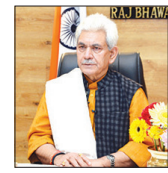


# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K  
@OfficeOfLGJandK



The nation stands united in applauding extraordinary bravery of disaster response teams, who safely rescued 300 tourists stranded mid-air in Gulmarg's cable cars. Army, JKP, SDRF, NDRF, DC, SSPs moved promptly & after a 6-hour operation, rescued all passengers from 65 cable cars.

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## 300 Tourists Rescued After Gulmarg Cable Car Glitch

HM, LG, CM Praise Rescue Teams For Carrying Out Successful Operation



WARIS FAYAZ - BILAL DAR

**GULMARG:** What began as a scenic cable car ride over the snow-covered peaks of north Kashmir's Gulmarg turned into a terrifying ordeal for nearly 300 tourists on Monday after the famed Gulmarg Gondola service suffered a sudden technical breakdown, leaving visitors stranded mid-air for hours.

Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat said nearly 320 people were safely rescued after Gulmarg Gondola developed a technical snag, leaving several cabins with tourists stranded.

Talking to reporters, the DGP said, "Police received information in the afternoon that the Gondola had developed a technical fault, causing cabins carrying tourists to get stuck mid-air."

He said the first responder

was the Station House Officer (SHO) Gulmarg, who immediately rushed to the spot along with personnel from the local police station and Special Operations Group (SOG) to initiate rescue efforts.

"Soon after, 14 teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were mobilised, while another team joined later. Armed Police Mountain rescue teams and Snow Leopard personnel of J&K Police also reached the site, following which a massive rescue operation was launched," he said.

The DGP said personnel from the Army and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) also joined the operation, while a rescue team from the Gulmarg Gondola Corporation actively participated in evacuating the stranded tourists. ●P-06

## Won't Stop Until Narco-Terrorism Is Eliminated In J&K: LG Sinha

Says Drug Cartels That Thrived For Decades Are Being Wiped Out

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** In a major push against the narco-terror, Lieutenant Governor SManoj Sinha rallied with a massive crowd in Bandipora Monday, leading a Padyatra to galvanize support for the cause.

"45 days ago, I pledged not only to dismantle smugglers and narco-terrorists ecosystem, but also to spark a movement that uplifts youth and restores dignity to families scarred by addiction," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Jammu Kashmir is united, strong in resolve and clear in purpose and fully committed to freeing our society from drugs once and for all.

"The action against narco-terrorists and drug smugglers will continue. It will not stop until every drug smuggler is eliminated from the sacred soil of Jammu Kashmir. Our agencies have launched an unprecedented drive to dismantle narco-terrorists and their hidden



network. No drug smuggler, drug peddler, or anyone seeking to poison our society is beyond reach. The entire narco-terror ecosystem is being pursued," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that several drug supply networks that until now remained hidden for various reasons are being traced and dismantled. He said Drug cartels that thrived for decades are being wiped out.

"We have sent a clear message that Jammu Kashmir will not be a safe haven for those who profit from other people's sufferings. I am determined that we will root out every narco-terrorist and drug smuggler from this soil. Those who tried to destroy our families will have their existence erased from this land. The law is now being applied firmly. Narco-terrorists are being punished, youth are being ●P-06

## LG Visits Hazratbal, Reviews Preparations For Eid Ul-Adha



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday visited the sacred Hazratbal Shrine to review the preparations for the upcoming auspicious festival of Eid ul-Adha.

He was accompanied by Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; Mufti Reyaz ul Haq, Chief Imam Hazratbal Shrine; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. ●P-06

## Budgam Minor 'Rape-Murder' Police Arrest Accused Within 36 Hours; SIT Continues Probe

NAVEED UL HAQ

**BUDGAM:** Police on Monday arrested one of the accused in the rape and murder case of a minor girl in central Kashmir's Budgam district within 36 hours, while efforts are underway to nab other persons involved in the crime.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Budgam, Hariprasad K K said, that during the course of the investigation, police collected substantial digital, biological, serological, and material evidence related to the case. Several suspects were rounded up and questioned continuously over the last 36 hours.

"Based on the available evidence, it became apparent that the involvement of a local individual was the ●P-06

## Jel Terror Funding Case NIA Seizes Incriminating Documents, Devices

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday carried out searches at three locations in Jammu and Kashmir in a terror funding case linked to the banned organisation Jama'at-e-Islami (JeI).

According to an official statement, the searches were conducted in Srinagar and Shopian districts and led to the recovery of incriminating financial documents ●P-06

## Govt Developing Off-Beat Tourist Destinations, Promoting Adventure Tourism: Sakeena Ito

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito Monday inaugurated a Tourism Capacity Building Camp at Panchanpatri Kulgam and also flagged off an All-Terrain Rally (ATR), trekkers' expedition, cycle rally and other tourism promotion activities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the Government is committed to strengthening the tourism sector in Jammu & Kashmir by developing off-beat destinations and promoting adventure tourism activities across Jammu and Kashmir. She said that such programmes provide a valuable platform to inform and aware youth about various government schemes and programmes related to tourism, employment generation



and self-employment opportunities.

The Minister emphasized that the promotion of unexplored tourist destinations will not only attract visitors but also create sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities. She highlighted the importance of involving youth and local stakeholders in tourism-related initiatives for the overall economic development of the region.

The programme was organized with an aim ●P-06

## Traders Hope For Last-Day Surge

## Soaring Prices, Financial Strain Dampen Eid-Ul-Adha Rush Across Kashmir

JAHANGEER GANAIE

**SRINAGAR:** The festive buzz that traditionally engulfs markets across Kashmir ahead of Eid-ul-Adha is noticeably absent this year, with traders, shopkeepers and livestock dealers from several districts reporting dull business activity and weak customer response amid growing financial strain on households.

From the bustling markets of Srinagar and Baramulla to the town centres of Pulwama, Shopian and Anantnag, traders say markets are witnessing significantly less footfall compared to previous years, while livestock dealers are struggling with poor sales of sacrificial animals.

In south Kashmir districts, markets that usually remain overcrowded in the days leading to Eid are witnessing sparse movement,



with most families restricting purchases to essentials only.

Mohammad Sultan Kumar, owner of a kitchenware shop in Pulwama, said the sharp increase in prices of household goods has badly affected consumer spending this season.

"People are avoiding unnecessary purchases because everything has become expensive. Customers are buying only essential items and postponing

other spending due to financial uncertainty," Kumar said.

He added that Eid seasons in previous years used to bring brisk business, but this year, markets are comparatively silent.

Livestock markets across south Kashmir are also witnessing a major slump.

Aafaq Ahmad, a livestock dealer from Pulwama, said sales of sacrificial animals have dropped drastically ●P-06

## CS Reviews Implementation Of PM's Reform Agenda Calls For Integrated Governance, Full Digitization Of Services Across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a high-level review meeting with Administrative Secretaries of all departments to assess the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on implementation of actionable points emerging from the Prime Minister's interaction with Secretaries to the Government of India, with special emphasis on strengthening the "Whole of Government" approach, enhancing Ease of Living through end-to-end digitization of public services and undertaking comprehensive process reforms across the country.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reiterated that the core objective of these reforms is to estab-



lish integrated governance, citizen-centric administration and technology-driven systems aimed at ensuring efficient, transparent and accountable delivery of services. He emphasized that departments must move beyond conventional silo-based functioning and work in close coordination to achieve larger developmental goals envisioned under Viksit Bharat @2047. A detailed ●P-06

## Eid-ul-Azha: Markets Wear Festive Look Across Kashmir Shoppers Flock Busy Bazaars In Srinagar, Other Major Towns

REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** Markets across Kashmir, especially in Srinagar, wore a festive look on Monday as thousands of shoppers thronged major business hubs ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

According to the details available with the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the Valley witnessed hectic buying of clothes, footwear, bakery items, sacrificial animals and other items.

The famous Lal Chowk markets, Goni Khan, Maharaja Bazar, Residency Road, Jamia Market, Maisuma and Bohri Kadal remained abuzz with activity throughout the day as families, youth and children rushed to complete Eid shopping.

The historic markets around Jamia Masjid and



Pathar Masjid areas, also witnessed good footfall, with shoppers purchasing traditional wear, spices, bakery items, perfumes and prayer essentials.

Despite intermittent rainfall in the afternoon, markets continued to remain crowded, with the cool weather adding

to the festive atmosphere as shopkeepers extended business hours amid growing customer rush.

Traders said business picked up during the past few days. Shops dealing in ready-made garments, footwear, cosmetics, bakery products and more witnessed brisk sales.

Mehendi stalls set up in several markets attracted large numbers of women and young girls, especially during evening hours. Popular beauty parlours and salons also reported heavy bookings ahead of Eid celebrations.

Meanwhile, reports of good shopping rush were also received from other districts including Baramulla, Anantnag, Kupwara, Pulwama, Budgam, Shopian, Bandipora and Ganderbal, where markets remained busy till late evening.

In south Kashmir, markets in Anantnag, Pulwama and Shopian witnessed significant rush at garment stores and bakeries, while in north Kashmir, Baramulla and Kupwara markets saw increased activity as people purchased Eid essentials. Meanwhile, ●P-06

## Eid Ahead 80-90 Trucks With Over 150 Sheep Each Reach Kashmir Daily: Kmda

REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** Around 80 to 90 trucks carrying sheep arrive in the Valley daily during the final week ahead of Eid-ul-Adha.

The Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association (KMDA) said each truck is carrying more than 150 sheep to meet the growing demand for sacrificial animals across the Valley.

Mehraj-ud-Din, General Secretary of KMDA, said the supply has increased steadily over the past few days as Eid markets begin witnessing heavy public footfall, especially during evening hours.

"Nearly 80 to 90 trucks loaded with sheep are entering Kashmir daily in the last week before Eid. Every truck carries over 150 sheep," he said.

He said apart from the livestock arriving from outside Jammu and Kashmir, local breeders and members of the Bakarwal community are also bringing sheep to ●P-06

## Fresh Snowfall In Minamarg, Drass; Kashmir Plains Receive Rain, Hail



SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Fresh snowfall was reported from Minamarg and the Drass sector near the strategic Zoji La axis on Monday, while rainfall and hailstorm lashed several parts of Kashmir.

An official said the heavy snowfall covered the upper reaches of Minamarg and areas around Drass, reviving cold conditions in the region.

The fresh spell of snow led to a sharp dip in temperature in higher reaches, while several parts of Kashmir plains received rain and hailstorm during the day.

According to the Meteorological Department, Sri-

nagar recorded a maximum temperature of 23.3 degrees Celsius, which was 2.1 degrees below normal, while the minimum settled at 13.0 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 21.6 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 20.2 degrees Celsius, Kupwara 24.1 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 21.9 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 13.6 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 40.3 degrees Celsius, 1.9 degrees above normal, while Katra recorded 37.8 degrees Celsius and Batote 28.1 degrees Celsius.

The MeT department said Srinagar received 1. ●P-06

# CM Omar meets legislators, Vice Chancellors, other delegations at Civil Secretariat

Discusses higher education, regional development, constituency issues, healthcare

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday met legislators, Vice Chancellors and various delegations at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed a wide range of issues concerning regional development, public welfare, higher education, healthcare and infrastructure.



A delegation of Members of the Legislative Assembly comprising Javid Iqbal (Budhal), Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (Thanamandi), Choudhary Mohammed Akram (Surankote) and Iftikhar Ahmed (Rajouri) called on the Chief Minister and discussed various developmental and public welfare issues concerning the Pir Panjal region.

Shabir Ahmad Kullay also separately met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various matters related to their respective constituencies.

MLA Budgam Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi also called on the Chief Minister and discussed the overall situation in the Budgam constituency, besides matters related to the forthcoming holy month of

Muharram-2026. Vice Chancellor of Cluster University Srinagar Prof. Mohammad Mobin met the Chief Minister and apprised him of the recent progress and developmental initiatives undertaken by the university.

Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kashmir Prof. A. Ravinder Nath also called on the Chief Minister and briefed him about

the developmental progress and academic initiatives of the university.

Director of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various issues and developments concerning the institution.

Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Construction Company Arjun Dhawan also called on the Chief Minister and briefed him on various ongoing works being executed by the company in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and reiterated the government's commitment to inclusive development, strengthening public institutions and addressing public concerns in a responsive manner.

# Talha Jehangir Bids Farewell to Prasar Bharati After Distinguished Service



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** An emotional farewell was accorded to Talha Jehangir, Director of Programs at Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar, on the occasion of his superannuation from Prasar Bharati after an illustrious career in public broadcasting.

Colleagues and staff members gathered to bid farewell to Talha Jehangir and acknowledged his valuable contribution towards strengthening programming and broadcasting standards during his tenure.

On the occasion, Qazi Salman, Director of the

Regional News Unit at Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar, presented a bouquet to Talha Jehangir as a gesture of respect and appreciation for his dedicated services.

Officials and staff members praised his professionalism, leadership and commitment to public service broadcasting, describing his journey in Prasar Bharati as inspiring and impactful.

The farewell ceremony was marked by warm wishes and appreciation from colleagues, who wished him good health and success in the new phase of life after retirement.

# JKEDI Sgr concludes Management Development Programme under RAMP Initiative

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Srinagar, successfully concluded the 9th Management Development Programme (MDP-9) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Initiative at its District Office, Srinagar.

The programme focused on building entrepreneurial and managerial capacity among 22 women entrepreneurs from Srinagar. Through structured training modules, participants were equipped with essential skills in business planning, financial management, marketing, and regulatory compliance to establish sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Srinagar, and Syed Miftah

Andrabi, Manager, JKEDI.

Addressing the participants, Shabir Hussain Shah appreciated their active involvement and enthusiasm throughout the programme. He urged the trainees to leverage the knowledge and skills gained to build scalable businesses and contribute to local economic development. He further emphasized that such capacity-building initiatives under RAMP are crucial for promoting grassroots entrepreneurship and empowering women.

Participants expressed deep gratitude to JKEDI for its guidance and for creating a platform that strengthens women-led enterprises in the region.

The RAMP initiative, supported by the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, and the World Bank, aims to enhance the performance and competitiveness of MSMEs across J&K.

# DC Sgr visits B&J Hospital; Inspects progress of work on additional parking space

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Monday conducted a comprehensive visit to Bone and Joint (B&J) Hospital and the Sunner Kul Bund Road behind Super Speciality Hospital Shreeen Bagh to inspect ongoing traffic decongestion measures and infrastructure upgradation works around key healthcare facilities in Srinagar district.

The visit aimed at assessing the progress of ongoing interventions undertaken to streamline vehicular movement and improve accessibility for patients, attendants and staff visiting the hospitals.

At Bone & Joint Hospital, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the development of an alternate entry gate to the Bone & Joint Hospital, construction of ramps and small Link Road connecting the main road with the Parking facilities through the Bund side along Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla aimed at reducing congestion at the main gate and ensuring smooth passage for ambulances and other emergency vehicles.

While taking an on-site assessment of the new parking facility developed to address space constraints around the hospital, the DC was informed that the parking space for attendants and hospital staff is almost completed and will be made functional by June 15, 2026.

The DC also reviewed the progress on improvement works of alternate



hospital entry gate to minimize bottlenecks to reduce roadside congestion, particularly during peak hours. He was informed that this part of the project is also nearing completion.

On the occasion, the DC directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure early completion of the works to facilitate smooth movement of ambulances and vehicles carrying patients, while reducing traffic interruptions in the larger public interest.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the progress of the Sunner Kul Bund Road development behind the Super Speciality Hospital as part of traffic decongestion and management measures in the critical medical zone surrounding the SMHS Hospital, Super Speciality Hospital and Dental College.

The road development forms part of the broader mobility improvement and traffic regulation plan along the Nawab Bazar-Kaksaraie-Darish Kadal

corridor aimed at streamlining vehicular movement through the Sunner Kul route.

During the inspection, the DC carried out an on-site assessment of the ongoing works being executed to improve mobility and decongest the critical medical area around the hospitals. He was informed that the alternate route project is nearing completion and that protection works, utility relocation and allied development works within the corridor have already been completed.

The DC said that the dedicated parking facilities around the high-priority hospital zone encompassing SMHS Hospital, Dental Hospital and the Super Speciality Hospital would prevent roadside congestion and facilitate smoother access for patients, attendants and emergency vehicles along the Nawab Bazar-Kaksaraie-Darish Kadal corridor via the Sunner Kul bund link. He directed the executing agencies to expedite the remaining works

under the project by June 10, 2026, emphasizing the need to prioritize interventions ensuring swift patient movement and timely ambulance access while minimizing inconvenience to local residents, traders and commuters.

The DC said the ongoing initiatives, including alternate access routes, expanded parking facilities and improved traffic management are expected to improve vehicular movement and make hospital access more convenient for patients and attendants. He added that the District Administration is actively implementing traffic decongestion measures across Srinagar, especially around major healthcare institutions to ease congestion and facilitate smoother movement in surrounding areas.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B Tatheer Manzor, Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad, Executive Engineer R&B, Khalid Mehmood, Executive Engineer R&B, Abdul Qayoom, Executive Engineer KPDC, MS Bone & Joint Hospital Dr. Adil, MS Superspeciality Hospital, Dr Rubeena, DySP Traffic Suhail Ahmad MS SMHS Hospital, Tehsilidar South Sajad Rasool, Tehsilidar Chanapora, Kifayat Ali, Dr Andleeb and other concerned Officers and Officials accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

# Arrival of Hujjaj

## Additional Commissioner Kashmir reviews arrangements

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Akramullah Tak, on Monday reviewed the arrangements being put in place for the arrival of Hujjaj, scheduled to commence from June 2 at Srinagar Airport.

During the meeting,

a detailed review was conducted regarding the reception of pilgrims by dignitaries upon their arrival, issuance of passes to officers, deployment of adequate manpower for unloading and sorting of luggage, smooth movement of pilgrims and attendants, parking facilities for attendants, and distribution of

ZamZam water. The Additional Commissioner stressed the need for close coordination among all concerned agencies, including the Airlines, Airport Authority, CISF, BCAS, Air Force, and CRPF, to ensure smooth, efficient, and hassle-free Hajj arrival operations at Srinagar Airport.

He directed the concerned departments and agencies to extend full cooperation and provide all necessary assistance for the convenience and comfort of the returning pilgrims.

The meeting was attended by ADC Srinagar, ADC Budgam, officers of Airport Authority, Police, Health, R&B and Hajj Officer.

# Awareness programmes organised across Budgam under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** A series of awareness programmes, pledge ceremonies and outreach activities were organised across district Budgam under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to encourage collective responsibility towards building a healthy and drug-free society.

A Mental Health Awareness Programme under the

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was organised at PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School Dagger Budgam. During the programme, students were sensitized about emotional well-being, stress management, healthy living and the importance of staying away from substance abuse. Participants actively took part in the awareness session and were encouraged to seek support and guidance whenever needed.

Meanwhile, a Nasha

Mukht Bharat pledge ceremony was organised at the office of Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Budgam. Officials and staff reaffirmed their commitment towards spreading awareness against drug abuse and promoting a healthy and responsible social environment.

Officials and staff of different departments of Budgam also participated in a pledge and awareness programme organised under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. The pro-

gramme highlighted the importance of collective responsibility, awareness and community participation in safeguarding youth from substance abuse and creating a disciplined, healthy and addiction-free society.

The awareness initiatives witnessed active participation from students, officials and staff members who collectively pledged to contribute towards the fight against drug abuse and support the vision of a drug-free district.

# Market checking intensified across Kupwara on Eid-ul-Adha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, market checking drive was conducted across Kupwara ahead of Eid al-Adha to ensure the availability of essential commodities at government approved rates and to curb hoarding, black marketing and profiteering.

The district administration has constituted special inspection teams to monitor market activities

across various areas of the district.

The inspection teams comprising officers from the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Revenue, Food Safety, Municipality, Legal Metrology, Sheep Husbandry and Police departments are conducting regular market inspections in their respective jurisdictions. The teams are checking the availability, quality and pricing of essential commodities to safeguard consumer interests ahead

of the festive occasion.

A joint market checking team headed by the Assistant Director FCS&CA Kupwara today inspected various markets of Kupwara town including Bypass Road Market, Jamia Market, Iqbal Market, Hajaj Market, Dar Gali, Old Chowk and Reigpora. During the inspection, several shopkeepers were penalised for violations and a fine amounting to Rs 2400 was realised from the erring traders. The team also directed

the shopkeepers to strictly follow the government approved rates and maintain quality standards.

Similar market checking drives were also carried out in Handwara, Karnah, Sogam and other tehsil headquarters of the district.

The administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring smooth supply of essential commodities and protecting consumers from overpricing and unfair trade practices during the Eid-ul-Adha period.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**

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

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 14/EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl of 2026-27 under Endorsement No.:2379-84 Dated: 25-05-2026

For and behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders (In Single Cover) are being invited on a Percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No.	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor
01.	Upgradation of various Link Road at Gadoora and Kujjar under C&T (Machine Mix laid with Paver).	39.06	1100	78,120	30-Days	AAY/BEE Class with HMPO or MoU with Registered HMPO

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

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-05-2026
2. Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents	25-05-2026
3. Bid Submission Start Date	25-05-2026 from 06:00 PM
4. Bid Submission End Date	01-06-2026 upto 04:00 PM
5. Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	02-06-2026 at 10:00 AM in the Office of PW(R&B) Division Ganderbal.
- Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document. (The name of the Work along with NIT No. and Serial No. must be written on the Treasury Challan).
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (Dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date).
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Allotted Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal within 03 days before Fixation of contract and shall be released after completion of DLP and the 2% EMD shall be released in favour of successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% Performance Security.
- Unbalanced Bid:-**  
As per the Circular Instructions of Finance Department Vide No. (Principal Secretary to Government Finance Department's circular issued under endorsement No: FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:- 08.08.2025), which is reproduced as:-> Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
  - Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
  - The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.
  - The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Website in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No.:2379-84  
Dated: 25-05-2026

DIPK-1610-26  
DT: 25/05/2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Ganderbal

# CM hands over regularisation orders to CPWs of School Edu Deptt

Says employees should work with sincerity, dedication for betterment of Deptt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday handed over regularisation orders to Continuing Paid Workers (CPWs) of the School Education Department at Civil Secretariat function here. Minister for School Education Sakina Itoo was present on the occasion. Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Special

Secretary School Education Ghulam Rasool Mir, Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmed Wani and other senior officers of the concerned department were also present during the programme. The Chief Minister individually handed over the regularisation orders to the CPWs from Ganderbal and Bandipora districts and extended his best wishes to them for their future

service. He expressed hope that the employees would continue to work with sincerity, commitment and dedication towards strengthening the School Education Department and improving public service delivery. The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and the government for addressing their long-pending issue and providing them regularisation orders.

# Dy CM assesses rescue operation following Gondola technical snag at Gulmarg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GULMARG:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Monday visited Gulmarg to assess the rescue operations launched after a technical snag disrupted the functioning of the Gondola service.

Despite difficult terrain and slippery conditions caused by continuous movement along steep slopes, the Deputy Chief Minister personally visited the rescue sites and appreciated the dedication and professionalism displayed by the rescue teams under the challenging circumstances.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the on-ground situation and inspected the Gondola base station, cabins and related infrastructure. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure that all necessary safety protocols are strictly adhered to and stressed the need for early restoration of services for the convenience of tourists and locals.

Interacting with the tourists and officials on the spot, the Deputy Chief Minister lauded the coor-



ordinated efforts of the Civil Administration, Police, Army, Disaster Response Force (DRF), local guides and other agencies involved in the rescue operation.

"On the directions of the Chief Minister, I personally supervised the ongoing rescue operation and I am happy to say that all the stranded tourists have been rescued safely," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the prompt response and close coordination among all agencies ensured the safe evacuation of every passenger. He reiterated that the safety and well-being of tourists remains the government's

top priority. "Tourists are our valued guests and every possible effort was made to ensure their safe rescue. I am thankful that all the passengers are safe and the rescue operation has concluded successfully," he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister further assured that a detailed report regarding the incident would be submitted to the Chief Minister, following which appropriate measures would be taken to ascertain the cause of the technical snag and prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

Senior officers from Civil, police and army were also present.

# DG NCC calls on Sakeena Itoo in Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Director General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), Lt. General Virendra Vats Monday called on Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, and apprised her of the activities and outreach programmes being undertaken by the NCC across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Director General highlighted the role of the NCC in shaping youth through discipline, leadership, patriotism and community service. He informed the Minister about various initiatives being carried out to encourage greater participation of students in NCC activities, especially in remote and border areas of the Union Territory.

Lt. General Virendra Vats also briefed the Minister about the ongoing training programmes, adventure activities, awareness

campaigns and social service initiatives being conducted by NCC units in J&K. He underscored the organisation's efforts towards youth empowerment and nation-building by engaging cadets in constructive and character-building activities.

He also briefed the Minister about the participation of J&K Youth in NCC, especially the girls/women folk.

The Minister appreciated the contribution of the NCC in nurturing discipline, confidence and a spirit of service among the youth. She lauded the organisation for providing young students with opportunities for personality development, leadership training and national integration.

The Minister also assured the Director General of all possible support from the Government for carrying out various activities across J&K for the welfare of youth.

# CM hands over compassionate appointment letters to beneficiaries under SRO-43

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday handed over appointment orders to beneficiaries under SRO-43 and the J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) at the Civil Secretariat here, reaffirming the government's commitment towards supporting families who have suffered irreparable personal loss.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and other senior officers were present during the distribution event.

The outstation Minister, officers and beneficiaries participated in the event through video conferencing.

A total of 52 appointees hailing from different districts of Jammu and Kashmir received appointment orders under SRO-43 and RAS



during simultaneous events held in Srinagar and Jammu.

Addressing the newly-appointed beneficiaries, the Chief Minister said that the government was only fulfilling its responsibility and not extending any favour.

"The first thing I would like to say is that the government that has given you these orders here and in Jammu is not doing you a favour; it is our duty. While fulfilling this duty, we also realise that you have had to make a huge sacrifice to get these government orders," the Chief Minister said.

Drawing a distinction between ordinary recruitment process and the circumstances under which the beneficiaries had become eligible for compassionate appoint-

ment, the Chief Minister said that unlike regular aspirants who secure jobs through examinations and interviews, the appointees under these schemes have endured profound personal tragedies.

"To get a government job, we usually ask our children to pass examinations and interviews. But the test you have faced has been far more difficult because you had to lose someone dear to you to reach this stage. That is why I say we are not distributing these orders as a favour, but rather repaying a moral obligation," he added.

The Chief Minister observed that the government functions as one collective family and emphasized the importance of standing together in times of grief and hardship.

"We want this government and all of us working within it, whether in the Secretariat or outside, to function as one larger family. We must not only share each other's pain but also support one another during difficult circumstances. This initiative is a small step in that direction so that your families can move forward and not suffer any further hardship," he said.

Urging the appointees to discharge their duties with sincerity and dedication, the Chief Minister said public service should always remain centred on helping people and contributing positively to society.

"Our only expectation from you is that wherever you are posted, you serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir with honesty,

commitment and dedication. Whatever role we hold in government, our purpose remains the same—that when we return home in the evening, we should feel satisfied that our day's work has benefited someone. If you perform your duties honestly, that itself will be the greatest tribute to those whose memories brought you here today," he said.

The Chief Minister also reiterated the government's resolve to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are not made to run from office to office for compassionate appointments.

"We are committed to ensuring that you do not have to move from pillar to post to obtain your appointment orders. That would be a grave injustice to all of you. We will ensure that the process is expedited and all remaining cases are cleared at the earliest," he assured.

The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and the administration for facilitating timely appointments and extending support to families during difficult times.

# CS-led SEC clears UNDP collaboration, Advanced disaster response measures for J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday chaired the meeting of the State Executive Committee (SEC) of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) to review and approve a series of significant initiatives aimed at strengthening disaster mitigation, preparedness and response mechanisms across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Principal Secretary, DMRR&R; Commandant General, SDRF; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, Revenue; besides other senior officers of the DMRR&R.

During the meeting, the SEC deliberated upon several key agenda items concerning disaster preparedness and resilience-building measures in the

UT and accorded approval to a number of important decisions aimed at enhancing the institutional and operational capacity of the administration to effectively deal with natural disasters and emergencies.

Among the major decisions taken was the formal approval for entering into partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for implementation of disaster mitigation measures in various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The Committee also approved constitution of a Project Steering Committee to oversee coordination and effective implementation of the programme. The committee will be headed by the Principal Secretary, DMRR&R and co-chaired by UNDP along with several other members from concerned Departments.

In order to strengthen technological preparedness and scientific assess-

ment capabilities, the SEC also approved procurement of Digital Terrain Models (DTMs) for vulnerable districts to facilitate simulation, prediction and mitigation of natural disasters. The Committee further gave nod for procurement of satellite phones for high-risk subdivisions and tehsils across all districts to ensure seamless communication during emergency situations and disaster events.

The meeting also discussed the constitution of hazard-specific task forces for disasters such as earthquakes, floods, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) and landslides. These task forces would comprise experts and members drawn from reputed national and local institutions including IITs, universities and other technical organizations to provide specialised inputs for disaster risk reduction and preparedness planning.

# Govt promotes Incharge IOs, AIOs as Information Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K government Monday ordered the regularisation and promotion of 3 In-charge Information Officers and 14 Assistant Information Officers as Information Officers and equivalent in the Information Department.

According to a Government Order issued here by the Information Department, the promoted officers included Showket Ahmad Khan, Riyaz Ahmad Fazili, Parshotam Dass, Rajinder Paul Singh, Gulshan Sumbria, Majeed Ahmad Ganai, Gulshan Ara, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Sayed Gulam Jeelani Qadiri, Shabir Ahmed Bhat, Gurpreet Singh, Liyaqat Ali Mir, Mohammad Owais Gurkoo, Natyapal Singh, Parvaiz Ahmad Lone, Sajad Ahmad Shah and Hardeep Singh Choudhary.

Showket Ahmad Khan, Riyaz Ahmad Fazili and Parshotam Dass have been regularised with effect from September 5, 2018, while the promotions of the remaining officers will take effect prospectively, according to the order.

The officers shall continue to work at their present places of posting until further orders.

# Ladakh unveils portal to ease delivery of services to citizens, enterprises

AGENCIES

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday launched an integrated 'ease-of-doing business' portal for Ladakh, describing it as a major step towards strengthening digital governance, improving service delivery and creating a business-friendly ecosystem in the Union Territory.

The portal - <https://eodb.ladakh.gov.in> - is aimed at simplifying access to government services by reducing manual procedures, paperwork and delays in approvals through a single online platform, officials said.

The platform will also provide entrepreneurs, investors, startups, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and other stakeholders with a unified mechanism to avail government services and approvals online.

Officials said the initiative is aligned with Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi's vision of "ease of doing business" and "minimum government, maximum governance", and is expected to enhance transparency, efficiency and accountability, while promoting economic growth and investment in the Union Territory.

In the first phase, 13 departments have been integrated with the portal and 23 online services have already been made operational, officials said.

The administration plans to expand the platform by onboarding more departments and services in a phased manner.

The portal currently offers access to services from departments, including Tourism, Public Health Engineering, and Industries and Commerce, besides providing information on government schemes, incentives, policies, Acts, rules, notifications and procedures.

Speaking at the launch, Saxena said that the portal marks a significant milestone in Ladakh's jour-

ney towards digital governance and administrative reforms.

"By integrating services of multiple departments onto a single transparent and technology-driven platform, we are ensuring faster approvals, reducing procedural delays and creating a more business-friendly environment in Ladakh. This initiative will strengthen investor confidence, promote entrepreneurship and contribute towards economic growth and employment generation in the Union Territory," he said.

Among the key features of the portal are a Common Application Form (CAF), Single Sign-On access, PAN authentication, SMS and e-mail notifications, live application tracking, an integrated payment gateway, grievance redressal mechanism and workflow-based approvals.

Applicants will also be able to monitor approval timelines, application status, pendency and grievance resolution through an interactive dashboard.

# Javid Dar visits Kissan Ghar, J&K agro cold storage facilities in new Delhi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, Monday visited Kissan Ghar and J&K Agro cold storage facilities in New Delhi and reviewed the progress of ongoing works as well as the functioning of these facilities.

The Minister was accompanied by Managing Director, J&K HPMC, Mohammad Farooq Ahmad, along with other senior officers.

During the visit, the Minister inspected the ongoing construction of a Common Facility Centre under the Additional Market Development project, being developed at an estimated cost of ₹1986.57 lakh with NABARD support. The facility is aimed at strengthening the post-harvest management and marketing support for horticulture produce from Jammu and Kashmir.

The officials informed that the new cold storage facility will have a capacity of 3800 metric tonnes, com-

prising 10 multi-purpose chambers with advanced insulation systems and five deep-freeze chambers with dual temperature options for preservation of perishable produce.

The Minister also reviewed the upgraded existing cold storage infrastructure of 4000 metric tonnes capacity, originally constructed in 1976 and presently being modernised under a NABARD-funded project costing ₹1024.34 lakh.

Emphasising the importance of modern storage and marketing infrastructure, the Minister stated that such facilities are vital for improving farmers' returns and reducing post-harvest losses in the horticulture sector.

Later, the Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the additional block at Kissan Ghar. He directed the officials to expedite the works for timely completion. He also urged the officers to extend all possible support to residents from Jammu and Kashmir during their stay and also ensure that best possible services are provided to the visitors.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Regularization At Last

Omair Abdullah's decision to finally hand out regularization orders to Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) in the School Education Department is more than just an administrative update, it's a deeply humane move. For decades, these workers have been trapped in a exhausting limbo, keeping schools running on low wages, zero security, and no guarantees about tomorrow. Giving them permanent status isn't a bureaucratic favor; it is a long-overdue thank you for years of quiet, patient sacrifice. The School Education Department is the absolute backbone of public life in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in remote, rural villages. In many of these places, CPWs are the ones doing the essential, day-to-day work that keeps school doors open. Yet, despite being completely indispensable, they spent decades being treated as invisible by the system. These kinds of endless delays don't just drain a worker's morale; they expose a harsh truth about how casually the government relies on temporary labor. By finally tackling this issue, the administration is sending a clear message: the struggles of the people at the bottom of the ladder matter. True job security brings dignity, financial breathing room, and peace of mind to thousands of families. It also makes our institutions stronger. When people feel valued and secure, they naturally bring more heart, commitment, and pride to their work. But while we celebrate this milestone, we can't ignore the bigger picture. Thousands of other daily-wagers, temporary hands, and contractual workers in other departments are still waiting in the dark. Governments love to lean on temporary workers for years, yet they rarely build clear, fair, or time-bound paths to permanent employment. This structure breeds frustration and deepens the financial anxiety of people who are literally dedicating their lives to public service. This shouldn't be a one-time gesture or an isolated headline. The administration needs to build a fair, transparent framework that looks at all temporary workers across J&K. When justice in the workplace is delayed for decades, people lose faith in government. On the flip side, this new stability is also a fresh chapter of responsibility for the workers. Public schools need dedication, discipline, and energy. Now that these employees have the security they deserve, they have an even bigger role to play in shaping the educational future of our children. Ultimately, regularizing these workers is about something much larger than a change in employment status. It's a powerful reminder that governance only truly matters when it listens and responds to the everyday struggles of the ordinary people who keep the system going.

Beyond Relief Politics

Hail, Hunger, And Hollow Promises



DR. RIZWAN RUMI

The Valley that once greeted every season as a sacred blessing now increasingly watches the sky with fear. For generations, Kashmir's agricultural rhythm moved in harmony with nature. Spring carried the fragrance of almond blossoms, summer nourished emerald paddy fields, autumn crowned orchards with crimson apples, and winter wrapped the Valley in quiet resilience. Seasons were once predictable companions of rural life. But today, that ancient ecological rhythm stands deeply disturbed.

For the farmers and orchardists of Jammu & Kashmir, the year 2026 has unfolded not as a season of prosperity, but as a season of devastation, anxiety, and silent economic collapse.

A chain of extreme weather events beginning with the unseasonal disturbances of April 18, intensifying during the violent storms of May 12, and culminating in the catastrophic hailstorms of May 22, 2026, has unleashed unprecedented damage across the Valley's agricultural landscape. Standing crops have been flattened. Tender fruit blossoms have been shredded before maturity. Vegetable fields have drowned beneath relentless rainfall. Gusty winds have scarred orchards that represented years of labour and investment. In district after district, the same heartbreaking scenes continue to emerge.

From the high-density apple orchards of Shopian and Kulgam to the vast horticultural belts of Sopore, Baramulla, Kupwara, Rafiabad, and Tangmarg, orchard floors now lie buried beneath broken branches, scattered blossoms, and bruised fruit. In villages such as Watergam, Lessar, Dandiwacha, Hadipora, and Tral, growers describe the destruction not merely as crop loss, but as the wiping away of an entire year's hope within a matter of minutes. Local estimates suggest that in some severely affected zones, nearly 60 to 70 percent of fruit production has either been completely destroyed or suffered irreversible quality deterioration. What survived the hailstorms now faces secondary threats of fungal infection, bruising, moisture damage, and declining market value.

This is no longer an isolated agricultural setback. It is a structural climate emergency unfolding in real time across the fragile Himalayan ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir.

Agriculture and horticulture in Jammu & Kashmir are not simply economic sectors; they are the emotional and financial backbone of society itself. According to official economic assessments, the horticulture sector alone supports more than seven lakh families and provides direct and indirect employment to nearly twenty-three lakh people. The sector generates an annual turnover exceeding 6,300 crore and contributes significantly to the Union Territory's economy. Apples alone dominate the horticultural landscape, making Kashmir one of the most important fruit-producing regions in South Asia.

Yet behind these impressive macro-economic figures lies a far more fragile human reality. More than ninety percent of orchard owners in Kashmir are small and marginal growers. Their livelihoods depend entirely upon one successful harvest cycle. A single weather disaster can push entire families into debt traps from which recovery becomes nearly impossible.

For such households, crop failure does not remain confined to agriculture. It affects school fees, healthcare expenses, marriage arrangements, household consumption, and long-term social stability. When orchards fail, rural dignity itself begins to fracture.

The crisis becomes even more dangerous because farming in Kashmir has already become increasingly expensive. High-density apple cultivation requires enormous investments in pesticides, fertilizers, anti-fungal treatments, labour, transportation, packaging, and irrigation. Many growers operate through borrowed capital and seasonal loans. When climatic disasters destroy produce before harvest, repayment becomes impossible. This explains why repeated demands for loan waivers and special relief packages have emerged from fruit grower associations across the Valley after the recent hailstorms. But relief alone is no longer enough.

Climate Change Has Entered the Orchards

The events unfolding in Kashmir today cannot be dismissed as random seasonal disturbances. They are deeply connected to the accelerating realities of climate change. Scientists and environmental observers have repeatedly warned that Himalayan ecosystems



are among the most climate-sensitive regions in the world. Rising temperatures, irregular snowfall, changing rainfall patterns, sudden cloudbursts, prolonged dry spells, and unseasonal storms are rapidly altering the agricultural calendar of Jammu & Kashmir. Winters are becoming shorter and warmer. Snowfall patterns have become inconsistent. Spring now arrives unpredictably. Hailstorms increasingly strike during crucial flowering and fruit-setting stages, when orchards are most vulnerable.

Traditional farming wisdom, once passed from generation to generation, is losing reliability before rapidly changing climatic behavior. Paddy cultivation too has entered a phase of uncertainty. In several parts of Kashmir, farmers are gradually abandoning traditional rice cultivation due to water scarcity, erratic rainfall, and declining profitability. Vegetable growers complain that sudden temperature fluctuations are increasing pest attacks and reducing productivity. The ecological stability upon which Kashmir's agrarian society historically depended is steadily weakening. And

arrives late, remains inadequate, and fails to reflect the true scale of losses. The recent hailstorms have once again exposed the limitations of reactive governance. For many orchardists, the actual losses are not merely physical but economic. Apples damaged by hail may survive on trees, but bruised or scarred fruit loses its market value entirely. Current compensation systems often fail to account for such quality degradation.

This disconnect between official assessment and lived reality has deepened frustration among farming communities.

Many growers argue that existing relief mechanisms continue to function as temporary political responses rather than long-term agricultural protection frameworks. That is precisely why the debate around crop insurance has now become urgent and unavoidable.

Why Crop Insurance Matters More Than Ever

India's flagship agricultural insurance initiative, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), was introduced with the objective of protecting farmers against crop losses arising from natural calamities, pests, and weather-related disasters. Official records indicate that over 11.6 lakh farmer applications from Jammu & Kashmir have been enrolled under the scheme over the years, with claims amounting to more than 166 crore reportedly settled. On paper, these numbers appear significant. Yet on the ground, a critical mismatch persists between policy design and Kashmir's horticultural realities.

The scheme was largely conceptualized around conventional agricultural patterns of the plains, where crop-loss calculations often depend upon measurable yield reductions in cereals such as wheat or paddy. Kashmir's horticulture economy, however, functions very differently. Apple cultivation, walnut orchards, cherry production, and saffron farming operate under complex climatic and quality-sensitive conditions. A single hailstorm may not uproot a tree, but it can destroy the commercial value of the produce entirely.

This distinction is crucial

A damaged apple may technically survive, yet become unsellable in premium markets. Similarly, saffron exposed to untimely rainfall can lose both quality and value despite partial physical survival. Current insurance structures inadequately account for such nuanced realities of temperate horticulture.

Structural Gaps in the Existing Insurance Framework

- Generic Insurance Models for Specialized Horticulture: Kashmir requires insurance frameworks specifically designed for high-value horticulture. Standardized models fail to capture region-specific vulnerabilities associated with apple orchards, walnut cultivation, cherry production, and saffron farming.
- Delayed Assessments and Claim Settlements: Farmers frequently complain that lengthy procedural delays weaken trust in insurance mechanisms. By the time compensation arrives, growers have often already entered debt cycles.
- Exclusion of Quality Loss: Most existing compensation systems focus primarily on quantity loss rather than market quality deterioration. Bruising, scarring, fungal infection, and moisture damage remain insufficiently recognized despite causing massive financial losses.
- Poor Awareness and Documentation Challenges: Many small growers remain unfamiliar with enrollment procedures, documentation requirements, and claim processes. Tenant farmers, oral lessees, and sharecroppers often remain

excluded altogether.

Weak Technological Integration: Although initiatives like YES-TECH and remote sensing technologies exist nationally, localized deployment in Kashmir remains limited. Real-time digital assessment systems are urgently needed.

Reimagining Agricultural Protection in Kashmir

The crisis demands more than sympathy. It demands structural reform. If Jammu & Kashmir wishes to safeguard its rural economy against future climate shocks, a modern and region-specific agricultural protection architecture must emerge.

Weather-Indexed Insurance Systems: Localized weather-index insurance can dramatically improve transparency and efficiency. Automatic payouts triggered through weather stations measuring hail intensity, rainfall levels, or wind velocity can bypass bureaucratic delays.

Drone and Satellite-Based Damage Mapping: Advanced technologies should be integrated for rapid orchard assessment. Satellite imagery, AI-assisted crop mapping, and drone surveys can help establish accurate compensation frameworks.

Specialized Apple Insurance: Kashmir's apple economy deserves a dedicated insurance mechanism tailored specifically for quality-sensitive horticulture.

Revival of Market Intervention Schemes: Alongside insurance, the government must revive and strengthen the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to provide price support for hail-damaged produce.

Inclusion of Marginal and Tenant Farmers: No insurance system can succeed while excluding vulnerable cultivators who bear operational risks despite lacking formal land ownership documents.

A Farmer's Loss Is Never Merely Economic: When crops fail in Kashmir, the consequences travel far beyond agriculture. A damaged orchard often means a daughter's education interrupted, a medical treatment postponed, a family pushed into debt, or a lifetime of savings erased. The emotional devastation borne by farming households rarely enters official statistics.

A farmer who stands helplessly watching hailstones strip his orchard does not merely lose fruit. He loses accumulated labour, inherited tradition, financial security, emotional stability, and the fragile hope upon which rural life survives. This human dimension must remain central to every policy discussion on climate resilience and agricultural protection. Jammu & Kashmir stands at a critical crossroads. The climate realities confronting the region are no longer temporary disruptions. They are becoming recurring patterns. Extreme weather events that once occurred once in decades now arrive multiple times within a single season. The old approach of reactive relief packages can no longer sustain rural Kashmir.

What is required instead is a comprehensive strategy combining climate-resilient agriculture, scientific forecasting, localized insurance models, digital transparency, market stabilization, and institutional accountability. They seek security, dignity, and recognition for sustaining one of the most vital economic sectors of the region. The farmer who feeds society should not remain abandoned before the fury of changing skies. If Kashmir's orchards are to survive the storms ahead, crop insurance must evolve from symbolic paperwork into genuine ground-level protection. And that protection cannot wait any longer.

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For such households, crop failure does not remain confined to agriculture. It affects school fees, healthcare expenses, marriage arrangements, household consumption, and long-term social stability. When orchards fail, rural dignity itself begins to fracture.

yet, despite the growing frequency of climatic shocks, farmers continue to stand largely unprotected.

The Limits of Existing Compensation Politics

Every year after major storms, a familiar administrative cycle repeats itself. Political leaders visit affected areas. Survey teams are constituted. Damage assessments are ordered. Relief announcements dominate headlines for several days. Yet on the ground, growers repeatedly complain that compensation



# Civic Sense Awareness - Are We Truly Aware?

RAVINDER KAUR

“Are we aware while walking, talking, and living in public spaces? Is there any difference between a personal place and a public area?” Yes, there is a huge difference. Whenever we visit public spaces, especially hospitals, bus stands, markets, or crowded campuses, we often find ourselves thinking deeply about civic sense and public responsibility. Recently, while visiting a hospital, it was disturbing to see people smoking openly near the entrance, parking areas, and even inside the hospital campus. Hospitals are places where people come to heal, recover, and fight for life, yet many individuals carelessly smoke in public without realizing that their actions affect others around them. The same situation can often be seen at bus stands and other public places where instead of fresh air, one mostly experiences the smell of cigarette smoke. At that moment, one question repeatedly comes to mind, are we really aware of our responsibilities as citizens?

As true citizens of our society and our country, we should know not only our rights but also our duties. Today, people are becoming highly educated, professionally successful, and socially active, but somewhere we are forgetting the basic values of civic sense and humanity. Civic sense is not only about following rules; it is about understanding that public places belong to everyone. The roads we walk on, the air we breathe, the hospitals we visit, the parks, schools, markets, and surroundings we share are common spaces that must be respected equally by all citizens.

Unfortunately, many people fail to understand the difference between personal habits and public behavior. Some people say smoking is a personal choice. Yes, personal habits may belong to an individual, but public spaces are not personal spaces. If someone is habitual and cannot avoid smoking, then at least they should understand that public places include children, elderly people, patients, pregnant women, and many others whose health may be directly affected by such actions. What disturbs society the most is seeing people smoking in hospital surroundings where many



patients are already struggling for breath and life. Such actions clearly show a lack of awareness and social responsibility.

The problem does not end with smoking alone. Every day we witness people throwing wrappers from vehicle windows, littering roads while walking, spitting publicly, and damaging public property without hesitation. Ironically, these are the same people who once studied Science, EVS, Biology, and moral education during their school days. From childhood, we are taught cleanliness, hygiene, discipline, and environmental awareness. We are taught to use dustbins and protect nature. Yet when many people grow up, they forget those very lessons that were meant to shape them into responsible human beings.

Many people casually say, “What difference will one wrapper make?” But every polluted street begins with one careless wrapper. Every dirty road begins with one irresponsible

action repeated again and again by thousands of people. If there is no dustbin nearby, we can simply keep the waste in our bags or pockets and throw it later into a proper dustbin. Such small responsible actions may seem insignificant, but together they create a cleaner and healthier society.

We are living in a beautiful world blessed with nature. Clean air, fresh water, mountains, greenery, rivers, and peaceful surroundings are priceless gifts available to us free of cost. In many ways, we are living in heaven, yet sadly we are destroying this gift with our own hands. Instead of protecting nature, humans are polluting rivers, filling the air with smoke, cutting trees, and throwing garbage carelessly. Nature continuously gives us life, peace, and survival, but in return humans are slowly suffocating it through irresponsible behavior.

Nowadays, people often complain about the younger generation. We continuously hear statements like,

“Today’s children are becoming irresponsible.” “Teenagers are careless,” or “What will happen to the future generation?” But before blaming children, we must first question ourselves. What example are we setting for them? Children learn more through observation than through lectures. They watch how adults behave in public places, how they treat others, how they speak, and how responsibly they act. If adults themselves ignore civic sense, how can they expect children to become disciplined and aware citizens?

We cannot teach people only through words. We teach people through our actions. This is one of the greatest truths of life. There are many examples where one good action silently changes another person. Sometimes, when one individual behaves responsibly, others may ignore it in the beginning. They may continue doing wrong things without caring. The second time also they may

not pay attention. But slowly, after repeatedly observing positive behavior, people begin changing themselves automatically. This is the silent power of good actions.

Human beings naturally learn through observation. A child who sees parents respecting cleanliness usually develops the same habit. A student who sees teachers behaving honestly understands the value of honesty. A society where people sincerely follow discipline automatically inspires others to improve themselves too. Therefore, if we truly want a better future generation, we must first improve ourselves. The responsibility of shaping the next generation lies in our hands.

Being a responsible citizen is not limited only to paying taxes or following laws. It also includes respecting public places, protecting the environment, avoiding harmful behavior in shared spaces, speaking respectfully, helping others, and maintaining cleanliness around us. A developed society is not created only by governments and policies; it is created by aware and responsible citizens who understand their duties toward humanity.

Today, awareness campaigns, school programs, and civic education activities are strongly needed, but the strongest awareness begins from within ourselves. Society does not improve through complaints alone. It improves when individuals begin correcting their own habits and attitudes. Before criticizing others, we must ask ourselves whether we are truly fulfilling our responsibilities honestly.

The future of our society and country depends upon the actions we take today. The next generation is continuously watching us and learning from us every single day. Therefore, instead of only speaking about change, we must become the change ourselves. Because at the end of the day, humanity, discipline, awareness, and civic sense cannot truly be taught through speeches alone. They are taught through actions, behavior, and the example we leave behind for others.

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The Scholar's Tribune

## From The Thrill Of A Fellowship To The Silence Of Unemployment

MOHD IQBAL RATHER

Every year, thousands of bright young minds walk across the stage to collect their Master's degree and face the most consequential fork in their lives. One road leads toward government service: the steady salary, the pension, the respectability. The other leads into the uncertain terrain of research, the laboratory, the library, the long and lonely pursuit of truth. For those who choose the latter, what awaits them is neither what they imagined nor what their families hoped for. What awaits them is a journey of five years that can only be described, in hindsight, as a sweet poison.

**Year One: The Illusion of a Job**  
The moment a young scholar is awarded a Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), a stipend of 37,000 per month plus House Rent Allowance, something shifts in the mind. The fellowship, generous by Indian academic standards, does not feel like a scholarship. It feels like a salary. It feels like a job. So, the first-year passes pleasantly, perhaps even joyfully. There are new colleagues, new conversations, and the intoxicating feeling of belonging to a university. The money arrives on time. The rent is paid. The family is proud. But the research? The research has not yet begun. It is a distant thing, a formality to be dealt with later. “The fellowship does not feel like a scholarship. It feels like a salary. And that confusion costs the scholar dearly.”

**Year Two: The Awakening and the Endless Search for a Gap**

By the second year, a mild anxiety begins to stir. The supervisor asks questions. Progress reports are due. The scholar opens their laptop and, at last, begins to read. The literature review begins. It is a vast ocean, and the scholar is learning, for the first time, that they do not know how to swim. The entire second year is consumed by two things: reading and searching. Reading what others have done. Searching for what has not been done, the elusive ‘research gap’ that will justify the next three years of one's life. By December, the topic is still not finalised. By March, it shifts



again. The year ends with a title, perhaps, but little else.

**Year Three: The Dark Night of the Soul**

If there is a year that breaks researchers, it is the third. The fellowship no longer feels like freedom; it feels like a clock, ticking. Results are not coming. The laboratory equipment is outdated or unavailable. There is no one to show them how to start, not really. And then there is the environment itself. Toxic lab environments are among the most underreported crises in Indian academia. Supervisors who do not respond to emails for weeks. Lab seniors who guard their knowledge like a trade secret. Colleagues who compete rather than collaborate. And over all of this, the quiet, creeping dread: What if I am not good enough?

Anxiety and depression are not rare in PhD programmes; they are epidemic. Studies across India and globally report that doctoral students experience mental health distress at rates far higher than the general population. The third year is where many consider quitting. Some do. Those who remain carry scars that never fully heal. “The third year is where many consider quitting. Some do. Those who remain carry scars that never fully heal.”

**Year Four: Desperation Dressed as Determination**

The fourth year has a particular quality: urgency. The scholar is now acutely aware that the fellow-

ship will not last forever. Objectives must be fulfilled not because science demands it, but because the calendar does. There is a furious, almost desperate energy to this year. Experiments are run. Data is collected. Papers are submitted. It is a year of survival. The romantic notion of research of patient inquiry, of following truth wherever it leads, has long since dissolved. What remains is the will to finish. And, for some, the first glimmers of something that might, one day, be called a finding.

**Year Five: The Thesis and the Ticking Clock**

The fifth year belongs to writing. And writing, for a researcher trained in data and experiments, is often the hardest thing of all. The thesis must be coherent, comprehensive, original, and defensible. Every sentence is a battle. Every chapter, a small war. The fellowship runs out. Extensions are applied for, sometimes granted, sometimes not. The family grows impatient. Friends of the same age have promotions, marriages, and mortgages. The researcher has a draft thesis and a growing sense of unreality. Five years have passed. Where did they go?

**After the Degree: The Cruellest Chapter**

Graduation day is bittersweet. There is genuine, hard-earned pride. And then, the morning after: no fellowship. No job. No clear path forward. The postdoctoral positions are few and fiercely contested. The facul-

*The moment a young scholar is awarded a Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), a stipend of 37,000 per month plus House Rent Allowance, something shifts in the mind. The fellowship, generous by Indian academic standards, does not feel like a scholarship. It feels like a salary. It feels like a job. So, the first-year passes pleasantly, perhaps even joyfully.*

have found something rare: a truly supportive supervisor. A supervisor who keeps their door open. Who responds to messages? Who does not just assign work, but explains it. Who connects their students with collaborators, opens access to facilities, reads drafts with genuine care, and celebrates small victories as loudly as large ones. Such supervisors are the difference between a PhD that destroys a person and one that transforms them.

I feel truly fortunate to have such supportive lab mates, mentors, and supervisors in my life: “My supervisor was/is always ready for discussion any time, any topic. When I needed access to equipment or collaborative labs, they made it happen. I never felt alone in my research. Because of them, I became the kind of researcher I always hoped to be.”

**Conclusion: Reform the System, Honour the Scholars**

The PhD in India is at a crossroads. On one hand, the country needs more research, more innovation, and more scholars who will push the boundaries of knowledge. On the other hand, the system as it exists today is failing many of the very people it depends upon. If we are serious about building a research culture in this country, we must do more than offer fellowships. We must offer mentorship. We must offer mental health support. We must offer real employment at the end of the journey. We must dismantle the toxic hierarchies that have long plagued our universities. And we must celebrate and replicate the supervisors who are already doing it right. The five years of the PhD are not wasted, even when it feels that way. They forge something in a person that no other experience can: the capacity to sit with uncertainty, to fail and return, to believe in a question even when no answer is visible. That is nothing. That is, in fact, everything that science requires.

*“Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.”*

— Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

Author is Research Scholar, Department of Physics, NIT Srinagar

## 300 Tourists Rescued

He said the coordinated efforts of all agencies ensured the safe rescue of nearly 320 people.

"No one sustained any injuries during the incident," he said, lauding the swift response and seamless coordination among all teams involved in the operation.

DGP Prabhat lauded the unwavering commitment of the brave personnel of the security forces and said that they averted a major crisis.

Senior police officers, including ADGP Law and Order V. K. Birdi, reached Gulmarg and monitored the rescue efforts on the ground. Army officials, including Punit Doval, Manoj Dattatreya Joshi, M. B. Singh and S. K. Yadav, also supervised the operation along with civil administration officials.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also praised the rescue teams for carrying out the operation successfully.

"Applause to India's disaster response forces for safely rescuing 300 tourists stranded mid-air in cable cars in Gulmarg, Kashmir. The nation salutes the forces for their valour and skill," Shah said in a statement.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha hailed the efforts of the rescue agencies and appreciated the coordinated response by Police, Army, SDRF, NDRF and civil administration teams in ensuring the safe evacuation of all stranded tourists.

On the directions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary visited Gulmarg to personally oversee the rescue operation following the disruption in the gondola service.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of all agencies, rescue teams and personnel involved in the successful evacuation of tourists stranded after the Gulmarg Gondola developed a technical fault. He commended the swift response, coordination and professionalism displayed during the rescue operation, which ensured the safe evacuation of all tourists.

The Chief Minister stated that the incident will be thoroughly examined and an enquiry conducted. Responsibility for any lapses will be fixed and appropriate action taken.

Officials said the majority of stranded cabins were cleared within hours and all tourists were evacuated safely without any injuries or loss of life. The administration maintained that the situation remained under control throughout the operation and urged people not to panic.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued, an Army spokesman said, "The Indian Army and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) led a coordinated rescue and evacuation operation at Gulmarg Gondola after a technical fault in the Gondola cable car system caused a sudden suspension of services between the Base Station and Phase-1 (Kongdori) on Monday, leaving multiple tourists stranded amid adverse weather conditions."

"Following a distress call received from the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Gondola Management Authority regarding the safety and evacuation of stranded tourists, the Indian Army swiftly swung into action and mobilised rescue teams towards the affected area.

Troops from Butapathri Battalion side-stepped three Casualty Assistance Teams (CATs) between the Gondola Base Station and Phase-1, while the Army also staged forward its own All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) to facilitate evacuation efforts in the challenging terrain and prevailing inclement weather conditions," the statement said, adding, "The SDRF, Jammu and Kashmir Police and other civil agencies also pitched in to support the rescue operation, while additional ATVs were coordinated through the Gulmarg ATV Association to augment evacuation efforts, as restoration of the Gondola system was expected to take time."—(KNO)

## Won't Stop Until

protected, families are being supported, and renewed hope is returning to the society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that very soon, the administration will come out with a comprehensive rehabilitation policy which will ensure that every young person trapped by addiction gets a chance to rejoin the mainstream.

"Our aim is that not a single young person is left behind. We will provide jobs, opportunities, and the means for them to live with dignity. I strongly believe the success of a Drug-free Jammu Kashmir will not be measured only by the number of drug smugglers arrested but by the number of lives we can rebuild. It will be measured by the homes that can be restored and the young people who can fulfil their dreams. I promise you that we will not rest until their dreams are realised," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the government cannot win this fight alone and in this battle against drugs, administration needs support of families, teachers, religious leaders, and every responsible citizen.

"I envision a Jammu Kashmir where every child grows up free from the shadow of addiction. A Jammu Kashmir where families are not torn apart by drugs. A Jammu Kashmir where society moves forward with security, dignity, and trust. This is not merely a dream. It is our mission and together we will fulfill it. We need the vigilance, awareness, and commitment of every resident of Jammu Kashmir. I believe that when people stand united, no narco-terror

network or drug cartel can infiltrate them. When the public stands together, no terror can defeat them. I urge, we must unite to bury narco-terror once and for all," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated Waqar Knowledge Centre – Engaging Youth Against Drug Abuse.

Under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, District Bandipora has established the Waqar Knowledge Centre (WKC), completing the anti-drug intervention cycle by providing recovering addiction cases with a constructive platform for rehabilitation, engagement, and reintegration. The initiative reinforces the message that individuals seeking to leave the path of substance abuse behind have access to a range of government-supported opportunities and support systems.

The Centre offers a sports corner, badminton court, reading library, and an information desk providing guidance on government schemes, education, employment, and skill development opportunities. The Administration envisions establishing one Waqar Knowledge Centre in each block of the district. The Centre provides a constructive space that empowers youth and strengthens community resilience against addiction.

## LG Visits Hazratbal,

Shri Rajiv Omprakashn, DIG CKR; Dr. GV Sundesh Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Shri Faz Lul Haseeb, Municipal Commissioner Srinagar and officials from all line departments.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of the water supply, sanitation, electricity and other facilities being put in place for smooth conduct of the festival. He instructed the senior officers to ensure that every arrangement is carried out with diligence.

"The festival reminds us of the virtues of humility and charity, inspiring us to dedicate ourselves to the greater good of humanity. We will ensure that the celebration is not only well-organized but also truly grand, marked by devotion and festive fervor," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Spiritual leaders, Waqf officials, senior officers of Police and Civil administration and prominent citizens were also present.

## Police Arrest Accused

most probable scenario in this case," the SSP said.

The officer said that during sustained interrogation, one of the suspects made disclosures that closely matched the evidence collected by investigators. "Upon further questioning, the suspect admitted his involvement in the crime. Based on his confession, additional material evidence has also been seized," he added.

Police identified the arrested accused as Mudasar, saying he was arrested within 36 hours of the incident.

The SSP said the investigation into other aspects of the case, including the motive behind the crime and the exact sequence of events, is still underway. "Our work does not stop here. Our mission is to conduct a robust investigation, prepare a strong case file, and ensure a comprehensive charge sheet so that conviction is secured," he said.

The officer termed the crime as an "offence against the State" and said the entire police machinery remained focused on solving the case. He appealed to the people of Galwanpora and the general public to cooperate with the investigation and maintain trust in the police.

"We understood the gravity of our responsibility, and that is why we were able to make headway in cracking this case within 36 hours," the SSP said.

A 12-year-old girl from Galwanpora area of Budgam had gone missing on the evening of May 23 and was found dead in a field near her village the next morning, triggering widespread outrage and protests across Kashmir.

Police had earlier said that prima facie the case appeared to be one of rape and murder, following which a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted to probe the incident.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, political parties, and civil society groups have condemned the incident and demanded strict punishment for those involved—(KNO)

## Govt Developing Off-Beat

to promote tourism awareness, adventure tourism and enhance the participation of youth in the tourism sector across the district.

Tourism stakeholders, tour and travel operators, local representatives, district officers and large number of youth participated in the camp. They appreciated the efforts being made to boost tourism infrastructure and adventure activities in the area.

The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation in trekking, cycling and other adventure activities aimed at showcasing the tourism potential of Panchanpatri and adjoining areas.

## Soaring Prices, Financial

compared to previous years. "People visit the markets, check the rates and leave with-

out buying. Affordability has become a major issue this year. Traders are struggling to recover transportation and feeding costs," he said.

Another cattle dealer from Anantnag said many traders who brought animals from outside districts are facing losses due to weak demand. "Business has remained far below expectations. Buyers are delaying purchases till the last moment, while many families are simply unable to afford sacrificial animals this year," he said.

Similar scenes are unfolding in Srinagar, where major market hubs including Lal Chowk, Nowhatta and Maharaj Gunj are witnessing comparatively thin crowds despite Eid approaching fast.

David Ahmad, a garment shop owner in Lal Chowk, said even evening hours, which normally witness heavy rush before Eid, are seeing limited customer activity. "People are spending very cautiously. Most families are focusing on necessities rather than festive shopping. The excitement usually associated with Eid shopping is missing this time," he said.

Bakery owners across the Valley have also expressed concern over declining sales.

Fayaz Ahmad, who runs a bakery in Baramulla, said the demand for traditional bakery items has remained weaker than in previous years.

"Usually, bakery sales rise sharply before Eid, but this season, business is slow. Rising prices of raw materials have already increased our costs, while customers are also purchasing less," he said.

In north Kashmir's Kupwara district, traders dealing in ready-made garments and footwear reported similar trends.

Abdul Rashid, a shopkeeper in Handwara, said middle-class families are finding it difficult to manage expenses due to inflation and unemployment. "Earlier, families used to shop freely before Eid, but now people calculate every expense carefully. The economic situation is affecting markets everywhere," he said.

Livestock dealers in Bandipora and Baramulla also reported poor response in cattle markets.

Ghulam Nabi, a trader from Baramulla, said transport costs and rising fodder prices have made business difficult for dealers.

"We brought animals expecting good sales before Eid, but the response has been disappointing so far. Many traders fear losses if the situation does not improve in the coming days," he said.

In Anantnag district, bakery owners and traders said pre-Eid business, which usually sustains them for several weeks, has failed to gain momentum this year.

Shabir Ahmad, a bakery owner in the district, said consumers are prioritising household essentials over traditional festive spending.

"People are purchasing only limited quantities. The overall market atmosphere is dull, and traders are worried," he said.

Despite the sluggish business activity, traders across Kashmir remain hopeful that markets may witness some improvement on the final day before Eid-ul-Adha. However, many fear that overall business this season may remain significantly below normal levels, reflecting the wider economic pressures being faced by people across the Valley—(KNO)

## CS Reviews Implementation

presentation on the Action Taken Reports pertaining to various reform initiatives was given by the Planning Development & Monitoring Department. The meeting was informed that several departments including Finance, School Education, Skill Development, Health & Medical Education, Housing & Urban Development, Agriculture Production, Social Welfare, Public Works, Tourism and Higher Education Departments have already adopted convergence-based governance models involving inter-departmental coordination, digital integration and collaborative implementation mechanisms.

Regarding the points of School Education Department it was revealed that vocational education has been expanded to more than 1,350 schools across Jammu & Kashmir with enrolment of over 1.41 lakh students, besides integration of digital platforms, ICT laboratories and smart classrooms under the framework of NEP-2020.

Similarly with respect to the Skill Development Department it was highlighted that flagship initiatives including Mission YUVA and PM Vishwakarma are being implemented through coordinated institutional mechanisms involving multiple departments, financial institutions and academic organisations.

The Health & Medical Education Department proposed integrated planning with allied departments for convergence of health, sanitation, nutrition, education and livelihood initiatives, while the Housing & Urban Development Department highlighted its focus on technology-driven governance, sustainable urban planning and citizen-centric reforms for improving urban living standards.

The meeting was further informed that departments including Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, ARI & Trainings, Disaster Management, Labour & Employment and Information Department have introduced integrated digital governance systems, interoperable platforms and real-time monitoring mechanisms aimed at improving transparency, accountability and ease of access to public services.

Reviewing reforms aimed at enhancing Ease of Living, the meeting was apprised that

under the J&K Jan Vishwas reforms, around 32 criminal provisions across 20 Acts have been decriminalized to reduce compliance burden and improve citizen convenience, while 19 obsolete laws have been repealed for simplification of the statutory framework and promotion of ease of doing business.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the proposal for achieving 100 percent end-to-end digitization of Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services across the Union Territory. The meeting was informed that 1,548 G2C services have already been digitized under the E-Unnat platform, while nearly 300 additional services are presently under development.

The meeting was informed that in the first phase, 302 services across key departments including Agriculture, Higher Education, Housing & Urban Development, Revenue, Health and Power Development Departments have been identified for elimination of offline processes and full digital transformation.

The implementation roadmap includes phased execution covering policy notification, digitization audit, workflow re-engineering, system integration, capacity building, real-time monitoring and third-party audits.

Stressing upon departments to undertake comprehensive process re-engineering before digitization, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to simplify existing G2G, G2B and G2C procedures in order to eliminate bottlenecks and promote faster, simpler and citizen-friendly governance mechanisms.

The meeting also reviewed progress achieved under Vision 2030 and Vision 2047 targets. It was informed that several departments have already submitted quantifiable targets, achievements, gap analysis and timelines for bridging developmental gaps, while the remaining departments have been asked to furnish their inputs for preparation of a comprehensive Vision document for Jammu & Kashmir.

## Eid-ul-Azha: Markets

livestock markets across the Valley also witnessed a steady flow of buyers as people continued purchasing sacrificial animals for Eid-ul-Azha.

Shopkeepers and traders expressed hope for better business in for the final day of tomorrow as the as Eid will be celebrated on Wednesday across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

## 80-90 Trucks With Over

various mandis and markets across the Valley.

Mehraj-ud-Din said the last two to three days are expected to witness further rush in livestock markets as Eid-ul-Adha draws closer and families begin finalising purchases.

He added that detailed figures related to total livestock arrivals, rates and overall Eid business would be compiled and shared after the festival—(KNO)

## Fresh Snowfall In Minamarg,

4 mm rainfall during the past 24 hours, while Pahalgam recorded 2.4 mm, Kupwara 3.1 mm and Gulmarg 2.0 mm rainfall.

The weather office has forecast generally dry weather during the forenoon on May 25, with the possibility of brief showers, gusty winds and hailstorm at scattered places towards afternoon or late afternoon hours.

It said weather is likely to remain generally hot and dry on May 26 and 27, while generally cloudy conditions with one or two spells of rain, thundershower, hailstorm and gusty winds are expected at scattered to fairly widespread places on May 28 and 29.

The MeT department has also issued an advisory warning of thunder, lightning, hailstorm and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph at a few places during Monday afternoon and again on May 28 and 29.

It further said heatwave conditions are likely at a few places in Jammu division during May 26 and 27 due to hot and dry weather—(KNO)

## NIA Seizes Incriminating

and electronic devices suspected to be connected with the activities of JeI and its affiliated trusts and associations in the Union Territory.

The NIA is investigating separatist and secessionist activities of Jama'at-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir, which has been declared an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, as part of case RC-03/2021/NIA/DLI.

Investigations so far suggest that JeI was involved in raising funds for terror-related activities, allegedly collecting money both within India and abroad under the guise of donations for charitable work, including education and healthcare. The agency said these funds were diverted towards violent and secessionist activities, as well as channelled to banned terrorist organisations such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, through organised networks.

The probe also indicates that the group was engaged in radicalising and recruiting impressionable youth in Kashmir as members for carrying out secessionist activities.

The NIA said investigations are ongoing with the aim of dismantling the network and curbing its alleged terror-related activities in the region.

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# DAR MATTING SHOP

DEALS IN:- BLANKETS, BED SHEETS, BED COVERS, PILLOW COVERS, DOOR MATS, ROOM SHEETS, GRAPHICS, LINING, ROTTERY & MUCH MORE

# DC Sgr, SSP review impact of ongoing 100-day anti-drug campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Monday chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to review the impact and progress achieved under the ongoing 100-day anti-drug campaign being implemented across the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Dr. Sundeeb Chakravarty was also present in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Qazi Irfan; Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed; SP Headquarter, Umar Shah; IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; and Officers from Excise, Drug Control Organisation, DYS&S, heads of ATF's and Officers of other concerned departments.

At the outset, the meeting held a comprehensive review of the District's anti-drug strategy, enforcement actions and preventive interventions undertaken during the ongoing 100-days anti-drug Jammu and Kashmir Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

During the meeting, it was informed that



intensified enforcement operations and coordinated action against drug peddling networks have yielded significant results across Srinagar district.

Giving detailed figures, the meeting was informed that 84 FIRs have been registered under NDPS cases and 117 persons have been arrested during the ongoing campaign. It was further reported that 100 driving licences and 46 vehicle Registration Certificates (RCs) linked to NDPS-related violations have been suspended to date, as part of sustained and strict enforcement measures aimed at disrupting drug networks and deterring drug-related activities in the district.

The meeting was further informed that licences of 17 chemists were suspended for violations related to drug regulations and unauthorised handling of controlled substances. In

addition, red entries have been recorded in revenue records against identified drug peddlers to strengthen legal and administrative action against repeat offenders.

Additionally, illegal properties worth nearly Rs 40 crore linked to drug peddlers have been attached or demolished in Srinagar as part of the intensified crackdown on narcotics networks and illegal assets generated through drug trafficking.

The Deputy Commissioner and SSP appreciated the coordinated efforts of all departments and agencies involved in the campaign and emphasized the need to sustain the momentum through continued enforcement, public participation and preventive outreach initiatives.

On the occasion, the DC directed all concerned departments to further strengthen inter-depart-

mental coordination and intensify action against drug peddlers and trafficking networks to ensure a drug-free and safer environment in the District. He emphasized renewed focus and coordinated efforts to curb drug abuse and dismantle the ecosystem supporting narcotics trafficking in Srinagar District.

The DC further stressed the importance of a multi-pronged strategy combining strict law enforcement with awareness generation, counselling and rehabilitation measures to effectively tackle the menace of drug abuse, particularly among youth.

The SSP Srinagar reiterated the commitment of the Police in collaboration with civil authorities towards sustained action against narcotics-related activities and called for active support from the public in identifying and reporting drug-related offences.

# Satish Sharma attends Education Expo Jammu; exhorts youth to embrace education, sports

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, IT, Youth Services & Sports, Transport and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma Monday called upon young people to embrace education, discipline and sports as the pillars of personal growth and nation-building.

The Minister was addressing the Education Expo Jammu 2026 organised by The Times of India at Country Inn, Jammu.

Stressing the need for holistic development of youth, the Minister underscored the importance of nurturing values, character and resilience alongside academic excellence to shape a stronger and progressive society.

Addressing the students, educators, parents and dignitaries present on the occasion, the Minister described education as a transformative force that extends far beyond academic achievement. He emphasized that education must nurture character, discipline, integrity and



social responsibility alongside intellectual growth.

Satish Sharma appreciated The Times of India for creating a platform that connects the students with opportunities and inspiration, stating that such initiatives play a significant role in shaping aspirations and guiding young minds towards meaningful careers and brighter futures.

Highlighting the importance of health and nutrition in shaping future generations, Satish Sharma underlined the need for adopting healthy lifestyles and making informed choices. He urged the youth to value natural and wholesome food habits, stressing that a healthy

body forms the foundation for academic excellence and overall success.

Satish Sharma strongly advocated the role of sports in building discipline, resilience and character among young people.

Expressing concern over the growing menace of drug abuse, he cautioned that substance abuse threatens the future of society and can derail promising lives and careers.

"Sports create strong minds and strong character. A culture of sports encourages discipline, determination and positive engagement among youth. We must collectively strengthen this culture and inspire our young generation to choose healthy path-

ways," he said.

The Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening the sports infrastructure, expanding opportunities for youth participation and creating a supportive ecosystem for talent development across Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the students to reject drugs and embrace sports, discipline and constructive pursuits.

Calling for a broader understanding of education, Satish Sharma remarked that true education is not merely the accumulation of information but the cultivation of complete human beings capable of thinking clearly, acting responsibly and serving society selflessly.

"The future of Jammu and Kashmir lies in the strength, character and aspirations of its youth. We must empower them with opportunities, values and confidence," he added.

The Minister encouraged the students to remain confident, work hard and contribute positively towards society and nation-building.

# People hail Hamdan Gas Agency, Earns Public Praise

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: At a time when disruptions in supply chains and uncertainty caused by the recent tensions in the Middle East created anxiety among consumers, Hamdan Gas Agency continued to provide timely and efficient LPG services to people across several areas of Srinagar.

Residents have appreciated the agency for maintaining regular gas distribution despite challenging circumstances, ensuring that households did not face major inconvenience during the difficult period. Many consumers described the agency's efforts as "people-centric" and praised its staff for working tirelessly to meet public demand.

The owner of the agency, Adil Dijoo, has also been widely acknowledged by locals for his commitment towards consumer welfare and uninterrupted service delivery. Consumers said that the agency remained responsive even during peak demand and difficult operational conditions.

Several residents expressed satisfaction over the agency's dedica-

tion, saying such services become even more important during uncertain times when essential commodities are under pressure globally.

Locals noted that the efforts of the agency helped ease public concerns and ensured that domestic consumers continued to receive cooking gas supplies without significant delays.

# Awareness Programme on Organ Donation Organised at St. Joseph's School of Nursing B'la



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: An awareness programme on organ donation was organised by the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization Jammu & Kashmir (SOTTO J&K) at St. Joseph's School of Nursing, Baramulla, with the objective of spreading awareness about the importance of organ donation and encouraging students to become ambassadors of this noble cause.

The programme was conducted with the support and guidance of Sister Vanitha, Principal, St. Joseph's School of Nursing, Baramulla.

The proceedings of the event were anchored by Saiqa Akhter, faculty member, while Insha Javid, Seerat Bashir, and Sheela coordinated the programme successfully and ensured enthusiastic participation of the students.

Dr. Ameetpal Kour attended the programme as the Guest of Honour and motivated the students and faculty members by sharing inspiring success stories of organ donors. She highlighted the life-saving impact of organ donation and encouraged everyone to come forward in support of the humanitarian cause.

As part of the programme, a quiz competition on organ donation was also conducted. Ms. Yasmeena Manzoor, Ms. Suzein Teji, and Ms. Anu jointly secured the first position. The winners were felicitated for their outstanding performance and active participation.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which students and faculty members expressed their commitment towards spreading awareness about organ donation and promoting the message of saving lives through organ donation.

# 'The Power of Girl Education' Young Kashmiri writer makes debut with call to uplift girls



KIRMANI AAFaq

TANGMARG: A 25-year-old woman from north Kashmir's Gofbal, Kunzer, released her debut book on Monday, highlighting the importance of girls' education and empowerment.

Arjumand Tanveer, who holds a master's degree in public administration, unveiled "The Power of Girl Education" at Government Degree College Tangmarg. The book focuses on the significance of educating girls and the challenges they face in society, arguing that female education drives national progress and development.

"Education plays a vital role in empowering girls,

but character and moral values are equally important," Arjumand said during the event.

She noted that girls are now excelling in sports, academics and competitive examinations, "proving their capability and determination."

The book release ceremony was attended by college Principal Dr. Irfan ul Majid, former Zone Education Officer Abdul Sattar, students, faculty members and other dignitaries.

The event concluded with praise for the author's efforts to raise awareness about the power of girls' education and inspire the younger generation.

# Road Safety, Legal Awareness Drive conducted in Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Under the chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, chairman district legal services authority Ganderbal and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, secretary district legal services authority Ganderbal, the district legal services authority in collaboration with ARTO Ganderbal conducted road safety and legal awareness drive at Duderhama Ganderbal.

Burjeena Hameed and Shaheena Ali, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels, actively participated in the awareness drive and distributed pamphlets and awareness material among the participants. The campaign focused on various aspects of road safety including adherence to traffic rules, man-

datory use of helmets and seat belts, prevention of rash and negligent driving, avoidance of over-speeding and observance of statutory obligations under the Motor Vehicles laws.

During the programme, emphasis was also laid upon the importance of legal awareness in safeguarding the rights and safety of citizens and on the role of Legal Services Institutions in promoting access to justice and dissemination of legal literacy among the masses.

The Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Ganderbal extended full cooperation for the successful conduct of the awareness drive by providing informative pamphlets and road safety awareness material for public distribution.

# Intensive market checks conducted across Shopian markets

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta market checking drives were conducted Monday across various areas of Zainapora, Keegam, Herman, Keller and Barbugh and other places in district Shopian under the supervision of concerned Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars in collaboration with officials from Food Safety, Police and other line departments to ensure quality control, rate regulation and hygiene standards in

markets. During the inspections, various shops and business establishments were checked for quality and pricing of essential commodities. Several expired food items were seized and destroyed on the spot, while violators were fined during the drive.

An amount of Rs 2200 was realized during market checking in Zainapora, Rs 900 during market inspection in Herman, whereas Rs 4900 was collected from violators during inspections conducted in Keller. The fine amount was remitted into the Red Cross Account.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN**  
**PROJECT RAMHALL KUPWARA**

**Subject: Final Selection List of Sahiyikas (Anganwadi Helpers) of Poshan Project Ramhall.**

(1) Whereas, Pursuant to the Human Resource Policy for recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers/AWWs) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers/AWHs) issued vide Government Order No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated 30-11-2022 and Government Order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated 28-04-2023, the vacancies of Sahiyikas (Anganwadi Helpers/AWHs) have arisen due to various reasons, i.e., attaining the age of sixty, resignation etc

(2) Whereas, this office submitted the vacancy position to the District Programme Officer, Kupwara vide No. CDPO/POSHAN/RAM/25/726 Dated: 11-12-2025, who further submitted it to the Mission Director, Poshan Jammu and Kashmir for accord of approval for recruitment of Sahiyikas (Anganwadi Helpers) at vacant positions.

(3) Whereas, the Mission Director, Poshan J&K, accorded approval for the recruitment of Sahiyikas (Anganwadi Helpers) vide letter No. MD/POSHAN/47213-23 Dated: 24-12-2025 which was further communicated by the District Programme Officer, ICDS Kupwara to this office vide letter No. DPO/POSHAN/25/6043-55 Dated: 29-12-2025

(4) Whereas, this office advertised (11) vacant posts of Sahiyikas (Anganwadi Helpers) against Anganwadi Centre Dingree (PH Punzwa B Ward No. 03), Malik Moh, Punzwa (PH Punzwa C Ward No. 02), Khan Moh, Kukroosa (PH Kukroosa A Ward No. 02), Shah Moh, Punzwa (PH Punzwa A Ward No. 02), Tantery Moh, B (PH. Dohama B Ward No. 06), Daril Bala Dar Mohala (PH. Tarathpora B Daril Ward No: 06), Pachkoot Woder (PH Pachkoot Ward No. 01), Potpora Pachkoot (PH Pachkoot Ward No 02), Mukdom Mohala Lalim (PH Lalim Ward No-04), Dar Mohala Kinyal (PH Kinyal/Hurduna Ward No 03) & Wani Moh, Daril (PH Tarathpora B Daril Ward No 04) this office advertisement notification No. 01-CDPO-RAMHALL of 2026 Dated: 02-01-2026, and Extension Notice No. CDPO/POSHAN/ADV/2026/855-62 dated 20-01-2026, published in daily newspapers Kashmir Despatch, Chattan & Nigraan on 04-01-2026, and Kashmir Horizon, Veyth & Maqсад on 21-01-2026, respectively, and also uploaded on departmental/district websites for wide publicity.

(5) Whereas the merit-cum-tentative selection list vide No-CDPO/Ram/Adv/2025-26/916-29 Dated:-19-02-2026 was published on 21-02-2026 in three newspapers viz, Kashmir Monitor, Ilhaaq & The Counsellor Magazine for inviting appeals/objections (if any). The appeal/objection (if any) against the said merit-cum-tentative selection list shall be filed in the office of the Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project (ICDS) Ramhall, against proper receipt, within ten days from the date of publication of the merit cum tentative selection list during working hours (up to 4:00 PM). No appeal/objection shall be entertained after the lapse of the last date. It is pertinent to mention here that the selection list of (06) Anganwadi Centres are hereby kept withheld due to objections & Hon'ble court orders.

(6) Whereas, in response to the said advertisement notice, the following number of applications were received in respect of 05 Anganwadi centres within the prescribed/Stipulated time; the details are as under

S.No	Name of Anganwadi Center	Ward No	No of Applications Received
01.	Dingree	03	04
02	Malik Moh, Punzwa	02	01
03	Shah Moh Punzwa	02	01
04	Tantery Moh, Dohama	06	03
05	Dar Mohala Kinyal	03	01

(7) Whereas, the requisite screening has been conducted as envisaged in Government Order No. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated 30-11-2022 and Government Order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated 28-04-2023, and a merit panel has been prepared.

(8) Whereas, the merit list along with the tentative selection list was prepared as per the criteria laid down in the said Govt. Orders and placed before the committee. After thorough deliberations and analysis, the Selection Committee approved the merit list cum tentative selection list for wide publication in local newspapers, display at the offices of all committee members, respective Panchayats Ghars, and on the department's website, as well as on NIC website at the Deputy Commissioner's office, inviting objections (if any).

(9) Therefore, selection list attached at Annexure-A is hereby send to Joint Director Information Srinagar for its publication in three leading newspapers of the valley.

**Annexure-A**

Selection list for the post of Sahiyikas (1) Dingree ward 03 PH Punzwa B, (2) Malik Moh Punzwa Ward 02 PH Punzwa C, (3) Shah Moh Punzwa Ward No, 02 PH Punzwa A, (4) Tantery Moh Dohama Ward No 06 PH Dohama B, (5) Dar Moh Kinyal Ward No 03 PH Kinyal Hurduna.

S No	Index No.	Name of Panchayat Halqa	Ward No	Name of AWC advertised	Parentage/ Spouse Name	D.o.B	Qualification 10 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup> %
1	26	Punzwa A	02	Shah Moh Punzwa	Shagufta Younis W/O Masroor Ahmad Qureshi D/O Mohd Younis Shah	13-03-1992	228/500	45.6
2	18	Dohama B	06	Tantery Moh B	Parveena Bashir W/O Waseem Raja Tantery D/O Bashir Ahmad Tantery	12-06-1989	192/500	38.4
3	28	Kinyal Hurduna	03	Dar Mohala Kinyal	Nissara Bano W/O Fayaz Ahmad Bhat D/O Ab Rehman Sheikh	01-04-1989	170/850	20
4	19	Punzwa B	03	Dingree	Tasleema Bano W/O Tariq Ahmad Bhat D/O Mohd Rustum Bhat	08-01-1990	231/500	46.2
5	03	Punzwa C	02	Malik Moh, Punzwa	Shabnum Mohidin W/O Manzoor Ahmad Khan D/O Gh Mohidin Lone	03-01-1996	205/500	41

Sd/= Child Dev. Project Officer Ramhall Vilgam (Member Selection Committee)

Sd/= Zonal Education Officer, Vilgam (Member Selection Committee)

Sd/= Block Dev. Officer Rural Ramhall / Tarathpora (Member Selection Committee)

DIPK-1569-26  
DT: 25/05/2026

## IPL 2026: We are not here to defend, we are here to attack, says Patidar ahead of Qualifier 1



IAN S

**DHARAMSHALA:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru's captain Rajat Patidar believes execution under pressure and staying committed to the team's strengths will be decisive when RCB face Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 1 on Tuesday night.

The two sides shared the spoils in their league-stage meetings this season, with RCB claiming the first encounter by five wickets, at home, before Gujarat Titans secured a four-wicket triumph in the reverse fixture.

With a direct route to the Final on the line, Patidar believes composure could separate the two sides.

"Both teams have done really well throughout the season. On the given day, whichever team executes their plans better, plays better cricket and stays calmer under pressure, I think that team will win the match," Patidar said.

"It's a big stage, Qualifier 1. We must hold our nerves

and be confident in whatever we are doing."

Patidar also pointed to RCB's bowling group as one of the team's defining strengths this season and reiterated the attacking mindset that has shaped their campaign.

"Our strength is bowling and the way we bowl in the powerplay will be very crucial," he said. "Everyone in the team knows that we are not here to defend, we are here with the mindset of attacking and we will look for early wickets. That is what Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah have been doing and we hope to continue in the same process." Patidar reserved special praise for Venkatesh Iyer who has scores of 73\* and 44 in his last two outings.

Highlighting both his flexibility and attitude throughout the season, Patidar said, "I know Venky from childhood and the way he presents himself is extraordinary. The way he plays in any given situation and his flexibility in the batting order, I really like his attitude."

## Harmanpreet Kaur conferred Padma Shri by Prez Murmu

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur was on Monday conferred the Padma Shri by President Droupadi Murmu, in recognition of her contribution to Indian cricket and her leadership in guiding the Women in Blue to major international success, including a World Cup triumph on home soil. She was among the select sportspersons honoured this year, alongside India men's captain Rohit Sharma, making them the only two cricketers to receive the award in the 2026 list.

The honour was pre-



sented during the first Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, where President Murmu conferred Padma awards across categories, including Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri. In total, 131 Padma Awards were approved for 2026, with additional recipients to be felicitated in a subsequent phase.

Harmanpreet attended the ceremony in a cream-coloured traditional outfit as she received the prestigious civilian honour.

Her recognition comes after a decorated interna-

tional career in which she led India through multiple ICC tournaments and ultimately captained the side to a landmark ODI World Cup victory in 2025, where India defeated South Africa in the final to claim their maiden title. The triumph marked a defining moment in her fifth World Cup appearance, ending years of near misses on the global stage.

Earlier, when the list of awardees was announced, Harmanpreet expressed her gratitude in a video shared by her Women's Premier League (WPL) team Mumbai Indians, describing the moment as deeply significant for her family.

"My dad got a call from President House. This year I'm going to get the Padma Shri Award. I think it's a very big moment for me. And I'm happy that, you know, before me my parents got to know," Harmanpreet Kaur had said in a video shared by the franchise.

She also acknowledged Rohit Sharma's inclusion in the honours list, adding, "Many many congratulations to [Rohit] also. We have seen how, you know, he has been really working hard and I think it's a great moment for him."

## MP's Samardeep Gill clinches shot put gold, qualifies for CWG at National Senior Athletics meet

IAN S

**RANCHI:** Madhya Pradesh's 25-year-old shot putter Samardeep Singh Gill outclassed seasoned Punjab thrower Tajinderpal Singh Toor to clinch gold in the men's shot put event and secure qualification for the Commonwealth Games on the final day of

the 29th National Senior Athletics Federation Competition at Birsa Munda Stadium on Monday.

Two-time Asian Games champion Toor opened strongly with a throw of 20.07m, but Gill produced the decisive effort in his fourth attempt, registering 20.46m to move ahead and eventually seal the

gold medal. Toor failed to recover the lead, managing 20.06m in his final attempt. Punjab's Karanveer Singh finished third with 19.38m.

Gill also breached the Commonwealth Games qualification mark of 20.36m.

In the men's 400m hurdles, Karnataka's Yashas P and NCOE Trivandrum

athlete Santhosh Kumar T also booked Commonwealth Games berths after clocking below the qualification standard of 50.27 seconds. Yashas won gold in 49.00 seconds, while Santhosh Kumar finished a close second in 49.06 seconds. Navy's Subhas Das took bronze with 50.51 seconds.

# Movies SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY

	<b>BHOOTH BANGLA</b> (U/A16+) Hindi - 02:40 PM, 06:00 PM	
	<b>PATI PATNI AUR WOHO DO</b> (U/A16+) Hindi - 03:00 PM	
	<b>STAR WARS: MANDALORIAN AND GROGU</b> (U/A16+) 3D ENGLISH ATMOS - 11:00 AM	
	<b>CHAND MERA DIL</b> (U/A16-) HINDI ATMOS - 02:00 PM, 04:45 PM, 07:30 PM HINDI - 12:00 PM	
	<b>DHURANDHAR THE REVENGE</b> HINDI - 10:15 AM	
	<b>Drishyam 3</b> (U/A16+) Malayalam with English Subtitles - 05:45 PM	

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