internal challenges with seriousness and consistency. Economic reform, institutional stability, and public welfare must take precedence over external image-building.

The international system ultimately responds to substance, not spin. And today, the substance of Pakistan's situation tells a far more sobering story than the one being projected.

Rishi Suri is a senior editor covering international affairs at The Daily Milap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper.

Technology And The New Logic Of Growth

How Ai, Computing Power, And Human Capability Are Reshaping Foundation Of Global Economy

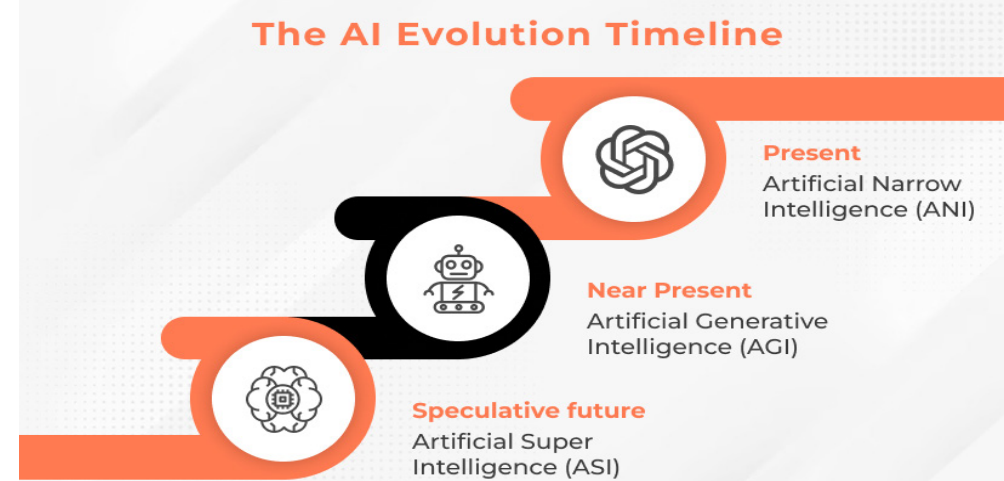
ER. SUHAIB BAKSHI

The global economy is entering a phase in which technology is no longer simply a driver of growth but part of its underlying structure. Advances in artificial intelligence, computing systems, and digital infrastructure are not just improving productivity within existing frameworks; they are reshaping the conditions under which economic activity takes place. What is emerging is not a discrete technological shift, but a broader reconfiguration of how value is created, distributed, and sustained.

Artificial intelligence is central to this transformation. It is increasingly understood not as a specialised tool, but as a general purpose capability whose effects extend across sectors. Its significance lies in its capacity to augment decision making, refine processes, and reduce informational frictions. In doing so, it alters the relationship between knowledge and output. Rather than generating entirely new forms of activity, it enhances the efficiency and adaptability of existing ones, allowing systems to operate with greater precision.

The scale of this impact, however, remains contingent rather than predetermined. Projections of substantial gains in global output are widely cited, but they depend on a range of factors that extend beyond the technology itself. Adoption, institutional capacity, and public confidence all shape outcomes. The presence of technological capability does not guarantee its effective use. This distinction is essential. Growth arises not from innovation alone, but from the conditions that enable innovation to be absorbed and applied.

Those conditions are increasingly defined by access to computing infrastructure. Artificial intelligence systems rely on significant processing capacity, supported by data centres, cloud networks, and specialised hardware. As computational intensity rises, so too does the importance of physical infrastructure and energy systems. The expansion



of digital capability is therefore closely linked to material constraints, reminding us that even the most advanced technologies remain grounded in physical realities.

Semiconductors form the foundation of this infrastructure. They are embedded across the technological landscape, from communication systems to industrial production. Their significance lies not only in their technical function, but in their position within highly interconnected supply chains. Concentration within these systems introduces vulnerabilities, as disruptions in one segment can propagate widely. Ensuring continuity and resilience in such networks has become an increasingly important consideration in economic organisation.

At the level of everyday economic participation, digital infrastructure is altering the mechanisms through which individuals and firms engage with markets. Digital payments, platforms, and identity systems reduce transaction costs and expand access to services. They do not eliminate constraints entirely, but they can lower the threshold for participation. When designed effectively, such systems connect technological capacity with practical use, enabling broader engagement in economic activity.

Yet infrastructure, however advanced, is not sufficient. Human capability remains the central determinant of how technology is used. Educa-

tion, training, and the capacity for continuous learning shape whether new tools translate into meaningful gains. Technical proficiency is important, but it is complemented by more general capabilities such as adaptability, analytical reasoning, and the ability to operate within changing environments. Technology amplifies these qualities rather than replacing them.

The interaction between technology and labour reflects this dynamic. Artificial intelligence and automation can enhance productivity and generate new forms of work, but they can also alter existing roles. The outcome is not a simple substitution of labour but a reconfiguration of tasks. In many cases, human and machine capabilities are complementary. The distribution of benefits depends on how effectively this complementarity is realised and on the capacity of institutions to support adjustment.

This raises the question of governance. As systems become more capable, considerations of fairness, transparency, and accountability become more prominent. The deployment of technology involves choices that shape outcomes, often in ways that are not immediately visible. Frameworks that promote responsible use are therefore not constraints on innovation, but conditions for its sustainability. Trust becomes an economic variable, influencing both adoption and long-term impact.

Beyond artificial intelligence, advances in related fields rein-

force the broader transformation. Developments in biotechnology, space-based systems, and emerging computational approaches illustrate the increasing interconnectedness of technological domains. Progress in one area often supports advances in others, creating a network of innovation rather than a sequence of isolated breakthroughs. This interconnectedness increases both opportunity and complexity.

In such an environment, collaboration assumes greater importance. The exchange of knowledge across institutions and regions accelerates innovation, while investment in education and research strengthens domestic capability. At the same time, the global nature of technology requires a degree of balance. Openness facilitates progress, but structural stability requires internal capacity. The relationship between these objectives is not fixed but evolves alongside technological and economic conditions.

It is also necessary to recognise that technological change does not produce uniform outcomes. Its effects are mediated by existing economic structures, institutional frameworks, and access to resources. In some contexts, adoption leads to broad-based gains in productivity and opportunity. In others, it may reinforce existing disparities. Ensuring that the benefits of innovation are widely shared requires attention to inclusion and accessibility, not only as social objectives but also as eco-

nomics considerations.

The transformation underway is therefore not simply about the diffusion of new tools. It is about the alignment of infrastructure, human capability, and institutional frameworks. Where these elements are coordinated, technology can act as a powerful enabler of growth. Where they are not, its impact may remain limited or uneven. The effectiveness of technological change depends on coherence as much as on capability.

As the global economy evolves, the central question shifts accordingly. It is no longer whether technology will shape the future, but how it will be shaped in return. The answer lies in the choices made across systems of education, investment, governance, and cooperation. These choices determine not only the direction of technological development, but the nature of its integration into society.

Technology itself is neither inherently beneficial nor inherently disruptive. It is a form of capability whose effects depend on context and application. Its value is realised through use, and its consequences are shaped by the frameworks within which it operates. Understanding this distinction is essential to understanding the current moment.

The present phase of economic change is therefore less about disruption than about redefinition. The foundations of growth are being reshaped, but not replaced. Societies that are able to align infrastructure, human capability, and governance will be better positioned to navigate this transition. Those that are less able to do so may find the benefits of technological progress more difficult to realise.

The trajectory is becoming clearer, even as its full implications remain uncertain. Technology is moving toward the centre of economic organisation. How it is developed, distributed, and governed will shape not only patterns of growth, but the broader evolution of economic and social systems in the years ahead.

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Autism Awareness Day

A Day Of Awareness, Kindness, And Celebration

SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT

Every year on 2 April, people around the world observe World Autism Awareness Day. This special day encourages us to understand autism better and to create a society where everyone feels accepted, valued, and respected. It is not just about spreading information; it is also about building compassion, empathy, and inclusion for individuals who experience the world in their own unique way.

Autism, often known as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a developmental condition that influences how a person communicates, interacts with others, and experiences the world around them. Each autistic person is different. Some may express themselves through art, music, technology, or creative thinking. Others may have special interests or remarkable talents that make them stand out in their own ways.

People with autism often see the world from a different perspective. This unique way of thinking and experiencing life adds colour and creativity to our communities. Their imagination, focus, and passion can inspire those around them. When we take the time to understand autism, we realize that differences are not weaknesses; they are part of the beautiful diversity of humanity.

World Autism Awareness Day teaches us that individuals with autism are worthy of love, patience, and understanding. Instead of dwelling on what they cannot do, we should look at what they can do, what they want to do, and what they like to do. Individuals with autism are capable individuals with extraordinary skills and talents. Some are great problem solvers, while others are talented artists, and still, others possess an amazing memory and knowledge in what they love to do.



However, individuals with autism sometimes encounter difficulties in everyday life, such as when they are overwhelmed by loud sounds, when they are having a hard time dealing with people, and when they are having a hard time expressing how they feel. Therefore, they need our understanding and support from our family, teachers, friends, and community.

There are many simple yet meaningful ways we can show our support and make the world a more welcoming place for autistic individuals.

The first and most important step is to always be kind and empathetic.

Kindness is a powerful tool that can make someone feel accepted and safe. If a person with autism is having a tough day, a simple smile, a kind word, or a small act of understanding can make a big difference. Sometimes, patience and compassion speak louder than anything else. By showing empathy, we help create an environment where everyone feels comfortable being themselves.

The second step is to learn more about autism. Understanding our friends better helps us appreciate their unique strengths and personalities. Knowledge removes misunder-

standings and replaces them with respect and awareness. Children can ask their parents or teachers questions about autism. Visiting a library, reading books, or watching educational programs can also help us discover inspiring stories about children and adults with autism who are achieving amazing things in their lives. When we learn more, we become better friends and supporters.

The third step is to celebrate our differences. Every person in this world is unique. Our differences are what make life interesting and meaningful. Imagine the world as a giant puzzle.

Each piece is different in shape, colour, and design. Even though every piece looks different, it fits perfectly into the puzzle and helps complete the picture. In the same way, every individual, including those with autism, plays an important role in our society. Their presence adds value, creativity, and diversity to our communities.

Additionally, Schools, families, and communities can also celebrate World Autism Awareness Day through activities that promote inclusion. Students can participate in awareness campaigns, art competitions, storytelling sessions, and discussions about kindness and acceptance. Wearing blue, which is often associated with autism awareness, is another way people show their support and solidarity.

More importantly, awareness should not be limited to just one day. The message of acceptance and understanding should continue throughout the year. When we treat everyone with respect and kindness every day, we help create a world where differences are welcomed rather than judged.

Autistic people are defined by their strengths, dreams, and aspirations, and can make a meaningful difference in society. With the right support, they can truly shine and reach their full potential.

In conclusion, the whole concept of World Autism Awareness Day is about love, understanding, and celebration. It is about understanding the importance of friendship, understanding, and respect in creating a better world, no matter how small the action is. Let us embrace and celebrate what makes each of us special. When we open our hearts to understanding others, we create a society where everyone—regardless of their differences—can feel valued, supported, and proud of who they are.

Author is a Social Educator. He can be mailed at shoaibhat2018@gmail.com

Creating Employment: Angels Are Late, We Must Act Now

MOHD ISHAQ SHAH

Don't judge it a humane tendency to expose any real unemployed youth to present my point of view either. So, to be a representative voice makes me compelled to shoulder the burden of exposing myself so that others are spared this humiliation which otherwise might raise my honour. Sometimes I recall the days of my struggle, and my heart beats and head throbs for those who are struggling at present. At the same time I go back in the stream-of-consciousness-like situation when I used to talk to myself, having no one to listen to me. When I indulged in monologues, a silent listener would listen to my wailings and worries. I reflect upon the frustration that would overcome my mind when I received the feedback from people about my bad luck. When I heard people gossiping about my inability and when my neighbours exhibited their scarecrow-like mercy on me. When I asked for a relationship and was rejected. When I asked for daily needed things, I was denied, with the saying that you would not return. At present, thank God, a govt. organisation has accepted me as a teacher, but the burns I have received on my heart while scrounging for rags have not healed yet and seem to be healing never.

A report in Daily Excelsior Jammu on 9 February 2026 reads: the unemployment rate in J&K stands at 6.7 per cent, significantly higher than the national average of 3.5 per cent, the Government informed the Legislative Assembly today. In a written reply to questions raised by MLA Mubarak Gul, the Government said unemployment levels in the Union Territory have fluctuated over the past few years. According to data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, J&K's unemployment rate stood at 6.1 per cent in 2023-24, 4.4 per cent in 2022-23, 5.2 per cent in 2021-22, 5.9 per cent in 2020-21, and 6.7 per cent in 2019-20. The Government further revealed that an extensive survey conducted in January 2025 by the Employment Department, in collaboration with district administrations under Mission YUVA, found that 4.73 lakh individuals in the 18-60 age group reported being "not working but willing to work" out of a total surveyed population of 64.8 lakh. To be unemployed, that too in a

state where few opportunities prevail and systematic disorder reigns over time; where there is no private sector to accommodate unemployed fellows; where being educated has become a burden of disgrace; and where people value your worth in terms of money, but not your potential. Where a relationship is tied with the string of a govt job, where your family and friends taunt you in the evening, where your relatives ignore you, where decision-making is snatched from you, where you are kept in the margin and, above all, where people show unreal pity on your condition – it is really very tough and like a thumb on your windpipe that doesn't allow you to take a breath. Altogether it is a hell-like situation where man lives but experiences death in which the faith in a system is shattered, the relations become meaningless, the degrees become useless papers and knowledge becomes a burden over the mind.

Human agency was supposed to substitute God to take the other fellow beings out of trouble, but the beastly behaviour of innocent criminals has troubled them more. I think only angels are left to help this humanity out of this dark ditch that it has fallen into and seems to be never coming out of. I just recall a verse by Dr Iqbal (r.a.):

*Dhard-e-dil key wastey paida kiya insaan ko,
Warna taa-ath key liye kuch kum na thay qarobyaaan.
And in the same way Samuel Taylor Coleridge says:
They prayeth best who loveth best,
All things both great and small.-Rhyme of Ancient Mariner*

But in my homeland the case is reversed. Here the people show a false sympathy with the unemployed youth. Lamenting his condition but at the same time being happy inside. None is ready to help and assist an educated one who is in pursuit of employment. Social organisations like Auqaaf committees, Trusts, NGOs, Local Bodies etc are all indifferent towards the youth that constitutes the future of ours. No doubt our present is happy, but our future is surely to be very bad. In far-flung areas where the common households have meagre income, these youngsters suffer financially and hence are impeded by the poverty from continuing their studies. The absence of private sector employment, except for the private schools that only exploit the educated youth,



as there is no accountability for them, means they face very tough times after leaving schools and colleges; hence, their dreams turn into nightmares. Although the private schools collect lakhs or crores from parents, they pay

Although the private schools collect lakhs or crores from parents, they pay in hundreds to teachers, which further aggravates their condition.

in hundreds to teachers, which further aggravates their condition.

Consequently, they remain busy while doing nothing. The tragedy of the situation lies in the way the parent community tends to show their irresponsibility towards the teaching community. For the time being they feel happy, but when their children pass out from the same schools and colleges, they weep over their fate for finding their children jobless.

The state government's rigid approach and commercial attitude are also responsible for the tragedy that the educated and unemployed youth

are undergoing. Despite granting any allowance to unemployed youth, they charge the application fee for a post in thousands. JKSSB and JKPCS have become major sources of income for the government. They advertise posts in tens, and lakhs apply for these posts. Hence, it seems that the government is creating employment out of unemployment or paying employees out of the funds raised from unemployed ones. The irony of the situation is that the govt has to recruit 10 persons and collect fees from thousands, and the amount goes to govt treasury that is paid to those already in service. In which direction we are leading our nations, God knows best.

Corruption and scams in recruitment agencies are another tragedy that our youth are facing. Notifications come, exams are conducted and then exams are scrapped when challenged by aspirants. The result is that the precious time of youth is wasted, and consequently they are depressed and indulge in drugs and other immoral activities. Every day we come across the news that police have apprehended drug peddlers. Where do they come from? The agencies are active in promoting drug culture, and who is the target of those agencies? It is the unemployed youth that are unseen and unheard. Awareness camps are organised by the govt. agencies, posters are pasted on walls, and columnists and writers spend their energy writing on the menace, but there is no positive result because the roots of drug peddling are watered by the govt. itself.

Social life of our youth is totally miserable. Marriages have become

more difficult, and affairs have become the order of the day. Both boys and girls are involved in illegitimate affairs that further put them under frustration because when it comes to realising those relations, they fail utterly when seen from a realistic perspective. For the youth works here with emotions, and parents work on material grounds. Consequently, there are elopements and suicides and family feuds.

Recent reports have revealed that the enrolment of colleges and universities is declining day by day. Although I find various causes behind it, the crucial one being that uncertainty about employment after pursuing graduation, postgraduation, PhD, etc. So the majorities of these young buds take a reverse step and leave education for the sake of online/offline work. What we are going to see in the future is that our colleges and universities will be empty, and then the govt will think of closing colleges and universities. Is that the progress that we want to do?

So, if we are really serious about saving our future generations, we shall have to take several constructive steps to give this disappointed youth a new direction. At a social level we must set up online/offline libraries and reading rooms in our villages so that our youth doesn't feel helpless when it comes to preparing for competitive exams, for coaching centres being so costly and expensive that everyone cannot afford them. We shall have to set up donation centres in the form of Baitul-Maal that would collect funds from the general public and invest in youth's educational development plus provide marriage assistance to poor and backward families. We shall have to organise career counselling sessions for those who are in career struggles. Motivational speakers must be invited to deliver on the issue so that the youth get mentally and emotionally balanced. We shall have to raise our voices against exam scams and corruption that have been devastating the careers of thousands. And we must impress upon our bureaucrats, politicians and legislators that our youth is spared from this havoc. And only then we can expect that our future will be bright. And obviously the future of our nation is our youth, and when the youth are saved, the future stands automatically saved.

The author can be mailed at ishaq7007@gmail.com

...Ground Chia Seeds Vs Whole Chia Seeds

Nutritionist Explains Which One Is Healthier

Chia seeds are the edible seeds of a flowering plant in the mint family and are known as a nutritional heavyweight superfood. They contain a variety of nutrients, including fibre, protein, omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants and various vitamins and minerals like calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus that are beneficial to your health, according to a report by Harvard Health Publishing (Harvard Medical School). But do you know which one is actually better between ground chia seeds and whole chia seeds?

In an Instagram video, nutritionist Deepshikha Jain explains, "When you con-

sume whole chia seeds, they are definitely a good source of omega-3, protein, and soluble fibre as well." But, according to her, ground chia seeds are considered better for maximum nutrient absorption and digestion.

Better Nutrient Absorption: She notes, "Grinding the chia seed makes it much more healthier for you because when you're grinding the chia, it breaks the outer shell. That makes the bioavailability and absorption of omega-3s, protein, and antioxidants much more higher."

Higher Hydration: The nutritionist reveals, "Ground chia seeds also have a higher holding capacity, which means



they can absorb much more water, hence improving your hydration."

Easier Digestion: Accord-

ing to Jain, "ground chia seeds can be much better for your gut health because they are much more easily

digestible and also have higher short-chain fatty acid content as compared to whole chia".

At the end of the video, she recommends ground chia seeds as definitely the healthier option for some-

one who needs them. One feature that keeps whole chia seeds ahead is their shelf life. However, the nutritionist also has a practical solution for this.

Since ground chia seeds can go rancid faster than whole chia seeds, as their protective shell is broken, she recommends, "Store it in an air-tight container in the fridge after grinding for up to 7 days." This will not only increase their shelf life but also make it a much healthier way to consume chia seeds.

From this, we can understand that grinding chia seeds makes digestion easier and improves nutrient absorption.

(courtesy NDTV.com)

Drug Peddler Arrested In Pulwama, Contraband Substance Recovered

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As a part of its sustained efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, J&K Police in Pulwama arrested a drug peddler and recovered Contraband substance from his possession.

According to a statement issued, a police party from Police Station Pulwama at a checkpoint established at Eid Gah area of Pulwama intercepted a suspicious person. During his personal search, approximately 52 grams of charas-like substance was recovered from his

possession. He has been identified Anayatullah Makdooi son of Showkat Ahmad resident of Drasoo. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 46/2026 under relevant section of law has been registered at Police Station Pulwama and investigation has been taken up.

J&K Police reiterate its commitment to maintaining a drug-free society and appeals to the general public to cooperate in this noble mission. Citizens are requested to share any information regarding drug abuse or peddling to the nearest police establishment.

Illegal Posters, Defacement Of City Walls

JMC warns violators of stringent penalties, including jail term

AGENCIES

JAMMU: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Friday cautioned against the illegal pasting of posters and defacement of public property, warning violators of stringent penalties, including fines and possible imprisonment.

In a statement issued, the civic body, said that unauthorized posters, banners, hoardings, and wall paintings have been found across various parts of the city, including public buildings, footpaths, electric poles, and bridges, causing damage to public assets and

marring the city's aesthetic appeal.

"Defacing public property through illegal posters and writings is a serious violation of municipal laws. We will not tolerate such activities," Devansh Yadav, JMC Commissioner said. "Strict legal action will be taken against offenders without any prior notice."

The corporation clarified that such acts violate the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, as well as the corporation's outdoor advertising policy. Officials noted that enforcement measures will include heavy fines, recov-

ery of the cost incurred in removing the defacement, and even jail terms for repeat or serious offenders.

"We are committed to maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of Jammu city. Those found damaging public property will face consequences as per the law," the Commissioner added.

The JMC has also appealed to citizens, businesses, and organizations to use only designated and approved spaces for advertisements and to cooperate in keeping the city clean and visually appealing—(KNO)

5 Indians Among 12 Injured By Missile Debris In Abu Dhabi

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Five Indian nationals were among 12 people reportedly injured in Abu Dhabi on Friday by debris from an intercepted missile.

Local authorities said the people sustained minor to moderate injuries in the incident.

It said another Nepali citizen sustained a major injury. The incident occurred in the Ajman area of Abu Dhabi when debris fell following a "successful interception by air defence systems", it added.

There was no word from the Indian side on the incident. Since the conflict in West Asia began on Febru-

ary 28, eight Indian nationals have been killed and several others injured in the region.

An Indian was killed on March 29 in Kuwait in an Iranian strike on a power and water desalination plant.

Last week, an Indian was among two killed in Abu Dhabi when debris of missiles intercepted by the UAE's air defence system fell on them.

On March 18, another Indian national was killed in an Iranian attack on Riyadh. Two Indian nationals were killed and 10 injured in a drone strike in Oman's Sohar city on March 13.

Three Indian sailors were killed in attacks on merchant vessels earlier. In the last few weeks, India has ramped up its diplomatic efforts to ensure the safety and security of 10 million (once crore) Indian nationals living in West Asia.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Upper Reaches Get

Department issued an advisory warning of thunderstorms, hail and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph at isolated places on April 3-4 and April 7-8.

It said intense showers over short durations could trigger flash floods and landslides at vulnerable locations and cause waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Farmers have been advised to suspend agricultural operations during this period, while travellers have been asked to plan their movement accordingly, the officials said.

Meanwhile, an independent weather forecaster, Kashmir Weather said a strong western disturbance is set to impact Jammu and Kashmir over the next 36 hours, bringing widespread rain and snowfall across the Union Territory.

The forecaster said moderate to heavy rain is expected at many places, accompanied by thunderstorms, gusty winds and isolated hailstorm activity.

He warned that intense showers over short durations may trigger flash floods at vulnerable locations. Higher reaches and key mountain passes, including Zojila, Sinthan Top, Mughal Road, Sadhna Top and Razdan Top, are likely to receive fresh snowfall during the period.

Light snowfall over middle elevations between 2,100 and 2,400 metres cannot be ruled out, although the chances remain low, he said. Weather conditions are expected to improve gradually by Sunday, though a few places may continue to receive brief spells of rain, he added—(KNO)

Ayodhya Cradle Of

Ram, it is also a vital pillar of our global identity, our economic strength and our cultural continuity," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that on the global stage, we must position Ayodhya as a civilisational centre where humankind first saw nature not merely as a resource, but as a living force, and through the efforts of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi this power has been rekindled anew.

"The true strength of nations lies in their identity, their cultural depth and their civilisational roots. In that light, the significance of a civilisational source like Ayodhya is not confined to India but its impact can be felt deeply across the world," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that if we understand our roots, preserve them and present them in a contemporary idiom, we become not only culturally richer but economically stronger as well. Ayodhya is a living example that civilisation itself is the bedrock of future possibilities, he said.

"I see Ayodhya as a living idea whose greatest strength is its continuity. There, the past and the present are not separated. Even today, I believe, the same mantras resound, the same traditions live and the same faith flows as it did thousands of years ago. This continuity is the flow of consciousness, and through an unbroken inner dialogue we strive to carry forward that eternal flame which has burned across countless generations," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Shri Mahant Kamal Nayan Das Ji Maharaj of Shri Maniram Das Chhawani, Ayodhya; Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, President IGNSA; Shri Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi, Member, Akhil Bharatiya Karyakarini, RSS; Ms. Diya Kumari, Deputy Chief Minister, Rajasthan; Dr. Ashok Bajpai, former Member of Parliament, Shri Lallu Singh, former Member of Parliament; Dr Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNSA graced the occasion.

LG Orders Magisterial

He has been directed to complete the inquiry within 7 days and submit the report to the Home Department—(KNO)

JERC Creates Separate

cost or on nominal charges, post offices at residences of villagers and residential premises of architects, engineers, advocates, doctors, teachers, artists, weavers, stitching and embroidery workers occupying not more than 20 percent of built-up area for respective professional purposes.

"This tariff category is applicable to electricity used for operating various appliances such as lighting, heating, cooling, cooking, washing, cleaning, entertainment or leisure, water pumping, etc," the government said.

It also informed that the group housing societies can avail of single-point power supply. The energy bill of a housing society shall be divided by the number of houses in it to determine the consumption of each house.

About the tariff for non-domestic and commercial supply category, the government informed the house that this tariff category shall be applicable to the shops, showrooms, business houses, offices, educational or technical institutions, clubs, meeting halls, places of public entertainment, hotels, cinemas, hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, nursing homes, X-ray units, diagnostic centres, pathological labs, fisheries, aquaculture, sericulture, dairy, hatcheries, printing presses—other than those qualifying to be charged under the LT industrial supply category, milk chilling centres—other than those specifically

mentioned under Agricultural Supply, poultry farms, cattle breeding farms, nurseries, plantations, mushroom growing.

It also said that this tariff category shall be applicable to carpenters and furniture makers, juice centres, hoardings and advertisement services, typing institutes, internet cafes, STD/ISD PCOs, photocopying shops, tailoring shops, photo studios and colour labs, laundries, cycle shops, compressors for filling air, restaurants, eating establishments, guest houses, marriage gardens, welding transformer and lathe machines for repair works and services, book binders, petrol pumps and service stations, lifts and other appliances in shopping centres and offices, tourist house-boats, and other similar establishments.

"In addition, any connection not covered under other categories shall be billed under this category. However, this would exclude connections pertaining to State or Central Government or Defence services, which have been included in a separate category," the government said—(KNO)

All India Imam

incident but urged people to visit the region.

"I want to tell everyone that they should visit Kashmir as there is no atmosphere of fear now," he said.

On the conflict in West Asia, he said war benefits no one and expressed hope for peace.

"Wars harm everyone; they are a sign of destruction. I have hopes from our country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, and God willing, he will mediate, and the war will end soon... there will be peace and tranquillity," he said. (PTI)

Over 3.07 Lakh Drinking

State and district levels, along with a "Citizen Corner", have been created to display village-level water quality data and build public confidence in drinking water supply systems.

A handbook on monitoring water quality of piped drinking water was also released in December 2024 to guide States and UTs in ensuring comprehensive testing and timely remedial measures wherever contamination is detected, the government added—(KNO)

Earthquake Of

floor, said. Ajay Kumar, who lives on the 11th floor of a residential building in Zirakpur, Punjab, said, "The tremors lasted for a

few seconds. We thought of rushing down but the tremors stopped soon."

272-Km Udhampur

transportation costs and improving logistics efficiency.

"Such projects also generate employment opportunities and boost tourism and industrial activity in connected regions," they added.

The government further informed that a total of 431 railway infrastructure projects covering 35,966 km, with an estimated cost of about Rs 6.75 lakh crore, are currently sanctioned across the country.

"The timely completion of projects depends on multiple factors, including land acquisition, forest clearances, shifting of utilities and local conditions," it said—(KNO)

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Rising awareness, persistent gaps

Autism in Kashmir demands early action, inclusive support

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Experts on Friday said that there is urgent need to deepen understanding, promote early diagnosis, and strengthen support systems for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Kashmir.

Renowned psychiatrist Dr Abrar Guroo said, "It's important to approach autism with empathy and sensitivity rather than limiting it to a clinical diagnosis." "As a psychiatrist, one thing I have learnt from children with autism is that they experience the world differently, not less deeply. Our job is not to change who they are, but to understand them better," he said.

Dr. Guroo elaborated that autism is far more than a label in medical records; it represents a spectrum of unique developmental patterns that vary from child to child.

"Autism is not simply a diagnosis in a file. It is a child who may struggle to speak, to connect, or to be understood—but with



early support and patience, their potential can surprise us all," he added.

Another leading psychiatrist, Dr. Aijaz Abdullah, highlighted the transformative impact of early recognition and professional support. "Early signs of autism—such as delayed speech, minimal eye contact, repetitive behaviours, and challenges in social interaction—are frequently overlooked in many Kashmiri households. These signs are often dismissed as temporary delays, leading to missed opportunities for early intervention," said Dr Abdullah, adding, "Many parents come to us wor-

ried about delayed speech or poor eye contact. Recognising these signs early and seeking help can make a huge difference in the child's development."

"We should remember that awareness is only the first step. What families really need is acceptance, support, and early intervention," he added.

Both experts emphasized that autism should not be viewed as a limitation but as a different way of perceiving and interacting with the world.

"Autism is not a lack of ability; it is a different way of experiencing and communicating with the

world," Dr. Abdullah said.

Dr Guroo added that Autism also challenges societal norms and perceptions, urging communities to adopt a more inclusive outlook. "One thing autism teaches us is humility—every mind works differently, and sometimes the child is not the one who needs to change; the world around them does," he said.

"Despite increasing awareness, access to specialized therapies—including speech therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioural interventions—remains limited in Kashmir, particularly in rural and remote areas. Many families are forced to travel long distances or depend on expensive private services, placing both financial and emotional strain on caregivers," said another doctor.

He said, "Parents of children with autism often grapple with social stigma and a lack of understanding within their communities, further compounding their challenges"—(KNO)

Stray dog menace sparks panic in Budgam's Sheikhpora Pandit Colony



AGENCIES

BUDGAM: Rising stray dog menace has triggered widespread fear among residents of Sheikhpora Pandit Colony in central Kashmir's Budgam district, with many complaining of frequent attacks and daily harassment by aggressive canine packs.

Locals said the dogs, moving in groups, have made it unsafe for children and the elderly to venture out, especially during morning and evening hours. Several residents reported being chased, while some alleged near-miss attacks in the past week.

"We are living in constant fear. Dogs roam in groups and chase people daily. Authorities are yet to take any concrete action," a resident said.

The problem, however, is not limited to the colony. Similar cases have been reported from across

Budgam, where over a dozen people were injured in a single stray dog attack recently. Officials said the district has recorded a significant number of dog bite cases in the last five days alone.

Locals attribute the growing menace to poor waste management and open garbage dumping, which attract strays to residential areas. Despite repeated complaints, residents said sterilisation and control measures remain inadequate.

The colony's residents have demanded immediate sterilisation and anti-rabies vaccination drives, removal of aggressive strays, improved sanitation, and regular municipal monitoring.

They have urged the district administration and municipal authorities to act urgently before the situation turns more serious. (KNS)

Jan Vishwas Bill's provisions promise big boost to health sector: Ministry

IANs

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Friday hailed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, recently passed by both Houses of Parliament, as a significant step to safeguard public health.

As per the provisions of the Bill, 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts administered by 23 Ministries have been amended.

Within the health sector, the amendments span key legislations including the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; the Pharmacy Act, 1948; the Food Safety and Standards Act; the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010; and the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021, said a statement.

These reforms align with the broader objective of simplifying compliance while maintaining robust safeguards for public health, it said.

A central feature of these reforms is the replacement of criminal penalties, particularly imprisonment for minor procedural violations, with graded monetary penalties.

This marks a shift towards a more facilitative regulatory

framework while retaining strict action for serious violations affecting public health and safety.

Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, several provisions have been amended to substitute imprisonment with financial penalties and to introduce a structured adjudication mechanism, the statement said.

Notably, an adjudication mechanism has been introduced for violations under Section 27A(ii) and Section 28A. This ensures that minor cosmetic violations (other than spurious or adulterated products) will not require court intervention and can instead be addressed through a civil penalty framework.

Further, violations such as non-maintenance of documents or non-submission of information, which were earlier punishable through court-imposed fines or imprisonment, can now be adjudicated through this civil penalty mechanism.

For the first time, the legislation provides for the appointment of adjudicating authorities by the Central Government and State Governments, along with a defined process that includes the issuance of show-cause notices, provision for personal hearings, and an appellate mechanism.

ACB files chargesheet against NT, Patwari in Rs 50,000 bribery trap case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Jammu & Kashmir on Friday said it has filed a chargesheet against a Naib Tehsildar and a Patwari from Uri in Baramulla district for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe to provide revenue documents.

Officials said one of the accused was caught red-handed while accepting Rs 50,000 during a trap operation.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu & Kashmir, has presented a charge-sheet before the Hon'ble Court against two public servants, namely Altaf Hussain Khan, then Naib Tehsildar Uri, and Pardeep Kumar, Patwari Halqa Uri, for their involvement in a bribery/trap case



FIR No 12-2024 of PS ACB Baramulla.

He said, a complaint was received by ACB from a resident of Uri, District Baramulla, on 11.09.2023, alleging that he had purchased land measuring 10 marlas and constructed a house thereon. Owing to a dispute with the seller, the complainant approached the Tehsil office Uri for requisite revenue documents.

"It was alleged that the accused officials demanded a bribe of ₹10 lakh, which was subsequently negotiated to ₹1 lakh, in lieu of furnishing the required

report/documents."

The spokesperson said, unwilling to succumb to corrupt practices, the complainant approached Police Station ACB Baramulla with a written complaint seeking legal action. Upon verification, a case was registered and a trap was laid. During the operation, accused Altaf Hussain Khan was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹50,000 from the complainant.

He said, the tainted amount was recovered from his possession, and he was arrested on the spot. He was subsequently remanded to police/judicial custody by the Hon'ble Court from time to time.

"Investigation into the matter has prima facie established the involvement of both accused officials, including the role of Patwari Pardeep Kumar, based

on evidence collected during the course of investigation."

The spokesperson said, upon completion of the investigation and after obtaining the requisite sanction for prosecution from the Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the ACB has today filed a charge-sheet (challan) against both accused under Section 7 and Section 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 read with Section 61 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), before the Hon'ble Special Judge, Anti-Corruption Court, Baramulla.

"The Hon'ble Court has fixed 02/05/2026 as the next date in the case. This is the 7th charge-sheet filed in the year 2026 by Police Station ACB Baramulla before the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption Court, Baramulla in different corruption cases," he said.

ERO Handwara reviews SRPER-2026; Issues directions on ERR

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Electoral Registration Officer (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi on Friday chaired a meeting to review and strategize the Summary Revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls (SRPER) 2026, with 01-04-2026 as the qualifying date, within the jurisdiction of Handwara.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the progress achieved

so far in the revision process was undertaken, and necessary directions were issued to ensure the timely and error-free completion of the exercise.

The ERO emphasized maintaining accuracy, transparency, and inclusiveness in the electoral rolls. Officers were directed to ensure proper verification of entries, inclusion of all eligible voters, and deletion of ineligible or duplicate entries strictly in accordance with

guidelines.

Special focus was laid on maximizing voter awareness and participation. PBOs were instructed to conduct door-to-door verification and facilitate eligible citizens, particularly first-time voters, in enrolling themselves in the electoral rolls.

The ERO stressed strict adherence to prescribed timelines and called for close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the smooth conduct of the

revision process.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), Tehsildars of Handwara, Vilgam, Tarathpora, Drugmulla, Qaziabad, Kralgund, and Qalamabad; Block Development Officers (BDOs) of Handwara, Mawer, Ramhall, Tarathpora, Qaziabad, Nutnoosa, and Rajwar; and Deputy Chief Education Officer, Kupwara (HQ Handwara), and other concerned officials.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL

PIN: 191201, PHONE: 0194-2416246, EMAIL: exenifcdganderbal@jfkashmir.com



SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: 03 of 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Two Cover System) are invited on Item Rate Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following works to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal: -

S No.	Name of Work	AAA	Advertisement Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Camping of Hydraulic Excavators with loaders at Shri Amarnath Ji Base Camp at Baltal (02 nos)		5.820	500/-	17,500/-	During YATRA Period	CEE/ DEE	MH 3452 REVEK Tourism
02	Providing and Installation of camp office and providing of camping facilities to the staff deployed at Shri Amarnath Ji Base Camp at Baltal	Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Sgr/ Gbl Order No: 83 of 2025-26 Dt: 30.03.2026	5.820	500/-	17,500/-	During YATRA Period	CEE/ DEE	MH 3452 REVEK Tourism
03	Clearance of existing drain network manually/ mechanically in and around Base Camp at Baltal		2.430	200/-	7,300/-	15 Days	DEE	MH 3452 REVEK Tourism
04	Removal of slips/debris from Catch water drains and resectioning of existing drains at Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Base Camp at Baltal		12.130	1000/-	36,400/-	15 Days	CEE/ DEE	MH 3452 REVEK Tourism

Total Number of Work is 04 (Four Works)
Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	02-04-2026	06:00 P.M
02	Download Date Start	03-04-2026	10:00 A.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	03-04-2026	10:00 A.M
04	Bid submission Date End	08-04-2026	04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	09-04-2026	11:00 A.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 09.04.2026 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.

4) Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.

5) All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.

6) The documents to be uploaded by all the bidders shall be verified from the issuing authority before accepting the technical bid. If any document uploaded by the prospective bidder is found to be fabricated/forged/fraud, the bidder shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against such bidder which shall include but not limited to:

- Debarment of the bidder for at least two years.
- encashment of the Earnest money deposit.
- criminal proceedings.
- Cancellation of Pre Contract Negotiations of all other works where such bidder is lowest or under consideration bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:
 - Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
 - The successful bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security and additional performance security within the prescribed time frame.
- The bidder is found to have violated the code of integrity.
- Every participating supplier/ contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/ Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidders.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the GFR-2017, Manual for procurement of works 2022 with upto date amendments, PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

NO: IFCD/GBL/ 135-84
Dated: 02.04.2026
DIPK-93-26
DT: 03/04/2026

(Er. Iftikhar Nadeem Mattoo)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation and Flood Control
Division Ganderbal

UT GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, BUDGAM.

Subject: - Final District Cadre Combined Seniority list of Jr Pharmacists/H&FW Assistants of District Budgam.
Reference: - Administrative Department Health & Medical Education Circular No: 15-HME of 2024 Dated: 24-06-2024 duly endorsed by Directorate of Health Services Kashmir under No:-DHSK/Est/NG/E-7509487/5814-48 Dated: 27-06-2024, and also Est-5th /DHSK/NG/7248-55 Dated: 12-11-2025.

CIRCULAR

Whereas, on the basis of information received from subordinate offices and as per the records available in this office, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Combined Tentative Seniority list of Jr Pharmacists/H&FW Assistants (2210) of the District were notified and circulated vide this office circular NO: Est/CMOB/NG/17478-505 Dated: 28.01.2026, NO: Est/CMOB/NG/18268-93 Dated: 12.02.2026 & No: Est/CMOB/NG/19604-629 Dated: 14.03.2026, which was circulated amongst all concerned through their DDOs, and also published in the local newspapers for inviting objections.

Whereas, in response, two representation were received one from the BMO Charisharief regarding for inclusion of the name of Shri Manoj Kumar, H&FW Assistant. after verification of records, the said official has been included in the seniority list and another from Block Medical Officer Beerwah and same has been examined and corrected after verification of the documents.

Now, therefore, the Final seniority list of Jr Pharmacists/H&FW Assistants (2210) is hereby notified and circulated among all the Jr Pharmacists/H&FW Assistants of District Cadre through their DDOs for information. The date (s) of birth and category status of the officials recorded in the seniority list shall not be taken as authentic and shall be subject to further verification with the service records/matriculation certificate issued in respect of these officials by the concerned authorities. The seniority list shall be without prejudice to the final outcome of writ Petitioners, if any pending in the Competent Courts of Law.

No: Est/CMOB/NG/2025-26/45-71
Dated: 01 /04/2026

DIPK-116-26
DT: 03/04/2026

Chief Medical Officer,
Budgam.

Adani Sportsline Academy athletes win 98 medals across disciplines in the 2025-26 season

SIANS

AHMEDABAD: Athletes from the Adani Sportsline Academy won 98 medals across Speed Skating, Skateboarding, Tennis, and Basketball in the 2025-26 season, competing in district, state, and national events between April 2025 and February 2026.

The tally includes 33 gold, 32 silver, and 33 bronze medals. Speed Skating accounted for the largest share with 23 gold, 24 silver, and 30 bronze medals, while Skateboarding contributed 10 gold, seven silver, and three bronze medals.

In Tennis, Academy players secured podium finishes in 12 of 14 tournaments. Harsha Deshpande won the Under-14 Girls Doubles title at the All-India Championship Series in Ahmedabad, claimed the Gujarat State Ranking title at Adani Sportsline Riverfront Sports Park, and won the Under-14 Girls Singles title at the All-India Cham-



ampionship Series in Jaipur. She also finished third at the School Games Federation of India (SGFI) District Tennis Tournament.

In Speed Skating, Bhakti Khandhar represented Gujarat at national inline skating competitions on three occasions. She won 23 medals at the state level and five medals at Khel Maha Kumbh. In Skateboarding, Reyansh Mashetty won two gold medals at the Gujarat State Roller Skating Asso-

ciation (GSRSA) Championship in Vadodra in November 2025.

In Basketball, Sarathya Patel, Taksh Patel, Jal Patel, and Gaurav Agarwal were selected to represent Gujarat at the Under-19 Junior State level. Bhanvi Jesalpura represented the Gujarat Under-14 Girls team at the Sub-Junior National Championship in Dehradun in 2025.

Adani Sportsline Academy offers structured train-

ing, access to high-quality facilities, and competitive exposure across various disciplines, fostering the development of sporting talent in India.

Adani Sportsline is the sports arm of the diversified Adani Group, which has a presence in ports, logistics, energy, utility, infrastructure, electric power generation and transmission, mining, airport operations, natural gas, and food processing.

Formed in 2019, Adani Sportsline has an overarching philosophy of inculcating a culture of sports at the grassroots level and creating globally competitive opportunities for future champions in India. In line with the group's vision of nation-building, the company aims to build a world-class ecosystem that nurtures sporting talent, accelerates the sports economy, and plays the role of an enabler in India's journey to become a leading sporting nation.

IPL 2026: Confidence comes from preparation, attacking mindset key for spinners in T20s, says Kuldeep

SIANS

NEW DELHI: Delhi Capitals (DC) left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav said sticking to strengths and maintaining an attacking mindset are the crucial pointers for spinners to succeed in high-scoring situations, while stressing that his confidence to perform comes from meticulous preparation and routine.

Since joining DC in 2022 season, Kuldeep has emerged as one of the most effective spinners in the IPL - with his first year in the side yielding 21 wickets - his best in a single edition of the competition.

"Whenever a batter puts you under pressure, there's a tendency to move away from your strengths and look for safer options to get out of the situation. But I believe you should always focus on your strengths.

"I usually assess the batter - how he plays, what his strengths are, and what the match situation demands. I try to read what the batter is expecting from me and stay one step ahead by predicting his next move and bowling accordingly.

"At the end of the day, your strength is your identity. If you are an attacking spinner, you should not move away from that. If you are contributing to the team by taking wickets, there is nothing better than that. The team also expects you to pick wickets. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but your mindset should always remain attacking," Kuldeep said in the pre-match press conference on Friday.

Kuldeep has consistently led the DC's spin bowling attack alongside Axar Patel, and finished as their top wicket-taker in IPL 2025 with 15 scalps, after claiming 16 wickets in 2024. His international form



mirrored this success, as he finished the 2025 Men's T20 Asia Cup as the leading wicket-taker with 17 wickets in seven innings - though it translated into just one game for Kuldeep - against Pakistan in Colombo - in India's victorious T20 World Cup campaign.

"If you don't get matches, especially in tournaments like the World Cup, your preparation becomes very important. You have to stay consistent with your training so that whenever you get an opportunity, you are ready. I didn't have any shortcomings in my preparation.

"I always prepared myself as if I had to play the next match. That helps you maintain rhythm, which is very important. When you are in touch with the game through practice sessions and follow a proper routine, it becomes easier to perform even after a gap.

"Being with the team, traveling, attending practice sessions, and keeping yourself mentally ready as if you are playing the next match is key. Even if you don't play, your mindset should always be ready," he added.

Kuldeep further said his confidence and wicket-taking abilities were linked to how good his preparation is ahead of a game. "I believe confidence comes from preparation. How well you prepare yourself

scores, and while runs are part of the format, your preparation and planning matter more.

"It's not necessary that you will always concede 40-45 runs in your four overs. Sometimes it happens, sometimes you pick up wickets. At times, one batter might dominate you - that's part of the game. In T20 cricket, it's usually one batter who takes you on, not the entire batting lineup.

"You have to be ready for that challenge while sticking to your strengths. Yes, batting is easier with smaller grounds, but your mindset should be about contributing to the team. An attacking mindset is very important. Handling pressure well is what helps players grow and move forward."

On the case of succeeding on bowling-friendly wickets in T20s, Kuldeep said, "That's where Test cricket comes in. In T20s, it depends on how well you bowl. In the last match, LSG bowled really well - they hit the right lengths, used their pace effectively, and there was some turn as well. It was a good wicket overall, even for batters.

"Different venues offer different conditions. In Delhi, you might get a flat track. In Lucknow or Chennai, conditions may favour bowlers. In Bangalore, it's more batting-friendly. That's the essence of home and away advantage, and that's how it should be.

"You shouldn't overthink conditions. If everything goes your way in cricket, you won't grow as a player. Playing in different conditions, especially away from home, challenges you. Once you adapt, things become easier. That's part of the game, and it should remain balanced for everyone," he concluded.

IPL 2026: 'That's the way they have been batting for years now,' says Shreyas Iyer on record ninth 200+ chase

SIANS

CHENNAI: Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer credited his side's explosive start and collective batting effort for chasing down a 200-plus total against Chennai Super Kings, highlighting the confidence within the group and a dressing-room mindset focused on internal standards rather than external expectations.

PBKs once again proved why they are the masters of 200-plus chases in the IPL, pulling off the feat for the ninth time as Priyansh



Arya and Shreyas Iyer dismantled the Chennai Super Kings attack. Arya set the tone with a blistering start, racing to 33 off just 9 balls as PBKS brought up their fifty in no time, while Iyer anchored the chase with a calm yet commanding

knock, accelerating from 4 off 5 to a 26-ball fifty.

"Obviously, there is a worry before getting onto the field. But the way we started today, I think it was an exceptional start. Priyansh and Prabh are doing the job at the start

and setting the bench for us to go inside. I feel that the way they have been batting for years now stabilises the rhythm for us. I am glad that everyone is getting to bat in the first two games. It gives us confidence. Whenever we are stuck in a pressure situation, people know how to go about it. It is not planned. But we just decided inside the dressing room that we want to impress each other rather than anyone outside. A certain sort of clarity as well," said Iyer after the match.

ISL 2025-26: Second-half turnaround helps Punjab edge Mohammedan

SIANS



NEW DELHI: Punjab FC came from behind with two quick goals early in the second half to defeat Mohammedan Sporting Club 2-1 in the Indian Super League 2025-26 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on Friday. The victory saw Punjab FC climb to fifth in the standings with 11 points, while Mohammedan remain pointless at the bottom. The Shers captain, Dani Ramirez, was named the Player of the Match.

Punjab FC head coach Panagiotis Dilmeris made two changes to his side, bringing in Bede Amarachi Osuji and Suresh Meitei. Mohammedan SC head coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo made six changes following their previous outing, introducing Yash Chickro, Makan Winkle Chothe, Zodingliana, Hira Mondal, Lalremsanga Fanai, and Israfil Dewan.

Punjab made a positive start at home, creating early chances. Striker Nsungusi Jr struck the crossbar in the seventh minute, while left back Muhammed Uvais headed narrowly over soon after from winger Manglen-thang Kipgen's delivery.

Despite the early pressure from the hosts, Mohammedan took the lead against the run of play in the 29th minute. A long through ball from right back Hira Mondal released Lalremsanga Fanai, who

finished calmly from the right side of the box into the far post to put the visitors 1-0 ahead.

The Shers continued to push for an equaliser before the break, with Dani Ramirez and Nsungusi Jr both going close. Center back Suresh Meitei came closest in the 45th minute with a powerful long-range effort that rattled the crossbar before bouncing on the line, as the hosts went into halftime trailing by a goal.

Dilmeris made two changes at the start of the second half, introducing Muhammad Suhail and Pramveer, and the impact was immediate.

Just two minutes after the restart, Pramveer switched play brilliantly to Ramirez, whose cross into the box was controlled by Samir Zeljkovic before being laid off to Nsungusi Jr. The striker finished calmly with his left foot to bring Punjab level at 1-1.

The hosts completed the turnaround in the 52nd minute. Ricky Shabong delivered a long ball into the box for Osuji, who squared it across goal for arriving Ramirez to finish first time into an empty net and give Punjab a 2-1 lead.

Punjab looked to extend their advantage, with Nsungusi Jr and Ramirez both threatening in the final third. Nsungusi Jr forced a save from Mohammedan keeper Padam Chettri in the 85th minute, while Ramirez fired narrowly over soon after.

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