

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year of Publication

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LG Visits Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex In Jammu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Monday visited Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex and reviewed the progress of ongoing projects pertaining to conservation and development of the Heritage Complex.

MLA Jammu East Sh Yuthvir Sethi, Chief Secretary Sh Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Culture Sh Brij Mohan Sharma, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Sh Ramesh Kumar, IGP Jammu Sh Bhim Sen Tuti, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sh Rakesh Minhas, SSP Jammu Sh Joginder Singh, Executive Director Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society (MMJHS) Ms Deepika Sharma and concerned officers were present.

The Lieutenant Governor inspected the restoration work initiated for the damaged wall and slab of historic Gadadhar Ji Temple adjacent to the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex. He directed officials to expedite the restoration process while ensuring the quality of works.

Commissioner JMC apprised the Lieutenant Governor on the progress of Construction of ramp based multi-level car parking facility at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex.

Later, the Lieutenant Governor visited the newly opened Library cum Cafeteria. Executive Director MMJHS apprised on the remaining works of the revival, restoration and renovation of Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Complex.

The projects included Conservation of •P-06

Strategic, All-Weather Zojila Tunnel Between Kashmir-Kargil To See Final Breakthrough

Tunnel To Provide All-Weather Connectivity To Ladakh, Boost Civilian Movement, Logistics

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: India's longest tunnel project at Zojila, a Rs 6,500-crore strategic infrastructure initiative, is set to achieve a major breakthrough Today, with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari scheduled to attend the ceremony.

An official said that Gadkari will visit Sonamarg on Tuesday to trigger the breakthrough blast of the main tunnel, marking a key milestone in the prestigious project.

The 13.15-km-long tunnel, being constructed at an altitude of 11,578 feet by Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd (MEIL), has witnessed excavation of over 13 kilometres, bringing it close to the key tunnelling milestone where excavation faces from both ends meet.

Located around 24 km from Sonamarg and 103 km from Srinagar, the tunnel is expected to provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh, significantly improving access to Drass, Kargil and Leh, and boosting civilian



FILE PHOTO

movement, logistics and strategic mobility in the region.

In a statement, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways described the project as one of the most challenging in the Himalayas, adding that it is set to achieve a "historic milestone" with the breakthrough blasting of the main tunnel on June 9, 2026.

Earlier, Harpal Singh, joint chief operating officer of Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited, had told KNO that excavation has

entered its final phase, with only a few metres of digging left before the two ends of the tunnel meet.

He said work on the main tunnel was undertaken simultaneously from the Baltal side in Kashmir and the Minamarg side in Ladakh to accelerate construction.

Following the breakthrough, focus will shift to internal works, including concrete lining, installation of ventilation systems and other safety infrastructure.

The tunnel will also feature a dedicated walkway for maintenance and emergency operations. Once completed, it is expected to significantly improve connectivity, mobility and economic activity in the region throughout the year.

The project, awarded by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), has been under construction since October 2020. It is being executed using the New Austrian Tunneling Method •P-06

THE 13.15-KM-LONG TUNNEL, BEING CONSTRUCTED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 11,578 feet by Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd (MEIL), has witnessed excavation of over 13 kilometres, bringing it close to the key tunnelling milestone where excavation faces from both ends meet.

Pilgrim Safety Foremost Priority: IGP Birdi To Officials



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi on Monday directed officials to ensure peaceful and smooth conduct of forthcoming Amarnath Yatra and observance of the Muharram period.

While chairing a high-level meeting at PCR Kashmir, IGP Birdi, said, "Pilgrim safety is the foremost priority. We need to enhance surveillance. Vulnerable stretches along the Yatra routes and highways have to be monitored continuously."

IGP Birdi asked officers to ensure regular area domination and instructed them to strengthen night-time security measures and maintain heightened alertness to deter any untoward incidents.

IGP Kashmir instructed officers to ensure comprehensive security arrangements at all Yatra camps, including the installation of surveillance systems at key locations and the deployment of sufficient manpower to manage pilgrim movement and respond to emergencies.

An official said •P-06

Govt Cuts Subsidised LPG Cylinders To Ujjwala Beneficiaries To 4

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The government has reduced the number of subsidised cooking gas cylinders available annually to beneficiaries of its flagship Ujjwala scheme to four, aligning support with average household consumption levels, a senior government official said on Monday.

average annual consumption of Ujjwala beneficiaries.

To encourage the use of cleaner cooking fuel and improve affordability, the government introduced a targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in May 2022, credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts after every refill is purchased for up to 12 cylinders annually.

Under the PradhanMantriUjjwalaYojana (PMUY), launched in May 2016 to provide deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from poor households, beneficiaries were initially entitled to 12 subsidised 14.2-kg cylinders a year. The subsidised quota was reduced to nine cylinders last year and has now been cut further to four.

In October 2023, the subsidy was increased to Rs 300 per 14.2-kg cylinder, with a proportionate benefit extended to 5-kg cylinders.

At a news briefing, Praveen Mal Khanooja, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, said the revised entitlement broadly matches the

The latest reduction in the subsidised quota follows increases in LPG prices. The price of a 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi has risen by a cumulative Rs 89 over two hikes in the past three months, the latest on June 7, taking the retail price to Rs 942. After accounting for the Rs 300 subsidy, PMUY beneficiaries pay Rs 642 for a 14.2-kg cylinder. •P-06



HM's Amarnath Yatra Arrangements Review Meeting Postponed To June 12

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A high-level review meeting on preparations for the annual Amarnath Ji Yatra, which was scheduled to be chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday, has been postponed to June 12 due to the Minister's prior engagements, media reports said.

Official sources said the revised meeting will take place in New Delhi, with senior officials from Jammu and Kashmir having been informed about the change in schedule.

The meeting will comprehensively review arrangements for the pilgrimage, including security, healthcare, sanitation, accommodation, transportation and other essential facilities to ensure the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

The meeting will also be attended by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, heads of paramilitary forces, including the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), besides the chief of the Intelligence Bureau (IB). Senior



Army officers are also likely to participate in the review, the reports said.

According to the media reports, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhakar, Home Secretary Chandrakar Bharti, Intelligence chief Nitish Kumar and other senior officers from Jammu and Kashmir are also scheduled to attend the meeting.

"Going by the heavy influx of tourists in Jammu and Kashmir and rush for registration of Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage, the authorities are expecting good number of yatis to reach for darshan of holy Ice Lingam of Lord Shiva in South Kashmir Himalayas this year," the sources said.

The 57-day-long pilgrimage will start on July 3 and conclude on August 28 coinciding with auspicious occasion of •P-06

CS Reviews Rehabilitation Measures Taken For Migrant Populations In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a meeting to review and address various issues pertaining to PM Package employees serving in the Kashmir Division, with a focus on transit accommodation, career progression, rehabilitation measures and welfare initiatives for displaced communities.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Principal Secretary, DMRR&R; Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Secretary, Revenue; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary, Transport; Relief Commissioner (Migrants); Chief Engineers of R&B Department; representatives of



various departments and senior officers of DMRR&R.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a detailed review of the transit accommodation infrastructure created for PM Package employees across different districts of Kashmir. Stressing the need for optimal utilization of the facilities, he directed that all completed flats be allotted and occupied at the earliest. He instructed the Relief Commissioner (Migrants) to ensure that all completed •P-06

Kashmir Records Heavy Tourist Footfall In Early June

Over 6 Lakh Tourists Visit Valley In First 5-Months Of 2026

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Kashmir witnessed a heavy tourist rush during the first week of June this year with stakeholders exuding hope that Valley could record one of its highest tourist arrivals this year amid improved connectivity and growing footfall at both established and offbeat destinations.

According to official data accessed, more than six lakh tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir so far this year.

Officials attributed the increase in tourist arrivals to improved mobility and easier access to the Valley through road, rail and air connectivity.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway via Banihal continued to witness the highest tourist movement, while rail travel registered a significant increase this year.



The recently launched Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express has further strengthened connectivity between the two regions, tourism officials said.

"We are witnessing encouraging tourist arrivals across destinations in Kashmir. The response during the first week of June has been very good.

We are hopeful that Jammu and Kashmir will record one of the highest tourist footfalls this year," a Tourism Department official said.

The official said tourist arrivals have remained steady despite the brief setback caused by the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Popular tourist destinations including Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg witnessed a large number of visitors during the week. Offbeat destinations such as Gurez, Doodhpathri, Bangus Valley, Lolab and Yusmarg also reported a significant increase in tourist arrivals.

Rahul Sharma, 32, a tourist from New Delhi, said improved rail connectivity had made travel to Kashmir easier.

"The Vande Bharat service has reduced travel time considerably. The journey was comfortable and convenient," he said.

Priya Mehta, 28, from Mumbai, said she was visiting Kashmir for the first time.

"We visited Gulmarg and Srinagar and are planning to travel to Gurez. The transport facilities have improved and travelling has become easier," she said.

Harpreet Singh, 35, from Punjab, said he chose •P-06

Govt Approves Rs 7.05 Crore For Kashmiri Migrants

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has sanctioned key infrastructure projects worth 7.05 crore under the Capex Budget aimed at strengthening facilities and enhancing welfare measures for Kashmiri migrants residing in Jammu.

The approved projects include the construction of a Multipurpose Community Hall at Migrant Camp Muthi, Jammu, which will also accommodate a library and dedicated shops for Self Help Groups (SHGs). The initiative is intended to strengthen community engagement, promote livelihood opportunities, and enhance social support systems within the migrant camp.

In addition, approval has been accorded for the construction of a new office building for the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), Jammu. The proposed facility is expected to improve administrative •P-06

India Issues Fresh Iran Travel Warning, Urges Citizens To Leave



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Amid growing uncertainty in the region following recent developments, the Indian Embassy in Iran has issued a fresh advisory asking Indian nationals to avoid travelling to the country and urging those currently in Iran to leave at the earliest using available means of transport.

In the wake of heightened security concerns over military action since last night, the embassy has reiterated its earlier warning and advised Indian citizens to prioritise their safety.

In its latest statement, the Embassy of India in Tehran said, "In view of the latest

developments in the region, the Embassy reiterates its earlier advice to all Indian Nationals to avoid any travel to Iran. Indian Nationals presently in Iran are also advised to exit the country by available means of transport."

The advisory applies to all Indian citizens currently in Iran, including students, businesspersons, pilgrims and tourists. This is the 8th Indian advisory issued during the ongoing Iran-US-Iran conflict.

Hours after the ceasefire announcement in April, the Indian Embassy in Tehran had issued an advisory, asking its nationals to "expeditiously" leave the war-torn country. •P-06

NIT Srinagar, IIT Delhi forge strategic alliance for research, innovation

MoU opens pathways for joint research, student exchanges

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has entered into a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi under a nationwide research network initiative, paving the way for collaborative research, academic exchanges, and accelerated postgraduate opportunities for students from the Institution.

The MoU was signed by NIT Srinagar Director Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia and IIT Delhi Director Prof. Rangan Banerjee under the IIT Delhi-NIT Education and Research Network Initiative, a landmark programme designed to foster greater cooperation among premier technical institutions across the country.

The agreement was among 18 MoUs signed by IIT Delhi with various National Institutes of Technology on June 4, 2026, with the objective of advancing collaborative research, academic exchange, innovation, faculty development and institutional capacity building.

The MoU provides a comprehensive framework for cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including joint research projects, stu-



dent and faculty exchanges, early admission pathways for NIT students into IIT Delhi's Master's and PhD programmes, credit transfer and sharing mechanisms, and the exchange of academic resources and scholarly publications.

A major highlight of the agreement is the provision for joint supervision of PhD, M.Tech and MSR students, enabling scholars to benefit from the expertise and research infrastructure of both institutions.

As per MoU, the faculty members from NIT Srinagar and IIT Delhi will collaborate on interdisciplinary research projects, while designated representatives from both institutions will oversee implementation and monitoring of collaborative programmes.

It also establishes a structured student exchange programme, allowing students to undertake coursework, internships, research projects

and academic activities at the partner institution. Participating students will be designated as Special Exchange Students and will have opportunities to earn transferable academic credits.

In a major academic reform, the agreement introduces an early admission pathway for meritorious NIT students seeking admission to IIT Delhi's M.Tech, MSR and PhD programmes.

Eligible B.Tech and M.Tech students with a minimum good CGPA score will be able to pursue research projects and academic work at IIT Delhi and may receive provisional admission offers without the requirement of qualifying GATE or other national-level examinations, subject to performance-based evaluation.

The collaboration further includes provisions for credit transfer, credit sharing and advanced standing programmes.

Under this framework, selected students can complete portions of their undergraduate studies at IIT Delhi and subsequently earn an M.Tech degree in an accelerated timeframe through recognition of previously completed academic work.

NIT Srinagar was represented at the event by Director Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman.

On the occasion, Prof. Kanaujia described the partnership as a transformative initiative that would create new avenues for academic excellence, innovation and interdisciplinary research.

"This collaboration with IIT Delhi will significantly enhance opportunities for our students, researchers and faculty members. It reflects our commitment to building a vibrant research ecosystem and nurturing innovation-driven education in line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020," he said.

Prof. Kanaujia emphasized that the partnership would strengthen institutional capabilities while facilitating greater academic mobility and collaborative problem-solving in emerging areas of science and technology.

Muharram-ul-Haram

DC Sgr visits several Imambaras across City to take assessment of arrangements

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In preparation for the forthcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram 1448 Hijri, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Monday undertook an extensive visit to various prominent Imambaras in the City, including Hasanabad Rainawari and Baghwanpora Lalbazari to take a firsthand appraisal of the arrangements being made for the smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Joint Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Nuzhat Khurshid, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer SMC, Sajad Kawasa, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tahir Sajad, Executive Engineers of R&B, KPDCCL, Water Works, and senior Officers from the Departments of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Social Welfare, Fire & Emergency Services, Forest and other line departments.

On the occasion, the DC passed several onspot directions to the line Departments and stressed on elaborate arrangements and sustained efforts facilitating the observance of important proceedings &



processions. Regarding essential services, the DC instructed officers of the KPDCCL and Water Works Department to ensure uninterrupted electricity and drinking water supply. He directed the Executive Engineer Water Works to keep adequate arrangements for water tankers at locations where additional water supply may be required.

The DC asked the SMC and allied Departments to ensure all Street lights including High Mass lights around Imambaras are functional well before the start of the Holy month. He also stressed on ensuring cleanliness of lanes and drains inside the compounds of Imambaras, Shrines and roads enroute Procession routes. He also emphasized deployment of dog catching teams around key points.

The officers of the Health Department were asked to keep first aid facilities, Medical teams and Ambulances avail-

able in the areas and also accompany the processions to ensure immediate first aid/ medical treatment.

At Hasanabad Imambara, the DC took stock of similar arrangements and reiterated the importance of completing all works well in advance. He stressed that every Department must work in close coordination to ensure that devotees and mourners face no difficulties during the observance of Muharram.

The DC also visited Imambara Baghwanpora, Lalbazari, where he again interacted with local representatives and members of the community. He patiently listened to their concerns and developmental demands and issued on-the-spot directions to Officers of various Departments for prompt redressal of issues raised.

At Zadibal Imambara, the DC held a detailed interaction with the local community representatives to have first-hand feedback of the arrange-

ments to be put in place during the Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate sanitation, lighting, water supply, and other essential services around the shrine premises.

During all visits, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of coordination between the Administration and local committees for the seamless conduct of Muharram observances. He assured community representatives that the District Administration would continue to monitor preparations closely and ensure that all necessary arrangements are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Meanwhile, the DC also discussed several long-term measures being taken by the Administration to address the major infrastructural requirements of the areas in a phased manner

DC Bandipora visits Army Goodwill School Hajin

Felicitates Institution for outstanding Participation in NMBA Padyatra



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday visited Army Goodwill School Hajin and felicitated the institution for its participation and presentation of the National Anthem and National Song during the recently held Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) Padyatra in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner presented an appreciation certificate to the school in recognition of its contribution for the remarkable presenta-

tion of National Song and National Anthem during NMBA Padyatra.

She appreciated the students and teachers for their dedication, discipline, and patriotic spirit displayed during the event.

Interacting with the students, the DC encouraged them to work hard and remain focused on their goals. She remarked that nothing in this world is impossible when pursued through legal, honest, and sincere efforts.

The school administration thanked the Deputy Commissioner for her visit and encouragement.

DC B'pora conducts extensive Field Tour of Sumbal

Reviews arrangements at Imam Baras, Transit Camp Shadipora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday conducted an extensive field tour of Sumbal Sub-Division to assess on-ground preparedness for the forthcoming Muharram observance and Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner visited several Imam Baras including Dangerpora and other adjacent areas and also inspected the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Transit Camp at Shadipora. She reviewed the arrangements being put in place by various departments and took stock of the facilities available for devotees and pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with

local representatives, and residents, and sought feedback regarding public requirements and ongoing preparations. She directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, proper sanitation, healthcare facilities, road connectivity, and other essential services.

At Transit Camp Shadipora, Indu Kanwal Chib inspected the infrastructure and reviewed the facilities being arranged for devotees. She stressed the need for close coordination among departments to ensure smooth and hassle-free arrangements.

She emphasized that all necessary measures should be completed well in advance for successful and peaceful conduct of upcoming religious events.

DC Pulwama reviews Mission YUVA implementation in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Administrative Complex, Pulwama to assess the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) across the district.

Mission YUVA is a flagship initiative of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth by providing awareness, capacity building, credit linkage and enterprise support.

At the outset, Assistant Director Employment, Pulwama presented a detailed presentation highlighting the progress achieved under various components of Mission YUVA, including Udyam Jagriti 4.0 awareness campaigns, capacity-building initiatives, entrepreneurship promotion, credit linkage, loan disbursement, enterprise mentorship and mobilisation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Lakhpati Didis.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the block-wise and bank-wise performance under the Mission and stressed the need for accelerating efforts to ensure that the benefits of



the scheme reach all eligible youth and aspiring entrepreneurs. He directed all concerned departments, banking institutions and implementing agencies to work in close coordination for timely processing of applications, speedy sanction and disbursement of loans and effective handholding of beneficiaries.

Emphasising the importance of Udyam Jagriti, Dr. Qayoom directed the Udyam Jagriti Nodal Officers and concerned departments to further intensify awareness campaigns and training programmes with special focus on students, youth and SHG members so that every eligible youth is informed about the opportunities available under Mission YUVA.

He said that Udyam Jagriti programme under Mission YUVA aims to create awareness about entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities and motivate youth to become

job creators rather than job seekers.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the importance of mobilising Self-Help Groups and Lakhpati Didis under the Mission. He directed the NRLM functionaries and concerned officers to facilitate the transition of SHGs into sustainable enterprises through proper mentoring, credit linkage and market support. He called for focused outreach among women entrepreneurs and urged officials to ensure that SHG members and Lakhpati Didis are encouraged to avail the benefits of the scheme.

Dr. Qayoom further emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of sanctioned cases and effective enterprise mentorship to ensure the sustainability and growth of ventures established under the Mission. He also directed banks to expedite the disposal of applications

within the prescribed timelines and maintain regular follow-up with applicants.

While reviewing the block and municipality-wise status of applications received under Mission YUVA, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to devise a structured schedule for conducting awareness and mobilisation camps in low turnout areas to ensure participation, outreach and inclusive development of the society.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Awantipora; General Manager DIC; Assistant Commissioner Revenue; Assistant Director Employment; Lead Bank Manager; Cluster Head J&K Bank; District Nodal Officer JKEDI; District Programme Manager NRLM; Udyam Jagriti Nodal Officers; representatives of banking institutions and other concerned officers.

Administrative Judge lays Foundation Stone for New Lawyers' Chambers in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Administrative Judge for District Anantnag, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, conducted an official visit to the District Court Complex here Monday to lay the foundation stone for the construction of new Lawyers' Chambers a pivotal infrastructural upgrade for the district's legal fraternity.

Upon his arrival, He was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honor. The official proceedings commenced with a welcome address by the Principal

chambers represent more than just architectural growth; they mark a significant milestone in strengthening the justice delivery system by providing essential comfort and accessibility to both lawyers and litigants.

Addressing the structural and administrative concerns raised by the Bar, Justice Oswal assured the legal community that these matters would be proactively taken up with the local police and civil administration, expressing strong optimism for their prompt resolution.



District & Sessions Judge (PD&SJ), Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina.

During the program, the Interim President of the District Bar Association, Advocate Peer Shafiq, presented a comprehensive memorandum of demands to the Administrative Judge on behalf of the legal community.

Justice Oswal, in his keynote address, underscored that the proposed

Following the main event, Justice Oswal presided over interactive administrative sessions, convening first with the judicial officers and subsequently engaging with members of the District Bar Association. The proceedings were attended by senior officials from the local police and civil administration, reflecting a coordinated approach across the district's judicial and executive branches.

Key aspects of Draft Master Plan-2044 reviewed in Anantnag

Stakeholders discuss futuristic, sustainable development concerns

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: A meeting to discuss various aspects of GIS-based Draft Master Plan-2044 for Anantnag, Bijbehara and Mattan towns with public representatives, line departments and other stakeholders was held Monday at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

The meeting was attended by MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majeed Bhat, MLA Shangus (Anantnag East), Reyaz Ahmad Khan, ADC,

Vikas Ahlawat, Chief Town Planner, CPO, CHO, Exens Irrigation and REW, CEO MCA, EOs of MCs Bijbehara and Mattan, officials from Pollution Control Board besides representatives of market and trader association, civil society members and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

The proceedings focused on evaluating inputs received from various stakeholders to ensure comprehensive and planned urban development in the region.



The ADC informed that the Draft Master Plan 2044 is available on District Website and about 150 objections/suggestions have been received from general public, traders

association and other stakeholders so far.

During the meeting, key aspects of the Draft Master Plan were reviewed and discussed threadbare. A detailed

GIS-based map was presented, highlighting various land-use categories including residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and horticultural zones across the three towns. It was informed that a primary survey of all three towns viz Anantnag, Bijbehara, and Mattan, has been conducted to gather ground-level data for effective planning.

On the occasion, regional-level issues were deliberated upon, with emphasis on addressing key developmental

challenges in a coordinated manner.

The stakeholders stressed the need to give a practical and implementable shape to the Master Plan and to address all genuine concerns and suggestions while finalizing the document. They decided that the plan be tailored to cater to the futuristic needs of people living in and vicinity of these towns while ensuring protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

CM Omar expresses grief over demise of father of Minga Sherpa

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the passing of the father of Minga Sherpa, the Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur. The Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family in this moment of deep sorrow. He prayed for strength



and courage to the family members to bear this irreparable loss and for peace and comfort to them during this difficult time.

Defence Secy visits Leh, reviews operational preparedness, infrastructure

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh reviewed operational preparedness and infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control during a three-day visit to the strategically sensitive Leh sector from June 5 to 7, the Defence Ministry said. During his visit, Singh, held detailed discussions with senior military commanders at the Headquarters of 14 Corps, focusing on operational readiness, border infrastructure development and logistical sustainability in Eastern Ladakh. In a tweet, PRO and



Spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence, Jammu Region, said he also travelled to forward areas, including Base Camp and the Northern Glacier, where he interacted with troops deployed in high-altitude conditions. The Defence Secretary commended their dedica-

tion, courage and professionalism in safeguarding the nation's borders under challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions. The visit comes amid continued efforts to strengthen infrastructure and enhance operational capabilities along the northern borders—(KNO)

Sarmad Hafeez reviews progress on Vibrant Village Programme-2 in Kunan-Poshpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department,



Sarmad Hafeez, Monday visited Kunan-Poshpora in Kupwara district to review progress on Vibrant Villages Programme-2 (VVP). Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse,

along with other concerned officers, accompanied the Commissioner Secretary during the visit. During the meeting held at Trehgam, the Commissioner Secretary reviewed the status of infrastructure, service delivery and implementation of ongoing schemes as well as gap analysis done by the district administration in critical sectors such as connectivity, health, education, livelihoods and digital access. He stressed upon the importance of convergence of different schemes and preparation of holistic village action plans based on gap analysis and baseline data. Later, the Commissioner Secretary visited Kunan-Poshpora and chaired a public interaction programme to take stock of public demands and grievances. During the interaction, prominent citizens, village elders and local residents highlighted several developmental issues

Punjab livestock transport 'extortion' issue unresolved as fee tender nears expiry: KMDA

Dealers say crores paid annually at checkpoints; accuse authorities of failing to address concerns

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association (KMDA) on Monday said the long-pending issue of alleged extortion and excessive fee collection at Punjab checkpoints continues unresolved even as the annual fee collection tender is set to expire later this month.

The association urged the Jammu & Kashmir government to intervene immediately to prevent further financial burden on livestock traders and ensure smooth transportation of animals into the Valley.

KMDA General Secretary Mehraj-ud-Din said mutton dealers have repeatedly raised concerns over what they called as "unjustified collections" from vehicles transporting livestock from Punjab to Jammu & Kashmir.

He said traders have been paying huge sums to move livestock-carrying vehicles through Punjab checkpoints, but despite repeated representations, no concrete resolution has

emerged so far. "The annual tender is now about to expire this month. Earlier also, we raised the issue of extortion and excessive collections in Punjab, but nothing substantial was done. The government must intervene before the new contract is finalised," Mehraj-ud-Din said. He said in the previous year, nearly Rs 17-18 crore had been collected from mutton dealers and transporters under the existing arrangement, significantly increasing the cost of livestock transportation and affecting the Valley's meat trade.

"If the government acts now, something can still be done before the process is renewed again. Otherwise the burden on traders and consumers will continue," he added. The KMDA also said the issue had already created uncertainty in livestock supply chains. Dealers remain apprehensive over transportation costs and alleged harassment during movement of livestock vehicles.

Notably, the latest remarks come weeks after differences surfaced between the government and mutton dealers over Eid preparedness, with the administration claimed sufficient stock and advance planning while traders alleged that stakeholders were not taken into confidence regarding livestock movement issues from Punjab.

Earlier, the association had questioned the status of communications reportedly sent by the J&K administration to Punjab authorities regarding transport-related grievances, saying no formal update was shared with traders.

The issue of livestock transportation through Punjab has remained contentious since the past year, with Kashmir-based dealers alleging overcharging, stoppages and harassment at various checkpoints.

Meanwhile, the minister for food civil supplies and consumer affairs was not available for comments as the story will be updated with his comments—(KNO)

Div Com reviews Flood Mitigation Preparedness, Disaster Management Readiness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of the impending monsoon season, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Monday convened a high-level meeting with Deputy Commissioners of the Valley to review flood mitigation measures, disaster preparedness, and the status of emergency response infrastructure across the region.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, senior officers from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the Irrigation Department, and the Assistant Commissioner Central.

During the review, the Divisional Commissioner assessed the preparedness of districts with regard to updating the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) inventory, formulation of contingency plans, availability of rescue shelters, identification of flood-prone villages and low-lying areas, network shadow zones, and the availability of satellite communication sets with field officers. He also reviewed district-wise data



on operational helipads, boats, dewatering pumps, awareness programmes, and mock drills conducted to enhance disaster response capabilities.

Emphasising the need for proactive preparedness, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners to replenish critical resources and ensure timely updating of the IDRN portal with details of rescue equipment and other essential resources.

He further underscored the importance of round-the-clock functioning of District Emergency Operation Centres and instructed district administrations to formulate comprehensive contingency plans to facilitate swift rescue operations and effective flood mitigation during emergencies. To strengthen inter-

agency coordination, he directed the district administrations to share the geographical coordinates of all operational helipads with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), SDRF, Police, and the Army.

Special instructions were issued to the district administrations of Ganderbal and Anantnag to undertake Yatra-specific disaster management preparations to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims during the forthcoming pilgrimage season.

The Divisional Commissioner also instructed the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla to facilitate the allotment of land for the establishment of a permanent SDRF deployment at Gulmarg, aimed at enhancing emergency response capacity in the tourist destination.

Div Com, IGP Jammu review Amarnath Ji Yatra arrangements in Ramban



GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, Monday visited Ramban district and reviewed the arrangements being put in place for the smooth and successful conduct of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026. They also assessed the progress of the National Highway-44 four-laning project from Nashri to Banihal.

Among those present were the DIG, DKR Range; the Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan; the SSP, Ramban; the SSP, Traffic NHW; the ADC, Ramban; the Project Director, NHAI; the SDM, Banihal; the SDM, Ramsoo; and officers from the District Administration, Army, CRPF, SDRF, Police and other stakeholder departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, briefed the Divisional Commissioner and the IGP Jammu regarding the comprehensive arrangements being made for the convenience, safety and welfare

of pilgrims undertaking the annual holy pilgrimage. The Divisional Commissioner inspected various facilities at Yatri Niwas, Chanderkote, including accommodation, sanitation, drinking water supply, power availability, medical facilities and security arrangements. He also reviewed arrangements at langar sites at Chanderkote, Yatra Camp Lamber and other designated locations along the yatra route.

While reviewing arrangements at Yatri Niwas, Chanderkote, the Divisional Commissioner directed all stakeholder departments to ensure completion of the remaining works and establishment of all essential facilities before June 20, 2026. He emphasised the installation of adequate toilet units at identified locations, proper sanitation and waste management systems, uninterrupted power supply, sufficient bedding capacity and efficient management of langar facilities. He further directed the SDRF to remain fully prepared with equipment and manpower to respond promptly to any situation during the yatra period.

Javid Dar reviews Muharram arrangements in Sumbal, Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of the forthcoming observance of Muharram-ul-Haram 2026, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar, Monday chaired separate review meetings in Sumbal Bandipora and Budgam districts to assess the preparedness of various departments and ensure seamless arrangements for the devotees during the holy month.

At Sumbal, the Minister took stock of the arrangements being put in place for the devotees across Sonawari and adjoining areas. The meeting was attended by MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chib, senior officers of the civil and police administration, heads of various departments, representatives of Shia organisations, civil society members and other stakeholders.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora briefed the Minister regarding the measures being undertaken by the district administration for smooth, peaceful and hassle-free observance of Muharram. She informed the meeting about the arrangements related to power supply, drinking water, sanitation, health-care, road connectivity, traffic management and public distribution services.

Representatives of various Shia organisations



and associations projected several issues and requirements concerning essential services during the holy month. The Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised and directed the concerned departments to take immediate and necessary measures for their timely redressal.

Emphasising the religious significance of Muharram-ul-Haram and the administration's responsibility towards the public, Javid Dar underscored the need for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure that the devotees do not face any inconvenience during the observance. He instructed the officers to complete all necessary arrangements well in advance and maintain constant monitoring of the facilities being provided.

The Minister laid special emphasis on sanitation and cleanliness around Imambaras, religious congregational sites and procession routes. He directed the Municipal authorities and the Rural Development Department to intensify cleanliness drives, ensure proper waste management and deploy adequate manpower and machinery throughout the Muharram period. He further instructed

all the line departments to ensure uninterrupted delivery of essential services and maintain prompt response mechanisms to address the public grievances.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards facilitating the smooth conduct of religious events, the Minister assured that all genuine demands projected by the representatives would be examined on priority and addressed in a time-bound manner.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone appreciated the efforts of the district administration and stressed the importance of coordinated action among all departments. He also appealed to the public to extend full cooperation in maintaining the sanctity, discipline and peaceful atmosphere associated with the observance of Muharram-ul-Haram.

Later, the Minister chaired a comprehensive review meeting in Budgam to assess the arrangements being put in place for the smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram-ul-Haram across the district. Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, briefed the Minister regarding the prepared-

ness of the district administration. He informed that all necessary measures are being undertaken to ensure the smooth conduct of Muharram-related events and processions.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure that all arrangements are completed well before the commencement of Muharram and that devotees are provided all requisite facilities. He stressed the importance of effective coordination among departments for efficient management of religious gatherings and processions.

Javid Dar emphasised that the government remains fully committed towards facilitating the smooth observance of Muharram while upholding peace, harmony and communal brotherhood. He instructed the officers to remain vigilant, responsive and accessible to the public so that any issues raised by organisers or local residents are addressed promptly and effectively.

The Minister also interacted with the representatives of Muharram committees and local stakeholders, who highlighted various requirements and suggestions regarding the arrangements.

Assuring full cooperation from the government, he stated that all genuine concerns would be examined and addressed on priority to ensure a peaceful, dignified and smooth observance of Muharram-ul-Haram across the districts.

MLA Devsar inaugurates Naib Tehsil Office at Nowbugh Kund

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAMA: MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Monday inaugurated the newly constructed Naib Tehsil Office at Nowbugh Kund.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, along with district officers and local residents.

On the occasion, the MLA also laid the foundation stone of a library to be established under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The library aims to promote a culture of reading and learning by providing students and youth with a dedicated educational and reading space.

Later, the MLA, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner and senior officers, visited Wategoo Ziyarat Sharif and reviewed the progress of

ongoing developmental works being executed at the revered shrine. During the visit, he directed the concerned agencies to ensure the timely completion of the project and emphasized the importance of maintaining quality standards in all developmental works.

The MLA also visited the Berigam water canal near the Migrant Colony in Chowgam to assess the irrigation water shortage being faced by local farmers. During the visit, residents apprised him of the difficulties arising from the inadequate availability of irrigation water. He assured them that the issue would be addressed on priority and directed the concerned departments to take necessary measures for restoring water supply at the earliest to support agricultural activities in the area.

130th Urs of Hazrat Mian Nizam-ud-Din Kiyarvi concludes at Baba Nagri Wangath

RAJA SYED RATHER

KANGAN: The two-day 130th annual Urs of revered Sufi saint Hazrat Mian Nizam-ud-Din Kiyarvi (RA) concluded on Monday at Baba Nagri Wangath in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district amid a massive gathering of devotees from across Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country. The religious congregation witnessed an overwhelming influx of pilgrims who offered special prayers for peace, prosperity, brotherhood, communal harmony and the well-being of humanity. Devotees from Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Surankote, Kalakote, Uri, Pahalgam, Bandipora, Kokernag, Kulgam, Kishtwar, Punjab, Ludhiana, Doda, Shopian, Kupwara and several regions of Jammu, besides visi-

tors from outside Jammu and Kashmir, attended the annual congregation. The concluding ceremony was marked by an emotionally charged and spiritually uplifting atmosphere, with night-long prayers, Qur'an recitations, Durood-o-Azkaar and the Khatib al-Mu'azzamat, one of the major sermons of the Urs.

A devotee from Poonch, Irshad, said that they travel to Baba Nagri every year to seek blessings and spiritual guidance. "The atmosphere here strengthens our faith and promotes the message of peace and brotherhood," he said. Another devotee from Rajouri, Mughal Javid, said the teachings of Hazrat Mian Nizam-ud-Din Kiyarvi (RA) continue to unite people from different regions. "We pray for peace, prosperity and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir."

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Greed and Apathy
Suffocating Kashmir's
Finest Resorts

Imagine standing in the breathtaking meadows of Sonamarg or strolling through Pahalgam, only to realize that the postcard-perfect view is quietly being eaten away from the inside out. This isn't just about eyesores; it's about a slow-motion crisis of unchecked greed and broken governance that is putting Kashmir's most cherished destinations at serious risk. Right now, the frustration on the ground is reaching a boiling point. In Sonamarg, furious locals are blowing the whistle on a glaring issue: land that was explicitly set aside for a public bypass road behind the main market is vanishing. Residents are watching in real-time as commercial properties quietly push past their legal boundaries, swallowing up vital infrastructure meant to ease traffic and support the town's future growth. But what really stings the local community isn't just a blocked road—it is the blatant double standard. Sonamarg is a highly sensitive ecological zone. If an ordinary resident tries to repair a fence or touch up their home, they are instantly met with a wall of bureaucracy and strict penalties. Yet, massive, illegal commercial expansions somehow happen right out in the open, completely unbothered by the law. It leaves locals asking a painful question: Do the rules only apply to the poor, while wealthy and influential encroachers get a free pass? The High Cost of Looking Away: Tourism is the lifeblood of Kashmir's economy. When authorities turn a blind eye, temporary land grabs quickly harden into permanent concrete realities, permanently scarring the fragile environment and natural beauty of these world-class resorts. Public land is a public trust, not a blank check for private profit. Infrastructure plans are drawn up to serve everyone, not to be quietly carved up by a privileged few. Every time a development authority looks the other way, they fail the very people they are supposed to protect. The Sonamarg Development Authority, the Tourism Department, and local administrators need to stop acting like silent spectators. They need to launch an immediate, transparent inquiry and tear down these illegal structures before the damage becomes irreversible. The government must send a clear, unyielding message: no business or individual is bigger than the law. If we don't protect Kashmir's crown jewels today, there won't be a paradise left to save tomorrow.

Good Morning Kashmir

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Teachers' Eligibility Test

Roles Reversed – Who Would Conduct It For Whom?

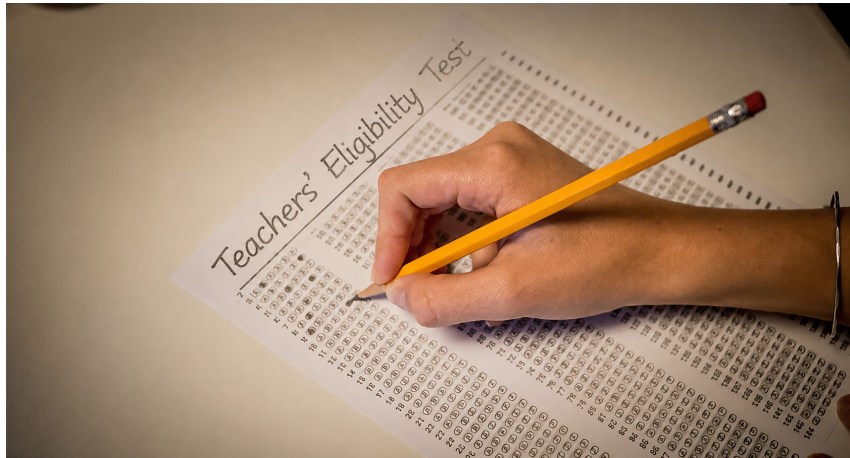
GOWHER AHMAD BHAT

The proposal of conducting a Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) for in-service teachers presents an unusual and thought-provoking situation. It raises a fundamental question: Who would be conducting the test and for whom? More importantly, it compels society to reflect upon the changing dynamics of authority, accountability and respect within the educational system.

Traditionally, teachers have been the torchbearers of knowledge. They have nurtured generations of students, guided them through examinations, assessed their performance and determined their academic progression. Teachers have stood at the centre of the educational process, shaping minds and building careers. However, the idea of subjecting experienced teachers to another eligibility test creates a unique scenario where the students nurtured by years ago assume the role of examiners.

If a TET is conducted by the government, the examination paper will inevitably be set by some official or committee constituted by the government. But who are these officials? They are individuals who, at every stage of their educational journey, sat in classrooms and learnt from teachers. From primary school to higher education, they were taught, guided, evaluated and promoted by teachers. Their academic achievements and professional success are, in no small measure, the result of the efforts of countless teachers.

Under the proposed arrangement, these students of once upon a time would design question papers for their teachers. The teacher who once explained concepts, corrected mistakes and encouraged learning would now be required to answer questions framed by someone who was once a student. The student would become the examiner while the teacher would become the examinee. The roles, quite remarkably, would stand reversed. The reversal becomes even more striking on the day of the examination. The test would be supervised by government officials and invigilators who themselves have been taught by teachers. These officials would monitor examination halls, ensure discipline



and prevent malpractice. In other words, the students of yesterday would be entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that their teachers do not copy during the examination.

This creates an unprecedented spectacle. The same professionals who once assessed the conduct, knowledge and performance of students would now be placed under the watchful eyes of their students. Teachers who spent decades instilling values of honesty, integrity and discipline would be required to demonstrate these values before officials who acquired them from teachers in the first place.

The irony does not end there. After the examination, answer scripts would be evaluated by examiners appointed by the authorities. These evaluators too would largely consist of individuals who, at some stage of life, sat before teachers as learners. They would scrutinise the responses, award marks and determine whether their teachers had secured the qualifying score.

Consequently, former students would decide whether their teachers had passed or failed. They would certify whether the individuals who taught them were eligible to continue holding the position of a teacher. The teacher who once declared a student successful or unsuccessful would now await a similar verdict from the student. Such a scenario naturally invites deeper reflection. Is the pur-

pose of education merely to create a hierarchy where every individual eventually acquires authority over another? Or is education meant to establish a continuum of learning where knowledge flows from one generation to the next, each building upon the contributions of those who came before?

No profession can claim immunity from accountability, and teachers themselves understand the importance of evaluation. Throughout their careers teachers face inspections, performance reviews, administrative assessments, training programmes and professional development initiatives. They continuously adapt to changing curricula, pedagogical methods and technological advancements. The teaching profession is already subject to rigorous scrutiny and evolving expectations. However, the symbolism associated with conducting an eligibility test for experienced teachers cannot be ignored. It sends a message that decades of classroom experience, dedication and service may not be sufficient evidence of competence. Instead, a written examination becomes the ultimate determinant of professional worth.

In the age of information technology, where knowledge is available at the click of a button, the role of a teacher has become more complex than ever before. Teachers are no longer mere transmitters of information. They are mentors, facilitators, counsellors,

motivators and guides. Their contribution extends beyond textbooks and examinations. They shape character, nurture values and prepare students to navigate an increasingly complex world. Ironically, it is this very digital era that has produced a situation where roles appear to have reversed. Officials who once occupied desks in classrooms now occupy positions of authority and seek to assess the eligibility of those who taught them. Students who once awaited examination results now determine the results of their teachers. The examiner becomes the examined, and the evaluated becomes the evaluator.

This reversal is not merely administrative; it is philosophical. It raises questions about how society perceives teachers and the value it assigns to their experience. While accountability remains essential, it is equally important to recognise that every official, administrator, policymaker and examiner owes a debt to teachers who shaped their journey.

Perhaps the most significant lesson from this debate is not about examinations at all. It is about remembering the foundational role of teachers in every profession. Every officer, doctor, engineer, scientist, judge, bureaucrat and policymaker was once a student. Behind every successful individual stands a teacher who contributed to that success. Therefore, before asking who will conduct the TET and for whom, society must recognise the remarkable irony at its heart: the examination would be designed, supervised and evaluated by those who were once students, while the individuals who taught them would sit as candidates. It is a rare moment in educational history where the roles seem completely reversed.

The question remains: Is this merely an exercise in assessment, or does it reflect a broader shift in how society views its teachers? The answer may well determine the future relationship between those who teach and those who once learnt from them.

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DEMOCRATIC DISSENT OR POLITICAL MOCKERY?

The Emerging Challenge Of 'Cockroach Politics'

LALIT GARGG

India is the world's largest democracy. It is not merely a system of elections but a vibrant framework built upon dialogue, consensus, dissent, constitutional values, and social responsibility. The strength of democracy lies in its ability to accommodate opposition; however, its dignity is determined by the manner, purpose, and discipline with which that opposition is expressed. In this context, the recently discussed so-called "Cockroach Janata Party" (CJP) calls for serious reflection. The movement emerged in the wake of alleged irregularities in competitive examinations, particularly the NEET examination, and concerns regarding paper leaks. Initially appearing as a satirical social media campaign, it gradually found its way to public demonstrations at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. Its supporters described it as an expression of youth frustration and anger. Yet an important question remains: Is it genuinely a movement for educational reform, or does it represent a new experiment in channeling democratic dissent toward ridicule, spectacle, and political polarization?

The Indian Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to freedom of expression and peaceful protest. However, no right is absolute. In a democracy, the purpose of protest should be to seek solutions rather than to encourage disorder. When dissent becomes confined to mockery, outrage, and confrontation, it risks weakening rather than strengthening democratic institutions. The very name "Cockroach Janata Party" reflects a negative and satirical mindset. By associating itself with the symbol of a cockroach while mimicking conventional political parties, the movement appears to transform democratic discourse into political theatre. Satire undoubtedly has a place in democracy, but when satire begins to replace substance and reasoned debate, it can also mislead public opinion.

Any movement must ultimately be judged by both its demands and its methods. CJP's principal

demands include greater transparency in examination systems, prevention of paper leaks, the resignation of the education minister, and better employment opportunities for young people. Most responsible citizens would agree that these concerns are legitimate and important. The question, however, is whether the methods employed are equally responsible. Do cockroach masks, provocative symbolism, and emotionally charged social media campaigns constitute an effective pathway toward educational reform? Can such tactics foster meaningful dialogue among governments, experts, educational institutions, and society at large? History demonstrates that lasting change is rarely achieved through slogans alone. Sustainable reforms emerge from ideological clarity, organizational discipline, constructive engagement, and persistent democratic pressure. Symbolic protest may attract attention, but it does not automatically translate into effective reform.

India's youth population is its greatest national asset. Yet when this immense demographic force becomes overwhelmed by unemployment, uncertainty, and frustration, it can also become vulnerable to political manipulation. Young people today face genuine concerns regarding competitive examinations, employment opportunities, and future prospects. These concerns deserve attention and solutions. However, every legitimate grievance carries the risk of being exploited for political purposes. When a movement begins to attract support from various political groups, anti-establishment organizations, or ideological interests, questions naturally arise regarding its true objectives. There is a danger that students' concerns may be transformed into political instruments. If a student movement shifts its focus from educational reform to partisan political confrontation, the greatest loss is borne by the students themselves. Young people must recognize that they are not tools in any political laboratory. Their energy and aspirations are meant for nation-building, not for advancing hidden agendas.



Supporters of CJP occasionally draw comparisons with youth-led movements in countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh. Such comparisons are often premature and potentially misleading. India's democratic institutions, constitutional framework, judicial system, electoral mechanisms, and media landscape are fundamentally different from those of its neighbors. The circumstances that gave rise to mass movements in other countries do not necessarily exist in India. The nation possesses robust democratic mechanisms through which governments can be elected, challenged, and replaced. Therefore, Indian youth should understand the unique strengths of India's democratic system rather than relying on emotional comparisons with foreign political developments. Every nation has its own political realities, and importing narratives from elsewhere may neither serve intellectual honesty nor national interest.

Social media today can amplify any idea to millions within hours. While this offers unprecedented opportunities for participation, it also presents significant challenges. Popularity on digital platforms should not be confused with legitimacy. A movement may trend online without possessing a coherent vision, constructive agenda, or sense of responsibility. The rapid rise of the "Cockroach Janata Party" certainly reflects growing dissatisfaction among sections of the youth, but it does not automatically validate the movement's methods or direction. Democratic legitimacy rests on facts, policy discussions, and institutional engagement—not merely on trend-

ing hashtags and viral content. If politics becomes dominated by memes, ridicule, and digital outrage, democracy risks drifting away from thoughtful citizenship toward impulsive mob sentiment.

India has set for itself the ambitious goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047. This vision requires not only economic growth but also social stability, institutional trust, and national unity. If a significant segment of the country's youth becomes increasingly attracted to politics driven by distrust, negativity, and confrontation, that objective could be adversely affected. Development requires participation as much as criticism. Young citizens should question governments, demand accountability, and seek transparency. At the same time, they must maintain respect for democratic institutions and contribute constructively to solutions. The success of democracy lies in balancing dissent with cooperation.

Another important aspect of this debate concerns the role of political parties and leaders who appear to support such movements, either directly or indirectly. If political parties genuinely seek educational reform, they should present concrete proposals in Parliament, state legislatures, and policy forums. However, if student dissatisfaction is merely being used as a tool to attack political opponents, then both democracy and the youth are being short-changed. Political parties must clearly articulate their own plans for improving education, preventing examination fraud, creating employment opportunities, and enhancing educational quality.

Supporting protest alone is not enough. A responsible opposition must also provide credible alternatives.

Issues such as examination transparency, strict punishment for paper leaks, employment generation, educational quality, and expanding opportunities for young people are all genuine and pressing concerns. Yet their solutions cannot be found in symbolic outrage or satirical politics alone. Meaningful progress requires continuous dialogue among governments, courts, educators, experts, student organizations, and civil society. The need of the hour is to transform youthful frustration into constructive national energy. Indian democracy welcomes dissent, but dissent becomes truly meaningful only when it seeks to improve institutions rather than undermine them.

At first glance, phenomena such as the "Cockroach Janata Party" may appear to be expressions of democratic satire and youthful frustration. Nevertheless, their long-term implications deserve careful examination. If politics becomes increasingly centered on mockery, symbolic anger, and digital sensationalism, the quality of democratic discourse will inevitably suffer. India today needs young citizens who not only ask difficult questions but also search for meaningful answers; who not only protest but also participate in nation-building. The true strength of democracy lies not in perpetual conflict but in dialogue; not in division but in cooperation; not in momentary outrage but in a long-term commitment to national progress. Therefore, it is time for young people, political parties, and society as a whole to reflect upon a crucial question: Will "cockroach politics" strengthen India's democracy, or will it emerge as a new challenge to democratic culture, political dignity, and the national vision of a developed India by 2047? That is the question that deserves the nation's deepest consideration today.

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When A Fallen Chinar Becomes Target For Misinformation

Understanding The Legal Position Of Revenue Officials And The Law Governing Chinar Trees In Jammu & Kashmir

MOHD AMIN MIR

The recent uprooting of a mature Chinar tree in Village Nanil due to strong winds and adverse weather conditions has once again brought into public focus an issue that frequently generates misunderstanding, emotional reactions, and misplaced criticism. The fallen tree reportedly caused damage to adjacent constructions and created concern among local residents. While the incident itself was unfortunate, what is even more concerning is the tendency to attribute blame to officials who neither possess the legal authority to execute tree-felling operations nor have any role in causing such natural occurrences.

In the aftermath of the incident, certain comments appeared on social media targeting revenue officials, particularly the Patwari concerned. Such criticism appears to be based more on assumptions than on an understanding of the legal framework governing Chinar trees and the administrative responsibilities of various departments. The facts reveal that timely reports had already been submitted through field revenue agencies. However, observations were raised at higher administrative levels regarding the proposal for cutting or pruning the tree, resulting in procedural delays. To hold a Patwari responsible under such circumstances is not only legally unsustainable.

The Nanil incident offers an opportunity to examine the legal status of Chinar trees, the responsibilities of revenue department and the importance of distinguishing between reporting authorities and executing authorities.

The Chinar: More Than Just a Tree

The Chinar is not an ordinary tree in Kashmir. It is a living symbol of the Valley's cultural heritage, environmental identity, and historical continuity. For centuries, Chinar trees have shaded villages, shrines, schools, public spaces, and agricultural lands. They have witnessed the rise and fall of kingdoms, served as landmarks for generations, and become inseparable from the landscape of Kashmir.

Because of their immense ecological and cultural value, Chinar trees enjoy a special legal status that is not available to most other species. The law imposes strict restrictions on their cutting, lopping, pruning, or removal. These restrictions were introduced to prevent indiscriminate destruction and to preserve Kashmir's environmental heritage for future generations.

Consequently, whenever a Chinar tree becomes diseased, hazardous, or partially damaged, its removal is not a simple administrative matter. Multiple legal requirements must be fulfilled before any action can be undertaken.

Understanding the Nanil Incident

According to available information, strong gusty winds uprooted a Chinar tree in Village Nanil. The uprooted tree caused damage to nearby structures and raised concerns regarding public safety. Prior to the incident, local field agencies had reportedly submitted reports regarding the condition of the tree.

The Patwari concerned, acting within the scope of his duties, had performed his reporting functions and transmitted the relevant information through proper channels. However, observations were subsequently raised at higher levels concerning the proposal for cutting or pruning the tree.

This distinction is extremely important. A Patwari is not empowered to independently order the felling of a Chinar tree. He cannot issue permits. He cannot sanction cutting operations. He cannot engage labourers or machinery to remove a tree. His role is confined to field verification, factual reporting, and submission of recommendations through the prescribed administrative hierarchy.

Yet social media discussions frequently ignore these legal realities and seek to identify individual officials as convenient targets.

The Legal Status of Chinar Trees in Jammu and Kashmir

The protection of Chinar trees is governed by special legislation and administrative regulations that recognize their unique importance. Historically, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir enacted measures specifically aimed at preserving Chinar trees. These legal provisions were introduced because rapid urbanization and developmental activities posed serious threats to their survival.

Under these laws, no person can ordinarily cut, uproot, remove, or substantially damage a Chinar tree without obtaining prior permission from the competent authority. The legal



framework recognizes that Chinar trees are public assets regardless of whether they stand on private or public land. Their preservation is considered a matter of public interest. Therefore, even when a tree appears dangerous or damaged, procedural safeguards must be followed before action is taken.

The Role of Revenue Authorities

The Revenue Department is one of the oldest administrative institutions in Jammu and Kashmir. Its field functionaries maintain land records, verify ownership details, conduct spot inspections, prepare reports, and assist higher authorities in decision-making. Within this structure, the Patwari occupies the foundational level.

The Patwari's duties generally include:

- Maintaining revenue records.
- Recording changes in land ownership.
- Conducting field inspections.
- Preparing site reports.
- Reporting encroachments.
- Assisting in disaster assessments.

Providing factual information regarding land and trees standing on land. However, the Patwari is not an



executive authority empowered to undertake physical operations involving protected trees.

In matters concerning Chinar trees, the Patwari's role is primarily confined to:

- Verifying the existence of the tree.
- Reporting its condition.
- Recording ownership details.
- Assessing location and surrounding circumstances.
- Forwarding reports to superior authorities.
- Once the report is submitted, the matter moves beyond the Patwari's jurisdiction.

Reporting Authority Versus Executing Authority

One of the most persistent misconceptions among the public is the failure to distinguish between a reporting authority and an executing authority. A reporting authority merely gathers facts and submits information. An executing authority possesses legal power to take action. These are entirely different functions. Patwari reports, Tehsildar examines. Other competent authorities evaluate, District administration decides, and technical departments provide expert opinions. Only after all legal requirements are satisfied can actual execution occur.

Blaming a reporting officer for delays occurring at higher administrative levels is therefore fundamentally incorrect. No legal system can function

effectively if responsibility is assigned without reference to actual powers and statutory duties.

Why Procedural Delays Occur

- The public often wonders why dangerous trees are not removed immediately.
- The answer lies in the legal protections afforded to Chinar trees.
- Authorities must examine several factors:
- Whether the tree is genuinely hazardous.
- Whether pruning can solve the problem.
- Whether complete removal is necessary.
- Whether alternative measures exist.
- Whether environmental implications have been assessed.
- Whether legal permissions have been obtained.

These procedural safeguards may sometimes consume time, but they exist to prevent arbitrary destruction of protected trees. Without such safeguards, countless Chinar trees could disappear under the pretext of public convenience.

The Importance of Documentary Evidence

- Administrative decision-making depends on documentary records.
- When a tree is reported as dangerous, authorities generally require:
- Site inspection reports.
- Revenue verification.
- Photographic evidence.
- Technical assessment.
- Ownership details.
- Public safety considerations.

Field agencies prepare these documents and submit them to competent authorities. The existence of such reports demonstrates that officials performed their reporting responsibilities.

Social Media and Administrative Accountability

Social media has become a powerful platform for public engagement. It enables citizens to raise concerns, demand accountability, and highlight issues that might otherwise remain unnoticed. However, accountability must be based on facts. When criticism is directed at officials who lack decision-making authority, public discourse becomes distorted. The result is not accountability but misinformation. Public criticism should be directed toward processes and institutions after understanding the legal framework involved. Individuals should not

be condemned merely because their names appear at the lowest level of administration.

Natural Calamities and Human Expectations

Even the most efficient administration cannot entirely prevent damage caused by natural calamities. Strong winds, heavy snowfall, floods, and landslides frequently affect Kashmir.

Large trees, despite appearing healthy, can sometimes fall unexpectedly. Scientific studies show that root decay, underground moisture changes, and wind pressure can cause sudden uprooting without visible warning signs. Therefore, not every incident necessarily indicates administrative negligence.

The correct approach is to deter-

mine:

- Whether reports were submitted.
- Whether authorities acted according to law.
- Whether procedures were followed.
- Whether negligence actually occurred.
- Only after such examination can responsibility be fairly assigned.
- Revenue Records and Tree Management

According to available information, strong gusty winds uprooted a Chinar tree in Village Nanil. The uprooted tree caused damage to nearby structures and raised concerns regarding public safety. Prior to the incident, local field agencies had reportedly submitted reports regarding the condition of the tree.

The Revenue Department plays an important supporting role in tree-related matters because land ownership and location details originate from revenue records.

Patwaris and other revenue officials provide: Khasra numbers, Ownership details, Land classification, and Site verification. These records assist competent authorities in making informed decisions. However, possession of information should not be confused with possession of executive authority. The individual who reports a problem is not necessarily the individual

empowered to solve it.

Legal Protection Versus Public Safety

- The Nanil incident highlights a difficult administrative challenge.
- On one hand, Chinar trees deserve maximum protection.
- On the other hand, public safety cannot be compromised.
- Authorities must balance both objectives.
- A dangerous tree should not be allowed to threaten human life merely because it is protected.
- Similarly, a healthy Chinar should not be removed merely because it causes inconvenience.
- The law seeks to strike a balance between conservation and safety.
- Strengthening the Existing System
- Several reforms can improve management of hazardous trees:
- Periodic surveys of old Chinar trees.
- Scientific health assessments.
- Digital mapping of heritage trees.
- Early warning mechanisms.
- Faster processing of genuine hazard cases.
- Interdepartmental coordination.
- Public awareness regarding legal procedures.
- Such measures would reduce delays and prevent future controversies.

Need for Public Awareness

Many disputes arise because citizens are unaware of the legal process. People often assume that the nearest government official can immediately solve every problem. In reality, government functions through statutory powers and procedural requirements.

Awareness campaigns should explain, who reports, who recommends, who approves, and who executes. A better-informed public is less likely to spread misinformation and more likely to engage constructively with authorities.

Protecting Officials from Unjust Blame

- Government servants performing their duties deserve fair treatment.
- Constructive criticism is essential in a democracy.
- Unfounded accusations are not.

When an official submits reports on time and follows prescribed procedures, he should not become a target merely because final decisions are taken elsewhere. Such practices demoralize field staff and discourage proactive reporting. Effective governance requires protecting honest officials from unjust blame while simultaneously ensuring accountability where actual negligence exists.

Lessons from the Nanil Incident

- The Nanil Chinar incident teaches several important lessons.
- First, natural disasters can occur despite administrative vigilance.
- Second, Chinar trees are governed by strict legal protections.
- Third, Patwaris function primarily as reporting agencies.
- Fourth, executive authority lies elsewhere.
- Fifth, public criticism should be based on facts rather than assumptions.

Finally, administrative reforms and public awareness are essential for balancing environmental conservation with public safety.

The uprooting of the Chinar tree at Village Nanil is undoubtedly an unfortunate event that caused concern and damage. However, it should not become an occasion for unfairly targeting revenue officials who had already discharged their reporting responsibilities within the limits of their statutory authority. A Patwari is fundamentally a reporting agency, not an executing authority. His role is to verify facts, prepare reports, and transmit information through the prescribed channels. Decisions regarding cutting, pruning, or removal of protected Chinar trees involve multiple authorities, legal safeguards, technical assessments, and administrative approvals.

The rule of law requires that responsibility be fixed according to legal powers and actual duties, not according to public perceptions or social media narratives. As Kashmir continues to preserve its priceless Chinar heritage, it is equally important to preserve fairness in public discourse and administrative accountability.

The fallen Chinar at Nanil should therefore remind us not only of the need to protect our environmental treasures but also of the need to respect the legal framework within which public servants perform their duties. Good governance is built upon facts, law, and institutional understanding—not upon assumptions, rumours, or misplaced blame.

The author can be mailed at mira-min354@gmail.com

Srinagar Police Attach Properties Worth 4 Crore In Fresh Blow To Drug Networks

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Police on Monday attached immovable properties worth approximately 4 crore in separate actions under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, intensifying efforts to target the financial infrastructure allegedly linked to narcotics trafficking in the Valley.

The action forms part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan, under which law enforcement agencies have increasingly focused on identifying and attaching assets suspected to

have been acquired through proceeds generated from the illegal drug trade.

In one of the major actions, Police Station Sangam attached assets worth around 3 crore belonging to Gulam Ahmad Dar of Srinagar in connection with a case registered under the NDPS Act earlier this year.

The attached assets include a residential house, land and commercial shops. According to police, investigation into the case indicated that the properties were allegedly acquired through proceeds generated from narcotics-related activities.

In another action, Police Station Nowhatta attached a residential property valued at approximately 1 crore belonging to Mohd Shafi Sheikh in connection with a narcotics case registered in 2018.

Police said the property was identified during investigation as an asset allegedly acquired through proceeds linked to the illegal drug trade.

Officials said the attachments were carried out under provisions of the NDPS Act aimed at preventing the concealment, transfer or disposal of properties suspected to have been generated through unlawful activities. (KNT)

Sopore Police Attach Assets Worth Over ₹66 Lakh Of Two Drug Peddlers

SAGAR FIRDOUS

SOPORE: Continuing a sustained crackdown on narcotic financial networks under a 100-day drug-free campaign, police have attached properties worth over ₹66 lakh belonging to two alleged drug peddlers in Sopore district under the NDPS Act, officials said.

The attached assets include a residential house, a bathroom block, 13 marlas of fenced land and a scooter valued at ₹40,82,717 belonging to Zahoor Ahmad Shah, a resident of Hanfia Colony,

Arampora, they said.

Properties worth ₹25,73,567 — a residential house at Magraypora and one kanal and six marlas of land along with plinth and construction material at Hathlangoo — belonging to Manzoor Ahmad Baba of Magraypora Sopore were also attached, police added.

Financial investigations conducted under Chapter VA of the NDPS Act revealed that the properties were allegedly acquired through proceeds of illicit narcotics trafficking and were found disproportionate to the known sources of

income of the accused, officials said.

"Acting under Section 68F of the NDPS Act, freezing and attachment orders were issued pending forfeiture proceedings before the competent authority," a police official said.

Shah is involved in FIR No. 143/2015 of PS Sopore and FIR No. 24/2023 of PS Tarzoo, while Baba is named in FIR No. 184/2023 of PS Sopore under the NDPS Act, officials added.

The attachment notices were served in the presence of independent witnesses after completion of all legal formal-

ities, they said.

The action forms part of a sustained strategy to target the financial infrastructure of drug trafficking networks and dismantle the narcotics ecosystem operating in the district, officials said.

Several more properties linked to drug peddlers have been identified and further attachment proceedings are underway, they added.

Sopore Police reiterated its zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, officials added. (KNS)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

LG Visits Mubarak

Darbar Hall, Conservation of Raja Ram Singh Palace, Conservation of Raja Amar Singh Palace, Conservation of Dogra Art Museum and other important works expected to be completed in the coming months.

Strategic, All-Weather

(NATM), considered a key engineering technique for complex mountain terrains.

Officials said the tunnel will also enhance economic activity and tourism while addressing long-standing connectivity issues caused by snowfall and avalanches at the Zojila Pass, which remains shut for months every year.

MEIL said more than 1,200 personnel, including nearly 80 per cent local workforce, have been involved in the project. Despite facing five avalanche incidents over the past five years—including a major one in January 2023 when 172 workers were rescued by the Army—the project has recorded 10 million safe man-hours—(KNO)

Pilgrim Safety

that the meeting also reviewed the arrangements being put in place for the upcoming Muharram observances across the Kashmir Valley. IGP Kashmir emphasized the need for adequate security, effective traffic management, and seamless coordination with the civil administration and other stakeholder agencies to facilitate the peaceful and smooth conduct of Muharram processions. Officers were directed to remain vigilant, maintain close liaison with organizers, and make all necessary arrangements to ensure public safety and convenience.

The meeting was attended by all Range DIGs of Kashmir Zone, SSP PCR Kashmir, SSSP of Anantnag, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Pulwama, Baramulla, Kupwara, Shopian, Bandipora, Budgam, Sopore, Handwara, and Awantipora, SO to IGP Kashmir, SP Cargo, and other senior officers.

Officers presented detailed briefings outlining security arrangements, logistical requirements, and district-wise preparedness plans for the smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra 2026.

"Discussions focused on measures adopted to ensure the safety of pilgrims and the effective management of the pilgrimage routes," said an officer.

Reviewing the overall security framework, IGP Kashmir stressed the importance of strict adherence to SOPs and effective coordination among all agencies.

IGP Birdi directed officers to remain prepared for any contingency, including operational challenges, natural disasters, and other unforeseen situations, through a well-synchronized response mechanism.

He directed officers to conduct mock drills to test existing SOPs and improve operational efficiency wherever required.

IGP Birdi, called upon officers to maintain the highest standards of professionalism, vigilance, and coordination throughout the Amarnath Yatra and Muharram period to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of these events—(KNO)

Govt Cuts Subsidised

He said the revised entitlement broadly reflects the average annual consumption among PMUY house-

holds. Beneficiaries effectively receive support of about Rs 1,000 per cylinder when compared to the government's estimated supply cost of around Rs 1,600 per cylinder.

Cooking gas LPG prices were raised on June 7 by Rs 29 per cylinder.

"The increase comes to Re 1 per day," he said, adding that for a family of five, the increase comes to 20 paise per day.

Indian households continue to pay among the lowest prices for cooking gas globally despite a sharp rise in international LPG prices triggered by disruptions in West Asia, he added.

Khanooja said the cost of supplying a domestic LPG cylinder has risen to more than Rs 1,600, following a surge in international prices that followed the outbreak of war in West Asia at the end of February.

India's LPG import costs are linked to the Saudi Contract Price (CP), the global benchmark for the fuel. The benchmark has risen about 46 per cent since February after disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz tightened supplies from the Gulf region.

The government, he said, has provided Rs 52,000 crore in subsidy since 2022.

Despite the price hike, oil companies continue to lose about Rs 700 per 14.2-kg cylinder, he noted.

Besides LPG, the oil companies are also losing on selling petrol and diesel at rates below cost. On petrol, the under-recovery was Rs 6 a litre, and that of diesel was about Rs 30 per litre.

"Cumulatively, the oil companies are losing Rs 600-700 crore," he said, giving reasons for the price hikes.

Apart from LPG, the oil companies have also raised petrol and diesel prices by about Rs 7.50 a litre each in four instalments last month. CNG rates too have been hiked by Rs 6 per kg.

HM's Amarnath Yatra

Sharavan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan.

Meanwhile, the paramilitary companies allocated to Jammu and Kashmir for Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage have started reaching both the divisions. A total of 670 paramilitary companies have been approved for deployment on yatra security by the Union Home Ministry.

In Jammu, the deployment will start right from Lakhampur, the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir. Along with police, the paramilitary companies will guard Pathankot-Jammu and Jammu-Srinagar National Highways, Railway Station, Airport, Bus Stand and Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas from where the pilgrims take off in the morning in convoy amid tight security arrangements.

"All places meant for accommodation of the pilgrims will also be fully protected," the sources said.

In Kashmir, tight security arrangements are being made at base camps of Baltal and Nunwan (Pahalgam), the twin tracks and the holy cave shrine of Lord Shiva in South Kashmir Himalayas besides all other places meant for stay and movement of the pilgrims.

All arrangements for the pilgrims including security will be in place a week ahead of start of the yatra.

Sources said general security in Jammu and Kashmir is also being further strengthened before the pilgrimage to ensure that few left-out terrorists don't manage to strike.

Shah will evaluate the readiness of security and civil departments involved in the annual pilgrimage and review measures aimed at ensuring the smooth, secure, and successful conduct of the Yatra.

Discussions are likely to focus on deployment of security personnel along the traditional Pahalgam and Baltal routes, counter-terrorism strategies, protection of pilgrim convoys, emergency response mechanisms, health-care facilities, communication systems, and overall logistical arrangements, the sources said, adding that special focus is on intelligence coordination among various agencies, surveillance measures along the Yatra routes, and contingency plans to tackle any unforeseen challenges or security threats. (KDC)

CS Reviews Rehabilitation

accommodations are taken over by the eligible employees by the end of July this year without fail.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the status of flats under construction at various sites. He further examined the status of allied infrastructure and utility services including electricity, drinking water supply, internal road connectivity, boundary walls and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to ensure that the colonies are fully functional and habitable.

The meeting also discussed plans for operation and maintenance (O&M) of the transit accommodations as well as migrant colonies in Jammu. Deliberations were held on creation of additional accommodation facilities in Jammu, with land identified at Purkhoo for expansion.

Reviewing the service-related issues of PM Package employees, the Chief Secretary took stock of matters concerning promotions, preparation of seniority lists and inter-district transfers within the Kashmir Division. Departments presented cadre-wise details of PM Package employees and informed the meeting about the status of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and related service matters.

Several other issues concerning the welfare and rehabilitation of displaced persons were also discussed. These included cases under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) relating to deceased employees, provision of adequate budgetary support for operation and maintenance of migrant colonies by line departments, and development of an integrated online portal for digitization of records of displaced communities including Kashmiri Pandits, West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs) and families displaced from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

The Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti gave the meeting a comprehensive overview of the rehabilitation and resettlement initiatives being undertaken by the Department. He informed that the department has prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for operation and maintenance of migrant colonies across Jammu and Kashmir divisions and that works would be taken up after completion of the requisite formalities.

He further apprised the meeting that the PoJK Bhawan at Suketar has achieved nearly 50 per cent physical progress and is targeted for completion by January next year. He also informed that the Community Hall at Jagti has reached around 90 per cent completion and is nearing completion.

Relief Commissioner (Migrants), Dr. Arvind Karwani, informed the meeting that out of the sanctioned 6,000 transit flats for PM Package employees, 4,648 flats have been completed while construction of the remaining 1,352 flats is in progress. He further stated that 3,257 flats have so far been allotted to

eligible employees, including 532 allotments made since the last review held in March this year.

He also briefed the meeting on the status of allied works and utility services being developed to make all transit accommodation colonies fully ready for occupation and use by PM Package employees.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the Government's commitment towards ensuring dignified living conditions, timely resolution of service-related concerns and strengthening rehabilitation measures for displaced communities. He called upon all departments to work in close coordination for expeditious completion of pending works and prompt resolution of issues affecting PM Package employees and migrant families across Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir Records Heavy

Kashmir for a family vacation because of the improved connectivity. "We travelled by train and road. It was a smooth journey and we are also visiting Doodhpathri and other places," he said.

Tourism stakeholders said hotels, guest houses, houseboats and transport operators witnessed increased business during the first week of June. Advance bookings for the coming weeks also remain strong, they said.

Notably, Kashmir has been witnessing relatively cool and pleasant weather conditions in recent weeks, with daytime temperatures remaining significantly lower than those recorded in many parts of north, west and central India.

While several states, including Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh, have been experiencing heat-wave conditions and soaring temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius, the Valley has continued to offer a respite from the intense summer heat.

Tourism stakeholders said the favourable weather has emerged as a major attraction for visitors seeking relief from the scorching conditions elsewhere in the country.

They said many tourists were opting for longer stays in Kashmir, particularly in destinations such as Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Pahalgam, Gurez and Doodhpathri, where temperatures remained comfortable—(KNO)

Govt Approves

efficiency and further strengthen the delivery of migrant-related welfare schemes and services.

The total technically vetted cost of the sanctioned works stands at 7.05 crore, to be executed under the Regular Capex Budget, subject to fulfillment of all codal formalities, financial norms, and prescribed procedures.

The Government reiterated its commitment to ensuring sustained welfare, dignity, and improved living conditions for Kashmiri migrants through focused infrastructure development and institutional strengthening.

India Issues Fresh Iran

It had also launched a helpline number to accelerate the process. The sense was to use the window of ceasefire to exit in case things flare up again.

Around 7,500 Indian nationals still remain in Iran. Earlier, the Embassy has facilitated the exit of thousands of Indian citizens from Iran through the land border with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

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Chronic stress a biological response harming health; high cortisol linked to heart disease: GMC Sgr

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: In an effort to raise awareness about the growing impact of stress-related health issues, the Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has issued a public advisory highlighting the dangers of persistently elevated cortisol levels and the simple lifestyle measures that can help keep the stress hormone under control.

The awareness message, issued in the public interest by Dr S. Muhammad Salim Khan, Professor and Head of the Department of Community Medicine, GMC Srinagar, highlights that chronic stress is not merely an emotional issue but a biological response that can significantly affect both physical and mental health if left unmanaged.

Cortisol, often referred to as the body's primary stress hormone, plays a vital role in regulating metabolism, blood pressure, immune function, and the body's response to stress. However, experts warn that prolonged elevation of cortisol levels can lead to a wide range of health complications.

According to the advisory, chronic high cortisol contributes to increased

inflammation in the body and has been linked to conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses. It can also raise blood sugar and blood pressure levels, increasing the risk of metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular diseases.

Health experts said that excessive cortisol weakens the immune system, making individuals more vulnerable to infections such as colds and flu while slowing down wound healing. "Persistent stress can also disrupt sleep patterns, resulting in insomnia, poor-quality sleep, and daytime fatigue," they said.

The advisory highlights that elevated cortisol levels can contribute to abdominal weight gain, particularly around the waist, even among individuals maintaining a relatively normal diet. Prolonged exposure to high cortisol can also affect brain function by impairing memory, reducing concentration, and impacting cognitive performance. Mental health consequences are equally significant, with chronic stress and elevated cortisol associated with anxiety, depression, irritability, mood swings, and reduced emotional well-being.

The GMC Srinagar advisory points out that many

common aspects of modern life unknowingly contribute to rising cortisol levels. Irregular sleep schedules, waking up late, and sleep deprivation can elevate cortisol levels even after a single poor night's sleep.

"Constant multitasking, rushing through daily activities, and living in a state of urgency can keep the body's stress response activated throughout the day. Excessive use of smartphones, laptops, and other digital devices, particularly during late evening hours, exposes individuals to blue light and continuous notifications that may increase stress and interfere with healthy sleep cycles," it states.

The advisory also warns against skipping breakfast or going long hours without eating, as falling blood sugar levels can trigger the release of cortisol. Excessive consumption of tea and coffee, especially after midday, may further aggravate stress responses because caffeine stimulates the body's stress pathways. Other factors identified include traffic congestion, noise pollution, overcrowding, excessive exercise without adequate recovery, persistent negative thinking, and alcohol consumption, all of which can contribute to sustained

elevations in cortisol.

Despite the health risks associated with chronic stress, medical experts emphasise that cortisol levels can be effectively managed through consistent lifestyle modifications.

The advisory recommends maintaining a fixed sleep schedule with seven to eight hours of quality sleep nightly, eating regular meals (particularly avoiding breakfast skipping), engaging in moderate physical activity such as 30 minutes of walking or yoga daily, practicing deep breathing exercises for at least five minutes during stressful situations, limiting caffeine intake after noon, reducing screen exposure at least one hour before bedtime, maintaining social connections, avoiding alcohol, and reducing intake of processed and junk foods.

The advisory concludes: "Chronic stress is not weakness but a biological response. You can reverse it. Start with one small change today." Medical experts at GMC Srinagar have urged the public to prioritise mental well-being alongside physical health, stressing that managing stress effectively can contribute to a healthier mind, a healthier body, and improved quality of life—(KNO)

Muharram-Ul-Haram, Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela arrangements reviewed in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: A meeting to review the arrangements for the ensuing holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram and auspicious Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela-2026 was held Monday at DC Office Anantnag.

ACR, Tariq Ahmad Malik, SDM Dooru, Parvaiz Rahim, SP, Sunny Gupta, ARTO, Inspector Traffic Police, officials from Health, FCS&CA, F&ES, PHE, PDD and other concerned departments attended the meeting.

On the occasion, threadbare discussions were held regarding the arrangements to be put in place to ensure smooth observance of Muharram and Mata



Kheer Bhawani Mela by the respective communities.

Regarding Muharram, ACR stressed upon officers to make timely and proper arrangements of security, water and power supply, sanitation, medical facilities, ration, firewood, among others. He said that proper plans be devised to ensure all religious gatherings and processions are held smoothly and in a seamless proper.

The ACR emphasised maintaining proper

hygiene and cleanliness around Imam Baras and procession sites adding that prior visits to the three prominent places in the district be conducted by the concerned officers. He said medical teams along with ambulances shall be deployed along with availability of staff and medicine besides adequate supply of potable water and electricity shall be ensured during this period.

Regarding Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela-2026 arrangements, the ACR

instructed that all essential facilities including water supply, electricity, accommodation and bedding be provided to the devotees at Logripora. Emphasis was laid on deployment of fire tenders, installation of Shamiyana, availability of LPG for langars, blankets for devotees and special SRTC Buses for ferrying the pilgrims and putting in place other logistics for smooth observance and conduct of the religious activities.

The departments were further asked to share their plans with the District Control Room in advance and also appoint Nodal Officers who will coordinate in real time for these important events.

Agri Deptt organises awareness camp under 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shopian, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian Monday organized one-day awareness programme under the month-long national flagship campaign "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" at the Auditorium Hall of Government Degree College, Shopian.

Month-long national flagship programme "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" was launched on June 1, 2026 and will continue until June 30, 2026, with the objective of promoting soil conservation, sustainable agriculture, and improved farmer awareness across the district.

The programme was presided over by Agri-Chemist, Ravinder Kumar Tripathi and attended by officers from the Agriculture Department, allied departments, KVK Shopian, and a large number of farmers from across the district.

Addressing the gathering, Ravinder Kumar Tripathi highlighted the significance of the month-long campaign and stated that the Agriculture Department is conducting awareness programmes throughout the district to encourage sustainable farming practices and strengthen soil health management. He emphasized the need for the judicious use of pesticides and fertilizers to maintain ecological balance, enhance soil fertility, and ensure long-term agricultural sustainability.

During the programme, experts provided detailed guidance on the scientific and balanced use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, stressing the importance of minimizing excessive chemical applications to protect public health and the environment.

Farmers were encouraged to adopt eco-friendly and soil-friendly agricultural practices that contribute to sustainable crop production and environmental conservation.

The awareness session also focused on the promotion of integrated nutrient management, responsible pesticide usage, soil health improvement, and conservation-oriented farming practices.

Experts explained that sustainable agricultural practices help improve soil structure, enhance nutrient availability, reduce environmental pollution, and ensure better productivity over the long term.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers and other agricultural stakeholders, who actively interacted with experts and expressed their commitment to adopting sustainable and soil-friendly farming practices in their fields.

Bandipora Admin Gears Up for SANJY-2026

DC Reviews Preparations at Sumbal, Inspects Shadipora Transit Camp



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow Sumbal to review arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026 and ensure that all necessary facilities are put in place for the devotees.

The meeting was attended by ADC Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; ASP Bandipora, Mir Murtaza; SDM Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad; and other concerned officers from the district administration, Police, Army, CRPF, and various line departments associated with the Yatra.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of preparations related to drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare, sanitation, traffic management, transportation, and other essential services was conducted. Officers briefed the chair on the ongoing works and preparedness at the Shadipora Transit Camp.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among

all departments and directed officers to complete all pending works well in time. She stressed that adequate facilities should be ensured for the convenience, safety, and comfort of the devotees.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an on-site inspection of the Shadipora Transit Camp to assess the arrangements on the ground and directed the concerned departments to expedite the remaining works so that all facilities are ready well before the commencement of the annual pilgrimage.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments is essential for the smooth conduct of SANJY-2026.

She directed officers to maintain close monitoring of all preparatory works and ensure timely completion of assigned tasks. Emphasizing a proactive approach, she stressed that all arrangements should be put in place well in advance to provide a safe, comfortable, and hassle-free pilgrimage experience for the devotees.

FSD Shopian intensifies enforcement drive at Heerpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: As part of its ongoing efforts to ensure food safety and hygiene standards, the Food Safety Department Shopian, in coordination with Police, conducted a comprehensive inspection drive in the Heerpora area of the district Monday.

During the inspection, various Food Business Operators (FBOs) were checked for compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act and Regulations.

The inspection team scrutinized food handling practices, sanitation levels, storage conditions and overall hygiene maintained at food establishments.

The team observed deficiencies in sanitary and hygienic conditions at several establishments. Consequently, five FBO Business Operators (FBOs) were recommended for

action under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act for violations detected during the inspection.

The concerned FBOs were also strictly warned to improve cleanliness, maintain proper sanitation and adhere to prescribed food safety norms to safeguard public health. They were advised to ensure hygienic handling and storage of food items and to comply with all regulatory requirements.

The Food Safety Department in the district is protecting consumer health and stated that such inspection drives will continue across the district to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food to the public. Citizens were also urged to report any instances of food adulteration or unhygienic food practices to the department for prompt action.

Firdous Dramatic Club's 'Dastaar' Wins Hearts at Aims Public School



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Firdous Dramatic Club Monday delivered a memorable performance of the stage play Dastaar at Aims Public School, Monchwa Budgam. Written and directed by Mr. Hassan Javid, the satirical production was highly appreciated by both students and teachers of the school.

The play's main characters were portrayed by Hassan Javid, John Majrooh, Ashraf Nago, and Jameela Akhtar. The performance was staged under the Repertory Grant

scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi.

Impressed by the troupe's artistry, the school authorities urged Mr. Hassan Javid, president of Firdous Dramatic Club, to continue his noble work in the future. In response, Mr. Javid assured them that the organization would soon take further steps to promote theatre.

Keeping his word, the Firdous Dramatic Club has announced a five-day theatre workshop, scheduled to be held from May 21 to May 25, 2026, at a venue to be announced shortly.

B'la mourns demise of Father of DC Udhampur

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: District Administration Baramulla has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Dawa Sherpa, IPS (Retd.), former Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) and father of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S. F. Hamid, expressed deep condolences on the sad demise and conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to Minga Sherpa and the bereaved family. He prayed for strength and courage to the family to bear this irreparable loss and for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Officers and officials of the District Administration Baramulla also joined in expressing their sympathies and solidarity with the bereaved family during this difficult time.

The District Administration Baramulla prays that the departed soul rests in eternal peace and that the family finds comfort and strength in this hour of grief.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-mail: xennhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT No:	MHDH/TS/2025-26/eNIT/05
Date:	06/06/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bid in Two Cover system on items wise basis from 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	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Providing and fitting of window glass panes, electrification, furnishing & other allied works for First Floor of Snow clearance Control Room Dawar, Gurez, pertaining to Mech. and Hospital Division Handwara.	2.49361	200.00	5000.00	10 days	Accorded	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.in from 06/06/2026 (1800hrs)
- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 08/06/2026 (1700hrs) to 27/06/2026 (1400hrs) in two covers.
- Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 27/06/2026 (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: - MHDH/TS/385-92
Dated: -06/06/2026
DIPK-1917-26
DT: 08/06/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PW(R&B) DIVISION CHRAR-I-SHARIEF

Near Nowhar Iqbal Abad Chararisharief | mail id: xennbchrar23@gmail.com

Subject: - Date Extension.
Reference: - E-NIT No.03/ RNB/CHRAR of 2026-27 Dated:02/06/2026

In view of poor response received in respect of above referred NIT the bid submission end date is hereby extended up to 12.06.2026 till 04:00 PM. The Bid shall be opened on 13.06.2026 at 11:30 AM.

All other terms and conditions shall remain the same as per already issued NIT.

No: -1046-55
Dated: -08/06/2026

Executive Engineer,
PW(R&B) Division
Charar-i-Sharief

DIPK-1936-26
DT: 08/06/2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF GEOLOGY & MINING

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NOTICE

Department of Geology & Mining in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines had organized a roadshow on 12th of May 2026 to launch 2nd tranche of e-auction of 12 Limestone blocks in the Union Territory of J&K. The tender document is available on the designated e-auction portal (mstcecommerce.com) and on the website of the Ministry of Mines w.e.f 18.05.2026. Last date for sale/download of Tender Document is 15.07.2026 (up to 5:00 PM). Bid Due Date (Technical Bid and Initial Price Offer) is 21.07.2026 (up to 5:00 PM). Detailed tender document, block details, eligibility conditions, bidding parameters and other terms and conditions shall be available on the designated e-auction portal and the Ministry of Mines website.

For any queries contact Dr. Rajinder Singh Rana 9419240225 & Sh. Khurshheed Ahmed Mir 9469514014.

Director
Geology & Mining, J&K

DIPK-1922-26
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We were rusty, we showed our naivety: Pybus admits Afghanistan have 'a lot to work on' after crushing India defeat

IAN S

NEW CHANDIGARH: Afghanistan head coach Graham Pybus conceded his side's shortcomings after their humiliating innings-and-300-run defeat to India in New Chandigarh, admitting the team looked "rusty" and "naive" in only their 13th Test match since gaining Test status nearly nine years ago.

Just over half an hour into the third session of Monday's play, India sealed their one-off Test victory, bowling Afghanistan out for 152 and 112 following a massive 564/8 declared of their own. It was the second time Afghanistan suffered a big defeat at the hands of India, who previously secured an innings and 262-run win in Bengaluru in 2018.

Speaking after the thumping loss, Pybus confessed Afghanistan's inexperience with the longest format of the game poses the biggest obstacle. "We were rusty, we showed our naivety, and there's plenty of work to be done," he told reporters after the match.

The England-born coach, who took over from Jonathan Trott earlier this year, went on to state that the only way Afghanistan could compete with the more established nations in the game of Test cricket



was to play the format on a more regular basis. "I think... In the same way that the white ball side has developed, you only develop through fixtures."

Since being granted full member status of the ICC, Afghanistan have played 13 Test matches, winning 4, losing 8, and drawing one. He also used the journey of Bangladesh as an example of how a relatively new side to the format could improve if afforded regular opportunities. "I was with Pakistan when we played Bangladesh... The game was over in two-and-a-half days, and that was part of Bangladesh's learning curve," Pybus continued.

"Now we see that Bangladesh are beating Paki-

stan. That's the evolution of the game. Fixtures need to be built out."

India clearly controlled the match from start to finish, piling on a massive total over the first three days, before the bowlers, led by debutant Manav Suthar and Washington Sundar with their two wickets apiece, routed Afghanistan's batting line-up twice.

Pybus remained magnanimous in the face of the battering at the hands of the host nation, whom he singled out as having 'the powerhouse' position in the world of cricket. "They played really good, solid Test cricket and, as an all-format team, India is the powerhouse in world cricket now," he admitted.

World Yogasana Championships 2026: Hosts India complete a century of gold medals in clean sweep

IAN S

AHMEDABAD: Hosts India signed off the inaugural World Yogasana Championships campaign with 114 medals that included a century of gold (102) to underline their domination at the EKA Arena here on Monday. Second-placed Japan were a distant second with three gold, three silver, and five bronze, with Argentina taking the third spot thanks to their lone athlete, Nabila Barraza's exploits of two gold and three silver.

Neighbours Nepal were the second most successful contingent in terms of number of medals won as they clinched a total of 52 medals, including one gold, 36 silver, and 15 bronze to finish fifth on the medal standings. Uzbekistan finished with 25 medals, including one gold, 13 silver, and 11 bronze.

In all, a total of 522 athletes from 79 countries participated in the Championships, with 31 of them winning at least one medal each. Ten of those managed to win at least one gold medal.

The inaugural World



Yogasana Championships in Ahmedabad, the venue of the 2030 Commonwealth Games, were a landmark event that marked a defining moment in the evolution of Yogasana, transforming an ancient Indian practice into a globally competitive sporting discipline while strengthening its pathway towards recognition within the Olympic movement.

The World Yogasana Championship 2026 was

supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Ministry of Ayush, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Sports Authority of Gujarat, Gujarat Tourism, and Gujarat Yogasana Sports Association -- establishing Yogasana as a global sporting discipline and paving the way towards Olympic recognition.

Hosts, India had fielded a 122-member contingent, with athletes competing across six age categories -

Sub-Junior Men and Women (10-14 years), Junior Men and Women (14-18 years), Senior A (18-28 years), Senior B (28-35 years), Senior C (35-45 years), and Senior D (45-55 years).

In a video message, Yogrishi Swami Ramdev Ji Maharaj, President, World Yogasana, termed the World Yogasana Championship as the beginning of a global movement. "World Yogasana Championship is not the destination; it is the

beginning of a global movement. Yoga is not merely a sport—it is a way of life, a path to health, harmony, peace, and human unity. Every athlete here is not just a champion, but an ambassador of yoga to the world.

"Today we celebrate medals and champions, but tomorrow we must create a world connected through yoga. I firmly believe that the journey which began here will one day take Yogasana to the Olympic stage and inspire generations across the globe," he said.

The five-day championships proved to be a melting pot of cultures, where athletes enjoyed the great hospitality in India and also learnt about the history and journey of Yogasana.

Armenia's Sona Soghayan, who took up yoga during her second pregnancy three years back, was amazed to see the sport getting such a huge platform in India. "I will carry a lot of pleasant memories from my first visit to India. I hope to spread the concept of yoga among my friends after going back to Armenia, as this sport helps a lot to maintain our well-being."

Women's T20 World Cup: Fulmali's unbeaten fifty, spinners shine as India beat West Indies in warm-up

IAN S

CARDIFF: An unbeaten half-century from Bharti Fulmali and a dominant display from spinners Radha Yadav and Shreyanka Patil powered India to a convincing 26-run victory over West Indies in their opening warm-up match ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in Cardiff on Monday.

Following their historic ICC Women's Cricket World Cup victory earlier this year, a complete performance from India saw them start their T20 World Cup preparations on a high after posting 179/8 before bowling out West Indies for 153/8. Fulmali was



the main anchor in India's innings, making an unbeaten 56 off 40 deliveries, whilst Radha and Shreyanka shared seven wickets between them to cut short the Caribbean chase.

Invited to bat, India's openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma put on a rapid 59, with Mandhana leading the way with a 39-ball 39, inclusive of 8 boundaries after a slow start

from the West Indian pacers who couldn't find a regular rhythm. India reached 70/1 in the Power-play with the loss of Mandhana.

However, a slight wobble in the middle of the innings saw India lose three wickets in rapid succession before Fulmali and Yastika Bhatia put together a solid 60-run stand for the fourth wicket. Bhatia looked in good touch until she retired out at 36 balls with 26 runs as part of an effort to get runs in the middle order, with India losing Ghosh and Radha within the space of the same over.

Fulmali saw India home, with the opener smashing six boundaries

and a six in a powerful 40-ball innings to guide India to a strong total. Afy Fletcher was the only bowler to distinguish herself as the West Indies attack looked to lack sting for most of the innings, as she recorded 4/23 from her four overs.

In reply, Deandra Dottin and Shemaine Campbelle offered resistance in the early stages, putting together a 63-run opening stand, but were way behind the rate and only managed 37 runs in the powerplay. The turning point of the innings came after the dismissal of Campbelle, who walked off, and it signalled the beginning of a middle-order collapse.

'PM's praise will motivate and inspire youngsters', says coach Sardar Singh after U-18 Asia Cup hockey gold



IAN S

NEW DELHI: Head coach Sardar Singh hailed the Indian men's team following their gold-medal triumph at the U18 Hockey Asia Cup, highlighting that the top-tier recognition, including praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will act as a major booster for the budding stars.

On Friday, the Indian U-18 men were crowned champions of the Asia Cup 2026 after defeating hosts Japan 4-1 in the final in Kakamigahara, Japan, on Friday. Meanwhile, women's team secured the bronze medal after registering a commanding 3-0 victory over Korea in the bronze medal match.

Speaking after receiving a rousing welcome upon the team's arrival back home, Sardar expressed his delight over the growing enthusiasm for the sport. "After a victory like this,

all hockey lovers across the country celebrate and show their support. You can see the enthusiasm among the players, and it feels great that so many people came to welcome them," Singh told IANS.

"It is also a positive thing that the Prime Minister congratulated the entire team. In my opinion, such recognition will motivate these young players and inspire them in the future," he added.

Looking ahead, the coach stated that the support staff is fully aligned with the national federation's long-term vision to nurture young talent pool for the global stage.

"Whatever plan Hockey India gives us, we will follow it accordingly. We hope to continue working with these players and develop good hockey players. They still have a lot of time ahead of them to progress from the junior level and eventually enter

the senior team," he concluded.

Ashish Tani Purti (2', 28', 34') starred with a hat-trick, while captain Ketan Kushwaha (30') also found the back of the net as India produced a commanding display against the hosts to lift the title.

"I would like to thank my team and our coaches for the immense support and training we received. We are very happy to have returned as champions after winning the Asia Cup. Supporting each other was the most important thing. Our coaches trusted us, and we are proud that we lived up to that trust and came back with the title..." skipper Ketan told IANS on his arrival at home.

Ashish added, "We feel very good about our performance. We were focused on winning since the beginning. It feels great that we have won the gold medal for the country."

Bengal T20 League: All-rounders Shahbaz, Karan impress as Rarh Tigers, Siliguri Strikers win

IAN S

KOLKATA: Shahbaz Ahmed and Karan Lal produced dominant all-round performances to guide their respective teams to comfortable victories in the Bengal T20 League Season 3 matches at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Monday.

In the day's first match, Shahbaz (4/15 and 31 off

18) helped Shrachi Rarh Tigers outclass Sobisco Smashers Malda by five wickets. In the day's second match, Karan (53 off 29 and 4/12) powered Servotech Siliguri Strikers to a stunning 90-run victory over Murshidabad Kings.

Karan, along with Sudip Chatterjee (50 off 41), gave Siliguri Strikers a strong start as the team posted

152/9 in 20 overs. Toufik Uddin Mondal bagged three wickets for Murshidabad.

In reply, Murshidabad lost wickets at regular intervals and were bundled out for 62 in 12 overs. Besides Karan, Ishan Porel (3/11) impressed with the ball, while Md Shami, Kaushik Maity, and Vishal Bhati claimed a wicket each for Siliguri Strikers.

Movies Schedule

TUESDAY, 9TH JUNE

PEDDI (HINDI)
(U/A16+)
02:15 PM

HAI JAWANI TOH ISHQ HONA HAI (HINDI ATMOS) (UA16+)
11:00 AM 01:50 PM
04:40 PM 07:30 PM

OBSESSION (ENGLISH) (A)
10:45 AM 01:15 PM
03:45 PM 06:30 PM

BANDAR (HINDI) (A)
06:00 PM

HE-MAN THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (UA16+)
11:20 AM








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