

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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Spoke with Deputy Commissioners of Kishtwar & Doda regarding the flash floods caused by heavy rainfall. Fortunately, no loss of life or property damage has been reported. Emergency response teams have been directed to remain on high alert and continuously monitor the situation.

Srinagar • Wednesday 03, June 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 133 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Hajis Return Home

First Batch Lands In Srinagar, Received By CM Omar



SRINAGAR: The first batch of Hajj pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir arrived at Srinagar International Airport on Tuesday, marking the commencement of the return phase of Hajj-2026 operations. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah received the Hujjaaj returning from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after performing Haj-2026 at Srinagar International Airport. The first incoming Haj flight landed at Srinagar Airport carrying 144 pilgrims, including 74 men and 70 women. The Chief Minister warmly welcomed the pilgrims and congratulated them on the successful completion of the sacred pilgrimage. Interacting with the returning Hujjaaj, the Chief Minister expressed hope that their prayers and spiritual

experiences would contribute towards peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and the nation as a whole. He also enquired about the arrangements made for the pilgrims during their stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as their return journey, and wished them good health, happiness and a blessed life ahead. The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of all departments and agencies involved in facilitating the smooth arrival and reception of the pilgrims at Srinagar Airport. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure all necessary assistance and amenities for the returning Hujjaaj, including efficient baggage handling, transportation and other support services. The Chief Minister had earlier taken up the issue of delayed

J&K Integral Part Of India, Says MEA; Slams EU-Pakistan Remarks

Says Those Without Locus Standi Should Refrain From Commenting On Matters Internal To India

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: India on Tuesday rejected references to Jammu and Kashmir in a joint statement issued by Pakistan and the European Union, asserting that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral parts of the country and that external parties have no role in matters concerning them.

Responding to media queries on the issue, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, said that India "categorically rejects" remarks relating to Jammu and Kashmir contained in the joint press communique issued following talks between Pakistan and the European Union. "We categorically reject such unwarranted references on matters internal to India," Jaiswal said. He reiterated that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are an "integral and inalienable" part of India and said those with no locus standi on the issue should refrain from commenting on it. The reaction came after a



joint statement issued following discussions between Pakistan and European Union representatives referred to Jammu and Kashmir while calling for the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy in line with the principles of the UN Charter. According to the communique, the Pakistan side briefed the European Union on Jammu and Kashmir, while the EU side shared its views on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

India has consistently maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is an internal matter and has opposed any third-party involvement in issues related to the region. New Delhi's position remains that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, along with Ladakh, is an integral part of India, while areas under Pakistan's control are part of Indian territory under illegal occupation. This is not the first time the

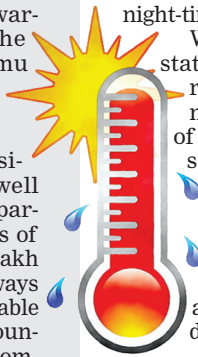
MEA has reacted to "unwarranted references" to Jammu and Kashmir. On May 26, after China and Pakistan issued a joint statement containing references to Jammu and Kashmir, Jaiswal had said, "India categorically rejects unwarranted references to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the Joint Statement between China and Pakistan." He added, "India's position is consistent and well known to the concerned parties. The Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has the locus standi to comment on the same." The government has repeatedly stated that any outstanding issues with Pakistan can be addressed only through bilateral engagement and without third-party mediation—(KNO) References to Kashmir frequently appear in statements involving Pakistan, and each one is closely watched by New Delhi. India •P-06

Srinagar Records Hottest Night Of Season At 19.2 C

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar recorded hottest night of the season on Monday as the minimum temperature settled at 19.2 degrees Celsius, several notches above normal for this time of the year.

According to the details available, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed unusually warm night-time conditions. Weather office stated that Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of 17.6 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara settled at 15.2 degrees Celsius. Kokernag recorded 16.5 degrees Celsius and Pahalgam 12.4 degrees Celsius. Gulmarg, the famous ski resort in North Kashmir, recorded a low of 10.5 degrees Celsius, while Sonamarg registered 11.8 Degrees Celsius. Among other stations, Konibal Pampore recorded 17.2 degrees Celsius, Srinagar Airport 17.4 degrees Celsius, Awantipora 17 degrees Celsius, Bandipora 17.6 degrees Celsius, Shopian 13.2 degrees Celsius, Kulgam 17.6 degrees Celsius, Pulwama 16.5 degrees Celsius and Anantnag 17.5 degrees Celsius. MeT office said both day and night temperatures have



CM Omar To Chair Crucial Meeting Of NC MLAs, MPs Today



SRINAGAR: All eyes are on the crucial meeting of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with National Conference MLAs and MPs, and five independent MLAs supporting his government. Sources said that all NC MLAs, four MPs, and the five independent MLAs have been invited to the meeting, which will be chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah himself. The party leadership is tight-lipped about the agenda of the meeting, with sources suggesting that only the Chief Minister is aware of the issues to be discussed. "Nobody, including ministers, has any idea what will

be discussed in the meeting or what agenda will come up," sources said, adding that governance-particularly the functioning of ministers-would be discussed threadbare. Sources further said that MLAs from Pir Panchal have complained to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah about bias in the allotment of funds by the Roads & Buildings Ministry under different schemes. "They have alleged that the Deputy CM's constituency has virtually walked away with all the funds of the R&B Department, while their segments have been allotted peanuts," sources said, adding that they cited allocations made under different schemes by the R&B Department. •P-06

Rain And Hail Turn Cruel

Man Dies In Anantnag, Woman In Doda; J&K's Farms Battered

LG Sinha Closely Monitoring Situation, Condoles Lady's Demise

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: As hailstorms, intense rainfall and gusty winds caused widespread damage to crops and orchards across several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, a man was killed and his wife critically injured after a tree fell on them in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, while a woman died in lightning strike in Doda district.

According to the details available, an ageing tree collapsed and fell on a couple near the Janglat Mandi-Lal Chowk road in Anantnag amid strong winds. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Rafiq Kujwal of Utross. The condition of his wife remains critical and is undergoing



treatment. A woman identified as Pinki Devi from Khuddhar Doda died after a lightning struck the area this evening. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is closely monitoring the situation that has arisen due to the flash floods caused by heavy rainfall in Kishtwar and Doda.

The Lieutenant Governor has posted on X: "Spoke with Deputy Commissioners of Kishtwar & Doda regarding the flash floods caused by heavy rainfall. Fortunately, no loss of life or property damage has been reported. Emergency response teams have been directed to remain on high alert and continuously

CS Urges Boost To AYUSH Infrastructure; Outreach, Wellness Tourism In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired the Governing Body Meeting of the J&K AYUSH Society under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), during which the State Annual Action Plan (SAAP) 2026-27 was approved for onward submission to the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Managing Director, National Health Mission; Director, AYUSH; and other senior officers.

Emphasizing the growing importance of AYUSH systems in preventive and holistic healthcare, the Chief Secretary called for the for-

mulation of a robust wellness policy in collaboration with private stakeholders. He observed that wellness tourism has emerged as a major attraction across the country and holds immense potential for Jammu and Kashmir, given its globally acclaimed tourist destinations. Drawing examples from states such as Kerala, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, he stressed the need to position J&K as a prominent wellness and healthcare destination. The Chief Secretary directed the department to ensure the availability of services under major AYUSH Public Welfare Programmes in every Medical College and District Hospital across the UT. These include the National Programme for Prevention and Management of Osteoarthritis and other Musculoskeletal



...J&K Campaign Against Drug Trafficking

Over 170 Cases Registered, 202 People Held In 50 Days

AGENCIES

JAMMU: In the first 50 days of Jammu and Kashmir's campaign against drug trafficking, 176 cases were registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and 202 accused persons were arrested or detained, police said on Tuesday. The police's zero-tolerance policy towards narcotics, backed by intelligence gathering, enforcement measures, community participation and legal action, has yielded significant results in curbing the drug menace, Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joginder Singh said.

Under the 'Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan', the police seized 5.533 kg of heroin, commonly known as chitta, worth Rs 16.60 crore



during the period, he said. In addition, 3.250 kg of poppy straw worth around Rs 87,000, 29.267 kg of ganja valued at about Rs 8.78 lakh and 1 kg of opium worth nearly Rs 27,000 were also recovered, he added.

The SSP said that a notorious drug offender was detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act as part of efforts to target habitual offenders and dismantle narcotics networks. Highlighting the financial investigation and asset-tracing component of the campaign, Singh said that 37 vehicles linked to drug-related activities were seized, while 123 grams of gold valued at around Rs 13.70 lakh was frozen.

He said that police also froze 26 bank accounts involving transactions of approximately Rs 18 lakh and attached properties worth Rs 5.19 crore in eight cases, including three movable and five immovable properties. According to the

Anti-Terror Operation In Rajouri Enters 11Th Day GoC White Knight Corps Reviews 'Op Sheruwali'

AGENCIES

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General P K Mishra, on Tuesday reviewed the progress of Operation Sheruwali, the ongoing anti-terror operation in the dense forests of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district that has entered its 11th day, officials said.

The Corps Commander, accompanied by GoC Counter Insurgency Force (CIF) Romeo, visited the Gambhir Mughlan area to assess the operational situation and review efforts to track down suspected terrorists believed to be hiding in the forested terrain of the Manjakote sector.

According to the Army, Lt Gen Mishra was briefed on the operational design, ongoing actions and sustainment measures being undertaken by the troops. He also reviewed the logistics framework supporting forces

J&K GDC's Log Over 7% Rise In Admissions: Govt

20% Rise In Admissions Expected By June-End: Edu Min

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Tuesday said that Government Degree Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir have recorded an increase of more than seven percent in student enrolment in the first round of admissions compared to previous year. The government also said that it was expecting a 20% increase in student enrolment by the completion of the admission process.

Taking to the microblogging site X, Education Minister Sakina Itoo said, "This year, due to the decisions taken to ease and simplify the admission process in Govt. Degree Colleges across J&K, we have witnessed a signifi-

cant increase in student enrolment, reversing the declining trend in college admissions seen in recent years." She said, "In the very first round itself, admissions have reached 49,155 compared to 45,920 last year reflecting an increase of over 7%." The minister further said, "By the completion of the admission process, we expect total admissions to cross 55,000 by the end of June, representing nearly a 20% increase over previous year." "This encouraging response reflects the success of our efforts to make higher education more accessible, transparent and student-friendly across Jammu & Kashmir. We remain committed to ensuring that every aspiring



DC Srinagar reviews progress under 'Catch the Rain Program'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Tuesday chaired a meeting here at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the progress of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan 2.0 under Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain Campaign in the District.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Joint Commissioner SMC, Suhail Islam, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Er Ambreen Anjum, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Executive Engineers of I&FC, Water Works Division, Rural Water Works, UEED, SMC, City Drainage, SMC, LCMA and other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for effective inter-departmental coordination to achieve the objectives of the campaign. He directed stakeholder Departments to ensure timely completion of ongoing works and stressed the importance of creating sustainable rain water harvesting systems and ground water recharging systems across the district to augment availability of water.



The DC directed the Jal Shakti Department to continue the geo-tagging of water sources and recharge structures, while extending technical support to Panchayats in identifying and implementing suitable water conservation interventions. He also emphasized the need to intensify IEC activities across the District to promote awareness on water conservation, sustainable water management and community participation in safeguarding water resources.

Emphasizing the importance of collective action, the DC stated that water conservation is a shared responsibility and called upon all Departments to adopt a coordinated and proactive approach for the successful implementation of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan 2.0 throughout the District.

The DC directed the Education Department to

promote rooftop rainwater harvesting structures in educational institutions and conduct awareness programmes among students. He further asked the Education Department to identify "Jal Doots" and "Student Water Champions" in Schools who can serve as ambassadors for water conservation and help promote sustainable water management practices.

The Agriculture Department was directed to promote water-efficient farming practices, including micro-irrigation techniques and to generate awareness among farmers about water-saving crops. The Irrigation and Flood Control Department was instructed to prioritize watershed management, rejuvenation of water bodies, desilting of canals and ponds and the creation of groundwater recharge structures. The Rural Development Department was asked to

leverage MGNREGA for the development of rainwater harvesting structures, soak pits, village ponds and greywater management facilities, while also undertaking awareness campaigns at the Panchayat level.

The Forest Department was directed to undertake extensive plantation drives, conserve water bodies within forest areas, and support geo-tagging initiatives. The Housing and Urban Development Department was asked to promote rooftop rainwater harvesting systems in urban areas, rejuvenate urban water bodies, and intensify public awareness activities on water conservation.

The ICDS Department was instructed to encourage similar interventions in Anganwadi Centres and strengthen community outreach efforts, with a special focus on enhancing the role of women in water conservation.

DC Pulwama chairs 33rd NCORD meeting; Reviews Anti-Drug measures

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Tuesday chaired the 33rd meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at Circuit House Pulwama to review the progress achieved under the ongoing anti-drug campaign and assess the implementation of various measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and illicit cultivation in the district.

At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pulwama presented a detailed overview of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), highlighting its objectives, key interventions and activities being undertaken under the ongoing 100-day intensive campaign being implemented across the district under the abhiyan. The presentation focused on awareness activities, community participation, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and enforcement measures being carried out by different stakeholder departments.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated all departments and stakeholders for the successful conduct of the Mega Padyatra led by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Pulwama on May 19, which witnessed overwhelming public participation and highlighted the collective resolve against drug abuse.

The DC sought detailed Action Taken Reports from all departments regarding the implementation of the action plan formulated



under the 100-day intensive campaign. He stressed the need for sustained and coordinated efforts to ensure the objectives of the campaign are achieved in a time-bound manner.

Reviewing the measures undertaken to achieve the objectives of the campaign, Dr. Qayoom sought detailed reports from all Tehsildars regarding destruction drives, sensitization of field functionaries, mobilization of Numberdars and Chowkidars, and awareness activities conducted at the grassroots level. The Tehsildars informed the chair that certifications declaring villages free from illicit poppy cultivation had been received from the field functionaries. The DC directed them to constitute verification committees and conduct thorough ground-level re-verification before final certification.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the activities being conducted at the Panchayat level under the campaign and sought details from the Assistant Commissioner Development and Block Development Officers regarding public participation, outreach programmes

and awareness events organized across rural areas. He directed the officers to intensify activities, prepare a comprehensive action plan and organize multiple awareness programmes at different locations within Panchayats to ensure maximum outreach and community involvement.

Officers from the Education and Health Departments briefed the meeting about the awareness initiatives being conducted in educational institutions and healthcare facilities. The DC emphasized the importance of involving youth, students, parents and community leaders in the campaign to build a strong social movement against drug abuse.

The functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Pulwama and Drug De-Addiction Centre Tral was also reviewed in detail. The meeting discussed the status of OPD and IPD services, admissions, rehabilitation and relapse management. It was informed that rehabilitated individuals are being linked with various Government-sponsored schemes and educational institutions to

facilitate their reintegration into mainstream society. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure continued follow-up and support for recovered individuals.

The DC also reviewed the progress achieved in the destruction of wild cannabis and sought details from the Forest, Public Works and other concerned Departments regarding measures undertaken in this regard. He directed the concerned departments to intensify field inspections and ensure complete eradication of wild cannabis from identified areas.

The Assistant Drug Controller apprised the meeting about inspections conducted across medical establishments, enforcement actions taken, and measures adopted to prevent misuse of pharmaceutical drugs. The DC directed the concerned authorities to further strengthen monitoring mechanisms and intensify enforcement drives across the district.

On the occasion, Senior Superintendent of Police Pulwama, Tanushree, and Senior Superintendent of Police Awantipora, Sajad Ahmad Shah, briefed the chair on the enforcement measures undertaken by the Police, including registration of NDPS cases, arrests, seizures, attachment and destruction of properties acquired through drug proceeds, suspension and cancellation of passports and driving licences, Aadhaar recommendations and other stringent actions taken against drug peddlers and traffickers.

B'pora witnesses series of awareness programmes under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: A series of awareness and outreach programmes were organised across Bandipora district under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy and drug-free society.

At HKM Degree College Bandipora, the NSS Youth Club in collaboration with the Department of Kashmiri organised an Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Ill Effects of Drug Addiction on Youth." The programme was conducted under the supervision of Convener, NCORD Cell, Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay.

The competition aimed to create awareness among students regarding the adverse effects of drug addiction on youth, families and society. A large number of students participated enthusiastically and expressed their views through thoughtful and informative essays. The programme encouraged students to reflect upon the importance of leading a healthy and drug-free life and contributed towards the objectives of the Nasha

Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. Meanwhile, under the aegis of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, the Red Ribbon Youth Club in collaboration with the NSS Youth Club of HKM Degree College Bandipora organised a rally on drug abuse awareness. Students and faculty members participated enthusiastically in the rally and raised slogans highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of building a drug-free society. The rally aimed to sensitize the youth about the growing menace of drug addiction and encourage them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

As part of the prelude to the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026, an Awareness-cum-Yoga Session was organised at Ummer Public Secondary School Malangam. During the session, awareness was imparted regarding the significance of Yog Asanas, pranayama, meditation and Yog Nidra in combating addiction. Subsequently, a yoga session was conducted by Mir Shabreena, Yoga Instructor, AHWC Kehnoosa. Around 200 participants attended the programme.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Mass awareness, outreach activities conducted across Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a series of awareness, outreach, pledge-taking and enforcement activities were organized across various parts of District Budgam with active participation from government departments, educational institutions and local communities.

Awareness programmes were conducted in several areas of the district to educate people, particularly youth and farmers, about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Posters carrying anti-drug messages were displayed and distributed among the public, while field-level interactions were held to encourage community participation in the fight against substance abuse and illicit cultivation of narcotic crops.

Inspections and monitoring drives were carried out at various locations to ensure compliance with relevant regulations and to strengthen vigilance against the misuse and illegal movement of narcotic substances.

The Forest Department organized pledge-taking

ceremonies, plantation drives and awareness programmes under the NMBA banner. Officials and field staff reaffirmed their commitment towards building a drug-free society and encouraged greater public participation in the campaign.

Educational institutions also played an active role in spreading awareness. Various activities, including cultural programmes and anti-drug awareness skits, were organized to sensitize students and the general public about the social, economic and health consequences of drug addiction. These initiatives highlighted the importance of informed choices, community support and collective responsibility in addressing the drug menace.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, students, staff members and local residents, reflecting a shared commitment towards the objectives of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

The campaign continues to mobilize communities across the district to promote healthy lifestyles and strengthen the vision of a drug-free society.

Peer Selection, Pledge Ceremonies held across Bandipora under NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Various educational institutions across district Bandipora on Tuesday organised peer selection programmes, pledge ceremonies and awareness activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to promote anti-drug awareness and student leadership.

At Government High School Naidkhai, a peer selection programme titled "Leaders" was organised under NMBA to identify

responsible students who would promote anti-drug awareness among their peers. Similar awareness activities were conducted at High School Koragbal and High School Ketson, where students participated in programmes highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

At HSS Quilmuqam, a Peer Selection, Leader Selection and Pledge Taking Ceremony was organised in which stu-

dents and staff members actively participated. The selected peer leaders pledged to uphold the values of leadership, responsibility, discipline and teamwork.

Meanwhile, under the 100-days Anti-Drug Campaign, HSS Gadakhud organised a peer leader selection programme through a voting process. Selected student leaders were entrusted with promoting anti-drug awareness and discouraging substance abuse within

and outside the institution. A pledge ceremony against substance abuse was also organised at HSS Chuntimulla, while HSS Nowgam conducted a Peer Selection-Leaders programme under NMBA.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff members, reflecting the continued commitment of educational institutions towards creating awareness and strengthening preventive outreach under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

Controller LMD conducts extensive tour of Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Controller Legal Metrology Department (LMD) J&K Shiv Kumar Gupta conducted an extensive tour of district Baramulla Tuesday.

He chaired an awareness camp conducted by LMD Baramulla in collaboration with the University of Kashmir North Campus at the Auditorium of Kashmir University North Campus Delina Baramulla.

The awareness camp was attended by the Director Kashmir University North Campus, Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, representatives from different trade bodies, faculty members and students of the campus.

During the camp, consumers and traders were



made aware of their rights and responsibilities. Controller LMD J&K stressed on the need to create awareness in consumers and traders about the role of Legal Metrology Department in light of the Jan Vishwas reforms.

Speaking on the event, the Director Kashmir University North Campus highlighted the importance of consumer awareness with regard to various aspects of LPG, MS, HSD

and food commodities.

The Controller Legal Metrology Department J&K also visited the Food Park Doabgah Sopore where the association of Industrial Units interacted with the Department and shared vital inputs with the Department about the recently launched Jan Vishwas reforms.

Pertinently, the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 has come into force from May 01, 2026

with respect to the amendments of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. Jan Vishwas reforms are aimed at building trust in trade and commerce. Under the Jan Vishwas reforms, several offences have been decriminalized including some offences punishable under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. Jan Vishwas 2.0 has amended 784 Sections of 79 Central Acts including 26 Sections of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. The concept of improvement notices has been introduced for first offences punishable under several Sections of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. These reforms are intended to create Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living by shifting to a trust-based mechanism.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FC DIVISION SOPORE

ENIT NO. 04 OF 2026-27
DATED: 02/06/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Expression of interest and E-Tender (in two cover system) on percentage basis are invited from eligible registered firms / Consultants/ Agencies under Indian Partnership Act/Societies Registration Act or registered companies under companies act for selection of consultant for Architectural and allied Engineering Consultancy Services for the following work

S. No	Name of Work	Advt. Cost.	Earnest Money	Tender fee (Cost of Doc.) (in Rs)	M.H. of account	Time of completion
01	Survey, geotechnical investigations, hydraulic & structural design detailed GFC drawings, cost estimates and vetting of design from NIT Sgr or DIQC, UT of J&K, setting out the layout points at the time of execution of the work and multiple consultancy visits etc as and when required during the execution and as per demand of site engineer for the work of "construction of the Headworks b.w.o wier on Ferozpora Nallah, Flood protection works on both sides of Ferozpora Nallah (up/ds of wier) & Installation of Gates with Escape Channel at Headworks	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs.6000/-	300/-	Minor Irrigation sector Kashmir Major head 4702 under NABARD LOAN assistance.	15-days

The EO/NIT consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities/activities (B.O.Q), tender documents, set of terms and conditions of bid/contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the following bidding schedule.

1	Publishing Date	02/06/2026 from 6:00 Pm
2	Download Date Start	02/06/2026 from 6:00 Pm
3	Tender Submission date Starts	02/06/2026 from 6:00 Pm
4	Tender Submission date Ends	08/06/2026 from 03:00 Pm
5	Date of Opening Cover 1 st (Technical Bid)	09/06/2026 at 11:00 AM. Cover 2 nd subsequent to evaluation of Cover 1 st
6	Position of AAA	Accorded
	Position of Ts	Technically Sanctioned
	Position of funds	Under approved ceiling of above cited Head of account

DIPK-1773-26
DT: 02/06/2026

CM Omar chairs 9th Governing Body meeting of Royal Springs Golf Course

Stresses need to popularise golf, attract youth towards sport

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired the 9th Governing Body Meeting of the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) at SKICC, where a comprehensive review of the functioning, infrastructure, finances and future development plans of the premier golfing destination was undertaken.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and members of the Governing Body which include Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chander Verma, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Planning, Development & Monitoring Alice Vaz, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Haris Ahmad Handoo, Director Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajjad.

Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course, Haris Ahmad Handoo gave a detailed presentation to the Governing Body, outlining the action taken on decisions made during previous meetings. The presentation also highlighted the Golf Course's financial and operational performance, membership profile, infrastructure requirements, and proposed strategies for its future development and growth.



reviewed the progress achieved and deliberated on various measures aimed at strengthening the facilities and enhancing the overall functioning of the prestigious Golf Course. The Governing Body discussed several proposals focussing on restoration and renovation of the golf course through engagement of expert consultants, enrolment of new golf playing members, construction of an aesthetically pleasing boundary wall to secure the remaining area of the Golf Course from intrusion of wild animals which is designed in harmony with the natural surroundings, renovation of huts, solarization to promote clean energy and reduce electricity expenditure, renovation and improvement in Club facilities particularly gymnasium, swimming pool, restaurant and revision in rates to boost revenue collection for maintenance of golf course.

The Chief Minister underscored the importance of improving the overall service, other facilities and overall visitor experience at the Golf course. The Chief Minister emphasized the need to adhere to the accepted engineering standards in turf management and ensuring high quality greens, fairways to match global standards. CM Omar Abdullah emphasized on development and upgradation of Golf Course infrastructure and amenities to enhance its attractiveness for weekend golfers, corporate groups, tourists, and golfing enthusiasts, thereby promoting the facility as a premier golfing and recreational destination.

He stressed the need to adopt best practices in golf course management, turf maintenance and hospitality services to further enhance the facility's appeal among domestic and international golfers. He also called for exploring sustainable revenue-generation avenues to ensure the

long-term financial viability of the Golf Course while maintaining the exclusivity and quality of its services.

The Chief Minister underscored the immense potential of golf tourism in Jammu & Kashmir and directed RSGC management to formulate a strategy for attracting more national and international tournaments, strengthening promotional efforts and positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a premier golfing destination on the global tourism map.

He further directed that all future development initiatives at the golf course be guided by the principles of environmental sustainability, financial prudence and long-term institutional benefit. He also emphasized the importance of employee welfare, skill upgradation and capacity building for ensuring professional management and efficient service delivery.

The Governing Body reviewed the budget estimates and action plan for the financial year 2026-27 and discussed strategies for enhancing infrastructure, improving visitor facilities and creating additional opportunities for growth of golf tourism in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting concluded with detailed deliberations on the agenda items and directions for taking forward various proposals in accordance with established procedures.

Telangana Statehood Day Celebrated in Lok Bhavan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Statehood Day of Telangana was celebrated in Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan in the presence of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, earlier Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said that this is a remarkable coincidence that both Jammu Kashmir and Telangana are considered as sacred lands of Lord Shiva.

He also emphasized on rich literary traditions of Telangana and said the great figures in this field inspired and awakened the society.

"From the 11th century verses of Malliya Rechanna to the poetic imagination of modern figures such as Atreya and Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu, Telangana's liter-



ary tradition has enriched Indian literature. Since ancient times, Telangana's great luminaries have undertaken extraordinary efforts to awaken social consciousness and advance the social reforms," the Lieutenant Governor said. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also paid tributes to the brave freedom fighters and tribal leaders Ramji Gond, Komaram Bheem, and Alluri Sitarama

Raju. He said the farmers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, poets, and artists of the Telangana region have made immense contributions to the nation building. "As every citizen contributes to our shared progress, let us pledge to draw strength from our diversity, celebrate our rich culture and march together towards a prosperous future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

MLA Reasi, PGTI delegation call on CM Omar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Reasi, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and discussed various developmental issues and matters related to public welfare in his constituency.

During the meeting, the MLA apprised the Chief Minister of several priority concerns and developmental requirements of the Reasi constituency. He also highlighted issues pertaining to public welfare and sought timely intervention



for their resolution. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured due consideration of the matters projected by the MLA. Meanwhile, a delegation of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), led by its Chief Business Officer Vikas Singh, also called on the Chief Minister.

The delegation apprised the Chief Minister of his plans to conduct golf tournaments in Kashmir and discussed various aspects related to the promotion of golf in the region. The delegation also briefed him on the activities of the PGTI and its efforts towards expanding the sport's reach across the country.

Mehbooba Mufti chose power over people: Sakina Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Senior National Conference leader and Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, launched a blistering critique of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, accusing her of putting political ambition ahead of public welfare and blaming her for key events that led to the loss of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and statehood.

Responding to media queries about Mehbooba Mufti's recent outreach efforts, Itoo argued that the PDP chief's political choices were largely responsible for the current crises in the region, including the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A, the reduction of the former state to a Union Territory, and the subsequent suffering of its people.

Itoo claimed that after the PDP-BJP coalition government collapsed in 2018, NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah extended an unconditional offer of support to Mehbooba Mufti to prevent the BJP from maintaining its grip on Jammu and Kashmir. However, she alleged that the offer was refused for political reasons. "When the BJP pulled its support, Dr. Abdullah offered unconditional back-



ing without asking for any ministry or position. The only goal was to keep the BJP out and protect J&K's interests. But she rejected the offer because power mattered more to her than the people," Itoo stated.

The minister asserted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir ultimately paid the price for the PDP-BJP alliance. "Today, we have neither statehood nor Article 370 nor Article 35A. Thousands have endured hardships, many have been imprisoned, and J&K has suffered a huge political cost. The decisions made during that era led us to this point," she added.

Itoo also touched on political developments following the August 2019 constitutional changes, noting that Dr. Farooq Abdullah had repeatedly called for unity among regional parties to collectively defend J&K's interests. "Farooq Sahib consistently urged for political unity and a

common platform to protect our people's rights and identity. Unfortunately, Mehbooba Mufti did not back such efforts and remained fixated on regaining power," she alleged. The NC leader further accused the PDP chief of putting her own political aspirations ahead of broader public concerns at critical junctures in J&K's recent history.

Earlier in the day, Mehbooba Mufti had written to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, opposition leaders, and civil society members, seeking a joint approach to the Prime Minister and Home Minister to address J&K's issues. Commenting on recent demolition and anti-encroachment drives, Itoo criticized what she termed selective enforcement of the law and demanded equal treatment for all violators. "If the poor are being targeted, then influential individuals who have allegedly occupied large land tracts must also face action. The law cannot apply differently to the powerful and the powerless," she said.

Reaffirming her party's stance, Itoo stated that the National Conference remains dedicated to restoring statehood and securing the political, constitutional, and economic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt intact, Sunil Sharma's statements meant to stay in news: Dy CM

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday rejected Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma's recent claims regarding instability in the Omar Abdullah-led government, asserting that the administration remained stable and that only the people possessed the authority to determine its future.

His remarks come amid escalating political exchanges over governance and repeated opposition claims questioning the durability of the National Conference-led administration ahead of the ruling party's June 3 meeting. Geographical Reference

Talking to reporters, Choudhary said Sunil Sharma was making "immature statements" merely to remain in the news and dismissed suggestions of political instability.

"Government is stable and intact. Only people can dismantle the government," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that the



present administration was an elected government chosen by the people and could not be judged through political speculation or opposition rhetoric.

Defending the Omar Abdullah-led dispensation, Choudhary claimed the government had completed several projects that had remained unfinished for years.

He said the administration had undertaken multiple public welfare and infrastructure initiatives, including free bus service for women, inauguration of hospital buildings, roads and bridges.

Referring to the day's inauguration of an additional building at the Cir-

cuit House, Choudhary questioned why previous governments and BJP had failed to complete several pending projects. "Omar Abdullah has completed projects which remained incomplete for over a decade," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister further maintained that the present government had introduced several reforms and governance measures benefiting the public.

Escalating his criticism, Choudhary alleged that BJP and PDP were acting in coordination politically.

"BJP and PDP are hand in glove. One gives statement and another backs it," he said. [KNT]

LG Ladakh Inaugurates 15 Common Facility Centres to Boost Rural Economy

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday inaugurated and dedicated 15 Common Facility Centres (CFCs) across Ladakh, describing the initiative as a significant step toward strengthening village-based livelihoods, entrepreneurship and rural self-reliance.

The centres are aimed at transforming traditional handloom and craft activities into organized rural enterprises while creating new livelihood opportunities for women, artisans and youth.

According to the Lieutenant Governor, the newly inaugurated CFCs

are located at Skurbuchan, Wanla, Saspol, Chuchot, Kharu, Anlay, Koyul, Korzok, Chushul, Phobrang, Sato, Panamik, Diskit, Turtuk and Digger.

Officials said the facilities would function as shared workspaces catering to weavers, spinners, tailors, artisans and women self-help groups.

The centres have been equipped with modern infrastructure intended to improve quality production and support local manufacturing activities.

The initiative is expected to encourage handloom-based economic activity, promote skill development and support local entrepreneurship within rural areas.

Authorities said the centres were designed not merely as production spaces but as broader hubs of rural development and community participation.

The administration expects the facilities to help generate self-employment, nurture micro-enterprises and create livelihood opportunities for women and young people within their native villages, thereby reducing outward migration and strengthening local economies.

Officials further said the centres would support preservation of Ladakh's traditional handloom and craft heritage while enabling local products to access wider national and international markets.

Javed Rana reviews developmental issues of Trehgam Constituency

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Tuesday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review developmental issues and ongoing works pertaining to the Assembly Constituency Trehgam represented by MLA Mir Saifullah.

The meeting was convened to assess the prog-

ress of various infrastructure and public welfare projects in Trehgam, Kupwara and to discuss measures for expediting developmental initiatives in the constituency. Detailed deliberations were held on issues related to water supply, road connectivity, public infrastructure and other sectoral requirements raised by the concerned legislator.

During the meeting, the Minister took a comprehensive review of ongoing and proposed works being executed by different departments. He stressed



the need for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure timely completion of projects and prompt resolution of issues affecting the public. Javed Rana underscored the government's commitment towards balanced and inclusive development, stating that the aspirations and genuine concerns of the people must be addressed in a time-bound manner. He directed the officers to identify

bottlenecks hindering the progress of developmental works and take immediate corrective measures for their resolution.

The Minister emphasized that public welfare remains the top priority of the government and called for greater responsibility, accountability and efficiency in service delivery. He instructed the concerned departments to maintain regular monitoring of projects and ensure that developmental benefits reach the people at the grassroots level without delay.

All J&K Lecturers Association calls on Education Minister

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A delegation of All J&K Lecturers' Association called on Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo at Civil Secretariat here Tuesday and submitted a detailed representation highlighting several long-pending issues affecting the Lecturer fraternity across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, the delegation apprised the Minister about prolonged stagnation faced by lecturers due to

the non-implementation of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme, delay in finalization of Gazetted Recruitment Rules, regular Annual Transfer Drive as well as large number of vacancies in the School Education Department adversely affecting academic functioning in Higher Secondary Schools.

The delegation urged the Minister to expedite the implementation of ACP, which has remained pending from a long time, as well as redressal of other genuine

issues. Interacting with the delegation, the Minister gave them a patient hearing and acknowledged the genuineness, legitimacy and importance of the issues projected by the Association. She assured the delegation that the Government is committed to addressing the concerns of the teaching community.

The Minister also assured them that the department is working on a comprehensive and transparent Transfer Policy, which is likely to be finalized shortly.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control Division Sopore
Cancellation of enit No 3 of 2026-2027
Due to technical reasons the enit No03 of 2026-27 Dated:- 01/06/2026 published under tender Id 2026_IFC_311326_1 is hereby cancelled.
 No:-1061-69
 Dated:- 01/06/2026
 DIPP-1758-26
 DT: 02/06/2026
 Sd/
 Executive Engineer
 I&FC Division
 Sopore

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Pensioners Need Action, Not Just A Hearing

The recent meeting between the 8th Central Pay Commission and retirees from the Jammu and Kashmir Retired Accounts Personnel Welfare Forum has sparked a flicker of hope. But let's be honest: while it's encouraging that the Commission is willing to listen, a polite meeting doesn't pay the pharmacy bill. The true test of this conversation isn't the dialogue itself—it's whether those voices actually make it into the final policy. For thousands of retired government employees, life after decades of service is getting harder by the day. Inflation isn't just a headline; it's a quiet tax on a fixed income. Rising grocery prices, mounting medical bills, and an unforgiving economy have steadily chipped away at the purchasing power of a standard pension. In Jammu and Kashmir, this burden is compounded by geography. High altitude and remote terrain mean that simply getting to a hospital or accessing basic services costs more in both time and money. When the forum asks for a higher fitment factor, they aren't asking for a luxury bonus—they are asking for a lifeline that keeps up with the cost of living. The same goes for their push to bring the One Rank One Pension (OROP) concept to civil retirees. It is hard to explain to a senior citizen why someone who held the exact same rank, shouldered the same responsibilities, and retired from the same post receives a vastly different pension just because they retired a few years earlier or later. Fairness shouldn't have an expiration date. Then there is the glaring issue of healthcare. If you are an elderly pensioner living outside the footprint of the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), getting sick is a financial emergency. Thousands of retirees are forced to spend a massive chunk of their fixed income on basic medical care. Raising the Fixed Medical Allowance and expanding CGHS clinics across Jammu and Kashmir isn't a policy tweak; it's a matter of basic health security for families who gave their best years to the state. The same human reality drives the demands to shorten the pension commutation recovery period and introduce additional benefits starting at age 65. The older we get, the more vulnerable we become, and the more our care costs. None of these demands are extravagant. They are rooted in a simple truth that often gets lost in bureaucratic paperwork: a pension is not a handout. It is not a favor granted by the state. It is a deferred wage—an earned right and a shield against poverty in old age. The 8th Pay Commission has a massive opportunity here to change millions of lives for the better. A patient hearing is a good start, but pensioners don't need sympathy; they need a framework that honors their service, protects their dignity, and offers them a secure, worry-free future.

The Expensive Illusion Of Artificial Intelligence



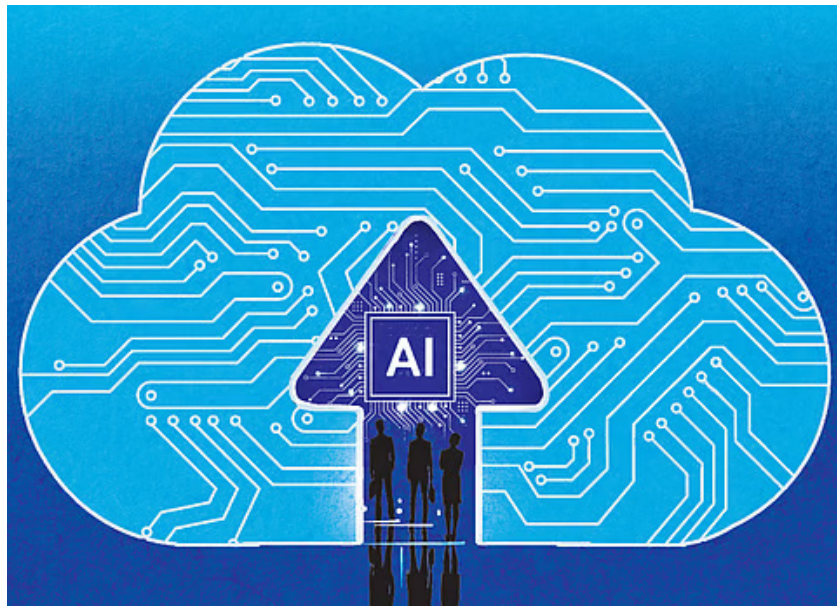
NAVEED QAZI

Artificial intelligence was presented as the ultimate efficiency machine, a technology that would remove repetitive work, cut costs and deliver unprecedented gains in productivity. Executives, investors and consultants repeated the promise with remarkable confidence: software would replace expensive employees, organisations would become leaner and economic output would increase. Yet a striking reversal is now taking shape across the technology industry. The machines that were supposed to reduce costs are generating expenses so large that many companies are confronting an uncomfortable reality. In a growing number of cases, artificial intelligence is proving more expensive than the people it was meant to replace.

Signs of this reversal are emerging from the very companies that championed automation most enthusiastically. Writing in Forbes, Tim Bajarin observed that businesses are increasingly shifting spending towards artificial intelligence computing workloads and away from traditional labour costs. Bajarin cited comments from Nvidia executive Bryan Catanzaro, who noted that compute expenditure had exceeded workforce costs in parts of his operation. Such remarks are significant because they come from industry insiders rather than critics. The assumption that automation automatically lowers costs begins to weaken when its strongest advocates acknowledge that machines are consuming resources faster than human workers.

At the heart of this shift lies the economics of computation. Large language models depend on vast data centres, specialised processors, electricity, cooling systems and continuous infrastructure expansion. Every query, prompt and automated task carries a cost. What appears effortless on a computer screen is supported by an industrial system of enormous scale. The perception that artificial intelligence exists in a weightless digital world obscures the reality that every token processed requires energy, hardware and investment.

Recent reporting has highlighted the emergence of what some technology workers call "tokenmaxxing", a culture in which employees are encouraged to maximise artificial intelligence usage regardless of whether the



results justify the expense. Coverage in Business Insider described concerns within major firms that usage statistics were increasingly being treated as measures of productivity. When organisations reward activity rather than outcomes, waste can easily masquerade as efficiency. Employees may use artificial intelligence for routine or trivial tasks, generating substantial computational costs without creating corresponding value.

The consequences are becoming visible in company accounts. Reporting in Forbes and The Verge noted that Uber exhausted its annual artificial intelligence budget within months after expanding the use of coding assistants and related tools. Executives openly questioned whether rising token consumption was translating into better products, stronger services or measurable financial returns. Productivity is not determined by the number of interactions with a machine but by whether those interactions create genuine economic value.

A deeper irony lies beneath the surface. Many organisations justified workforce reductions by arguing that artificial intelligence would eventually take over tasks previously performed by employees. Yet reports discussed by Neil C. Hughes in Cybernews suggest that some firms are discovering that advanced artificial intelligence systems can cost more than the labour they were intended to replace. Rather than eliminating expenses, businesses often face rising subscription fees, infrastructure demands and continuing requirements for human oversight.

This contradiction reflects a familiar pattern in the history of technology. New innovations are often accompanied by ambitious

promises before economic realities emerge. Railways, telecommunications networks and internet platforms all passed through periods of intense speculation. The difference is that those technologies eventually demonstrated clear productivity gains. Artificial intelligence occupies a more uncertain position. It can generate text, summarise information and automate selected tasks, but evidence of broad economic transformation remains limited.

The economist Joseph Schumpeter described capitalism in Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy as a process of creative destruction, in which older systems are replaced by more productive ones. The concept is frequently used to defend technological disruption. Yet disruption alone is not progress. If a new system consumes more resources while delivering uncertain benefits, destruction ceases to be creative and becomes merely costly. There is a growing risk that parts of the artificial intelligence boom are moving in that direction, with vast sums invested in infrastructure before clear returns have been demonstrated.

Public discussion has also been shaped by the assumption that large-scale job displacement is inevitable. Debates on BBC Question Time have often treated the replacement of workers by artificial intelligence as a future certainty rather than a proposition to be tested against evidence. Yet the evidence remains mixed. Research associated with Massachusetts Institute of Technology has shown that some forms of automation are not always economically viable when compared with human labour. Matt Stoller, writing in Think of X, has argued that artificial intelligence markets

frequently reward consumption metrics rather than productive outcomes. A technology can be impressive in theory while remaining inefficient in practice.

The environmental implications add another layer of concern. Every expansion of artificial intelligence infrastructure requires more electricity, more water and more construction. Data centres have become strategic assets precisely because computation carries substantial physical costs. Public discussion often treats digital services as though they exist without material constraints, but behind every artificial intelligence application lies a network of energy systems, supply chains and industrial infrastructure.

The social consequences are equally significant. Workers increasingly find themselves defending their value against systems that still depend heavily on human oversight. Errors, fabricated information and inaccuracies continue to require correction by skilled employees. In The Age of Surveillance Capitalism, Shoshana Zuboff argued that digital technologies often evolve into systems of extraction. Her warning appears increasingly relevant as artificial intelligence companies draw upon vast quantities of data, attention and capital while concentrating many of the benefits within a small number of firms.

Investors are beginning to recognise these tensions. For years, financial markets rewarded almost any company associated with artificial intelligence, often regardless of profitability. That period appears to be ending. Shareholders are increasingly demanding evidence of return on investment rather than demonstrations of technological novelty. Boards want measurable results: savings, new revenue streams or genuine operational improvements.

None of this suggests that artificial intelligence lacks potential. The technology will continue to improve and may eventually deliver many of the efficiencies its supporters promised. However, the assumption that its success is inevitable has been weakened. Economic realities have not disappeared simply because algorithms have become more sophisticated. Businesses cannot spend indefinitely without demonstrating value. The central lesson of the present moment is straightforward: human labour was declared obsolete long before the economics of replacement had been properly tested. Until artificial intelligence consistently creates more value than it consumes, the paradox will remain: the machines designed to replace people are proving more expensive than the people themselves.

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Revolution, Reality, And Future Of Human Identity

LALIT GARGG

In the history of human civilization, certain revolutions have fundamentally transformed both the course and character of life. The Agricultural Revolution provided stability to human existence, the Industrial Revolution redefined production and labor, and the Information Revolution erased barriers to knowledge and communication. Today, the revolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands at another historic turning point. It is not merely a technological advancement; it has become a profound question intertwined with human intelligence, decision-making, employment, social structures, governance systems, and even human identity and existence itself. This is why an intense global debate has emerged: Will AI prove to be a blessing for humanity, or will it gradually challenge the very significance of human beings?

The most remarkable aspect of AI is that it is no longer confined to operating machines. It is increasingly performing tasks that were once considered uniquely human. From writing and visual art to music composition, disease diagnosis, judicial analysis, scientific research, and administrative decision-making, AI's growing presence has raised a host of new questions. If machines can think, learn, and make decisions, what will remain distinctive about human beings? This is not merely a technological concern; it is also a philosophical and ethical one.

Human identity is rooted in consciousness, sensitivity, creativity, and moral judgment. AI may possess vast stores of information and extraordinary computational power, but it lacks experiential consciousness, compassion, self-awareness, and a sense of values. Yet when machines write poetry, create paintings, and engage in conversations, an illusion emerges that they might even-

tually replace humans. The real challenge, however, is not that machines will become human, but that humans may begin to behave like machines. If every aspect of life is governed solely by data, calculations, and efficiency, human emotions and ethical values may be pushed to the margins.

Another significant question arises in this context: Will the future witness the emergence of a new form of humanity? Many scientists and technology thinkers believe that the gap between biological humans and digital technology will continue to narrow in the coming decades. Through direct brain-computer interfaces, artificial organs, memory-enhancement technologies, and biotechnological interventions, a future is being envisioned in which human beings and machines merge into a hybrid form. While this possibility appears fascinating, it is equally unsettling. If technologically enhanced humans gain significant advantages over ordinary individuals, a new and deeper form of social inequality may emerge.

AI's growing influence is already transforming employment and the global economy. Routine and repetitive tasks are increasingly being automated, leading to fears that millions of jobs may disappear. Many major technology companies have reduced their workforce in the name of cost-cutting and productivity enhancement. However, recent experiences suggest that AI has not become a complete substitute for human labor. In areas requiring complex judgment, innovation, interpersonal relationships, and contextual understanding, the human role remains indispensable.

This is where the latest findings of the global research and advisory firm, Gartner, assume particular significance. In its recent analytical report, Gartner suggests that AI is moving beyond the "peak of inflated



expectations" and entering a phase of disillusionment. Many organizations expected immediate economic gains and dramatic improvements in productivity, but the actual outcomes have often fallen short of expectations. High implementation costs, concerns about data security, the tendency of AI systems to generate inaccurate or misleading responses, and difficulties in demonstrating clear business value have all emerged as major challenges. The report also warns that nearly one-third of AI projects may be abandoned after their initial stages because they fail to deliver returns commensurate with investment. This conclusion challenges the assumption that AI will instantly solve every problem.

However, this does not mean that AI is merely a temporary bubble destined to burst. History demonstrates that every major technological revolution is accompanied by both enthusiasm and exaggeration in its early stages. Over time, its real value becomes clearer, leading to more balanced and sustainable development. The Internet followed a similar trajectory. While many early internet companies disappeared, the Internet itself became the foundation of modern global society. AI is likely to follow a comparable path. Therefore, neither exaggerated glorification nor predictions of its imminent collapse reflect reality.

The role of AI in business will continue to expand. It will increasingly influence manufacturing, marketing, customer service, financial analysis, and supply-chain management.

While this will enhance speed and efficiency, it will also transform the nature of work. In the future, technical knowledge alone will not be sufficient. Skills such as problem-solving, creativity, leadership, adaptability, and emotional intelligence will become even more valuable. Consequently, education and workforce development systems must be redesigned to prepare individuals for this new reality. In governance and public administration, AI has the potential to make systems more efficient, transparent, and responsive. It can improve policy analysis, resource allocation, healthcare and education programs, and disaster management. Yet these benefits are accompanied by significant risks. The large-scale collection and analysis of citizens' personal data could threaten privacy and individual freedom. Maintaining a balance between technological efficiency and civil liberties will therefore be essential.

The application of AI in the military sphere is perhaps the most alarming. Autonomous weapons systems, unmanned combat technologies, and machines capable of selecting targets could fundamentally alter the nature of warfare. If machines are granted the power to make life-and-death decisions, profound ethical and humanitarian questions arise. This is why there is a growing global demand for effective regulation and oversight of such technologies. Amid all these developments, the most important question remains: How can human life remain secure, balanced,

and meaningful? The answer does not lie in rejecting technology but in using it wisely. AI must remain a tool that serves humanity rather than a force that dominates it. Educational systems must place greater emphasis on ethics, empathy, coexistence, and human values. Emotional intelligence, compassion, empathy, and spiritual awareness are dimensions of human existence that no machine can truly replicate.

At the same time, there is an urgent need for global policies and regulatory frameworks that ensure AI development serves the broader interests of humanity. If this technology remains concentrated in the hands of a few powerful corporations or nations, it could intensify inequality and conflict. Conversely, if directed toward education, healthcare, environmental protection, and social development, it could unlock unprecedented opportunities for human progress. Ultimately, AI is neither an unquestionable blessing nor an inevitable curse. It is a powerful instrument whose impact will depend on human wisdom and responsibility. The real challenge is not the machine itself, but whether humanity can preserve its compassion, moral consciousness, and human values in an age of rapidly advancing technology.

The defining question of the future is not how powerful AI will become, but how vigilant, responsible, and value-driven human beings will remain. If humanity succeeds in balancing technological advancement with ethical and human values, AI will help write a remarkable new chapter in human development. If not, the same technology could become a source of imbalance, inequality, and existential risk. This is both the greatest challenge and the greatest responsibility of our time.

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B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir
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Printed at:
Khidmat Offset Printing
Press, The Bund, Srinagar
Published From:
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,
Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023
Layout Designer
Aijaz Ahmad Dar

Doctor's Dilemma Between Law, Morality And Life



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

Modern medical science has achieved unprecedented achievements in the protection, treatment, and promotion of human life. Today, many diseases once considered incurable are treatable. Technologies such as microscopic fetal health testing, the detection of congenital malformations, and maternal health monitoring have taken medicine to new heights. However, this scientific advancement has also raised complex ethical and legal questions, particularly when physicians face situations where the limitations of the law and their fundamental duty to save life appear to conflict. Cases involving late medical terminations of pregnancies with viable fetuses present a similar challenging situation.

The fundamental principle of the medical profession is the preservation of life. From the ancient Hippocratic Oath to modern medical ethics, physicians are taught to put the patient's best interests first. "Do no harm" and "act in the patient's best interest" are fundamental principles of medical ethics. On the other hand, doctors cannot be above the law in a democratic society. They must also comply with legal provisions, court orders, and standards set by the state. Problems arise when legal mandates and medical ethics seem to point in different directions in a particular case.

The legal framework regarding abortion in India is primarily based on the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act. It has been amended from time to time to address women's reproductive rights, health protection, and changing medical needs. Despite this, many cases arise where the pregnancy is advanced and the fetus is considered viable, meaning capable of surviving outside the womb. In such situations, if the fetus is found to have serious abnormalities, or the pregnant woman's mental

"Do no harm" and "act in the patient's best interest" are fundamental principles of medical ethics. On the other hand, doctors cannot be above the law in a democratic society. They must also comply with legal provisions, court orders, and standards set by the state.



because conception and childbirth directly impact a woman's body, health, and life. However, this right is not completely absolute in the case of viable fetuses. Both society and the law recognize the potential life of a fetus as a moral value. Consequently, physicians face the difficult responsibility of balancing the woman's wishes with the interests of the fetus.

Serious fetal abnormalities often complicate the decision in late-term abortions. Medical tests sometimes reveal a disease or disorder that will make life after birth extremely painful or that the chances of survival are negligible. In such cases, continuing the pregnancy can pose serious psychological, social, and economic challenges for both the parents and the future child. Doctors who advocate for abortion are acting on the principle of minimizing suffering. However, if the fetus has reached a viable stage, the same decision to end life may also be subject to ethical criticism.

Court orders can also pose a dilemma for physicians. In many cases, courts grant or deny abortions based on the opinions of expert medical boards. While the final order is legally binding, physicians performing the procedure must grapple with their ethical conscience. They may understand that the law permits it, but they may feel uneasy about that decision on a personal and professional level. On the other hand, if the court denies permission and the physician believes the woman's health is in serious danger, they may feel morally compelled.

Another important aspect is medi-

cal accountability. Physicians may face not only ethical but also legal consequences. If they make decisions outside the legal framework, they may face criminal or professional action. However, if they make decisions that are not in the patient's best interest, simply for the sake of legal protection, they may violate fundamental principles of medical ethics. Thus, they are caught between dual accountabilities—one to the law and the other to the ethical standards of their profession.

In such cases, the role of medical boards becomes crucial. Multidisciplinary expert committees can comprehensively evaluate various medical, ethical, and social aspects. This allows decisions to be based on collective expertise rather than the individual perceptions of individual physicians. However, the ethical burden of the final decision often rests with the physicians who perform the procedure. Therefore, institutional support and clear guidelines remain essential.

Changing societal sensibilities also influence this debate. While there is growing awareness of women's reproductive rights and personal freedom, there are also active groups advocating for disability rights and the protection of fetal life. Physicians operate within these conflicting social expectations. Their decisions are evaluated not only by medical standards but also from ethical, religious, cultural, and political perspectives. This places additional pressure on them.

The issue of mental health is no

less important. Physicians, parents, and health workers can all experience emotional stress in cases involving late-term abortion. Life-and-death decisions are not merely technical procedures; they are deeply human experiences. Many physicians experience moral distress, guilt, or emotional exhaustion. Therefore, health systems should provide psychological and ethical counseling for them as well.

Throughout this discussion, it is important to understand that law and morality are not always contradictory. Both ultimately aim to promote human welfare and justice. However, in complex real-life situations, tensions can arise between them. Cases of late medical termination of pregnancies with viable fetuses demonstrate that no rule or principle can be applied mechanically. Each case has its own unique circumstances that require sensitive and judicious evaluation.

Moving forward, the need is for laws to become more clear, scientific, and humane. Better coordination must be established between courts, medical institutions, and policymakers. Physicians must be provided with training and institutional support to make ethical decisions. Furthermore, the moral importance of fetal life must be recognized in a balanced way, alongside the dignity, autonomy, and health of the woman. Resolving such cases solely on the basis of legal formalities or emotional reactions is not possible.

Ultimately, doctors are not just technical experts; they are also witnesses to and participants in the most difficult life-threatening decisions. When legal mandates and their primary duty to save life conflict, their role becomes even more challenging. Cases involving late medical terminations of pregnancies with viable fetuses remind us that medicine is not just a field of science, but also of compassion, ethics, and human conscience. The answers to such questions are not black and white; they transcend many gray areas. Therefore, it is essential that we not confine doctors to simple categories of culprit or hero, but rather understand the complex situations in which they attempt to balance human life, law, and morality.

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

Not Just Commuting: The Silent Struggle In Plain Sight

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The sight of a woman standing at a bus stop in India may seem ordinary, but if we look deeper, she's more than just a passenger. She carries with her many layers of society, struggles, hopes, and questions. She's waiting for a bus, but she's also waiting for her rights, opportunities, and a dignified existence. Ironically, we rarely attempt to understand the social and psychological implications of this scene we witness every day.

In Indian society, there's still a significant gap regarding the public presence of men and women. If a man is seen walking on the street at night, waiting for a bus, or sitting at a tea stall, it's considered normal. But if the same scene occurs with a woman, many questions automatically arise. Where is she going? Why is she alone? Why is she staying out so late? Who might be waiting for her? These questions aren't merely curiosity, but rather a reflection of a social mindset that still hasn't fully embraced women's freedom of movement.

This situation isn't limited to small towns or rural areas. Even in metropolitan areas, women feel more unsafe in public spaces than men. For them, leaving the home isn't just a physical journey, but also a process of overcoming numerous psychological and social barriers. Therefore, the importance of schemes, facilities, and policies related to women's mobility is not only economic but also social and psychological.

When governments implement schemes like free or subsidized bus travel for women, the value goes beyond simply saving on fares. It opens new doors of opportunity for women, for whom even small daily expenses influence decisions. In many families, the cost of women's education, employment, or other activities is still considered an additional burden. In such situations, reduced transportation costs can provide them with greater independence.

It's important to understand that



not every woman who leaves home is simply going to work. She may be pursuing an important purpose in her life. One woman may be moving to another neighborhood or city to care for her ailing mother. Another may be gathering the courage to resume her studies, which she left after marriage. Another may be traveling long distances every day in search of better employment. Another may be taking on extra work to ensure a better future for her children. And it's also possible that she's simply leaving home for a few moments of peace of mind, because her unpaid labor within the home never ends.

In Indian society, women's domestic labor remains largely invisible. Cooking, caring for children, caring for the elderly, cleaning the house, and countless other small and large tasks—these are tasks without which family life is impossible, yet their economic value is not measured. Therefore, when a woman leaves the home, she leaves not just as an individual but also with the burden of numerous responsibilities. She has limited time, limited resources, and high social expectations.

Our social perception of women's presence in public spaces also reveals many contradictions. While we advoc-

ate for women's education, employment, and self-reliance, we also maintain a tendency to suspect and control their freedom of movement. Families often want to educate their daughters, but worry about their late evening returns. They want women to progress, yet they also place numerous social limitations in their path.

For women, public transport is not just a means of travel, but also a means of social participation. Accessible, safe, and affordable transportation significantly increases women's education, employment, and social participation. Numerous studies around the world have demonstrated that increased women's mobility also enhances their economic independence and decision-making. Therefore, women's mobility should be viewed not simply as a transportation policy, but as a policy of social development.

The issue of safety in public spaces is also crucial. A large number of women in India still remain deprived of opportunities due to a lack of safe environments. Many female students refuse to enroll in distant colleges because travel is difficult or unsafe. Many women forgo better job opportunities because returning home late in the evening is consid-

ered risky. Thus, unsafe public spaces not only restrict personal freedom but also impact the country's economic and social progress.

However, simply discussing safety isn't enough. Respectful behavior in public spaces is equally important. Women often face stares, unwanted comments, and uncomfortable environments. This experience impacts their self-confidence and often forces them to avoid public life. A civilized society isn't defined solely by its crime rate, but by how respectful people treat each other.

It's also worth noting that the issue of public discipline isn't limited to men. Problems like illegal parking on sidewalks, disregard for traffic rules, littering in public spaces, and misuse of community resources involve diverse segments of society. Therefore, solutions must be collective. Both men and women must fulfill their civic responsibilities equally. Public life can only improve when duties are valued alongside rights.

Women's needs are also not adequately considered in urban design and development plans. Most cities have developed with a male-centric approach. Roads, transportation systems, public toilets, lighting, and security systems are often not designed with women's needs in mind. As a result, women face numerous disadvantages. To truly create inclusive cities, urban planning must center women's experiences and needs.

Women's freedom of movement is not just a women's issue, but a question of democracy and equality. In a democratic society, every citizen should have the right to use public spaces without fear or discrimination. If half the population has to struggle extra hard to exercise their rights, it is a collective failure of society.

What's needed today is not just policies and plans, but a shift in mindset. We must instill in our daughters the belief that public spaces belong to them as much as anyone else. We must teach our sons that women's freedom is not a privilege but a fundamental

right. We must understand that it's not unusual for a woman to travel alone, return home late in the evening, or take time for herself.

The woman standing at the bus stop is a reflection of a changing India. She wants to make her own decisions about her life. She wants equal access to education, employment, and opportunities. She wants to pursue her dreams not within boundaries, but in the open sky. Her struggle is not merely personal, but a struggle for social change.

Only when women in a society can be considered truly progressive can they travel without fear, be viewed without suspicion, and reach their goals without obstacles. Development isn't measured solely by tall buildings, wide roads, and modern technologies. The true measure of progress is the dignity and freedom a society provides to its most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Women standing at bus stops send us a silent message every day. They show us that freedom comes not just from the words of the Constitution, but from the conditions in which individuals can fearlessly exercise their rights. They remind us that equality should not be just a slogan, but a reality felt in everyday life.

The day a woman standing at a bus stop is not worried about what people will think about her, the day there is no question mark on her safety and dignity, the day her journey is considered just that of a normal passenger, only that day we will be able to say that we have taken an important step forward towards social equality.

The women standing at the bus stop aren't just waiting for a bus; they're waiting for a society that accepts them as full citizens, free individuals, and human beings with equal rights. And this wait is as much theirs as it is society's. Because a nation's path to progress is paved only when half its population can move forward without fear, without discrimination, and without obstacles.

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

CS pushes for acquiring investment-ready Industrial Parks under BHAVYA scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday reviewed the preparedness of the Industries & Commerce Department for participation in the Government of India's flagship Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), a national initiative aimed at developing world-class plug-and-play industrial parks across the country to promote industrial growth, attract investments and generate employment opportunities. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, I&C; Director, Industries, Kashmir/

Jammu; MD, SIDCO/SICOP and other concerned officers of the department. Highlighting the transformative potential of the BHAVYA scheme for Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary directed the Industries & Commerce Department to expedite the process of finalizing the most suitable land parcels in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions for submission under the scheme. He observed that the initiative presents a unique opportunity for the Union Territory to establish modern industrial ecosystems capable of attract-

ing large-scale investments, generating employment opportunities and promoting balanced regional economic development. The Chief Secretary stressed the need for meticulous planning, he called for the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for each shortlisted land parcel in conformity with the scheme guidelines. He further emphasized that the proposed industrial estates should be developed as fully integrated plug-and-play facilities equipped with all requisite infrastructure, utilities, logistics and support services,

enabling industrial units to commence operations immediately upon allotment without facing procedural or infrastructural bottlenecks. During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, presented a detailed overview of the scheme and the steps being taken by the Department to secure inclusion under the ambitious programme notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Elaborating further he stated that the scheme aims to establish 100 plug-and-play indus-

trial parks across the country in a phased manner over six years from 2026-27 to 2031-32, with a total financial outlay of about 33,660 crore. Up to 50 industrial parks will be taken up in the first phase through a challenge-based competitive selection process. Reviewing the progress made so far, the Chief Secretary was apprised that a land parcel measuring about 725 kanals at Vijaypur in Samba district has been identified as a potential site for development of an industrial park under the scheme. Similarly for Kashmir division, feasibility assess-

ments are being undertaken for several identified land parcels, including sites at Anantnag, Budgam and Srinagar districts, to evaluate their suitability for development of plug-and-play industrial parks in accordance with the scheme guidelines. Moreover the Chief Secretary was apprised that the first application window under the scheme has opened from June 1 and will remain active till July 31, 2026, during which proposals from eligible states and Union Territories will be considered for approval. Concluding the Chief Secretary directed all the stakehold-

ers to work in mission mode to ensure timely completion of all procedural requirements and submission of a comprehensive, competitive and technically robust proposal within the stipulated timelines. He further stressed that participation in the scheme would provide a significant impetus to investment, entrepreneurship, employment generation and overall economic growth in the region, and called upon all concerned to leave no stone unturned in leveraging this landmark national initiative for the benefit of Jammu and Kashmir.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

First Batch Lands In

transportation of pilgrims' baggage with the Government of India and the concerned authorities. In his communique to the Union Aviation Minister, he had emphasized the need for timely delivery and seamless handling of baggage.

A total of 4,641 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir performed Haj this year, of whom 3,952 are scheduled to return through the Srinagar Embarkation Point. The return flights are scheduled between June 2 and June 16, 2026.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Budgam Amir Athar Khan, senior officers of the civil administration, representatives of the Jammu & Kashmir Haj Committee, Airport Authority and other concerned agencies were present on the occasion.

J&K Integral Part

views such remarks not as routine diplomatic language but as challenges to its sovereignty.

This case, however, carries added significance because the European Union is one of India's most important trade and strategic partners. That makes New Delhi's response notably sharper than its usual exchanges with Pakistan or China.

The message from India is clear: its position on Kashmir has not changed, and even close partners should avoid commenting on what it considers an internal matter. Any suggestion otherwise is likely to draw the same firm response in the future. (KNO Inputs)

Srinagar Records

remained above normal in several parts of Kashmir in recent days—(KNO)

CM Omar To Chair

The political parties in J&K are keenly watching the outcome of the meeting particularly NC's stance on the issue of statehood.

The development assumes added significance in light of remarks made by Omar Abdullah last month. Addressing a public gathering in Tangmarg on May 6, the Chief Minister had hinted that he had much to say on certain critical issues but was deliberately exercising restraint. "I want to burst like a cloudburst," Omar had remarked—(KNO)

Man Dies In

monitor the situation. I've directed both the DCs of Kishtwar and Doda to swiftly restore roads, highways, and water pipelines. Field staff and specialized medical teams are on high alert, and damage assessments will begin as soon as field verification is complete. My sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Pinki Devi from Khuddhar Doda, who tragically passed away due to a lightning strike. The Deputy Commissioner of Doda has been directed to provide immediate relief and assistance to the family."

Reports aid that a cloudburst in Bandekhra Nalla near Thathri town in Doda district triggered flash floods, with debris entering parts of the local market area, officials said. No casualties were reported.

Two separate cloudbursts were also reported from the Ghan and Machipal areas of Kishtwar district. Authorities said there was no loss of life or damage to property in either incident, and the situation remained under control.

Meanwhile, the inclement weather conditions disrupted normal life in several parts of Kashmir as hailstorms accompanied by heavy showers battered agricultural areas, raising concerns among farmers over extensive damage to standing crops, vegetables and fruit orchards. Severe hailstorms struck parts of Shop-

ian and Pulwama districts on Friday, affecting areas including Uthmullah, Rahmoo, Sindo Shirmal, Balpora, Memandar, Shamshipora and Ramnagri. Similar weather activity was also reported from Kupwara district in north Kashmir.

Fresh hailstorms were reported on Tuesday from Aripal in Tral, adjoining areas of Awantipora, Kakapora in Pulwama district and several locations in Ganderbal district, residents said.

The successive spells of hail and rain have caused damage to crops in various parts of the Valley, particularly in fruit-growing regions.

Expressing concern over the losses, Bandipora MLA Nizamuddin Bhat urged the government to undertake an immediate assessment of the damage and provide relief to affected farmers.

Bhat said the latest hailstorm had devastated crops, vegetables and fruit orchards in several villages of Bandipora and other parts of Kashmir, leaving farmers in distress.

According to the legislator, Bonakoot village in Bandipora was among the worst-hit areas, with reports of substantial losses to crops and orchards.

The precipitation followed an unusually warm day in Kashmir. According to the India Meteorological Department, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 30.7 degrees Celsius, four degrees above normal, while the city registered a minimum temperature of 19.2 degrees Celsius, the highest night temperature of the season so far.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 29 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 29.4 degrees Celsius and Kupwara 27.8 degrees Celsius. Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 37.7 degrees Celsius.

MeT office advised residents in vulnerable areas to remain alert in view of the possibility of further rain, thunderstorms and localised flash floods—(KNO)

CS Urges Boost To AYUSH

Disorders, National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS), AYUSH Maternal and Neo-natal Intervention, AYUSH Geriatric Healthcare Services, Healthy Lifestyle through AYUSH for School Children, AYUSH Palliative Services and AYUSH Mobile Medical Units. He stressed the need to substantially enhance outreach and coverage so that the benefits of these programmes reach the maximum number of people.

Calling for stronger monitoring mechanisms, Dulloo exhorted upon the Director to undertake regular visits to AYUSH healthcare facilities and educational institutions to assess their functioning and ensure quality service delivery.

He also directed the department to establish herbal gardens in government institutions and involve local Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the processing and value addition of medicinal herbs to generate livelihood opportunities while promoting indigenous medicinal products.

The Chief Secretary further stressed expediting faculty recruitment through designated recruiting agencies to strengthen the functioning of AYUSH colleges and educational institutions thereby improving the academic standards there.

Speaking on this occasion Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar advised the department to focus on augmenting and consolidating existing facilities so that a wider range of AYUSH services could be delivered under one roof. He observed that optimal utilization of available resources would yield greater results than spreading resources across multiple initiatives with limited impact.

Highlighting the challenge posed by substance abuse, the ACS also advocated the integration of AYUSH interventions in rehabilitation efforts for drug abuse victims and urged the department to actively contribute to the ongoing Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan. He underscored the importance of a whole-of-government approach in addressing the issue effectively.

Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education, M. Raju, informed the

meeting about the roadmap for expansion and strengthening of AYUSH healthcare services, educational institutions and public health interventions across Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the proposed Annual Action Plan had been formulated following extensive consultations with district-level AYUSH functionaries and heads of AYUSH medical colleges and envisages substantial investments in healthcare infrastructure, human resource development, institutional capacity enhancement and quality service delivery.

During the meeting, Director AYUSH, Dr. Ajay Kumar Tikoo, informed that while the Ministry of AYUSH has indicated a tentative resource envelope of 58,539 Cr, the UT has proposed a comprehensive action plan amounting to 91,997 Cr keeping in view the increasing demand for AYUSH facilities and the satisfactory utilization of funds under previous programmes.

He further apprised the Governing Body that the plan includes strengthening 523 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, augmentation of AYUSH units in public health institutions, uninterrupted supply of essential medicines to hospitals and dispensaries, upgradation of existing AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries and accelerated completion of new healthcare facilities in underserved areas.

To strengthen governance and implementation of the National AYUSH Mission, the Governing Body also approved the reconstitution of the Executive Committee of the J&K AYUSH Society with representation from the Health and Medical Education Department, National Health Mission, Finance, Planning and other technical stakeholders. The meeting also deliberated on the engagement of manpower sanctioned by the Ministry of AYUSH under various components of the National AYUSH Mission.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards strengthening AYUSH systems, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for enhanced healthcare infrastructure, wider outreach programmes and greater public awareness regarding the benefits of AYUSH therapies and wellness practices, thereby ensuring accessible, affordable and holistic healthcare services for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Over 170 Cases Registered,

SSP, 22 properties belonging to known drug offenders were demolished in coordination with the district administration.

Administrative action was also initiated against individuals involved in narcotics trafficking, resulting in the cancellation of 27 driving licences and 143 vehicle registration certificates (RCs), he said.

The SSP said Jammu Police further demolished 22 illegal structures, including 11 pucca houses and 11 khullas, which were allegedly being used to facilitate narcotics-related activities.

Describing the fight against drugs as a collective social responsibility, Singh appreciated the cooperation extended by the public, civil society organisations, educational institutions and youth in supporting the campaign.

He urged citizens to continue sharing information about drug peddling and narcotics-related activities with the police, assuring that all credible inputs would be acted upon promptly.

Reiterating the force's commitment to a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir, the SSP said Jammu Police would continue its sustained crackdown on narcotics trafficking under the mission.

He said the police remain committed to protecting the youth and ensuring that drug traffickers find no space to operate in the district.

GoC White Knight

operating in the challenging terrain. "GoC, White Knight Corps, accompanied by GOC CIF Romeo, visited the general area of Gambhir Mughlan to review the progress of Operation Sheruwalli and assess the operational situation on the

ground," the White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

The Army said the Corps Commander commended the troops for their resilience, professionalism and meticulous execution of operational tasks.

"He praised all ranks for their high morale, relentless focus and ironclad resolve in pursuit of operational objectives," the Army said, adding that the White Knight Corps remains committed to ensuring peace and security through sustained operational excellence.

"The hunt continues," it said further. The operation was launched on May 23 following intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the Dorimal-Gambhir Mughlan belt of Rajouri district.

An encounter broke out after a joint team of security forces established contact with the suspected terrorists.

Officials said security forces have intensified efforts to flush out the terrorists, carrying out coordinated searches and targeted fire assaults, including the use of multi-barrel grenade launchers, on suspected hideouts located in dense forests marked by deep gorges and natural caves.

On Monday, security forces busted a hideout in the area following a brief exchange of fire and detected blood stains, indicating possible injuries to the fleeing terrorists. However, no terrorist has been neutralised so far, officials said.

A day earlier, Lt Gen Mishra, accompanied by GOC Ace of Spades Division, visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) to review the evolving security situation and operational preparedness.

During the visit, he interacted with troops and expressed satisfaction with measures taken to enhance surveillance, precision-strike capability and future warfare readiness, reaffirming the Army's commitment to maintaining domination along the LoC, officials said. (PTI)

J&K GDC's Log

student gets an opportunity to pursue quality higher education," Itoo posted on social media.

As already reported, in March-2026, the government degree colleges in Jammu and Kashmir were facing a dismal student enrolment.

At that time, Government Degree College Baghi Dilawar Khan and Government Degree College Chattisinghpura had no active student enrolment.

GDC Chattisinghpura and GDC Baghi Dilawar Khan were placed under the charge of Government Degree College, Anantnag and S.P College, Srinagar, respectively, for administrative oversight.

The concerned minister had informed that less than 30 students were enrolled in each of the 13 colleges of Jammu and Kashmir.

The government figures had revealed that at least five colleges of Jammu and Kashmir were functioning with an enrolment of less than twenty students in 2025 and eight colleges were functioning with less than 30 students respectively.

The figures further reveal that in 14 colleges in Jammu and Kashmir, fewer than 50 students were enrolled in each college.

Furthermore, 24 government colleges were having less than 100 students enrolled in each college.

The government figures also reveal that in 13 colleges of Jammu and Kashmir, only 100-300 students were enrolled in each college.

Pertinently, the Higher Education Department earlier this year had decided to discontinue Common University Entrance Test (CUET) based admission for Undergraduate (UG) admissions for the academic session 2026-27 in all Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) of J&K.

The department had further decided to revert to a merit-based system on Class 12 scores.

In the previous academic session, the department had exempted 64 Government Degree Colleges from making admissions through CUET score for academic session 2024-25 in wake of low CUET based admissions in many degree colleges of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

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Comm SMC Reviews Progress of AMRUT 2.0 Water Infrastructure Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, IAS, Tuesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of key water supply infrastructure projects being executed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme AMRUT 2.0, reviewing the progress of works aimed at strengthening and modernizing Srinagar's urban water distribution network.



During the inspection, the Commissioner visited the under-construction Overhead Water Tanks (OHTs) at Jenab Sahib, Soura and Behrar Baghwanpora, Lal Bazar, where he assessed the pace of execution, quality standards, and overall physical progress of the projects. He reviewed the status of ongoing civil works and held detailed discussions with engineers and project officials regarding project timelines and implementation challenges.

Emphasizing the strategic importance of the projects, Haseeb stated that the new water storage infrastructure will substantially improve the city's water supply system by enhancing storage capacity, strengthening distribution efficiency, and ensuring a more dependable supply of potable water to residents of the beneficiary areas.

The Commissioner directed the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion of all components within the prescribed timelines without compromising quality. He stressed that timely delivery of public infrastructure projects remains a priority and called for strict adherence to technical specifications and approved project standards.

While interacting with field engineers and officials, Mr. Haseeb underscored the need for robust supervision, regular monitoring, and close inter-departmental coordination to ensure smooth execution of works. He instructed the concerned officers to proactively resolve any bottlenecks and maintain sustained momentum to avoid delays in project completion.

Reaffirming SMC's commitment to strengthening urban infrastructure under AMRUT 2.0, the Commissioner observed that the scheme is contributing significantly to the development of resilient civic infrastructure and the enhancement of essential public services. He noted that the ongoing investments in water supply infrastructure are expected to deliver long-term benefits by improving service delivery, supporting future urban growth, and enhancing the overall quality of life for citizens.

The inspection was attended by the Joint Commissioner (Works), SMC, Executive Engineers of the Public Health Engineering Department, and other senior officials associated with the implementation of AMRUT 2.0 projects.

Complete Runway Suspension Proposed for 16 Days in Oct at Sgr Airport

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Airport has issued an advisory informing passengers about a proposed runway maintenance plan under which Runway 01 is expected to remain unavailable every Monday and Tuesday between July 1 and September 30 this year.

The proposed maintenance schedule, planned by the Indian Air Force, could affect flight operations and passenger movement if approved.

According to the airport authorities, Runway 01 at Srinagar Airport is proposed to remain unavailable on two days each week during the three-month maintenance period beginning July 1 and ending September 30, 2026.



Airport officials further stated that a complete suspension of runway operations has also been proposed from October 1 to October 16, 2026.

However, authorities clarified that the proposed maintenance and operational restrictions remain at the planning stage and have not yet received final approval.

Passengers have been advised not to rely on unverified reports and instead remain in touch with official airport and airline communication channels for authenticated and timely information.

The advisory issued by Srinagar Airport said detailed information regarding flight schedules and operational changes would be communicated through official sources once formal approval is granted.

The proposed maintenance assumes significance given Srinagar Airport's strategic importance and heavy passenger traffic, particularly during peak travel and tourism months. Any approved operational restrictions are likely to require advance coordination with airlines and travel stakeholders to minimize inconvenience to passengers. [KNT]

Secy DLSA Budgam conducts inspection visit to Legal Aid Clinic Soibugh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: As part of the calendar of activities, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam conducted an inspection visit to the Legal Aid Clinic at Soibugh Daharmunah, Budgam.

The inspection was carried out under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Budgam.

The primary objective of the visit was to assess the functioning of the Legal Aid Clinic, evaluate the accessibility of legal aid services to the public, and review the availability of infrastructure and furniture at the clinic.

During the inspection, the Secretary interacted with the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) posted at the clinic and inquired about the number of aid seekers visiting the centre, the nature of grievances brought before them, and the assistance and remedies being provided. She also reviewed the infrastructure and facilities available at the clinic for the effective discharge of duties.

The Secretary emphasized the crucial role of PLVs in ensuring access to justice and advised them to continue discharging their responsibilities with dedication and commitment for the welfare of the general public and legal aid seekers in particular.

Upon reviewing the overall functioning of the Legal Aid Clinic, the Secretary expressed satisfaction with its performance and appreciated the efforts of the PLVs in providing legal assistance and awareness to the community.

Mass awareness activities conducted across Shopian under NMJKA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: As part of the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), a series of awareness and outreach activities were conducted across various educational institutions, business establishments, workplaces, and public spaces in Shopian district to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy, addiction-free society.

The awareness programmes witnessed active participation from students, teachers, shopkeepers, cold store workers, employees, and members of the local community.

During the activities, participants were sensitized about the social, economic, and health-related consequences of substance abuse and were encouraged to play an active role in preventing drug addiction within their families and communities.

Awareness rallies, yoga sessions, pledge-taking ceremonies, interactive sessions, distribution of awareness material, and community outreach programmes were organized at different locations.

The participants collectively pledged to remain vigilant against the menace of drugs and to contribute towards creating a safer and healthier environment for future generations.

The campaign highlighted the vital role of awareness, education, and community engagement in addressing the challenge of substance abuse. Participants were encouraged to act as ambassadors of change and spread the message of a drug-free society within their respective communities.

DC Bandipora reviews Mission YUVA; DLIC Approves 134 Cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: A review-cum-District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting under Mission YUVA was held Tuesday in Bandipora under the chairpersonship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib.

During the meeting, the Assistant Director Employment, Dr. Amil Khateeb, briefed the chair on the status of various Mission YUVA parameters in the district and the measures being undertaken to improve performance indicators.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the timely processing of cases, proper handling of beneficiaries, and close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of Mission YUVA schemes.

A total of 134 cases were placed before the DLIC for consideration. After thorough scrutiny and deliberations, 134 cases were approved.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments and banking institutions to work in close coordination to ensure the timely disbursement of sanctioned cases and facilitate aspiring entrepreneurs in establishing sustainable ventures.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Director Employment Bandipora, ARTO Bandipora, Lead District Manager, J&K Bank, Cluster Head, J&K Bank, Functional Manager DIC Bandipora, District Nodal Officer JKEDI Bandipora, Employment Officer Bandipora, SBDU Lead, and BHD Leads of Bandipora, Sumbal, and Gurez.

India welcomes Germany's visa-free transit for Indian travellers

SIANS

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday welcomed Germany's decision to operationalise visa-free transit for Indian nationals passing through German airports, saying this new arrangement would further enhance people-to-people ties.

"We welcome the operationalisation by Germany of the announcement waiving requirement of transit visa for Indian nationals transiting through Germany, exclusively by air, with effect from June 3," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) wrote on X.

"The announcement was made after discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chancellor Friedrich Merz during the latter's visit to India in January 2026," the MEA added.

According to MEA, this new arrangement would further enhance people-to-people ties between India and Germany.

Earlier on Tuesday, the German Embassy in New Delhi announced that Indian nationals will no longer require a transit visa when travelling to another country with a layover at a German airport.

"This implements a result of Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz's trip to India in January of this year. It underlines the Federal government's commitment to deepening German Indian relations, facilitating the movement of people, and further strengthening economic ties," it added.

During the visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Federal Chancellor Merz welcomed the sustained growth in bilateral trade and investment and noted that bilateral trade reached a record high in 2024, with the positive trend continuing through 2025.

India and Germany had signed a slew of agreements across sectors such as trade, technology, health and renewable energy.

improving nutrient use efficiency, and encouraging scientific nutrient management among growers.

During the programme, KVK scientists highlighted the importance of soil test-based fertilizer application and emphasized the judicious use of major and micro-nutrients for maintaining soil fertility and achieving higher crop productivity.

Excise Deptt destroys Poppy cultivation at multiple locations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Central Kashmir Excise Range intensified its crackdown against the illicit cultivation of Narcotic crops (Poppy) under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan and destroyed illegal poppy cultivation at multiple locations across the Srinagar-Budgam-Ganderbal Excise Range in collaboration with Police, Revenue and Agriculture Department.

The enforcement action exemplifies the commitment of the Excise Department to curbing illegal activities and upholding the rule of law under the supervision of the Excise Commissioner and the Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Kashmir.

The FIR was lodged under the relevant sections of NDPS Act at the concerned Police Stations and all legal formalities including seizure, Sampling and destruction were reportedly completed on spot. In this regard, Case FIR No. 47/2026 and U/S 8/18 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Kangan, Ganderbal and investigation has been taken up.

The programme witnessed active participation from students, teachers, shopkeepers, cold store workers, employees, and members of the local community.

Man dies, wife critical after tree falls amid strong winds in Anantnag

UMAISAR GULL

ANANTNAG: A man died while his wife sustained critical injuries after a huge tree fell on them amid strong winds near the Ganjiwara area of Anantnag town on Tuesday, officials said.

An official said that a large tree was uprooted by strong winds near Ganjiwara, leading to the disruption of traffic movement on the Lal Chowk-GMC Anantnag road.

He said police and other agencies promptly launched clearance operations, restoring traffic on one side of the road, while efforts were underway to fully reopen the route.

The official said two civilians, identified as Mohammad Rafiq Kujwal and his wife, Marina, residents of Brariangan, Shangus, were injured in the incident and were immediately shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for treatment.

However, Mohammad Rafiq later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital, while his wife remains under treatment in critical condition, he said.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated further proceedings—(KNO)

KVK-Shopian conducts awareness programmes under "Khet Bachao Abhiyan"

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: KVK-Shopian, SKUAST-K organized awareness programmes under the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" at Thearin and Gatipora villages of Shopian with the objective of promoting sustainable agricultural practices and creating awareness regarding the balanced use of fertilizers.

The campaign focused on enhancing soil health,

improving nutrient use efficiency, and encouraging scientific nutrient management among growers.

During the programme, KVK scientists highlighted the importance of soil test-based fertilizer application and emphasized the judicious use of major and micro-nutrients for maintaining soil fertility and achieving higher crop productivity.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE)
DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR
 BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
 E-mail:- suresh05.gupta@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 2nd

Subject: 1. Repair to the Departmental Vehicles and Compressors including POL by way of (M. Oil Change to Elgi-Compressor 575-200, of PHE Ground Division Srinagar).
 2. AMC for 35 KVA Generator and Honda 2800 Genset at PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Reference: This office Fresh e-NIT No. 12-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./1011-20, dated: 05-05-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_309664_1 & 3.

Due to "NO/POOR Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide-e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 01-06-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM are extended as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	10-06-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	11-06-2026 02.00 PM

NOTE:
 All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./1906-16
 Dated: 01-06-2026.
 DIPK-1753-26
 DT: 02/06/2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer
 Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
 Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA
 E-mail, id, xenmhd-handw ara@jk. gov. in

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (SHORT TERM)
 e-NIT No: MHDH/TS/2026-27/eNIT/04
 Date: 02/06/2026

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Technical Sanction
01.	Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of OTIS Make Lift including AVR for 01 years at Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.	1.45	200	2900	CMC of 01 Year	Accorded

Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov. infrom from 02-06-2026(18.00hrs).

- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 03-06-2026(10:00hrs) to 10/06/2026 (1400hrs)in two covers.
- Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 10/06/2026 (1600hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
- The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

No: - M&HDH/TS/345-53
 Dated: 02/06/2026
 DIPK-1765-26
 DT: 02/06/2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer
 Mechanical & Hospitals Division
 Handwara

J&K pacer Auqib Nabi joins India squad as net bowler for Afghanistan Test

FIANS

NEW DELHI: Jammu & Kashmir fast-bowler Auqib Nabi has been called up to join India squad as net bowler for the one-off Test against Afghanistan, to be played in New Chandigarh from June 6-10.

Nabi, one of the standout performers of the Ranji Trophy season, where he led Jammu and Kashmir to victory by picking 60 scalps, was widely tipped to get a maiden Test call-up. Despite his remarkable consistency, the selectors opted for lanky Punjab pacer Gurnoor Brar as the back-up fast bowling option to join Mohammed Siraj and Prasad Krishna in the squad.

FIANS has learnt that the right-arm pacer has been called up as net bowler to help India prepare for their one-off Test against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh.

While addressing Nabi's omission during the squad announcement, chief selector Ajit Agarkar had said,



"There is always a chat around domestic performances. You do not necessarily pick a lot of seamers when you pick a Test team in India. And he was close. But at this point, we have gone with the three that we have picked."

Besides Brar, left-arm spinner Manav Suthar, left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Harsh Dubey were also handed maiden call-ups to India's squad for the one-off Test.

With Shubman Gill leading the side and KL Rahul replacing Rishabh Pant as the vice-captain. Brar, Suthar, and Dubey have been India 'A' regu-

lars after being standout performers in domestic cricket.

Apart from Gill, Rahul, and Pant, the batting group includes Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, and Dhruv Jurel. With Ravindra Jadeja rested for the game, Kuldeep Yadav and Washington Sundar will handle spin bowling duties.

This will only be the second Test between the two sides, after India won the first one, played in 2018 by an innings and 262 runs. The Test will not be a part of the ongoing World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle.

History for Kerala: Kannur-origin Tahsin Jamsheed named in Qatar's FIFA WC squad

FIANS

KANNUR: For generations of Malayalis, the FIFA World Cup has been a month-long festival. Villages and towns across Kerala transform into miniature football capitals every four years, with giant cut-outs of global stars, midnight screenings and fierce debates over Brazil, Argentina and Germany becoming part of the state's cultural landscape. This time, however, football-crazy Kerala will have something it has never had before, one of its own on the World Cup stage.

In a historic first for the state, Kannur-origin footballer Tahsin Mohammed Jamsheed has been named in Qatar's 26-member squad for the FIFA World Cup, becoming the first



Malayali ever to make the final squad for the FIFA World Cup.

The young winger's selection marks a watershed moment for Kerala, a state that has long lived and breathed football but has never before seen one of its sons reach the sport's grandest stage.

From the sevens football grounds of Malabar to packed viewing centres that spring up during every World Cup, football enjoys a near-religious following in Kerala.

Yet despite producing several accomplished footballers over the decades, a place in a World Cup squad

had remained elusive.

Tahsin, who currently plays for Qatar Stars League giants Al-Duhail SC, has steadily risen through Qatar's youth ranks, representing the country's Under-16, Under-17 and Under-19 teams before breaking into the senior national side.

He had earlier created history as the first Indian-origin player to feature in the Qatar Stars League. A skilful left winger known for his pace, creativity and eye for goal, Tahsin made his senior international debut against Afghanistan during the World Cup qualifiers.

Although he was included in the squad for a match against India, he did not take the field. He subsequently featured in Qatar's crucial qualifying fixtures,

earning the confidence of the national selectors.

Tahsin is the second son of Hibasil Jamsheed, a Thalassery native working as a chief accountant in Qatar, and Shaima, who hails from Valapattanam.

Born and raised in Qatar, the youngster has nevertheless become a source of immense pride for Kerala, particularly for football-loving Kannur.

As the World Cup kicks off in North America, Malayalis who have spent decades cheering football's biggest stars from afar will watch with a special sense of connection.

For the first time, a player with roots in Kerala will walk onto football's biggest stage, turning a long-cherished dream of the state's football fraternity into reality.

FIFA World Cup 2026: President Ramaphosa urges South Africans to unite behind national team



FIANS

JOHANNESBURG: President Cyril Ramaphosa has urged South Africans to rally behind the country's national team as it prepares for its first FIFA World Cup appearance since 2010, with an opening match against Mexico on June 11.

In his weekly newsletter published on Monday, Ramaphosa said Bafana Bafana, the nickname of the country's men's football team, carries the hopes and aspirations of more than 62 million South Africans as it heads to the tournament, which will be co-hosted by Mexico, the United States, and Canada from June 11 to July 19.

The team departed for Mexico on Monday after all players and staff, except one assistant coach, received their visas.

Ramaphosa described

the squad as ambassadors of a diverse nation, saying its composition reflects South Africa's unity across many races, languages, and cultures. He added that the transformation of sport in the country embodies constitutional values, including respect, fairness, tolerance, and inclusivity, reports Xinhua.

Drawing on sport's role in uniting the country since the end of apartheid, Ramaphosa recalled the image of former President Nelson Mandela wearing a Springbok jersey at the 1995 Rugby World Cup final.

While expressing hope that Bafana Bafana could bring home the trophy, Ramaphosa said the team's participation itself held profound national significance. "Regardless of how Bafana Bafana fare in the tournament, their participation is as rich with

meaning as the 1995 Rugby World Cup," he wrote.

The president linked the team's return to the World Cup with what he described as a broader national renewal, citing democratic progress, the strength of the Constitution, the launch of the National Dialogue process, and signs of economic recovery. He called on South Africans to celebrate both the team's achievement and the country's progress toward a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society.

"For 90 minutes, as they play for our country, we will not be divided by language, race, province, club or circumstance," Ramaphosa wrote. "One Team. One Nation. Behind Bafana. Behind South Africa. United by our Flag, inspired by our Team. 62 million cheering voices. One Dream."

MPL 2026: Rajat Patidar-led Gwalior Cheetahs challenge Ujjain Falcons in opener

FIANS

GWALIOR: Having successfully guided the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to back-to-back IPL crowns, Rajat Patidar is set to begin a new chapter closer to home as he returns to lead Gwalior Cheetahs in the Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) T20 Scindia Cup 2026.

Patidar will captain a side eager to make a breakthrough after reaching the semifinal in 2025 but narrowly missing out on a place in the final. Gwalior Cheetahs will feature in the opening match of the 2026 season when they face Ujjain Falcons on Wednesday at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

One of the most accomplished cricketers to emerge from Madhya Pradesh in recent years, Patidar has enjoyed a remarkable rise through domestic and franchise cricket. From playing a pivotal role in Madhya Pradesh's historic Ranji Trophy triumph to estab-



lishing himself as a leader on the IPL stage, the right-hander now returns to familiar surroundings with the ambition of guiding the Gwalior Cheetahs to their maiden title.

The team representing Gwalior will enter the new season with a balanced squad featuring a mix of experienced campaigners and promising young talent. Among them is Mangesh Yadav, the leading wicket-taker for the 2025 edition with 14 wickets, while the side will continue to benefit from the guidance of head coach Aditya Srivastava, under whose captaincy Madhya Pradesh ended a 69-year wait for the Ranji Trophy title in 2022.

Speaking ahead of the campaign, Patidar said, "It's always a special feeling to come back and play in Madhya Pradesh. The last couple of months have been memorable, but every new tournament brings fresh challenges and fresh motivation. The MPL has become an important platform for cricket in the state, and I'm excited to once again represent the Gwalior Cheetahs. We have a talented squad, a strong support staff, and a group that's hungry to succeed. Our focus is on playing positive cricket and giving ourselves the best chance to bring the trophy home."

The spotlight will firmly be on the opening clash of the tournament as Patidar's side take on Ujjain Falcons in what is their debut MPL campaign. The Falcons will be led by young all-rounder Madhav Tiwari, who arrives fresh from an impressive IPL season with Delhi Capitals, where his pace bowling and lower-order hitting earned him plaudits.

Team India arrive in Mullanpur for one-off Test against Afghanistan

FIANS

NEW CHANDIGARH: The Indian team arrived in the city on Tuesday ahead of their one-off Test against Afghanistan to be played at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur locality of New Chandigarh from Saturday. With this match, the Shubman Gill-led side is set to return to red-ball cricket after the conclusion of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026.

The Indian squad reached the city and was seen arriving at the team hotel as preparations began for the Test scheduled at the PCA New Chandigarh Stadium from June 6.

Captain Shubman Gill led the contingent, while newly-appointed vice-captain KL Rahul, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, and all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy were among the players spotted with the squad.

The match will mark

India's first Test appearance since their 2-0 home series defeat to South Africa last year. Although the Afghanistan Test is not part of the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) cycle, it serves as an important fixture for India as they gear up for upcoming overseas assignments in Sri Lanka and New Zealand later this year.

India will be hoping to use the match to regain momentum in the longest format, with a squad that blends experienced campaigners and promising young talent. The team is expected to begin training sessions in the coming days as it fine-tunes preparations for the encounter.

For Afghanistan, the match presents another valuable opportunity to test themselves against one of the world's strongest Test sides. The visitors have steadily gained experience in the format and will look to put up a competitive performance against the hosts.

Indonesia Open 2026: PV Sindhu, Arjun-Hariharan advance with opening round wins

FIANS

JAKARTA: Back in the top 10 of BWF world rankings, PV Sindhu kicked off her Indonesia Open 2026 with a 25-23, 21-16 win over Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan at the Istora Senayan stadium in Jakarta on Tuesday.

The former world champion had to push herself, finally winning with scores of 25-23 and 21-16 in 51 minutes. She won the closely contested first game with her aggressive playing style and carried that energy into the second game to secure a straight-sets victory.

Sindhu now faces a tough challenge in the second round, where she is likely to meet reigning Olympic champion and world No. 1 An Se-young. Sindhu trails 0-9 in their head-to-head record and lost to the Korean in the Singapore Open quarterfinals last week.

Also advancing to the next round was the men's doubles combination of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun, who registered a straight games victory over Malaysia's



2016 Olympic medalist Tan Wee Kiong and his current partner Nur Mohd Azriyn.

India's ace shuttler Sindhu, who entered the world top-10 for the first time since 2023, opened her campaign with an 11th successive win against the Thailand shuttler. Sindhu now leads the head-to-head record against Busanan 21-1. She will now face the winner of the match between top seed An Se Young of Korea and Neslihan Arin of Turkey.

Later, Hariharan and Arjun outplayed the experienced Malaysian duo 21-18, 21-10 in just 33 minutes.

Meanwhile, Lakshya Sen

lost to home favourite Alwi Farhan 21-19, 21-16. Alwi had defeated World No 1 Shi Yu Qi at the Singapore Open last week.

On the other hand, it was a tough day for India's doubles teams. The women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, playing together for the first time in over two months, lost 14-21, 12-21 to the Indonesian team of Febriana Dwiwijji Kusuma and Meilysa Trias Puspitasari. In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto were beaten 11-21, 10-21 by the sixth-seeded Chinese pair of Guo Xin Wa and Chen Fang Hui.

Movies List

Wednesday, 3rd June



BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)
Hindi - 11:45 AM, 03:00 PM



PATI PATNI AUR WOHO DO (UA16+)
Hindi - 04:30 PM



CHAND MERA DIL (U/A16+)
HINDI - 10:55 AM, 01:45 PM, 07:00 PM



OBSESSION (A)
ENGLISH - 11:30 AM, 02:15 PM, 06:15 PM



DHURANDHAR: THE REVENGE (A)
HINDI - 05:00 PM

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