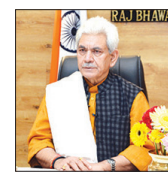


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir @LokBhavanJandK



This fight against drugs is a long one. For decades, people in Jammu Kashmir saw drugs and terrorism as separate threats. But they are not two problems, they are the two heads of the same snake. One head makes money through drugs while the other uses that money to fuel terrorism. Our terrorist neighboring country is involved in financing terror through drug smuggling, turning both drugs and money against innocent Kashmiris: Lieutenant Governor

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CM Thanks EAM As J-K Residents' Mortal Remains Repatriated From Kuwait

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed gratitude to External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar for facilitating the repatriation of the mortal remains of six residents of Jammu & Kashmir who lost their lives in a tragic road accident in Kuwait.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the efforts of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait for extending timely assistance and support to the bereaved families during this difficult time.

The deceased, all residents of Rajouri and Poonch districts, were killed in a road accident on April 8 in the town of Saad Abdullah near



Kuwait City while returning from work.

Among the victims, five hailed from Surankote in Poonch district, while one belonged to Thanamandi in Rajouri district.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah conveyed his heartfelt condolences

Crackdown Against Drug Smuggling Network Will Grow Tougher, Powerful: LG Sinha

Joins Nasha-Mukt Jammu Kashmir Campaign In Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the crackdown against drug smuggling networks will grow "tougher and more powerful" in the days ahead.

"In the days ahead, our crackdown against drug smuggling network will grow tougher and more powerful. The women of Dardpora village had met and they shared how drug smuggling funded weapons that slaughtered their families. That's why I say it loud and clear that drug traffickers and terrorists are inseparable partners in crime," the Lieutenant Governor said Wednesday while joining 'Nasha-Mukt Jammu Kashmir Campaign' Padyatra in Kupwara. The Lieutenant Governor also addressed a public gathering.

The Lieutenant Governor said that over the past 32 days,



civil and police administration struck a devastating blow to the entire drug smuggling ecosystem and this people's movement is transforming into a revolution against narcotics.

"Our consistent action is crippling narco-terrorist networks. Properties worth crores have been seized, assets confiscated, and passports of 15 smugglers recommended for cancellation.

Over 730 smugglers and peddlers have been arrested," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that at the start of this campaign in April, many doubted the possibility of a mass movement against drugs and underestimated the strength of an awakened public and the impact of determined governance with citizen support.

LG Visits Vibrant Village Trehgam In Kupwara

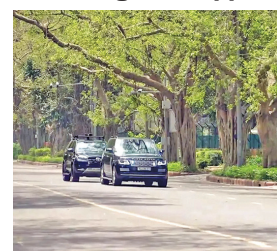
GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Wednesday visited Vibrant Village Trehgam in Kupwara. During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated and laid foundation stones for various projects. He also discussed the needs and concerns of the villagers.

Addressing a public gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Government of India is fully committed to the all-round development of border villages.

"Every village deserves All-weather roads, modern schools & abundant opportunities for the youth that is the vision driving us to transform Kupwara's border villages into model villages post-2019. Together, we will turn our resolve

LG Reduces His Convoy Size To Half Following PM's Appeal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday decided to reduce his convoy size to half following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for cutting down fuel consumption and spending more wisely, officials said here. Travel Guides & Travelogues

Sinha has decided to cut down the size of his official cavalcade by half following prime minister's appeal to the countrymen for saving fuel, Lok Bhawan officials said here.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier reduced the size of his convoy during recent domestic visits while retaining all essential security arrangements mandated under the Special Protection Group (SPG) protocols. According to reports, the reduction

Rainfall Activity To Continue Across J&K Till May 20: MeT

GMK NEWS NETWORK

next few days.

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Department on Wednesday forecast light rain, thunder-showers and gusty winds at scattered places across Jammu and Kashmir over the



The MeT Department, advised people to avoid boating and shikara rides during afternoon hours due to the possibility of strong winds and lightning.

According to the MeT Srinagar

CS Reviews Progress Under PM-SYM Scheme In J&K

Over 99,000 Unorganised Workers Enrolled Under Pension Scheme Across UT

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir, with emphasis on expanding social security coverage for unorganised workers through sustained awareness and registration drives.



The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh and other concerned officers, while Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the Labour Department to make dedicated efforts for reaching out to all eligible unorganised

Govt, Mutton Dealers At Odds Over Eid Preparedness

Administration Claims Sufficient Stock, KMDA Says No Consultations Held



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: A disagreement has emerged between government assurances and ground concerns ahead of Eid-ul-Adha, with the administration claiming sufficient stock and advance preparedness while

mutton dealers allege exclusion from stakeholder consultations and unresolved livestock movement issues from Punjab. Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, said the government has ensured adequate availability of essential

Govt To Provide Additional Food Grains During Eid, Muharram: Min Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness and ensure seamless availability of essential commodities and



public services ahead of the forthcoming Eid and Muharram observance across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq,

Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat, VC LCMA, MD RTC, RTO Kashmir. Senior officers of the administration, officers of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer

Affairs Department, representatives of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Legal Metrology Organization (LMO), Food Safety Department, PDD, R&B, PHE, SMC, district administration and other concerned agencies.

During the meeting, the Minister stressed the importance of maintaining

Hailstorm-Hit Growers Say Govt Ignoring Crop Insurance, Loan Waiver Pleas

'They're Not Serious About Safeguarding Horticulture Sector'

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Growers across Kashmir have demanded immediate government intervention after severe hailstorms and heavy rainfall caused widespread damage to orchards and standing crops in several districts, including Baramulla, Bandipora and parts of south Kashmir.

President of Sopore Fruit Mandi, Fayaz Ahmad Malik @ Kaka



Ji, said that repeated appeals for crop insurance, implementation of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and waiver of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans up

to Rs 3 lakh have gone unheard despite continuous losses suffered by farmers and orchardists over the years. "We have been time and again

Speaker Turning J&K Assembly Into 'Nawai Subah': LoP Sharma



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Kumar Sharma on Wednesday said that Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather's decision to hand over the chairmanship of eight out of nine House Committees to MLAs of the ruling National Conference-led alliance smacks of a move to turn the J&K



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Shaleen Kabra reviews Jal Jeevan Mission works in Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Department J&K, Shaleen Kabra, Wednesday conducted an extensive inspection of various Water Supply Schemes in Kupwara to review the progress, functioning and quality of drinking water supply infrastructure being developed under Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

During the visit, the Additional Chief Secretary inspected the ongoing and completed works. He appreciated the work done under the scheme and directed to complete and commission the same as soon as the funds are released by the government.

The officers and engineers from the Jal Shakti Department briefed the Additional Chief Secretary on the status of execution, water supply position, challenges faced and



measures being taken to improve services. Emphasis was laid on maintaining quality standards, ensuring timely completion of works and adhering to a proper timeframe, as funds are expected to be released in the coming months.

The Additional Chief Secretary directed the concerned officers to expedite pending works, strengthen monitoring mechanisms

and ensure optimum utilization of resources. Emphasis was also laid on public welfare, transparency and adherence to technical specifications in all development works.

The Additional Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of the field staff and Engineers working for augmentation of drinking water facilities in the district. He reiterated the

government's commitment towards providing safe and sustainable drinking water to every household.

Senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department including Chief Engineer PHE Kashmir, Director Planning Jal Shakti Department and Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Kupwara accompanied the Additional Chief Secretary during the inspection.

DC Sgr takes onsite review of proposed fencing along Budshah, Noor Jehan Bridges

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday conducted an onsite review of the proposed fencing along the sides of Budshah Bridge and Noor Jehan Bridge (Cement Kadal) to review measures aimed at enhancing public safety along the bridges.

The DC assessed the planned infrastructure upgradation works to ensure improved safety for pedestrians and commuters using the bridges.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Executive Engineer R&B, Khalid Mehmood, Executive Engineer R&B, Arif Hazari, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah and other concerned.

While reviewing the



plan of fencing of the bridges, the DC was informed that the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been formulated for fencing the sides of both these bridges. He was briefed on the status of the works, project timelines and measures being undertaken to ensure public safety.

Emphasizing quality

execution, durability and timely completion, the DC directed the concerned executing agency to ensure that the fencing not only strengthens safety measures but also maintains the aesthetics, surrounding visibility and heritage value of the structures.

The DC further instructed the executing agencies

to incorporate all necessary safety measures and complete the works within the stipulated timelines while minimizing inconvenience to commuters.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC underscored that public safety remains a top priority of the administration and said that the proposed fencing of bridges is being undertaken as a preventive safety measure in view of rising concerns over suicide incidents from bridges, as well as in response to public demand.

He added that the District Administration Srinagar has already taken several similar measures, particularly at vulnerable bridges over the river Jhelum including New Zaina Kadal, Aali Kadal, Old Zaina Kadal, Nawakadal and Safakadal in the Shahr-e-Khaas areas of the District, aimed at creating a safer environment for pedestrians and commuters by ensuring the installation of necessary safety safeguards.

Yasha Mudgal reviews Capex Budget 2026-27 for Cooperative Department

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, Wednesday chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review and finalize the Capex Budget proposals for the financial year 2026-27 pertaining to the Cooperative Department.

The meeting was attended by Director Finance, Cooperative Department, Rashmi Deepika and other senior officers of the Department.

During the meeting, the Director Finance briefed regarding the proposed Capex Budget allocations for 2026-27 under various sectors and schemes of the department. The proposals covered ongoing works, proposed new projects, infrastructural upgradation, modernization initiatives and other development projects aimed at strengthening the cooperative sector across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

A comprehensive review of the ongoing schemes, infrastructure projects, financial performance and administrative functioning of various cooperative institutions was also undertaken during the meeting.

Stressing the need for optimum and judicious utilization of Capex funds in a transparent and time-bound manner, Yasha Mudgal observed that the Capex Budget should focus on creation of durable assets, strengthening institutional infrastructure and enhancing service delivery mechanisms within the cooperative sector.

Expressing concern over the department's expenditure performance during the previous financial year,

which stood at only 58 percent, Yasha Mudgal directed the officers to adopt a result-oriented approach and work tirelessly to achieve at least 80 percent expenditure during the next six months.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized that special focus must be laid on improving the service delivery, enhancing transparency and ensuring effective implementation of government programmes for the benefit of farmers, artisans, women self-help groups and other stakeholders associated with the cooperative sector.

Emphasizing the need for result-oriented planning, Yasha Mudgal directed the officers to prioritize need-based projects having tangible public benefit and long-term developmental impact. She underscored that all proposals should be realistic, implementable and aligned with the broader objectives of cooperative growth and socio-economic development.

While reviewing the physical and financial progress of ongoing works, she directed that all projects having more than 70 percent physical progress must be completed both physically and financially before June 2026. She emphasized that timely completion of projects is essential for effective utilization of public resources and for ensuring that the intended benefits reach the stakeholders without any delay.

The Commissioner Secretary also called upon the officers to maintain close monitoring of all developmental works and ensure effective inter-departmental coordination for smooth and timely execution of approved projects.

Career seminar on gateway to IIT, NDA opportunities held in Sopore

BILAL DAR

SRINAGAR: A career seminar aimed at guiding students towards opportunities in Gateway to IIT and NDA was organised by Career Defence School in Jammu and Kashmir's Sopore on Wednesday.

The seminar was led by Founder and CEO of Career Group, Er Vinay Rai, along with Administrative Officer Er Gagan Wadhwa. The programme was organised by certified career coach Er Amir Suhail and co organised by Khan Jahangeer.

MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar attended the event as Chief Guest, while Tehsildar Sopore Sheikh Tariq participated as Guest of Honor.

A large number of students from different schools across Kashmir Valley participated in the seminar. The event was anchored by Syed Humaira.

MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar appreciated the organisers for conducting a meaningful programme for students of the Valley. He said such seminars help students gain awareness about career opportunities and motivate them to compete at national platforms.

Tehsildar Sopore Sheikh Tariq also addressed the participants and stressed the need for dedication, hard work and moral values in student life. Guest speaker Dr Shaheen Shouket Dar, independent war and peace analyst, spoke about the importance of education, discipline and critical thinking among youth. He encouraged students to stay away from negativity and channel their energy towards constructive goals and professional

excellence.

Dr Abrar Bashir, while interacting with students, highlighted the growing importance of competitive education and informed them about various career avenues available after schooling. He advised students to build confidence, improve communication skills and stay consistent in their efforts.

Speaking to media, Er Vinay Rai said that students from Jammu and Kashmir possess immense talent and only require proper guidance, discipline and exposure to national level opportunities. He said Career Defence School is committed to preparing students for competitive examinations like JEE Mains, NEET, RIMC and NDA while also focusing on personality development, leadership and nation building.

He urged students to remain focused on academics and make use of every available opportunity to shape their future careers.

A detailed question and answer session was also held during the seminar in which students raised queries regarding NDA eligibility, IIT entrance preparation, hostel facilities, scholarship opportunities, physical fitness requirements and career planning. The speakers and experts responded to the questions and guided students on different aspects of competitive preparation.

The seminar concluded with an interactive session and a vote of thanks by the organisers, who expressed gratitude to guests, speakers, participating schools and students for making the event successful.

Awareness Programme under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan held in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, an awareness programme was Wednesday organised at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Kulgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various schools across the district along with officers from different departments.



The event was organised with the aim of spreading awareness among youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging them to adopt a healthy and responsible

lifestyle.

During the programme, students presented a series of cultural performances, skits and awareness-based presentations highlighting the ill effects of substance

abuse and the importance of building a drug-free society. The performances were widely appreciated by the audience for effectively conveying the message against drug addiction.

Addressing the gathering, the DC emphasised the importance of collective efforts in combating the menace of drug abuse. He urged students to act as ambassadors of change and spread awareness within their communities regarding the adverse impact of narcotics on individuals and society.

Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir

DIPR organises Symposium-cum-Cultural Programme for students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Continuing its outreach under the "Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir - 100 Day Campaign", the Cultural Unit Jammu of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Wednesday organised a Symposium-cum-Theme Based Cultural Programme at National Public School Bari, Samba.

The programme was aimed at sensitising stu-

dents about the harmful effects of drug abuse and motivating them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle. Students actively participated in the symposium and shared insightful views on the issue, reflecting awareness and concern towards building a drug-free society.

The Chief Guest, Principal Farman Ali, appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to act as responsible citizens

by spreading awareness against drug abuse. In the competition, Sanchit Singh secured the first position for an impressive presentation, whereas Kaleef and Indrani were adjudged second and third, respectively.

Symposium was judged by Nasreen Bibi, Shashi Shekhar and Tilak Raj.

Adding further impact to the programme, a Nukkad Natak on Nasha Mukti was presented by the students of the school,

effectively conveying a strong social message. The artists of the Cultural Unit Jammu also presented theme-based songs in Hindi and Punjabi, which inspired the audience and reinforced the campaign's message through engaging performances.

The programme witnessed active participation from students, staff members and faculty, making it a meaningful awareness initiative.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT NO 14 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/ 1516, DATED 13-05-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Sound Proofing of Meeting Hall at Dak Banglow Khanabal	53.61 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 45.43 + (18% GST Amount 8.18)	1600	107220/-	90 Days	NFB	AAY Class Only

Project Authority : PWD(R&B) Circle Anantnag.
Position of AAA : Accorded vide Order No. 06 of SE/R&B/Ang/AAA of 2026-27, Dated 10.04.2026.
Position of TS : Accorded vide Order No. SEA(R&B) 05 2026-27, Dated 18.04.2026.

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13-05-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 13-05-2026 (03:00 PM)
		To 19-05-2026 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 13-05-2026 (03:00 PM)
		To 19-05-2026 (04:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 19-05-2026 (10:30 AM)
		20-05-2026
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- 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 on 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 Anantnag
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
- f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
11. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
13. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK-1269-26
DT: 13/05/2026

Javid Dar inspects facilities at Gulmarg Convention Centre, stresses enhanced tourist services



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GULMARG: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Wednesday visited the Gulmarg Convention Centre and conducted a detailed inspection of the facilities available there.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed the existing infrastructure and directed the concerned officers to ensure effective projection and wider dissemination of information regarding the tourist-friendly facilities and services being provided by the Jammu and Kashmir government. He emphasized the need for seamless coordination among the departments to ensure that the visitors are well-informed about the amenities and services available in the world-renowned tourist destination.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said

that Gulmarg, being one of the country's premier tourist destinations, holds immense significance for Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector. He underscored the importance of continuously upgrading the infrastructure and strengthening visitor-centric services to further enhance the overall tourist experience.

"Gulmarg is not only a symbol of Kashmir's natural beauty but also a key driver of the region's tourism economy. It is imperative that we ensure world-class facilities and efficient service delivery for the tourists visiting this iconic destination," the Minister stated.

He also stressed the importance of maintaining high standards of hospitality and infrastructure while preserving the ecological and scenic charm of Gulmarg.

MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah and MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Beig, accompanied the Minister during the inspection.

Javid Dar hears public grievances, assures time-bound redress

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Wednesday held an extensive public grievance hearing at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, where he interacted with scores of delegations and individuals and heard their concerns and demands.

During the public interaction, a delegation from Tuzer Sharief, Zainapora projected issues related to macadamization of roads and installation of drinking water pipelines to strengthen basic public infrastructure in the area.

Another delegation comprising carpenters from across Kashmir Division urged the Minister to extend welfare schemes' benefits to them on the lines of construction workers registered under

the Labour Commissioner J&K, emphasizing the need for greater social security and institutional support for the community.

Several individuals also raised concerns regarding execution of civil works, construction of sheds and bund walls besides seeking release of pending payments under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) and other development schemes.

Taking immediate cognizance of the issues projected during the hearing, the Minister issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for prompt resolution of the genuine public grievances. He reiterated that public grievance redress remains a top priority of the government and assured the delegations that all their demands would be addressed on priority through coordinated and time-bound action.

MLA visits KVK Gurez, appreciates innovative Agricultural Interventions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Gurez Constituency, Nazir Ahmad Khan visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Gurez and appreciated the innovative interventions being implemented by the institution for promotion of sustainable agriculture and agritourism in the valley.

During the visit, the MLA inspected several pioneering initiatives undertaken by KVK Gurez under the guidance of Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and support of Director Extension, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth.

The dignitary undertook a detailed field visit of various projects including the first-ever Tulip yard in Gurez Valley, Kala Zeera domestication fields, Lavender demonstration yard and the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) germ-

plasm bank established by the Kendra.

The initiatives are aimed at diversification of agriculture, revival of heritage crops and promotion of natural and organic farming practices in the region besides creating new opportunities for agri-tourism and livelihood generation among farmers.

Termining the Tulip initiative a "great success", the MLA said the introduction of tulips in Gurez Valley would significantly boost tourism and open new avenues for economic development in the area.

He appreciated the vision of Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai for promoting innovative agricultural practices and improving the quality of life of tribal farmers in Gurez Valley. He also lauded the efforts of Head KVK Gurez and his team for their dedication and commitment towards the farming community.

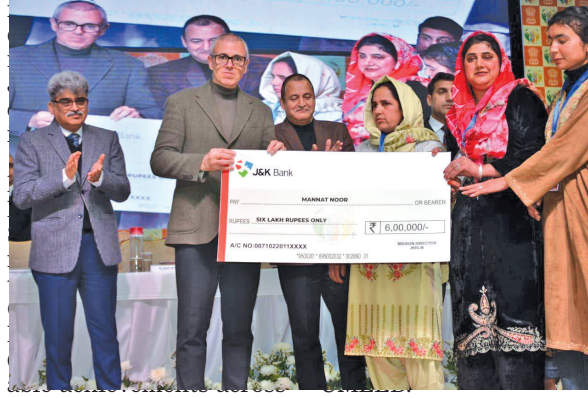
CM lauds UMEED as Shivraj Chouhan commends J&K's women-led rural development model

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday congratulated the Rural Development Department and J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission (UMEED) for their remarkable contribution towards transforming rural livelihoods and empowering women across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Minister said that the sustained efforts of the Rural Development Department and UMEED have brought about a significant socio-economic transformation in rural areas by strengthening women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs) and promoting financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.

The Chief Minister's



Jammu and Kashmir.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, the Union Minister stated that continued focus on scaling high-value enterprises, strengthening market ecosystems and deepening convergence would further accelerate the progress achieved under UMEED.

Highlighting the financial inclusion component, the Union Minister said that the progress has been complemented by over ₹3,106 crore in bank credit and ₹820 crore in capitalization support facilitated under the programme.

During his Budget Speech 2026-27, the Chief

Minister had reiterated that under the Lakhpati Didi initiative, 2,00,952 SHG women had already become Lakhpati Didis, while the remaining 32,048 potential households would be covered by June 2026 to further enhance women's economic empowerment and rural enterprise.

Over 8.10 lakh women have been mobilised into more than 96,000 SHGs, with over ₹3,106 crore in bank credit facilitated and more than 2.30 lakh women achieving annual incomes above ₹1 lakh under the Lakhpati Didi initiative.

The Chief Minister had also stated that the government would proactively increase the number of Lakhpati Didis by converging the initiative with Mission Yuva.

Union Joint Secretary W&CD reviews education initiatives in Doda

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: Union Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development and Member of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the School Education Department at DC Office Complex Doda.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal, SSP, CPO, Joint Director Education, CEO, DSWO, State Coordinator Samagra Shiksha PM Shri Schools besides other officers and staff of the Education Department.

During the meeting, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma directed the Chief Education Officer Doda and heads of institutions to enhance year-wise student enrollment in PM Shri Schools. He asked for intensifying awareness campaigns among the local population regarding the facilities and benefits being provided under the PM Shri initiative.

The CEO highlighted the issue of shortage of Principals and Headmasters in



schools across the district.

Responding to the concern, Union Joint Secretary assured that the matter would be taken up at the appropriate level for necessary action.

The CEO informed the meeting that PM Shri Schools are functioning as exemplary institutions by sharing human resources, digital learning facilities and educational activities with nearby schools under a cluster-based approach.

Dr. Sharma directed the CEO to ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation of these clusters for improving the overall academic performance and governance.

Emphasizing the importance of cyber awareness among the students, Union Joint Secretary directed all the school heads to make cyber safety, cyber security and responsible use of

social media a regular part of morning assemblies. He further stressed that every teacher should undergo cyber safety and security training to effectively guide students.

Union Joint Secretary also underscored the importance of vocational education and directed that vocational training opportunities be extended to all students to equip them with practical skills and career-oriented knowledge.

The CEO informed the meeting that several innovative initiatives have been undertaken by PM Shri Schools, including Green School initiatives, field and exposure visits, Bal Sansad programmes, drug abuse awareness campaigns and science exhibitions aimed at promoting environmental awareness, leadership qualities, healthy lifestyles, practical learning and

scientific temperament among students.

Union Joint Secretary further directed the Education Department to organize regular career counselling programmes in schools to help students explore future career opportunities. He emphasized that such guidance sessions should also be conducted during study sessions for maximum outreach and effectiveness.

Highlighting the importance of child rights protection, Dr. Sharma emphasized the collective responsibility of institutions, parents, teachers and society in ensuring a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for every child. He stressed the need to create greater awareness regarding children's rights and to ensure their access to quality education, healthcare and holistic development.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal submitted proposals regarding capsule courses and specialized training programmes for heads of schools to strengthen institutional leadership and improve the overall quality of education in the district.

Aarohan 2026

Satish Sharma calls upon youth to lead fight against drug abuse

Urges young minds to "Rise, Shine and Conquer" through innovation, discipline, purpose

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Wednesday called upon the youth of the nation to become torchbearers of a drug-free, progressive and empowered India.

He was speaking at the closing ceremony of Aarohan 2026.

Addressing the participants, dignitaries and youth delegates from across the country, the Minister lauded the Department of Youth Services & Sports for organising the national-level event which brought together more than 300 young participants from nine States and Union Territories in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the theme of the festival, "Rise, Shine and Conquer", the Minister said that Aarohan 2026 had emerged as a vibrant platform showcasing the energy, innovation and leadership potential of

India's youth. He highlighted that through initiatives like the Young Leaders Dialogue, Cultural Track and Hackathon, the festival successfully channelised the creativity and aspirations of young minds towards nation-building.

Satish Sharma expressed deep concern over the growing menace of drug abuse, describing it as one of the greatest challenges confronting the society today. He said that substance abuse was no longer a distant issue but a harsh reality affecting the schools, colleges and neighbourhoods across Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

"Drugs do not offer escape; they offer destruction. One moment of curiosity or peer pressure can derail a lifetime of promise," the Minister remarked, while urging the youth to safeguard their lives, ambitions and talents from the trap of addiction.

The Minister appreciated the inclusion of drug de-addiction as a key theme in the Aarohan 2026 Hackathon. He said that

innovative youth-led solutions and awareness campaigns can play a transformative role in combating the crisis. He appealed to young people to become ambassadors of awareness in their homes and communities and to support those struggling with addiction by guiding them towards help and rehabilitation.

Emphasizing the importance of sports and constructive engagement, Satish Sharma described sports as the most powerful weapon against addiction. He said sports instill discipline, resilience, self-confidence and teamwork among youth. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards strengthening sports infrastructure across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir to ensure that every young person has access to opportunities for growth and healthy living.

The Minister further stated that the government of Jammu and Kashmir is actively expanding de-addiction centres, promoting awareness pro-

grammes in educational institutions and taking firm action against drug networks. However, he maintained that the fight against addiction can only be won through collective societal participation.

"Real victory will come when families, teachers, communities and youth themselves unite against this menace," he said.

Calling youth the true strength of Jammu and Kashmir and the nation, Satish Sharma said that the future of India rests in the creativity, energy and determination of its young generation. Referring to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, he urged the participants to dedicate themselves to innovation, service and nation-building.

The Minister encouraged the youth to rise above every temptation, shine through their talents and conquer every challenge life presents, while reiterating that Jammu & Kashmir today stands defined not by its past but by the brilliance and aspirations of its youth.

Advisor to CM calls on Javed Rana; discusses J&K's development priorities



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Wednesday called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar and held discussions on a range of development issues concerning the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The two exchanged views on accelerating development across various sectors and deliberated upon measures to further strengthen public service delivery and administrative responsiveness in the UT. They reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people and stressed that developmental initiatives must reach every section of society, particularly those in remote and under-served areas.

Both emphasized that the administration remains firmly focused on translating policy intent

into ground-level outcomes. They said that sustained coordination among the departments and leadership would be key to achieve the development aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Similarly, several delegations also called on the Minister at his office chamber and apprised him of various issues and demands pertaining to their respective departments and communities.

Among them, the DFO Forest Association projected matters relating to the grant of non-functional promotions and other service-related issues concerning the departmental employees, seeking the Minister's intervention for their early resolution.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured them that their genuine concerns would be examined sympathetically and pursued for appropriate consideration at the relevant forums.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the father's name of my son Mohammad Absar Shah, a student of Islamia Hanfia Model High School Harran, Ganderbal, is wrongly recorded in the school records as "Ghulam Hassan Shah". That the correct and actual name of his father is "Gh. Hassan Shah". Now, therefore, this notice is published for correction of the said error in the school records. If anybody has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may file the same before the Principal of Islamia Hanfia Model High School Harran, Ganderbal, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and necessary correction will be made accordingly.

Gh. Hassan Shah
F/o Mohammad Absar Shah
R/o Harran, Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the father's name of my DAUGHTER ZEBHIA HASSAN, a student of Islamia Hanfia Model High School Harran, Ganderbal, is wrongly recorded in the school records as "Ghulam Hassan Shah". That the correct and actual name of his father is "Gh. Hassan Shah". Now, therefore, this notice is published for correction of the said error in the school records. If anybody has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may file the same before the Principal of Islamia Hanfia Model High School Harran, Ganderbal within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and necessary correction will be made accordingly.

Gh. Hassan Shah
F/o ZEBHIA HASSAN
R/o Harran, Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the particulars of my daughter in her Birth Certificate have been wrongly recorded as follows: NAME .MALOOKA AKHTER FATHER NAME.WASIM AHMAD SHAH Whereas the correct particulars are: Correct NAME . MALOOKA WASEEM FATHER NAME.WASEEM GANI SHAH Correct Date of Birth: 25.7.2012 If anybody has any objection to the above correction, he/she may file the same before the office of BDO, Ganderbal within the stipulated period. After that, no objection shall be entertained and the records shall be corrected accordingly.

WASEEM GANI SHAH
F/o MALOOKA WASEEM
R/o RANGIL, Gbl.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the Handloom Registration-cum-Identity Card issued by the Directorate of Handloom Development Department J&K Govt. in favour of Ab. Rashid Kandoo S/o Gh. Qadir R/o Shouma bearing Registration No. H/10/Reg-F-16 dated 16-12-2008 has been torn/damaged and is no longer in usable condition.

Now, the undersigned has applied for issuance of a Duplicate Handloom Card from the concerned authority. If anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of the duplicate card, he/she may file the same before the concerned Handloom Department Office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, the duplicate card shall be issued in favour of the applicant.

Ab. Rashid Kandoo
S/o Gh. Qadir
R/o Shouma Aistange ganderbal

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Heartbreaking Setback

The NEET-UG 2026 Cancellation

The dream of becoming a doctor is a long, grueling marathon, but for lakhs of Indian students, that finish line was just ripped away. On Wednesday, the central government made the staggering decision to cancel the NEET-UG 2026 exam, the nation's largest medical entrance test, following serious allegations of paper leaks and systemic "irregularities." The fallout isn't just about administrative failure; it's about the emotional toll on students who have dedicated years of their lives to a single day of testing. The medical community has reacted with a mix of fury and exhaustion. The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) didn't mince words, labeling the situation a disgrace. Dr. Mohammad Momin Khan of FAIMA took to X (formerly Twitter) to voice the frustration felt by many: "Honest students study for years, while paper leak mafias play with their future. Absolutely shameful." His words highlight a painful reality: while students are burning the midnight oil, "networks" and "mafias" are allegedly profiting by compromising the integrity of the country's most important exams. The Decision: The exam held on May 3 has been completely scrapped. The Re-take: A fresh examination will be scheduled, with new dates to be announced soon. The Investigation: The case has been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to uncover exactly how the leak happened. The Catalyst: The National Testing Agency (NTA) admitted the decision followed evidence from law enforcement that suggested the exam's integrity had been fundamentally breached. For the aspirants, this is a nightmare scenario. Instead of resting after their exams or preparing for counseling, they are now faced with the prospect of picking up their textbooks all over again, fueled by anxiety rather than ambition. The news has already sparked outrage on the streets. Members of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) held heated protests near Shastri Bhavan, with many seen climbing barricades to demand accountability from the central government. This controversy has placed the NTA under a microscope. It's no longer just about one exam; it's about whether our national testing system is secure enough to protect the hard work of our youth. As the CBI begins its probe, the demand for "stricter safeguards" is no longer just a suggestion, it is a desperate plea for justice from the next generation of India's doctors.

Saving A Generation

How LG Sinha's Anti-Drug Campaign Is Reclaiming J&K's Future

DR. RIZWAN RUMI

Drug addiction has emerged as one of the gravest social and public health crises confronting Jammu and Kashmir in recent years. The alarming spread of narcotics among the youth has deeply disturbed families, educational institutions and communities across the Union Territory. What was once perceived as an isolated urban problem has now penetrated villages, towns, colleges and even school environments, threatening the social fabric and future stability of society. At such a critical juncture, the initiative launched under the leadership of Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, through the campaign "Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir" has emerged as one of the most determined and comprehensive anti-drug movements in the region's recent history.

The campaign reflects far more than a conventional administrative programme. It represents a visionary social mission aimed at protecting the younger generation from the devastating grip of addiction and restoring hope, dignity and direction to society. Under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, the administration has adopted a multi-dimensional strategy combining strict law enforcement, mass awareness, rehabilitation, youth engagement, institutional participation and community mobilization. The message from the administration has been unequivocal: the future of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be surrendered to narcotics and drug syndicates.

The seriousness with which Manoj Sinha has addressed the issue became particularly evident with the launch of the extensive 100-day anti-drug campaign across Jammu and Kashmir. Massive awareness rallies, padyatras, seminars, counseling drives and public outreach programmes are organized throughout the Union Territory with active participation from students, teachers, police personnel, NCC cadets, civil society organizations and ordinary citizens. The campaign successfully transformed the anti-drug movement from a government initiative into a broader people's movement, creating widespread public consciousness regarding the dangers of substance abuse.

One of the defining strengths of the Lieutenant Governor's approach has been his emphasis on collective responsibility. He repeatedly stressed that drug addiction is not merely a law-and-order issue but a "social cancer" that requires the united efforts of government institutions, families, educational bodies, religious leaders and society at large. This broader social understanding has given the campaign a moral and humanitarian dimension beyond administrative action.



Under the guidance of Manoj Sinha, law enforcement agencies intensified operations against narcotics networks and drug traffickers across the Union Territory. Hundreds of peddlers were arrested, large consignments of heroin, charas and other narcotics were seized and properties linked to drug trafficking were attached. The administration also adopted stringent measures such as freezing financial assets, confiscating properties and initiating strict legal action against organized drug syndicates. Such decisive steps sent a strong message that those attempting to destroy the future of the youth would face uncompromising action.

Equally significant has been the administration's recognition that addiction must also be viewed as a public health and humanitarian issue. The Lieutenant Governor consistently emphasized that victims of substance abuse require counseling, rehabilitation and social support rather than social stigma and isolation. Consequently, the government strengthened de-addiction centres, counseling services and rehabilitation facilities across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. This compassionate approach reflects administrative sensitivity and an understanding that genuine reform requires both enforcement and rehabilitation.

Educational institutions have also played a pivotal role in the "Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir" campaign. Schools, colleges and universities have been actively mobilized to conduct awareness programmes, debates, seminars, sports activities and youth engagement initiatives. Thousands of students across Jammu and Kashmir have participat-

ed in anti-drug campaigns, becoming ambassadors of awareness within their own communities. Such interventions are crucial because prevention begins with education and awareness.

The campaign has also witnessed innovative outreach efforts. Awareness drives were conducted not only in educational institutions and urban centres but also in rural areas, public spaces

The campaign reflects far more than a conventional administrative programme. It represents a visionary social mission aimed at protecting the younger generation from the devastating grip of addiction and restoring hope, dignity and direction to society.

and transportation networks. The administration's anti-drug movement reached even remote communities, ensuring that awareness penetrated every section of society. These efforts demonstrated the administration's seriousness in confronting the menace at

every possible level.

Importantly, the Lieutenant Governor's anti-drug initiative is closely linked with the broader vision of youth empowerment and social development in Jammu and Kashmir. Alongside the crackdown on narcotics, the administration has promoted sports activities, skill development programmes, entrepreneurship schemes and employment opportunities for youth. This reflects a deeper understanding that unemployment, frustration, social alienation and lack of opportunities often contribute to substance abuse. By creating constructive alternatives, the administration seeks to protect young people from falling into destructive patterns.

The personal involvement of Manoj Sinha in anti-drug rallies and awareness campaigns has also carried immense symbolic importance. His active participation conveyed that the fight against drugs is among the highest priorities of the administration. Such leadership has strengthened public confidence and encouraged wider community participation in the movement.

The challenge of eradicating drug addiction is undoubtedly enormous. No society can eliminate such a deep-rooted menace overnight. However, the "Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir" initiative has laid the foundation for a sustained social transformation. It has broken the silence surrounding addiction, generated public awareness, strengthened institutional coordination and created a renewed sense of collective responsibility.

Today, Jammu and Kashmir stands at a defining moment. On one side lies the danger of addiction, broken families, declining social health and the loss of youthful potential. On the other side lies the possibility of a healthier, educated, empowered and resilient society. The determined efforts undertaken under the leadership of Manoj Sinha represent a sincere attempt to ensure that the younger generation is protected from the devastating consequences of narcotics.

The fight against drugs is ultimately a fight for the soul and future of society. It is a battle to preserve human dignity, social harmony and the aspirations of generations yet to come. The "Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir" campaign stands as a powerful example of visionary leadership and administrative commitment directed toward safeguarding the future of Jammu and Kashmir. If pursued with the same determination, public participation and institutional commitment, this movement can emerge as one of the most significant social reform initiatives in the contemporary history of the region.

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Chintan Shivir: Aligning India's Sporting Future Through Shared Vision

PULLELA GOPICHAND

Having had the opportunity to be part of two Chintan Shivirs, I can say with conviction that this is one of the most timely and impactful initiatives in Indian sport today. We find ourselves at a significant moment in our nation's sporting journey—one where intent, investment, and inspiration are converging like never before.

Over the past decade, under the leadership of Narendra Modi, sport in India has moved from the margins to the mainstream. There is a palpable national awareness about its importance—not just as a competitive pursuit, but as a vehicle for health, discipline, and national pride.

Today, we see an ecosystem that is both vast and diverse: state governments, NGOs, corporates, federations, and grassroots institutions are all actively contributing to the growth of sport.

What makes the Chintan Shivir particularly valuable is its ability to bring all these stakeholders onto a common platform. Sport, by its very nature, intersects with multiple sectors—manufacturing, entertainment, fitness, media and education. The Shivir helps align these moving parts, creating a shared vision that is essential for long-term success.



It brings the country's collective perspective to the forefront while also showcasing best practices from different states, encouraging replication and innovation.

More than just a conference, the Chintan Shivir is a learning ecosystem. It allows stakeholders to exchange ideas, understand challenges, and collaboratively build solutions. It also serves as a powerful motivator—highlighting success stories and reinforcing the idea that sport in India is not limited to elite medals alone, but is about participation, inclusivity, and nation-building.

Initiatives like Fit India Movement, the celebration of International Day of Yoga, and community-driven activities such as cycling events have helped redefine how we view sport. The emphasis is now

on "sport for all" alongside excellence at the highest level. Medal aspirations and mass participation are no longer separate conversations—they are part of the same continuum.

Hosting the Shivir in Srinagar added another layer of significance. The city's serene beauty provides not just a picturesque backdrop, but also a sense of calm reflection—something that is essential for meaningful dialogue.

A particularly important outcome of this Chintan Shivir was the adoption of the Srinagar Khel Sankalp. This Sankalp is more than a statement of intent—it is a unifying framework that binds together the aspirations of all stakeholders in Indian sport. By clearly outlining shared goals, priorities, and responsibilities, it creates a roadmap

that encourages collaboration rather than fragmentation.

The true strength of the Srinagar Khel Sankalp lies in its ability to bring diverse partners—governments, federations, private sector, and civil society—onto the same page. It reinforces the idea that India's sporting rise cannot be driven by isolated efforts. Instead, it must be powered by a coordinated, collaborative approach where resources, knowledge, and expertise are pooled together.

This alignment is critical if India is to achieve its long-term ambition of becoming one of the top 10 nations at the Olympic Games by 2036. Building world-class athletes requires not just talent, but a seamless ecosystem—grassroots identification, scientific training, infrastructure, coaching

excellence, competition exposure, and sustained financial and institutional support. The Sankalp provides the strategic glue that can connect all these elements into a cohesive system.

What stands out most from these interactions is the optimism across the ecosystem. There is a shared belief that India's sporting future is bright, and that through collaboration, we can build a robust, inclusive, and high-performing sporting culture.

The Chintan Shivir is, in many ways, a unique experiment—but one that is already proving to be successful. It underscores the importance of dialogue, alignment, and mutual understanding. For a country as diverse as India, such platforms are not just beneficial—they are essential.

If we are to truly realise our ambitions on the global sporting stage, these conversations must continue—and be backed by collective action. The Srinagar Khel Sankalp gives us that direction. The Chintan Shivir gives us that platform. Together, they provide India with a powerful foundation to transform its sporting aspirations into sustained Olympic success.

(The Author is Chief National Coach for the India national badminton team - PIB)

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

Wrong Room

Why Place Matters As Much As Ability



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

A bottle of Coca-Cola is an ordinary object. We see it in grocery stores, small shops, restaurants, cinemas, and airports. The liquid inside remains the same. The bottle does not become bigger, sweeter, healthier, or more powerful when it moves from one place to another. Yet its price changes dramatically. In a supermarket, it may cost one dollar. In a restaurant, it may cost three dollars. At an airport, it may cost four or five dollars. The bottle has not changed, but the environment around it has changed. This simple example carries a powerful lesson for human life: sometimes our value is not low; we are simply standing in the wrong place.

Many people lose confidence because they are not appreciated where they are. A talented teacher may feel ordinary in an institution that values paperwork more than classroom impact. A hardworking employee may feel invisible in an office where favoritism is stronger than merit. A student may feel weak in a classroom where marks are valued more than curiosity. A writer may feel discouraged because one editor rejected an article. A young entrepreneur may feel defeated because one investor did not understand the idea. In each case, the person may begin to believe, "Perhaps I am not good enough." But the real question may be different: "Am I in the right environment?"

The tragedy of modern life is that many people measure their worth through the eyes of those who never had the vision to see it. They accept the judgment of a small circle as if it were the verdict of the whole world. One rejection becomes a life sentence. One failure becomes a definition. One insult becomes an identity. But a person's value cannot be decided by one workplace, one classroom, one society, or one opinion.

History repeatedly proves this. Many great scientists, writers, artists, leaders, and reformers were misunderstood in the beginning. Their ideas were rejected not because they were worthless, but because their surroundings were not ready. A seed cannot become a tree if it is thrown on concrete. The problem is not always with the seed. Sometimes the problem is with the soil.

Consider a diamond. If it is lying in

History repeatedly proves this. Many great scientists, writers, artists, leaders, and reformers were misunderstood in the beginning. Their ideas were rejected not because they were worthless, but because their surroundings were not ready.

dust, someone may mistake it for an ordinary stone. But when it reaches the hands of a jeweller, its brilliance is recognized. The diamond did not become valuable only when the jeweller saw it. It was already valuable. Recognition came later. Human beings also carry abilities that may remain hidden until they meet the right opportunity, the right mentor, the right institution, or the right platform.

This is especially important for young people. Many students compare themselves with others and quickly conclude that they are behind in life. They see classmates scoring higher marks, friends getting jobs earlier, or



social media influencers displaying success, and they begin to doubt their own future. But life is not a race on a single track. Each person has a different field, different pace, different strength, and different timing. A fish should not judge itself by its ability to climb a tree. A bird should not feel inferior because it cannot swim like a fish. The question is not whether you are valuable. The question is whether you are developing your value in the right direction.

The workplace offers another powerful example. There are employees who remain average for years in one organization, then suddenly shine after moving to another. The person is the same, but the culture is different. In one place, creativity may be punished; in another, it may be rewarded. In one office, initiative may be seen as arrogance; in another, it may be seen as leadership. In one institution, a person may be treated as a burden; in another, the same person may become an asset. This is why people must not confuse lack of recognition with lack of ability.

However, this lesson should not be misunderstood. It does not mean that every criticism is wrong or every failure is caused by the environment. Self-improvement is essential. A bottle of water cannot demand the price of medicine unless it has the quality required for that value. Similarly, a person must continue learning, improving skills, correcting weaknesses, and developing discipline. Self-worth does not mean self-deception. Confidence must

be supported by competence.

But competence also needs context. A brilliant mathematician may not be valued in a place that has no respect for analytical thinking. A sincere journalist may struggle in a system that rewards sensationalism over truth. A compassionate doctor may feel suffocated in a profit-driven medical setup. A principled leader may be ignored in a society addicted to shortcuts. The fault may not lie only with the individual; sometimes the environment itself has become too small for the person's purpose.

This message also applies to societies and nations. Countries lose their best minds when they fail to value them. When researchers are not supported, they migrate. When teachers are underpaid and disrespected, education declines. When honest officers are sidelined, corruption grows. When youth are not given opportunities, frustration spreads. A nation that does not recognize the value of its people forces them to search for value elsewhere. Human talent is like water: if blocked in one direction, it will find another path.

Parents and teachers also need to understand this lesson deeply. A child who does not excel in one subject may have extraordinary ability in another. A student weak in mathematics may be strong in communication, design, sports, business, or social leadership. Unfortunately, many children are labelled too early. They are told they are "slow," "average," or "not

capable." Such words can damage confidence for years. Instead of fixing permanent labels on young minds, we should help them discover the field where their ability can breathe.

Social media has made this problem more complicated. People now seek validation from likes, views, comments, and followers. A meaningful thought may receive little attention while a shallow trend becomes viral. Does that mean the meaningful thought has no value? Certainly not. The digital world often rewards speed, shock, and entertainment more than depth, truth, and wisdom. Therefore, we must not hand over the measurement of our worth to algorithms.

The lesson of the airport Coca-Cola is not about price alone. It is about positioning. The same product becomes more valuable where demand, need, and context are different. Human beings too must learn to position themselves wisely. If your talent is ignored in one place, improve it and search for a better place. If your voice is not heard in one room, do not stop speaking forever; find the audience that needs your message. If your efforts are not respected, do not immediately conclude that your efforts are useless. Perhaps they are being invested in the wrong soil.

Life demands patience, but it also demands movement. Waiting in the wrong place forever is not patience; it is self-neglect. Loyalty is noble, but loyalty to a place that continuously destroys your dignity becomes dangerous. Respect others, but do not allow their limited judgment to become the boundary of your life. The world is full of people who discovered their worth only after leaving the place where they were underestimated. Their success was not magic. They simply moved from a place that priced them cheaply to a place that understood their value.

So, when life makes you feel ordinary, remember the bottle at the airport. It did not change its contents. It changed its context. Sometimes, you do not need to become someone else. You need to become better, stronger, and wiser—but you may also need to stand where your value can finally be seen.

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Miracle Of Guess Paper

When Hard Work Starts Losing And Leak Culture Starts Winning



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

These days, the atmosphere surrounding the NEET exam is as if a web series full of mystery and thriller has been released. Every day, a new revelation, a new character, and a new story emerge. Some are saying that the question paper was circulating in advance, while others are claiming that the "guess paper" contained the same questions as the actual exam. Not only the questions, but the order of the options, the language, even commas and full stops are being reported as identical. Now, students and parents are wondering whether this was a "guess" or a miracle of some supernatural power?

If all this is true, then the people of the country certainly want to see the "Guruji" who performed this miracle. For years, large coaching institutes in Kota and Sikar have been building structures worth billions of rupees and claiming success. Thousands of teachers have been teaching day and night. Students have been risking their sleep, childhood, and even mental peace to prepare. But what lakhs of rupees in fees and years of hard work could not achieve, a single "guess paper" has accomplished. This is the most scathing satire on the education system.

It's being reported that 90 out of 90 questions in Biology and 45 out of 45 in Chemistry matched. If so, it can't be a mere coincidence. This is an insult to the hard work of millions



of students who study diligently. It's a mockery of the struggle of a farmer father who sells his land to pay his child's fees. It's an attack on the hopes of a mother who sacrifices her dreams for her child's future.

An exam like NEET isn't just an exam; it's a door to millions of dreams. Here, a single mark can change the course of life. In such a situation, if there's a suspicion that the question paper has been leaked or is available in advance, trust is the first thing to be shattered. And when trust in the education system begins to wane, not just the exam, but the entire society is in crisis.

The most interesting thing is that the matter reached the police on the day of the exam. Some people were even arrested, but no FIR has been filed yet. This silence raises questions. Are influential people under attack? Has education become such a big business that people are afraid to expose the truth? Or is this the same old story where money and influence are more valuable than hard work?

Today, the hardworking student feels betrayed. He spent years immersing himself in books, taking test series, and studying all night.

But someone else "saw" the question paper before the exam. What value does all that hard work hold? It's natural for the student to wonder whether the mistake was his or her honesty's?

This isn't just cheating on exams, but an attack on the morality of society. When young people begin to see that the path to success isn't hard work, but rather through jugaad, networking, and leaks, the entire generation begins to lose faith. Then, they begin to rely more on "WhatsApp University" than on books.

Cities like Sikar and Kota have become more symbolic of the "selection industry" than of education. Coaching institutes line every street, rank and result billboards at every corner, and "100% selection" claims adorn every wall. It seems as if every homeowner wakes up in the morning to first put up an "IIT-NEET Academy" sign and then drink tea. Students arrive from villages with dreams, and parents take out loans to pay their fees. But now this entire system is being questioned.

If the question paper was circulating in advance, how honest is this entire system? Is it truly a center

of education or a marketplace of dreams? Here, fewer students and more "result products" are visible. Large billboards feature more photos of institution owners than students, while the real struggle is that of the child locked in a room, studying day and night.

The most tragic situation is faced by middle-class and rural families.

If all this is true, then the people of the country certainly want to see the "Guruji" who performed this miracle. For years, large coaching institutes in Kota and Sikar have been building structures worth billions of rupees and claiming success.

Parents sell their savings, farms, and even jewelry so that their children can become doctors. Children withdraw from social life and focus solely on their studies. But when they discover that some "teacher" has already given them the question paper, they develop a deep distrust of the system.

Today, people are sarcastically asking whether they should buy books next time or contact "leak experts"

directly? This isn't a joke, it's the most serious indictment of our education system. If hard work and honesty begin to lose ground, society stops respecting talent.

Each time, governments promise an investigation. A few arrests are made, press conferences are held, and then the matter gradually cools down. But for a student whose year is wasted, it's not just news, it's a life-threatening crisis. The mental stress, financial losses, and shattered dreams go unreported.

The need now is not just to catch the culprits, but to make the entire examination system transparent and secure. Accountability must be established at every level, from question paper creation to distribution. Strict action must be taken against the exam mafia and influential networks. Otherwise, this same story will repeat itself every year, and millions of new students will lose faith in the system each time.

At present, the public's biggest curiosity is who this "Guruji" is? Who is this accomplished man whose predictions come true down to the comma? Did he perform any penance, or did this "knowledge" come from some other source? Because if guess papers become so accurate, perhaps the "Guruji Institute" will see more crowds than the country's universities.

Satire is fine, but the truth is profound. This isn't just a crisis of an exam, but a crisis of trust. And the day hardworking youth believe that the path to success lies not in knowledge but in jugaad—that day the foundation of society begins to weaken. Therefore, now is not just the time for discussion, but for decisive reform. Otherwise, future generations will seek their future not in books but in leaked question papers.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

CM Thanks EAM As J-K

to the families of the deceased and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls. He also prayed for strength and fortitude to the bereaved families to bear the irreparable loss.

Rainfall Activity To

on Wednesday recorded a maximum temperature of 22.5 Degrees Celsius, 1.8 notches below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 10.2 Degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a high of 22.4 Degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 17 Degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 13.4 Degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.7 degrees Celsius, while Katra registered 31.4 Degrees Celsius and Banihal 20.6 Degrees Celsius.

The MeT office said Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness partly cloudy weather with spells of light rain and thundershowers at scattered to many places on May 14, accompanied by thunder and gusty winds at a few places during afternoon hours, while light rain and thundershowers are likely at scattered places between May 15 and 16.

The weather department has also warned of the possibility of thunder, lightning and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph at a few places in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

"People are advised to suspend boating and shikara riding generally towards afternoon and late afternoon hours," the advisory said.

The MeT office said weather conditions are expected to remain generally dry from May 21 to 23—(KNO)

Crackdown Against Drug

"With people's participation and massive support across the Union Territory, a truly organic movement has emerged across villages, urban neighborhoods, schools, colleges, and the streets of Jammu Kashmir.

This fight against drugs is a long one. For decades, people in Jammu Kashmir saw drugs and terrorism as separate threats. But they are not two problems but they are the two heads of the same snake. One head makes money through drugs while the other uses that money to fuel terrorism. Our terrorist neighbor is involved in financing terror through drug smuggling, turning both drugs and money against innocent Kashmiris," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further observed that the drug smuggling is destroying families and communities and it is providing terror groups their oxygen. He said by dismantling drug smuggling networks, the administration is cutting the lifeline that feeds the fire of terror.

"In Kupwara and Handwara areas combined, 28 drug smugglers are now behind bars. I want to urge our police officers, the soldiers guarding Kupwara's borders, and the Anti-Narcotics Task Force warriors that not a single guilty should escape. As a border district, Kupwara must stay extra vigilant and take the harshest action against drug smugglers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

It is pertinent to mention that every police station in Kupwara has been directed to gather full details on active drug smugglers and peddlers in their areas and launch decisive action within the next 68 days.

The Lieutenant Governor also urged citizens of Kupwara to participate in awareness drive. He also emphasized on rehabilitation and asked the officers and stakeholders to treat drug addicts as a victim trapped in the dark web of narcotics.

"The drug addicts need our compassion. They are our responsibility. We have to support every young man and woman seeking counseling or treatment. We must ensure they return to society's mainstream. Senior officials must ensure swift action on every complaint and tip coming through the Manas portal and toll-free number. This has to be done with commitment. Every citizen of Kupwara must remember that we will reach every young person extending a hand for help. Together, we will dismantle the drug smuggling networks, free our youth from addiction's clutches, and reconnect them to the path of progress," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor challenged those criticizing 'Nasha-Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan' and said that they should name just one innocent person who was unfairly targeted and effective action will be taken. He said if anyone is trying to protect drug smugglers, we must ask ourselves should they face consequences or not? The Lieutenant Governor said that people of Jammu Kashmir are very clear and firm and they want stringent action against drug smugglers and when the people unite, no force can stop us.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor unveiled the trophies of Kupwara Forest League by Forest Department and Youth Service and Sports's Volleyball Championship under Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan.

He also felicitated the winner of reel making competition on drug abuse.

LG Visits Vibrant Village

into reality," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said that it is central government's commitment to ensure that every child of Trehgam receives the same quality education available in J&K's cities.

I want farmers here to access superior seeds, reliable irrigation, and strong market linkages. Trehgam has made remarkable strides in self-employment, with 205 self-help groups and 85 units under Mission Youth already operational. The revival of the historic Sharda Temple in Teetwal has breathed new life into tourism sector. In 2018-19, only 6,900 tourists visited Kupwara, however, in 2024-25, that number surged to 3,77,000. I'm confident that in the next one or two years, every border village will script its own story of prosperity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor recalled that he had visited Machil on 5th October, 2020, and Keran and Machil areas were connected with Grid Power after 70 years of waiting.

"At that time, reliable power reached about 70% of families in Kupwara's other villages. In just four years, we have extended it to nearly 95% of households. Telecom connectivity in border villages now stands at 88%. Concerned officials should ensure 100% coverage by the end of this year. Every family in border villages is serving the nation, and that service deserves honor in a transformed quality of life. Through PMGSY and PWD, we have already provided all-weather roads to 15 out of 16 Vibrant Villages in the past. Funding for the last one has arrived from

the central government, and work will commence soon. We had planned grid power for every household in all 16 Vibrant Villages and so far 95% saturation has been achieved," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Vibrant Village Phase-2 program outlines three key pillars for holistic growth. First, securing livelihoods by launching new cooperative societies, self-help groups, tourism circuits, and cottage industries, especially empowering women and youth. Second, ensuring physical and digital connectivity to every Vibrant Village, while building strong educational infrastructure. Third, ensuring full saturation of all central government and UT administration schemes. The infrastructure focuses on 4 thematic areas- all-weather road connectivity, telecom, television access, and electrification.

The Lieutenant Governor said through a Whole of Government Approach, officials should dedicate themselves to achieve the target and link villages like Trehgam to the national mainstream.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the administration is looking beyond the government schemes and programmes to create sustainable opportunities for the youth of the villages like Trehgam.

He emphasized that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds are being channeled into building stadiums and playgrounds across the region.

The Lieutenant Governor also reiterated that the Government of India is committed to complete rehabilitation of terror victims and flood affected families.

The project inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor include establishment of 26 Smart Classrooms in 6 Vibrant Blocks under Aspirational District Programme. The projects for which the foundation stones were laid today are- development of Hill Top Playground, Trehgam, Kupwara at a cost of Rs 1.60 crore and development, renovation/construction and preservation of Cultural Heritage site Shiv Temple at Trehgam, costing Rs 1.94 crores.

The Lieutenant Governor handed over appointment letters to SPOs, jobs and sanction letters to local youth and beneficiaries under various schemes. He also flagged off mobile tuberculosis (TB) Diagnosis and Awareness vehicle.

Shri Mir Saifullah, Member of Legislative Assembly Trehgam; Shri Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Shri Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Shri M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Shri Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries; Shri VK Birdi; JGP Kashmir; Ms R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Planning and Information; Shri Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank; Shri Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, senior officials, and people from different walks of life in large number were present.

LG Reduces His

in the number of vehicles in the Prime Minister's convoy was implemented during his recent visits to Gujarat and Assam.

The move comes in line with the Prime Minister's seven appeals to citizens to contribute towards economic resilience by reducing dependence on imported fuel and adopting environmentally sustainable alternatives amidst West Asia crisis. Sources further added that while the convoy size was reduced, all critical security components continued to remain in place to ensure the Prime Minister's safety. Prime Minister Modi has also directed the officials to include Electric Vehicles in his convoy wherever feasible, without making any new purchases.

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah downsized his convoy, reducing it to less than half. The move comes in line with the Prime Minister's seven appeals to citizens to contribute towards economic resilience by reducing dependence on imported fuel and adopting environmentally sustainable alternatives amidst the West Asia crisis.

CS Reviews Progress

workers for their registration under the scheme so that they are able to avail the benefits envisaged under it. He asked the Labour Commissioner to furnish weekly progress reports indicating district-wise registrations and the incremental achievements made from today onwards.

Highlighting the significance of the scheme, the Chief Secretary observed that the benefits enshrined under PM-SYM are highly attractive for workers engaged in the unorganised sector. He said that the scheme, along with other social security initiatives such as PM Kisan Maandhan and the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons, guarantees old-age financial security to vulnerable sections of society.

He also called upon the Finance Department to closely monitor the implementation of these schemes and directed the Deputy Commissioners to assist in increasing registrations in their respective districts to ensure saturation of benefits.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, on the occasion, stated that Jammu and Kashmir possesses immense scope for the successful implementation of such schemes as a large section of the population is associated with the unorganised sector. He stressed the need for widespread awareness regarding the benefits of these schemes so that more eligible workers are encouraged to enrol themselves.

Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh, while apprising the meeting about the scheme, informed that PM-SYM is a flagship pension scheme of the Government of India launched in 2019 to provide old-age social security to workers in the unorganised sector, including street vendors, construction workers, domestic workers, agricultural labourers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, hotel industry workers and other vulnerable categories earning up to Rs 15,000 per month.

He further informed that a total of 99,722 unorganised workers have so far been registered under the scheme across all the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, reflecting significant expansion in pension coverage among vulnerable sections of society. Srinagar district recorded the highest number of registrations with 10,312 beneficiaries, followed by Poonch with 9,251 and Pulwama with 7,180 registrations.

The meeting was informed that 23,119 fresh registrations were achieved during the special enrolment drive launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, in January 2026,

resulting in nearly 30 percent growth in registrations within a short period.

As part of the intensified outreach campaign, 637 special registration camps were organised in coordination with Urban Local Bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Common Service Centres across the Union Territory, the meeting was apprised.

Highlighting the benefits of the scheme, it was informed that PM-SYM ensures a guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs 3,000 after the age of 60 years, with an equal contribution by the Central Government matching the subscriber's contribution. In case of the subscriber's death, the spouse is entitled to receive 50 percent of the pension as family pension.

The meeting also reviewed the demographic profile of beneficiaries, which reflected near-equal gender participation, with male beneficiaries accounting for 50.16 percent and female beneficiaries constituting 49.84 percent of the total registrations. The 26-35 years age group emerged as the largest category of subscribers, indicating encouraging participation of young workers in the contributory pension scheme.

Govt, Mutton Dealers

commodities and strengthened departmental coordination well ahead of the festival.

"We have sufficient stock. All department officers came to the fair price shops. We could not reach due to some other meetings," the minister said after reviewing arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha.

Sharma, said preparations for key festivals were initiated in advance to avoid last-minute shortages and disruptions.

"This is the first time we have prepared for Muharram nearly two months in advance. We have also prepared for Eid-ul-Adha," he said, adding that preparedness has become essential due to global uncertainties.

"We have to do everything in advance due to the geopolitical situation. The world is unpredictable, but we have to be ready," he added.

The minister assured strict action against hoarding, black marketing and irregularities in essential commodity markets. "There is sufficient stock. Some complaints have been received, but strict action will be taken. This time, we will set an example," he said.

However, mutton dealers in Kashmir said the ground situation does not reflect official claims, alleging that stakeholders have not been taken into confidence ahead of Eid-ul-Adha.

They said no structured pre-Eid meeting has been held yet, leaving traders without clarity on supply planning, pricing coordination and livestock management strategies.

General Secretary of the Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association (KMDA), Mehraj-ud-Din, questioned the status of communications sent to Punjab authorities regarding livestock movement for months, saying there has been no update shared with stakeholders.

"What happened to the letters sent to Punjab? Has there been any response? We are not being informed about anything," he said.

Mehraj-ud-Din said that expected pre-Eid stakeholder meetings had not taken place yet this year, and no formal consultation was held with mutton dealers.

He said issues related to livestock movement from Punjab, including delays and stoppages, remain unresolved despite repeated complaints.

"The J&K administration says it has written three times to Punjab, while we have received no response or update. As Eid-ul-Adha approaches, the government claims sufficient stock and preparedness, but questions remain over earlier concerns and demands," he said—(KNO)

Govt To Provide Additional

uninterrupted supply of essential commodities.

He directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination to ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience during the festive period.

The Minister directed that adequate stock of food grains and other essential commodities under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and FCI be maintained at all depots and distribution points across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that timely distribution and proper monitoring mechanisms should be put in place to avoid any shortage or disruption in supply.

Satish Sharma further stated that an additional quota of food grains would be made available in view of the increased demand during Eid and Muharram festivities so that people across Jammu and Kashmir receive adequate supplies without any inconvenience.

Reviewing the availability of LPG, the Minister instructed Oil Marketing Companies and allied agencies to ensure sufficient stock of both domestic and commercial LPG cylinders. He further directed the agencies to streamline the supply chain and distribution process to effectively meet the increased demand during the festive season.

The Minister also instructed the concerned authorities to explore the possibility of reducing the waiting period for booking and refilling domestic LPG cylinders in order to facilitate consumers during Eid and Muharram.

Directing for strict vigilance in markets, Satish Sharma asked the concerned enforcement agencies to undertake regular market checking drives across Jammu and Kashmir. He instructed the Food Safety Department and Legal Metrology Organization to intensify inspections to curb overpricing, hoarding, black marketing, and sale of substandard goods, while ensuring strict action against violators.

The Minister also directed the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Lakes Conservation and Management Authority to undertake extensive cleanliness drives in their respective jurisdictions in view of the forthcoming religious occasions.

Further, the Minister directed the Power Development Department (PDD) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water so that people do not face any inconvenience during Eid and Muharram.

Speaking during the meeting, Tanvir Sadiq emphasized the need for coordinated field-level monitoring to ensure that the benefits of government arrangements reach people effectively during the festive period. He stressed that special attention should be given to areas witnessing large public gatherings and religious congregations so that adequate civic amenities and essential supplies remain available at all times.

Tanvir Sadiq also called for enhanced sanitation measures, proper street lighting and improved water

and electricity supply in areas associated with Eid and Muharram gatherings. He urged all departments to remain responsive to public grievances and ensure prompt redressal of issues during the upcoming religious occasions.

The Minister further directed officers to ensure adequate availability of essential commodities in accordance with anticipated demand and past consumption trends so that the public does not face any difficulty during the upcoming religious occasions.

Hailstorm-Hit Growers Say

urging governments to launch crop insurance and MIS schemes, and waive off KCC loans up to Rs 3 lakh, but nobody is listening to us," Malik said.

He said the agriculture and horticulture sector remains the backbone of Kashmir's economy at a time when unemployment is rising.

"Agriculture and horticulture are the only sectors providing livelihood to people amid a job crisis, but the government does not seem serious about safeguarding this sector," he rued.

Malik said growers have not received adequate compensation or meaningful relief since 2014 despite facing recurring natural calamities and market distress.

"Till now, only estimates and survey teams have visited affected areas, but nothing concrete has happened on the ground. The question is, how will a grower survive? The government doesn't seem to be concerned about us?" he asked.

He urged the government to immediately announce compensation for affected growers and introduce long-pending welfare measures for the horticulture sector.

"We want loan waivers so that growers who are suffering continuously get some relief. The government must intervene without further delay," Malik said.

The recent hailstorm, accompanied by intense rainfall, caused extensive damage to apple orchards, vegetables and other standing crops across many areas of north and south Kashmir. Growers said the weather has shattered hopes of a stable harvest season.

Growers from Pattan said they had never witnessed such a destructive hailstorm before.

"We have never witnessed this kind of hailstorm. It lasted for nearly half an hour and destroyed everything," a group of growers from Pattan village said.

Ghulam Mohammed, a 65-year-old resident of Chandreer, said the losses have pushed many families into uncertainty. "Our lives used to depend on it, but nothing remained. Where should we go and whom should we ask?" he said.

The affected growers appealed to the administration to understand the scale of damage and provide immediate support—(KNO)

Speaker Turning

Assembly into the National Conference's headquarters, Nawai Subah.

In a statement, Sunil Sharma said that the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly belongs to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and that the BJP will resist any move to turn it into the fiefdom of any party.

"The decision to appoint eight MLAs of the ruling party as heads of the committees is totally unjustified and an insult to the mandate of people of J&K," he said, adding that the universally accepted principle of proportional representation has been trampled by the Speaker.Subscription Box

He said the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly empower the Speaker to nominate chairmen of House committees, but discretion must be exercised fairly in all decisions.

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iFOREX
"The first-time MLAs from the ruling party have been appointed as heads of different committees, while senior legislators from the opposition have been ignored," he said.

He said the ruling alliance, with 54 MLAs, will head 8 committees, while the BJP, with 29 MLAs, has been allotted the chairmanship of only one committee.

"Out of the eight committees allotted to the ruling alliance, five will be headed by the National Conference, which has 41 MLAs," he said, adding that the move reflects a sinister design to turn the J&K Assembly into the headquarters of the ruling party.



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DC Kulgam chairs Mega Block Diwas in Devsar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Continuing the public outreach initiative aimed at taking governance to the doorsteps of the people, a Mega Block Diwas was Wednesday held at Devsar under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam.

The programme was attended by ADDC Altaf Ahmad Khan, Joint Director Planning (JDP), ACR, CEO, CMO, Executive Engineers, Tehsildar Devsar, BDO Devsar, and other district and sectoral officers.

Delegations from Kund, Maskhod, Chowgam, Bonigam, Check, Devsar, Berigam and several other villages participated in the programme.

During the event, the DC interacted with a large gathering of residents from Devsar and adjoining areas, who apprised the administration of various issues and demands relat-



ed to basic amenities and developmental needs.

Key issues highlighted by the public included completion and operationalisation of filtration plants, strengthening of solid waste management systems, development of playfields, and establishment of children's parks.

Residents of Chowgam village raised concerns

regarding augmentation of staff at the local health centre, besides construction and upgradation of roads and development of playfields in the area.

Several road connectivity issues were also projected by the public. The residents further demanded construction of a flood protection bund at Nava.

A delegation of farm-

ers also demanded strict monitoring to ensure the availability of quality pesticides and fertilizers in the market.

People from various other villages also projected their developmental requirements and public issues before the district administration.

The DC gave a patient hearing to all grievances and assured the public that all genuine demands would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He directed the concerned officers to take immediate action on priority issues.

All issues and demands raised during the programme were duly recorded for appropriate action and redressal.

On the occasion, registration and awareness counters were also set up to disseminate information regarding various government schemes and facilitate on-the-spot registration of eligible beneficiaries.

SWD Srinagar organizes Awareness Session on importance of Reproductive Health

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD) through the SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar organized an awareness session on reproductive health and hygiene for women at Mission Poshan Zone Khonmoh.

The programme aimed to create awareness among women and adolescent girls regarding the importance of reproductive health, personal hygiene, proper nutrition, and preventive healthcare practices. The session saw enthusiastic participation from local women, Anganwadi workers, as well as pregnant and lactating mothers from the area.

During the programme, Dr. Sabiya Wani from the Department of Health served as the resource person and delivered an informative session on key aspects of women's health. She emphasized the importance of menstrual hygiene, maintaining a balanced diet, timely medical check-ups, and early identification of health concerns to ensure the overall well-being of women. She also informed participants about various

government schemes and healthcare services available for women under different social welfare and health initiatives.

Officials from SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar highlighted that awareness and education are essential tools for empowering women and strengthening community health. They encouraged participants to share the knowledge gained during the session with their families and communities, helping to promote healthy practices and remove the stigma often associated with reproductive health issues.

The participants appreciated the initiative and expressed the need for organizing more such awareness programmes at the grassroots level to improve health awareness and ensure better outcomes for women and adolescent girls.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion, where participants shared their concerns and experiences, followed by the distribution of informational material to further enhance awareness on reproductive health and hygiene.

PD&SJ Ganderbal chairs 2nd UTRC meeting



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Principal District & Sessions Judge (PD&SJ)/Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir, conducted the 2nd Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting Wednesday, with the objective of ensuring timely review and release of undertrial prisoners, thereby promoting their rights and access to justice.

The meeting was held in the office chamber of the Principal District & Sessions Judge, and was attended by Jatin Kishore, District Magistrate, Ganderbal; Sudhanshu Dharma, Senior Superintendent of Police, Ganderbal; Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal; Shafat Ahmad, Public Prosecutor, Sessions Court, Ganderbal; Shahbaz Hussain, DySp, Central Jail, Srinagar; Khurshid Ahmad (I/C) Public Prosecutor, Adll. Sessions Court, Ganderbal; Showkat Ali (Inspector), in charge Subsidiary Jail Dignibal, Ganderbal, and Sajid Irfan, Deputy, LADC Ganderbal.

The UTRC convened to review the cases of nine

prisoners shortlisted by the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal for consideration, among them one UTP has been previously recommended for release by UTRC. After thorough consideration, the committee decided to recommend six UTPS for release.

The meeting underscores the commitment of the District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, to uphold the principles of justice and ensure the rights of undertrial prisoners are safeguarded. The authority remains dedicated to promoting access to justice and protecting the rights of the marginalized and vulnerable sections of society.

The recommendations made by the UTRC will be forwarded to the competent authorities for necessary action, and it is expected that the release of the undertrial prisoners will bring relief to the prisoners and their families.

The District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that justice is served and the rights of all individuals are protected.

100-Day Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan intensified across Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Administration Budgam has intensified activities under the 100-Day Intensive Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan across the district with an aim to create mass awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy and drug-free society.

As part of the ongoing campaign, a series of awareness and outreach programmes are being organised in educational institutions and public spaces involving active participation of students, teachers, officials and community members. Various departments including Education, Health, Social Welfare, Police, Youth Services & Sports and other stakeholder agencies are jointly conducting awareness drives to sensitise youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

In continuation of the campaign activities, essay competition and debate programmes were today conducted at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Budgam under the National Mental Health

& Behaviour Awareness (NMBA) programme. Students participated enthusiastically and expressed their ideas and awareness on important social and behavioural issues through creative writing and engaging discussions.

The activities were aimed at promoting awareness, critical thinking, effective communication and positive behavioural values among students while encouraging them to stay away from substance abuse and other harmful practices.

Teachers and organisers appreciated the active involvement, creativity and confidence displayed by the participants during the programme.

The 100-day campaign focuses on preventive awareness, behavioural change, counselling support and community participation to effectively address the growing concern of drug abuse. Awareness rallies, seminars, interactive sessions and youth engagement programmes are also being organised across different areas of the district under the initiative.

Javed Rana reviews development works, annual action plan for Poonch

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Wednesday chaired a meeting with the senior officers of PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control and PWD departments of Poonch at Civil Secretariat here to review the development works and issues concerning the district.

During the meeting, detailed discussion was held on sector-wise priorities, ongoing projects and proposed new works under the plan.

The Minister stressed the need for realistic planning, timely execution and optimal utilisation of resources. He directed the officers to ensure that the Annual Action Plan reflects the actual needs of the people, with a focus on improving the basic infrastructure, drinking water supply, road connectivity, healthcare facilities and education services.

Emphasising transparen-

cy and accountability, Javed Rana asked the departments to maintain close coordination and adhere strictly to the set timelines for projects completion. He also underscored the importance of involving the elected representatives in the planning process to ensure inclusive and need-based development.

The Minister called for prioritising the works that have maximum public impact, particularly in remote and under served areas of the district. He further directed the officers to closely monitor the progress on key projects and resolve the existing bottlenecks in a time-bound manner. He emphasised that focus should be laid on remote and border areas of the district that have historically remained underserved. He underlined that no segment of the population should be left behind in the development process, and that field-level execution must match the intent of policy.

GMC hosts awareness programme on women safety, legal empowerment

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Gandhi Memorial College Srinagar Wednesday organized an awareness programme titled "Safe Women, Strong Society" in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority to promote women's safety, empowerment and legal awareness.

The programme was organized under the aegis of the Internal Complaints Committee (POSH Act) of the college with the objective of creating awareness regarding women's rights, legal safeguards and the collective responsibility of society in ensuring a safe and equitable environment for women.

Speaking on the occa-

tion, Principal of the college, Prof. Masood Ahmad, highlighted the importance of building a society based on dignity, equality and mutual respect. He stressed the need for educational institutions to play an active role in sensitizing students about issues related to women's safety and empowerment.

During the programme, resource persons deliberated upon various legal frameworks, rights and institutional mechanisms available for the protection and welfare of women. They also encouraged students and participants to actively contribute towards fostering a culture of respect, equality and gender sensitivity.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SONAMARG

E-Bid Document (Auction ID: 34182)

Outsourcing of One No. (01) Mobile Kiosk (meals on Wheels) for installation and operation in between Hotel Snowland to Hotel Akbar at Sonamarg for a period of 03-years, through GeM Portal.

No: CEO/SDA/2026/ 488-95 dated: 13 /05/2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-bids are invited online through GeM Portal for Outsourcing of One No. (01) Mobile Kiosk (meals on Wheels) for installation and operation in between Hotel Snowland to Hotel Akbar at Sonamarg for a period of 03-years, through GeM Portal. The details are as under:

S.No	Particulars	Date/Time	Remarks
1	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	13/05/2026 at 01.00 PM	-NIL-
2	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	19/05/2026 at 1.00 PM	-NIL-
3	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment End Date &	20/05/2026 at 1.30 PM	-NIL-
4	EMD Start Date	21/05/2026 at 2.00 PM	-NIL-
5	EMD End Date	22/05/2026 at 2.10 PM	-NIL-
6	EMD (Bid Security) Amount in shape of CDR/ FDR/DD	Rs.10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only)	To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority
7	Bid Submission/Auction Start Date	22/05/2026 at 3.00 PM	-NIL-
8	Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time	25/05/2026 at 1.00 PM	-NIL-
9	Reserve bid amount	Rs. 0.70 lacs (Rupees Seventy thousand only)	-NIL-

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GeM PORTAL)

- The bidder should be a domicile of J&K and shall upload a valid domicile certificate.
- The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Police Station or alternatively copy of a valid Passport.
- The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card, Aadhar Card.
- The bidder shall upload Average Annual Financial Turnover Statement of last three years ending of previous financial year & should be at least 50% of basic bid amount.
- The bidder shall have to upload Income Tax return of last three financial years.
- The bidder shall have to upload undertaking that if found successful after the culmination of auction process as per following:
 - That I shall abide by all terms & conditions of the contract.
 - That I will deposit the offered bid amount within a period 03 days after culmination of auction, failing which result in automatic cancellation without notice along with forfeiture of CDR.
 - That I will handover the asset in good condition as received from the department on the day of expiring of auction contract.
 - That I will not approach the Courts for extension of contract period.
 - The bidder has to upload FSSAI & GST registration certificate/return.

Terms and Conditions:

- The interested parties should compulsorily visit & inspect the asset before participating in the e-bidding process and the physical position of the site/asset shall stand on "as is where is" basis. As such, no claim of any deficiency, addition, alteration, rectification in the asset would be entertained during/after bidding process.
- The bidder participating in the e-bid process must apply in his name or the firm name duly registered in his name.
- Eligible persons shall be allowed to participate in the e-bidding process only after uploading of relevant documents mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria and EMD (after qualifying Pre-Qualification) in the shape of CDR, amounting to Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand Only) pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- There will be an escalation of 15% compounding on the offered bid amount of previous years for each successive year and thereafter to be deposited before two months from the start of every year. The bid offers should be above the minimum reserve bid.
- The minimum reserve bid has been fixed at Rs. 0.70 Lacs (Rupees Seventy Thousand only). However, the bidder has to pay GST @ 18% of the offered bid and also for the successive years on compounding amounts including 15% escalation every year. All other applicable taxes shall be paid by the bidder on its own under an intimation to this office.
- Previous defaulters shall not be allowed to participate in the bidding process.
- The period of outsourcing shall be on license basis for a period of 03-years which will commence from the date of issuance of the formal allotment letter.
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 100% of the offered bid for the 1st year within a period of three days positively.
- The successful bidder has to install amusement and other recreational activities in the park (pollution free) and has to take prior permission before start of the operation. Without the explicit permission of CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, the successful bidder shall not install any other activity within the premises of the park.
- The contract shall be awarded for one year in the first instance and renewal of the same shall be subject to depositing of rentals for the each successive year in advance including 15% escalation on compounding amount before the expiry of the 1st year contract.
- In case the successful bidder fails to fulfill the term of contract, or leaves the contract half way or the contract is cancelled due to any disqualifications/non-payment of advance rent, the CDR shall be forfeited.
- The safety, security and upkeep and watch & ward of the asset shall be sole responsibility of outsourcee during the period of contract. The successful bidder shall ensure all safety measures like firefighting equipments, first aid kit etc. Sonamarg Development Authority shall not be responsible for any loss of life and property within the asset during the period of the contract.
- The out-sourcing committee/SDA reserves the right to reject any or all the e-bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder shall have to charge rates for various allotted services as per approval of the SDA from time to time.
- The electric/water consumption charges shall be payable by the outsourcee & CDR shall be released after obtaining NOC from PHE & PDD.
- The bidder should not be employee in any Govt. Deptt. or a Public Sector undertaking.
- The successful bidder shall have to execute an agreement with CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority regarding adherence to the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Department during the course of the contract period. The bidder shall have to bear all the costs and expenses for executing this agreement/license deed.
- The successful bidder shall have to handover the property to the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority after completion of contract period with the list of inventory, received by him at the time of allotment/taking over.
- The licensee shall not make any alterations or additions to the space/unit allotted, without seeking written permission from the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- The successful bidder shall arrange on his own all necessary stationery, staff or any other requirements for providing efficient services to the clients.
- The licensee shall provide necessary uniform & name plates to the staff working in the premises & shall be responsible for any unfair act of the staff member for which, he shall be liable for criminal/civil action under rules/law if any required.
- The Watch and ward of the property, maintenance of lawns and other subsidiaries and landscape, if any, shall be the sole responsibility of the licensee.
- The licensee shall not, in any case, sub-let the premises to any other party.
- The successful bidder shall have to provide services to the best satisfaction of tourists/locals. The bidder shall have to ensure that there isn't any complaint of misbehavior with the visitors/locals or by any of the staff member employed by the bidder in this regard. In case any complaint is received, action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the bidder and penalty shall be imposed upon the defaulters.
- In case of any negligence in running the service or compliant pertaining to bad performance, the contract shall be terminated without any notice by the department.
- The allotted premises shall be inspected periodically by the departmentally authorized officers and in case the services of the licensee are not found satisfactory, the contract shall be liable for cancellation without any notice.
- Any damage caused to the Government property at the site will invite penalty amounting to double the cost of damage or replacement of the same whatever the case may be, as per assessment to be made by the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- The Department shall reserve the right for using the space for any purpose or function or event as it may deem fit and no fee shall be charged by the licensee in this regard.
- The Department shall reserve the right for installation and outsourcing of any other activity within the premises of the park.
- The successful bidder will have to abide by all the orders/communications issued by Department from time to time during the period of contract as may necessitated in light of public unrest and law & order, security and in case of any other Administrative requirements.
- The successful bidder shall ensure arrangement of furniture, electricity back up and availability of standard crockery/cutlery in the unit, on his own.
- During the contract period the maintenance of the asset/area, watch and ward as well as upkeep and daily cleaning/sweeping shall be the sole responsibility of the licensee.
- The successful bidder/Licensee shall strictly adhere to all rules and regulations regarding commercial establishment, sanitation in vogue with focus on preservation of environment etc. within the territorial area and shall clear all applicable taxes like GST/IT etc. within the stipulated time. Any default on this account will be the sole responsibility of the successful bidder.
- Any dispute arising out of or in connection with the contract, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, shall be referred Arbitration of Administrative Secretary incharge Tourism Department, Government of J&K, whose decision shall be final & binding upon the parties. The proceedings of the Arbitration shall be conducted under the provisions of the J&K, Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1997 & rules and its amendment if any, framed there under.
- Any natural or Anthropogenic/manmade calamity occurs. The highest bidder/ licensee shall not seek extension of lease or relaxation, nor such claims shall be entertained by Sonamarg Development Authority.
- If the bidder intends to withdraw the agreed contract, he shall have to notify the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority before three months without claim for refund of existing contract year.
- If any minor repairs of the assets such as electrification, sanitary maintenance etc are to be done and these will be carried out by the licensee at his own cost, however, after seeking permission from the competent authority as per the direction of the inspecting authority from time to time which will help in maintenance of the asset.
- Any bid submitted in contravention of the prescribed terms and conditions, guidelines, or procedures governing the e-auction process shall be treated as non-responsive and liable for outright rejection without any reason. Further, any bidder found to have violated the established e-auction rules, engaged in unfair practices, or submitted bids inconsistent with the notified business rules shall be liable to be debarred/blacklisted from participating in the present as well as future bidding processes of the Authority for a period as deemed appropriate by the competent authority.
- No extensions shall be granted. The asset shall be outsourced afresh at the end of the license term.
- The successful bidder has to run the asset as per the norms and conditions as prescribed within Tourist Trade Act in vogue.
- The Authority shall not be responsible for any monetary loss due to any climate untowardness or due to any other reason.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Sonamarg Development Authority

DIPK-NB-483-26
Dt: 13/05/2026

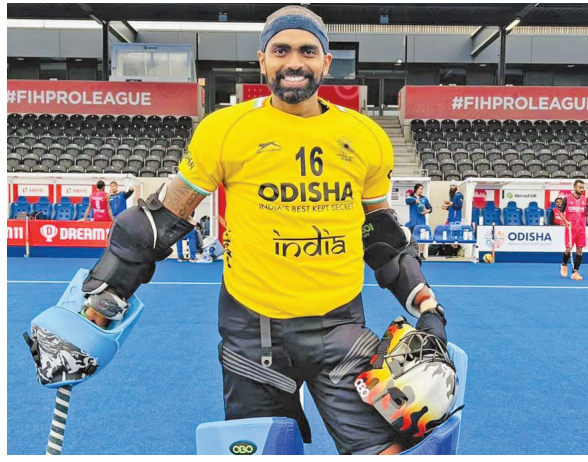
Sreejesh not fired, his term is over: HI responds to explosive remarks by outgoing junior men's coach

FIHPROLEAGUE

NEW DELHI: After P.R. Sreejesh's allegations about him being removed from the Indian junior men's hockey coaching setup, Hockey India on Wednesday issued a detailed clarification, asserting that the former goalkeeper's coaching tenure had concluded "as per contract" and denying claims that he was removed to accommodate a foreign coach.

The federation's response came shortly after Sreejesh publicly expressed disappointment over what he described as the possible end of his coaching career, questioning Hockey India's continued reliance on overseas coaches despite the availability of experienced Indian candidates.

In an official statement, Hockey India said, "Hockey India would like to state that the coaching term for P.R. Sreejesh was officially concluded as per contract in December 2025. After this, as per protocol, the position was advertised, and applicants were shortlisted and finalised as per a proper selection process based on merit. A coach with distinguished qualifications has been selected as a result



of this process and will be announced shortly."

The federation also rejected suggestions that Sreejesh had been "fired", stating that an alternate role within the national development structure had been offered to him.

"We have in no terms "fired" Sreejesh and in fact had offered him the position of Coach for the Development team, which plays a critical role for LA 28 and the next Olympic cycle as well. This would have furthered his experience and exposure as a coach. However, he did not accept this position despite being asked to reconsider the decision," the statement said.

Sreejesh, who helped

India secure a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics before transitioning into coaching, had earlier alleged that Hockey India continued to prefer foreign coaches across all national teams. He had also claimed that he was informed that he was to be replaced by a foreign head coach for the junior side to ensure continuity in playing philosophy.

Addressing those remarks directly, Hockey India said, "In no terms has it ever been conveyed to him that there has been any preference for a foreign coach by the chief coach. We are collectively working towards the vision of our government to build a pathway towards 2036, and

a big part of that process is to develop our Indian coaching talent."

The federation further highlighted its investment in domestic coach education programmes, pointing to the nationwide expansion of its coaching certification structure in recent years.

"Development of the grassroots and homegrown coaches has always been central to the interests of Hockey India as a national sports federation. Hockey India's coaching pathway program has certified over 600 homegrown coaches so far, and the program has had a nationwide impact. We have, in fact, aligned Indian coaches with our chief coaches in our training camps to enhance their exposure and skills further."

Sreejesh had guided the Indian junior side to podium finishes in all five tournaments during his 18-month stint, including a bronze medal at the Junior World Cup. His social media post had triggered widespread debate over the opportunities available for former Indian players in elite coaching roles.

Concluding its statement, Hockey India reiterated its respect for the former India captain and expressed hope for his continued involvement in the sport.

IPL 2026: Venkatesh, Duffy in as RCB elect to bowl against KKR, Chakaravathy misses out

RAIPUR

RAIPUR: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have won the toss and elected to bowl first against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in match 57 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur on Wednesday.

The toss was delayed by 1.5 hours due to rain and a wet outfield, but there's no loss of overs. A win would take RCB to the top of the points table and closer to a top-two finish in the points table. KKR, currently on a four-game winning streak, need a victory to continue their impressive turnaround and stay alive in the race to the playoffs.

After winning the toss, RCB skipper Rajat Patidar said Venkatesh Iyer has come in for Romario Shepherd, while Suyash Sharma also missed out, and Jacob Duffy came in. "I think it's a similar wicket that we played last match, so I think it will behave in the same way. And it should be pretty good also, hard surface, but we'll try to keep them under pressure while chasing."

"I don't think so. As I feel, both the wickets are pretty much the same, and



there must be a variable bounce, but let's see how it goes. I think it was a tight match (vs MI), but I think it was a good game for us, and everyone has a lot of confidence after the way we played the last game," he added.

"It was a tight one, but everyone is looking good and looking forward to it. Every game is important. We are not looking at the table, but we are just focusing more on playing good cricket," he said.

KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane said wrist-spinner Varun Chakaravathy misses out due to a niggle, and left-arm pacer Saurabh

Dubey has been handed an IPL debut cap and will come on the field during their bowling innings.

"We wanted to bowl first as well. Absolutely, yes (we have a chance to be in the playoffs). I mean, the last four games have been really good for us as a team. Everyone started to do really well. For us, sometimes the game tells you to keep things really simple. For us, it's all about taking one game at a time, keeping it really simple."

"Then, as I said, it's all about respecting the opponents and winning those small moments. So, just really looking forward to

the game. I think it's just a belief, probably. As I said, we started winning those small, small moments. This format is all about that."

"One over here and there can change the game. I thought we've been bowling really well as a bowling unit. But, you know, winning those small moments in this format is really important. Every single game is really important," he said.

Playing XI:
Kolkata Knight Riders: Finn Allen, Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Angkrish Raghuvanshi (wk), Cameron Green, Rinku Singh, Manish Pandey, Rovman Powell, Sunil Narine, Anukul Roy, Kartik Tyagi, and Vaibhav Arora

Impact substitutes: Saurabh Dubey, Raman-deep Singh, Tejasvi Singh Dahiya, Navdeep Saini, and Tim Seifert

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Jacob Bethell, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar (captain), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Krunal Pandya, Tim David, Venkatesh Iyer, Rasikh Salam, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood, and Jacob Duffy

Impact substitutes: Devdutt Padikkal, Jordan Cox, Magesh Yadav, Swapnil Singh, and Romario Shepherd

IPL 2026: Focus on things I can do instead of overthinking what is not happening, says Jitesh

RAIPUR

RAIPUR: Royal Challengers Bengaluru wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma has said he is staying positive despite a lean run with the bat this season by focusing on his wicketkeeping, team feedback and intent, rather than overthinking what is not going his way.

Jitesh has endured a disappointing time with the bat, scoring just 82 runs in the 11 matches so far. "Some people see the glass half empty, some see it half full. Similarly, I understand that I'm not scoring runs right now, but I focus on how much effort I can put into my keeping."

"Also, on how much feedback I can give the team or how much I can help the captain. I focus on the things I can do instead of overthinking the things that are not happening. I focus on what's going well," Jitesh said in a pre-game chat with the broadcasters.



On the challenge of keeping to varied bowlers, especially to Krunal Pandya, Jitesh explained, "I wouldn't say difficult, it's exciting because normally you keep wickets in a certain way, but they've brought something new into the sport. So as a cricketer, it excites you when something new comes up. It's exciting, keeping for Hazlewood, Bhuvu bhai, and Krunal bhai."

A win over Kolkata Knight Riders will put

defending champions RCB firmly on course for entering the playoffs. Speaking about pitch conditions in Raipur, which will change due to rain and wet outfield, Jitesh said, "Nobody can ever be 100 percent sure about how a wicket will play. As the game progresses, you have to keep adapting. Yes, I stay close to the wicket, but still you can't be completely sure. Your intent, however, should always be right, that's the key."

Basketball: India to host FIBA U18 Asia Cup 2026 at Ahmedabad

BEIRUT (LEBANON)

India will host the FIBA U18 Asia Cup 2026 in Ahmedabad from August 13 to 23, 2026. The FIBA Regional Office-Asia confirmed on Wednesday that this will be the third time the country has held the continent's premier youth basketball tournament.

Ahmedabad, one of India's fastest-growing sports cities, will welcome 16 of the best U18 national teams from Asia and Oceania for the biennial tournament. The city is home to the world's largest cricket stadium and will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games. It is also bidding for the 2036 Olympics, which strengthens its standing as an important international sports destination.

India hosted the tournament in Bengaluru in 2004



and Kolkata in 1998. Both events were historically significant for Asian basketball.

In 2004, Iran won the championship in Bengaluru by winning all eight of their matches, including the final against Korea. This victory was Iran's first continental basketball title and marked the rise of

Team Melli as a major force in Asian basketball.

The 1998 tournament in Kolkata is also known for the international debut of Chinese basketball legend Yao Ming. Yao led China to their sixth of their record seven titles and became one of the most influential figures in Asian basketball history.

Defending champions Australia will return to defend the title they won in Amman, Jordan, in 2024. They will be joined by New Zealand and 13 other teams that qualified from regional tournaments in Asia.

Kazakhstan was the first team to qualify after dominating the Central Asian Basketball Association

(CABA) U18 Championship earlier this year.

The South Asian Basketball Association qualifiers will be in Colombo from May 25 to 29. East Asia qualifiers are set for Fukuoka, Japan, from June 2 to 7. Southeast Asian qualifiers will happen in Krabi, Thailand, from June 10 to 14, while Gulf region qualifiers will take place in Doha.

During the group stage, the 16 teams will be divided into four groups of four. The top three teams from each group will move on to the knockout phase, with group winners going directly to the quarter-finals.

This tournament is also important because the top four teams will qualify for the FIBA Under-19 Basketball World Cup 2027, which will be held in Pardubice, Czechia, from June 26 to July 4, 2027.

'He is becoming an accomplished leader': Rayudu praises Gill's captaincy

NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI: Former India batter Ambati Rayudu praised Shubman Gill for his growing maturity as captain, saying the Gujarat Titans (GT) skipper now looks sorted and settled while leading the side in IPL 2026.

Gill's leadership once again came under the spotlight after the Gujarat Titans (GT) climbed to the top of the points table with a dominant 82-run victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

"He looks so sorted and settled as a captain, compared to what we have seen him in the first season that he has led. So, he is now becoming an accomplished leader, slowly but steadily, he is really getting up there," Rayudu told ESPNcricinfo.

Rayudu also reflected on discussions surrounding Gill's handling of spin bowlers during his early days as captain, particularly during his stint lead-



ing India in Test cricket on the England tour.

"The parameter generally is how a captain handles spin, and that is something that was a point of discussion when he captained India in a couple of Test matches in England as well," he said.

However, Rayudu believes Gill has adapted smartly to the Gujarat Titans' current strengths by showing greater trust in the pace attack led by Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj, Jason Holder, and Prasidh Krishna.

"But apart from that,

there have been occasions wherein he has shown greater faith in the faster bowlers than the spinners, and once you have the calibre of Rashid Khan, at times he has been under-bowled," Rayudu said.

"But having a line-up of five fast bowlers and if they are doing well and if they are successful, why do you want to unnecessarily disturb the pattern of play," he added. Rayudu further explained that Gill's willingness to back his pacers instead of forcing spin into the attack reflects a growing tactical maturity.

Movies Schedule

Thursday, 14th May

01	BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+) Hindi - 10:45 AM, 06:30 PM	
02	Michael (U/A 13+) English with English Subtitles 11:45 AM, 02:00 PM	
03	The Devil Wears Prada 2 (A) English with English Subtitles 03:00 PM	
04	Dhurandhar: The Revenge (A) Hindi - 02:05 PM	
05	THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (UA 7+) English - 04:45 PM	
06	DAADI KI SHADI (U) Hindi - 11:05 AM, 07:05 PM	
07	MORTAL KOMBAT II (A) English Atmos with English Subtitles - 06:00 PM	

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