

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK



Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will begin on July 3 and conclude on August 28. Our collective goal is to ensure a safe, seamless, and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage for every devotee of Baba Barfani.

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CM Meets Ashwini Vaishnav, Seeks Enhanced Rail Connectivity For J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday met Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnav in New Delhi and discussed various issues related to the augmentation of rail services in Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister appreciated the quality of service, passenger comfort and punctuality of the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express, which has emerged as a major milestone in improving connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country.

Highlighting the growing public demand for greater rail accessibility, the Chief Minister urged the Union Railway Minister to consider providing a stoppage for the Vande Bharat Express at Anantnag to facilitate travel for residents of South Kashmir and adjoining areas.

The Chief Minister also

drawn the attention of the Railway Minister to the scheduled closure of Srinagar International Airport from October 1 to October 15, 2026, for essential runway maintenance and resurfacing works. He emphasized that the closure coincides with one of the peak tourist seasons in the Valley and could impact the movement of tourists, pilgrims and local residents.

In this regard, Omar Abdullah urged the Railway Ministry to augment railway services to the Kashmir Valley, particularly by increasing the frequency of Vande Bharat trains during the period of airport closure and the associated flight restrictions. He said enhanced rail connectivity would provide a reliable alternative to air travel, ensure seamless movement of passengers and help sustain tourism and economic activity during

LG Sinha Chairs High-Level Review Meeting On Preparations For Amarnath Yatra

Directs Departments To Ensure Timely Completion Of Arrangements

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness for Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

He directed all departments to ensure timely completion of arrangements including infrastructure, healthcare, sanitation, connectivity, and other pilgrim centric services.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo; Director General of Police, Shri Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shri Shahleen Kabra; Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Shri Ashwani Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shri Shailendra Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, Shri Anil Kumar Singh; Commandant General, Home Guard / CD & SDRF; Shri A. G. Mir; Principal Secretary, Home Department, Shri Chandraker Bharti; Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Shri Alok Kumar; Administrative Secretaries, Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone and Kashmir Zone, Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners and senior officials of Shrine Board and all the line departments.



“Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will begin on July 3 and conclude on August 28. Our collective goal is to ensure a safe, seamless, and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage for every devotee of Baba Barfani,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Emphasizing seamless coordination, proactive planning, and strict monitoring, the Lieutenant Governor stated that this sacred pilgrimage is a national event. He instructed all stakeholders to work with utmost dedication and maintain the highest standards of efficiency and safety.

During the meeting, it was informed that large number of pilgrims are getting registered, and the Yatra

filling pilgrimage for every devotee of Baba Barfani,” the Lieutenant Governor said. Emphasizing seamless coordination, proactive planning, and strict monitoring, the Lieutenant Governor stated that this sacred pilgrimage is a national event. He instructed all stakeholders to work with utmost dedication and maintain the highest standards of efficiency and safety.

‘IMMUNOCON-2026’ LG Calls For Stronger Focus On Immunological Innovation, Precision Medicine

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday attended the inaugural session of the Annual Conference of the Indian Immunology Society ‘IMMUNOCON-2026’, at Srinagar.

The prestigious event, organized by the Advanced Centre for Human Genetics SKIMS, is themed “Beneath the Grandeur of Chinar: Illuminating Mysteries from Fundamentals to Translational Frontiers in Health”.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the evolving role of immunology in biomedical innovation and healthcare.

The Lieutenant Governor hailed the human immune system as one of nature’s most extraordinary living architectures, that defends the body with remarkable precision.

He emphasized on translating the scientific

DG CRPF Visits Srinagar, Reviews Security For Amarnath Yatra



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the upcoming Amarnathji Yatra 2026, Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), G.P. Singh, IPS, Wednesday arrived here on a three-day visit to the Kashmir valley to assess the force’s security and operational preparedness.

On the first day of his visit, the DG CRPF conducted a thorough review of the security and logistical arrangements along the yatra route up to the Baltal base camp. He emphasised the need for a robust security grid through close coordination among all stakeholders, including the civil administration, J&K Police, and other security forces involved in the pilgrimage.

At Baltal base camp, officials briefed him on the existing security grid, access control measures, and logistics preparedness aimed at ensuring airtight safety arrangements and seamless coordination.

Singh also chaired a high-level meeting with senior officers of the CRPF, civil administration, J&K Police, and other security agencies.

Sports Quota Recruitment Historic Step Towards Empowering Youth: Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to the sporting fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir and a significant step towards creating sustainable career opportunities for the athletes, Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Wednesday congratulated the 223 outstanding sportspersons who have been selected for appointment to government services under the sports quota.

Termining the recruitment as a landmark achievement in the government’s efforts to promote sports and youth empowerment, the Minister said that the selection of such a large number of athletes reflects the administration’s commitment towards honouring the sporting excellence and ensuring that talented sportspersons are provided



meaningful opportunities beyond the playing arena.

The Minister expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister for his unwavering support and keen interest in strengthening the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. He informed that the appointment orders would be formally handed over to the selected candidates by the Chief Minister at a special ceremony, marking a proud and memorable occasion for the athletes and their families.

Satish Sharma said that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has

From Article 370 Abrogation To ‘Op Sindoor,’ Cabinet Hails PM Modi’s Record-Breaking Tenure

Credits Security Decisions, Economic Growth, Social Welfare Initiatives During Modi’s 12 Years In Office

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday passed a resolution congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming the country’s longest-serving elected Prime Minister in consecutive terms, while highlighting major security, governance and developmental initiatives undertaken during his tenure.

The resolution, adopted at a Cabinet meeting, noted that PM Modi completed 4,399 continuous days as an elected Prime Minister on June 10, surpassing the record of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who served continuously for 4,398 days between 1952 and 1964.

Calling the occasion a milestone in India’s democratic journey, the Cabinet said the achievement reflected public trust in PM Modi’s



leadership and coincided with the NDA government completing 12 years in office under him.

The resolution placed significant emphasis on national security measures taken during the past decade. It praised the government’s response to terrorism, citing surgical strikes, cross-border air strikes and ‘Operation

Sindoor’ as examples of decisive action against security threats.

“The elevation of national security was evidenced by strict actions against terrorism like surgical and cross-border air strikes, ‘Operation Sindoor,’ and the suspension of the unjust Indus Water Treaty,” the resolution stated.

The Cabinet also highlighted what it described as key reforms carried out under the government’s “Nation First” approach, including the abrogation of Article 370, implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), One Rank One Pension (OROP), the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and labour law reforms.

According to the resolution, efforts to tackle Naxalism, permanent peace accords in the North-East and the resolution of the border dispute with

CS Frames Rehab, Reintegration Plan For Drug Abuse Victims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major step towards strengthening the fight against substance abuse and ensuring long-term recovery of affected individuals, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo gave shape to a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Framework for victims of drug abuse, aimed at facilitating their successful reintegration into society through a structured rehabilitation cycle.

The proposed framework was discussed in detail during a high-level meeting attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Secretary, Skill Development

Department; Director Colleges; Head of IMHANS Srinagar; SIO, NIC and other concerned officers.

The proposed framework seeks to move beyond conventional detoxification and treatment by adopting a holistic approach that combines medical care, psychosocial support, education, skill development, employment opportunities and sustained monitoring to prevent relapse and promote social stability.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary outlined the comprehensive strategy envisioned by the Government to address the growing challenge of substance abuse through a coordinated, treatment-to-reintegration approach based upon the Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs) for each of the victim as per his customized requirements.

Demolition Drive For Ring Road Sparks Outrage In Ganderbal’s Nagbal; Residents Cry Foul Over Compensation

GMK CORRESPONDENT

GANDERBAL: Tension gripped Nagbal area of central Kashmir’s Ganderbal district on Tuesday as authorities launched a demolition drive to clear land for the much-awaited Ring Road project, razing several structures including shops, gates and portions of residential houses.

The operation was led by Tehsildar Ganderbal, Dr. Umar Farooq, along with officials from the civil administration and other departments. Earthmovers were seen pulling down structures that allegedly fall within the alignment of the proposed highway.

However, the drive triggered anger and protests among affected residents, who accused the administration of forcibly taking away their

properties at compensation rates they describe as “unjust and outdated.”

Ghulam Mohammad, a retired government employee whose property is among those affected, alleged that the

NO STRUCTURE belonging to a person who has not received compensation will be touched.

land compensation was fixed at just Rs 3 lakh per marla in 2017 without the consent of landowners.

“We rejected the rate then and continue to reject it now. After nine years, the administration suddenly arrives with bulldozers and tells us we will be paid the same amount.

Property prices have multiplied since then. How can this be justice?” he questioned.

Residents claimed that many families were caught off guard by the demolition drive and accused the authorities of using what they termed “inhuman tactics” to displace people in the name of development.

“The government cannot build roads by crushing the rights of citizens. Development should not come at the cost of people’s homes and livelihoods,” said another local resident.

The administration, however, denied allegations of arbitrary action.

When contacted, Tehsildar Dr. Umar Farooq said the demolition

was being carried out only on properties whose owners had already received compensation.

“No structure belonging to a person who has not received compensation will be touched. The operation is



Rain, Thunderstorm Activity Likely Across J&K From Today

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: After days of hot and dry weather, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness a spell of rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds from Thursday, with the Meteorological Department warning that isolated intense showers could trigger flash floods and mudslides in vulnerable areas.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar, said light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds is expected at many places across the Union Territory on June 11 and 12.

Wind speeds may reach 40-50 kmph and gust up to 60 kmph during the period, the department said, adding that isolated areas could also witness hailstorms.

“Partly to generally cloudy weather with one or two spells of light to moderate rain, brief intense showers, thunder and lightning is likely at many places during June 11-12,” an official said.

Kashmir On Path Of Rapid Development: MoS Defence

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is progressing swiftly on the path of growth and prosperity, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth on Wednesday said the Union Territory is witnessing unprecedented peace, rapid infrastructure development and a strong tourism boom under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to reporters after completing his visit to the revered Dargah Hazratbal Srinagar, MoS Seth, said he has been regularly visiting Kashmir over the past five years and has personally witnessed the transformation taking place across the Valley.

“The people of Kashmir are extremely friendly and brotherly. I have been coming here for the last five years and have seen Kashmir changing rapidly. Today, Kashmir is moving ahead in terms of



development and progress in a way that many had never imagined,” he said.

Highlighting improved connectivity, the MoS Defence said travel between Jammu and Srinagar has become significantly easier due to major infrastructure projects undertaken by the Centre.

“There was a time when travelling from Jammu to Srinagar would take 12 to 14 hours. Today, the same journey can be completed in around four-and-a-half hours. This reflects the scale of infrastructure development that has taken place in

NUN CHAI TALKS

Second Episode connects Youth with Success Stories, Career Insights

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Continuing its efforts to provide meaningful learning and mentorship opportunities to the youth, the District Administration Bandipora Wednesday organised the second episode of Nun Chai Talks, featuring an interactive career counselling and motivational session by Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad Mir, Senior Geologist at the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Bengaluru, and a proud son of the soil of Bandipora.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various educational institutions across the district. The programme focused on career planning, goal setting, time management and exploring the diverse opportunities available to today's youth.

During the interaction, Dr. Ishfaq shared his personal journey from Bandipora to serving in one of the country's premier scientific institutions, inspiring students to pursue excellence through hard work, perseverance and continuous learning. He offered valuable insights on career



building, academic growth and informed decision-making, while encouraging students to dream big and remain committed to their aspirations.

The speakers also stressed the importance of effective time management, particularly in an era marked by extensive social media consumption. They emphasised that while technology and social media have become indispensable tools in modern life, students must use them responsibly and remain focused on their educational and career goals.

Speaking on the occasion, District Information Officer Bandipora, Aadil Manzoor Wani, said that every technology is a tool

whose impact depends on how it is used. He observed that the thoughtful and positive use of technology can contribute significantly to personal growth and career advancement, whereas its misuse can adversely affect an individual's progress and well-being. He also stressed the importance of discipline, consistency and self-belief in achieving one's goals.

A lively question-and-answer session was held during which students raised various queries relating to career choices, academic pursuits, time management and the challenges posed by excessive social media use. The speakers responded in detail, providing practical guidance and motivation to

the participants. The enthusiasm, curiosity and thoughtful participation displayed by the students reflected the immense potential of the district's young generation. The session helped participants gain greater clarity about their future aspirations and inspired them to pursue their goals with confidence and determination.

Speaking at the conclusion of the programme, BDO Aloosa and Nodal Officer for Waqar Knowledge Centre, Ulfat Ali, expressed gratitude to Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad Mir for sparing his valuable time and sharing his rich professional experience with the students. She also thanked the participating students, teachers and other stakeholders for their active involvement in making the programme a success.

DC Shopian Presides over Block Diwas at Methwani Behak, Sarbal Devpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a major push towards responsive governance and redressal of issues and concerns raised by members of the tribal community during a public interaction programme at their doorsteps, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Wednesday presided over a Block Diwas programme at Methwani Behak, an alpine meadows on the upper reaches of Sarbal Devpora area.

An appreciable number of members of the tribal community comprising also the nomadic people attended the block diwas. The DC interacted with the community members and listened to public issues.

The issues raised by the local public of the area include matters related to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) including community rights on grazing, animal vaccination and healthcare services, school infrastructure and rural development works at Devpora and Shadab Karewa, social welfare and pension schemes entitlements and other issues relating to the benefit of local tribal, pastoral community.

Besides, the core issues raised during the interac-

tion centered around the augmentation of water supply, uninterrupted electricity supply, healthcare facilities and coverage of local population under various Welfare and employment schemes.

To ensure swift action, senior sectoral district heads were present to respond directly to public concerns and note the demands for action. Addressing the gathering, the DC emphasized the importance of block diwas as an effective platform for direct engagement and grievance redressal, enabling citizens to bring their concerns before the district administration.

He directed concerned officers to ensure timely resolution of genuine issues and maintain close coordination with the public. He assured the public about the on-time resolution of highlighted issues.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik; ACD, Muzafar Ahmad; Dy.CEO, DIO, LDM, Exen KPDC, Tehsildar Shopian, BDO Shopian and Keller, other senior officers of the district administration, ex PRI members, public representatives and a large number of local residents attended the programme.

DDC Kulgam reviews progress of works, Employment Generation under MGNREGA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of works and performance under the MGNREGA scheme in the district.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kulgam, all Block Development Officers (BDOs), MIS Operators and Technical Assistants. During the meeting, the DDC Kulgam conducted a detailed review of the execution of works, employment generation, quality of assets being created and overall implementation of the MGNREGA Scheme across all blocks of the district.

Emphasizing transparency and accountability, the DDC Kulgam directed the functionaries of Rural Development Department Kulgam to ensure that only genuine and deserving job card holders are engaged under the programme and that employment opportunities are provided strictly in accordance with prescribed guidelines, without any duplicity or violation

of norms. The DDC Kulgam further stressed the need for the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PwDs) in the scheme and directed officers to encourage their active participation wherever feasible. He also underscored the importance of women empowerment and instructed BDOs to motivate and facilitate the participation of women, particularly those above the age of 40 years, in various permissible activities under the scheme.

Highlighting the significance of durable community assets, the DDC directed all concerned officers to ensure that the quality of works and assets created under the programme remains of the highest standard and that all works are executed strictly as per technical specifications.

He also instructed the ACD Kulgam and BDOs to undertake regular field inspections to monitor the progress and quality of works. He also stated that he would personally conduct frequent inspections of work sites to ensure effective implementation and adherence to guidelines.

Director JKEDI chairs review meeting with DNOs, ROs, In-charge officers

GMK News Network

Srinagar: Director, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Mohammad Younis Malik, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Sempora campus of the Institute to assess the progress of various entrepreneurship development and youth engagement initiatives being implemented across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Range Officers (ROs), District Nodal Officers (DNOs), and other officials, both physically and through virtual mode, from different districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, Joint Director JKEDI, Chand Kishor Sharma, presented a detailed overview of the various pro-

grammes and initiatives being implemented by the Institute, along with the achievements registered under different schemes and interventions.

A thorough review of key government initiatives, including the J&K Start-up Policy 2024-27, Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, Mission YUVA, and various other programmes, was undertaken during the session. The progress made in loan repayment and recovery under different schemes was also discussed in detail.

Addressing the officers, the Director emphasized the need to intensify efforts towards achieving JKEDI's core objective of empowering youth through entrepreneurship awareness, orientation, and capacity build-

ing. He called upon the District Nodal Officers to further strengthen grassroots outreach and ensure greater mobilisation of aspiring entrepreneurs from all regions of the Union Territory to foster a vibrant and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Director, JKEDI stressed the importance of enhanced coordination with allied departments, including the District Industries Centres (DICs), Handloom and Handicrafts Department, Employment Department, Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), and other stakeholder agencies for wider outreach and effective implementation of entrepreneurship initiatives.

The Director also advised the District Nodal Officers

to design Entrepreneurship Orientation Programmes (EOPs) in close alignment with district-level allied departments to help entrepreneurs effectively address real-time business challenges and sector-specific issues.

Highlighting the significance of internship programmes being conducted by the Institute, he directed that such programmes be closely monitored to ensure that interns receive structured learning experiences and meaningful industry exposure.

He further urged all officers and employees of the Institute to work in close coordination and with renewed commitment towards realizing JKEDI's vision of creating a self-reliant, innovative, and enterprising youth population in Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Srinagar hands over fully equipped Ambulance to BMO Hazratbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar: Continuing efforts to strengthen emergency healthcare services in the District, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday handed over a fully equipped ambulance to the Block Medical Officer (BMO), Hazratbal, aimed at strengthening medical transportation and emergency response facilities in Harwan Panchayat Block and other rural areas of the District.

The handover ceremony was held at the DC Office premises attended by Chief Planning Officer Payaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Tahir Sajad, BMO Hazratbal Dr. Abdul



Majeed, ZMO SR Gunj Dr. Shafaqat, ZMO Zaidal Dr. Rubeena, besides other officers of the District Administration and Health Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commis-

sioner said the addition of the ambulance would significantly strengthen emergency healthcare infrastructure in Hazratbal Medical Block and serve as a critical resource for the patients, especially residents of tribal

and rural areas. He emphasized that the ambulance will improve the accessibility and efficiency of healthcare services by ensuring the timely transportation of patients and trauma cases to healthcare institutions. The DC also stressed the importance of its optimal utilization to provide prompt medical assistance, enhance patient care and further strengthen the district's emergency response capacity.

The ambulance is expected to provide much-needed support to healthcare teams serving remote areas and contribute to improved healthcare delivery across rural parts of Srinagar district.

Nexvora Launches First Dedicated Architecture Design Firm in Pulwama



GMK NEWS NETWORK

Pulwama: In a significant development for south Kashmir's infrastructure landscape, architecture designing company Nexvora officially launched its operations here on Wednesday, promising to bring professional design and civil construction services to the local population.

The company, headed by Aijaz Ahmad, will focus on architectural designing, civil construction, and related infrastructure works. According to the owner, Nexvora is the first such initiative in Pulwama aimed at catering specifically to the needs of the area and its residents.

Speaking at the launch event, Ahmad expressed confidence that the venture would bridge a long-

standing gap in the local market. "Nexvora is committed to delivering quality design and construction solutions right here in Pulwama. Until now, residents had to look elsewhere for professional architectural services. We aim to change that," he said.

The company plans to offer end-to-end services, from conceptual design to execution, for residential, commercial, and public infrastructure projects. The launch has been welcomed by local builders and homeowners alike, who see it as a step toward organised development in the district.

With its headquarters now operational in Pulwama, Nexvora hopes to generate local employment and foster a culture of modern, sustainable architecture in the region.

DDC Kupwara chairs Block Diwas in Nutnussa

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Kupwara: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Wednesday visited Nutnussa Block and chaired the Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Ghar Nutnussa-B.

The Block Diwas witnessed active participation from officers of the district administration, public representatives, and a large number of local residents. The programme provided

delivery and addressing the developmental aspirations of the people.

Various issues related to basic amenities, infrastructure development, public services, and welfare schemes were highlighted by the participants. The concerned officers were directed to take prompt action on the issues raised and ensure their resolution within a stipulated timeframe.

The DDC also reviewed the implementation of ongoing developmental programmes



a platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public, enabling people to raise their grievances, concerns, and developmental issues.

During the event, the DDC listened patiently to the issues projected by the participants and assured them of timely redressal of genuine grievances. He emphasized the administration's commitment to ensuring efficient public service

and government schemes in the block and stressed the need for greater public outreach and effective execution of welfare initiatives for the benefit of the people.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, and other district and block level officers attended the block diwas programme.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR,
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION KRALPORA

E tendering NIT No. 11/RnB/Kralpora of 2026-27 Dated:- 09-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Ut Govt. CPWD, railways and other state/central governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	E/ Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Date and time of opening	Class of Contractor	Major Head
1.	Construction of PWD Inspection Hut at Kralpora	230.31	5500/-	460630	480 days	01-07-2026 (11:00 AM)	Aay/Special Class	NFB Sector 2025-26

Position of AA: Accorded by Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) circle Kupwara's No SE(R&B)50 of 2025-26 dated 18-02-2026
Position of TS: Accorded by Chief Engineer North Kashmir's order No CE/PWD (R&B) NK/DB/TS/33 of 2026-27 dt 01-06-2026
Position of funds: Available
No: Div-KR/LP/845-59
Date: 09-06-2026

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-06-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09-06-2026 (3:00 PM) to 30.06.2026 (4:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	09-06-2026 (3:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	30.06.2026 (4:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	01.07.2026 (11:00 AM) In the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Kupwara.

Upload/Disclose the bank account number which is linked with the GSTIN and Mapped with JKPWDOMS along with proof. No payments shall be released by the department to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder.

- Bids must be accompanied with Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Kupwara (tender receiving Authority) failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly. Treasury Challan must be written boldly and clearly with Name of Work, Name of the Contractor along with Contact No, NIT No and Serial No of Work on NIT (if any). The Issuance date of the Treasury Challan and EMD (CDR/FDR) must be in between the date of Downloading to Bid Submission end Date.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Kupwara. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of the allotted Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the allotted cost and additional performance security as applicable, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kralpora

DIPK-1990-26
DT: 10/06/2026

Govt forms 5-member committee to probe Gulmarg Gondola malfunction

Panel to examine safety systems, SOP compliance, fix responsibility; submit report in 10 days

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday constituted a high-level committee to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the technical malfunction of the Gulmarg Gondola on May 25 that left more than 300 tourists stranded mid-air and triggered a massive rescue operation.

The government accorded the sanction to the constitution of a five-member committee to investigate the circumstances leading to the malfunction of the cable car system.

The committee, which will be headed by Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Managing Director of KPDC, and comprises Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism Jammu, Tariq Hussain, Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority, Javed Ahmad Tantray, In-charge Superintending Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Circle Kashmir, and Mohammad Ismail Chechi, Executive Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Division Baramulla.

The panel has been tasked with establishing the complete sequence of events leading to the malfunction, including the circumstances preceding, during and after the incident. It will examine all



relevant records, reports, communications and operational details to arrive at a clear understanding of what led to the breakdown.

The committee has also been directed to conduct a detailed technical examination of the malfunction, including scrutiny of the mechanical, electrical, electronic, braking, communication, control and safety systems associated with the operation of the cable car.

As part of its inquiry, the panel will review operational logs, fault indications, alarm systems, inspection reports, maintenance records and other technical documents related to the incident. It has also been asked to assess whether standard operating procedures,

maintenance schedules and safety protocols were being followed at the time of the malfunction.

The terms of reference require the committee to investigate whether any operational lapse, negligence, procedural deficiency, communication gap, supervisory failure, human error or administrative shortcoming contributed directly or indirectly to the incident.

The inquiry will further assess compliance with statutory provisions, technical standards, safety regulations, manufacturer guidelines and certification requirements governing the operation of the Gondola system.

The committee has also been tasked with evaluating the adequacy of

the emergency response mounted during and after the incident, including evacuation procedures, passenger safety protocols, communication systems and coordination among the agencies involved in the rescue effort.

Importantly, the panel has been empowered to identify responsibility, wherever warranted, for any omission, negligence, procedural violation or failure on the part of any individual, agency, contractor or authority associated with the operation, maintenance and supervision of the cable car system.

Besides fixing accountability, the committee will recommend immediate corrective measures for the safe restoration of services and suggest long-term technical, operational, administrative and safety reforms aimed at preventing recurrence of similar incidents.

The panel has also been authorised to inspect the site, examine records, interact with officials, technical personnel, operators and contractors, and seek expert assistance wherever necessary during the course of the inquiry.

The committee has been directed to submit its report, along with findings and recommendations, to the Tourism Department within ten days. —(KNO)

Ensure quality, timely execution of projects: Dy CM to officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Bandipora district to inspect and review the progress of several key developmental projects being executed in the district.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by MLA Bandipora, Nizamud-Din Bhat and MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for timely and speedy execution of works while maintaining quality standards to ensure that the projects are completed within stipulated timelines and dedicated to the people at the earliest.

The Deputy Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction work on the 1x20-metre double-lane composite bridge at Nani-nara, Sumbal and reviewed the pace of progress on the ground. He directed the executing agencies to ensure strict adherence to the set quality parameters and expedite work for its timely completion.

During the tour, he also visited the Sumbal Foot Bridge near the Shrine of Ahmad Sahib Naninara. He assured the local residents



that the long-pending project would be taken up on priority in view of its importance for the public convenience and connectivity.

At Garoora Bridge, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the status of ongoing works. He instructed the concerned officials to accelerate construction activities while maintaining the quality standards so that the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Reviewing the progress of the car parking facility at Gulshan Chowk, Main Market Bandipora, he observed that the project would significantly help in easing traffic congestion and improving parking management in the busy market area, benefiting the traders and visitors alike.

The Deputy Chief Minister also inspected the Girls Hostel and Composite Building at Nadim

Memorial Higher Secondary School, Kaloosa. He stressed the importance of creating quality educational infrastructure to provide students with a conducive learning environment.

While inspecting the Sopore-Bandipora Road, he reviewed the condition of the stretch and directed officials to expedite the ongoing works to improve road connectivity, commuter safety and overall travel convenience.

Addressing a public gathering at a Stone Quarry site at Gund Saderkote, Surinder Choudhary assured the people that all their genuine demands and grievances would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate action. He reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding public interests while ensuring balanced and sustainable development.

The Deputy Chief Min-

ister also met a deputation at Kaloosa Bridge, patiently listened to their concerns and developmental demands. He assured them that all their genuine issues would be pursued with the concerned departments for prompt redress.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister issued directions for construction of new Bridge on Bandipora-Sopore road and released funds of Rs 1.2 crore for the project.

"All executing agencies and concerned departments should ensure speedy work execution, maintain quality standards and complete the projects in a time-bound manner so that their benefits reach the people without delay," he said.

Senior Officers from the district administration Bandipora, Engineering Wings and other departments accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister.

Javid Dar reviews social welfare schemes, calls for greater outreach to beneficiaries



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar, Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of various social welfare schemes in his constituency.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez, senior officers of Social Welfare Department and other concerned officials, who presented a detailed overview of the achievements and status of welfare schemes being implemented for the benefit of vulnerable sections of society.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the coverage of beneficiaries under different pension schemes, particularly the Old Age Pension Scheme and sought details regarding eligible beneficiaries yet to be covered under the programme. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all deserving individuals are identified and provided benefits in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Emphasising the need for greater public awareness, the Minister instructed the department to organise awareness programmes and special outreach camps across the constituency to facilitate the registration and inclusion of senior citizens, widows and specially-abled persons under various welfare schemes of the Government.

Javid Ahmad Dar also stressed the importance of providing assistive devices, including tricycles and other mobility aids, to the eligible beneficiaries as per the prescribed guidelines. He directed the officials to expedite the distribution process to ensure timely support to the persons with disabilities.

The Minister appreciated the achievements of the Social Welfare Department and observed that the department plays a crucial role in building an inclusive and equitable society. He noted that through its various welfare initiatives, the department is making significant contributions towards the upliftment and empowerment of vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the population.

J&K Govt appoints 20 officers as revenue digitisation mentors

District mentors tasked with monitoring land record digitisation

SAJIID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has nominated 20 senior officers as district mentors to monitor and supervise the digitisation of revenue records across all districts of the Union Territory.

An order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), states that the move aims to ensure timely completion of the digitisation process and strengthen monitoring of its implementation under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).

The officers, drawn from various departments, have been assigned one district each to oversee progress and facilitate resolution of issues affecting the digitisation exercise.

Among those appointed are Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department Rajinder Singh Tara for Jammu district, Special Secretary, Power Development Department Sukhdev Singh Samyal for Samba, Director, Geology and Mining Pawan Kumar Sharma for Kathua and Labour Commissioner Charandeep Singh for Udhampur.

Commissioner, Survey and Land Records Inderjeet has been assigned Rajouri district, while Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Jammu, Rajesh Kumar Shavan will oversee Poonch.

In Kashmir, Secretary

in the Information Department Munir-ul-Islam has been assigned Srinagar, Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmad Wani Ganderbal, Custodian General Tassaduq Hussain Mir Anantnag and Secretary, J&K BOPEE Shabir Hussain Keen Baramulla.

The government order said the district mentors will monitor progress of digitisation of revenue records in their assigned districts and report on implementation.

They have also been tasked with facilitating timely resolution of issues, ensuring digitisation activities are carried out as per prescribed guidelines and conducting random sample verification of digitised records. The mentors will escalate unresolved issues to the Revenue Department for intervention whenever required.

The order further directs all designated officers to submit monthly reports to the Revenue Department by the seventh day of every succeeding month.

The reports will include details of achievements, shortfalls and key issues requiring intervention under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme.

The order said the initiative is intended to accelerate digitisation of land records, improve transparency in land administration and strengthen monitoring mechanisms across districts—(KNO)

'Non-solar hours bring 250 MW power crunch to J&K, Ladakh'

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Despite an increase in power generation, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are facing peak 250 Megawatts (MWs) deficit during non-solar hours in several blocks.

Furthermore, there has been no bilateral advance procurement scheduled.

According to the official documents available, Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) in a month

ahead RA analysis observations said that the regions were facing 250 MWs power deficit. "250 MW peak deficit is observed during non-solar hours across some blocks, where no bilateral advance procurement is scheduled," it reads.

The committee however said that the gap is proposed to be managed through the short term market during non-solar periods.

In the meantime, NRPC in a Technical Coordination

Committee (TCC) discussion said that J&K representative informed that with the availability of hydro power and low demand in summer months, power position in J&K is expected to be comfortable.

The Committee has also asked the SLDC of J&K to share the details of further tied up and arrangements to meet the peak demand with NRLDC and NRPC.

Pertinently, in the first week of June-2026, KNO

reported that deficiency in reactive power support has left the J&K grid gasping for voltage stability.

The severe voltage triggered by insufficient reactive compensation in J&K is raising serious questions about the region's power reliability. The authorities had said, "Due to inadequate reactive compensation in J&K State Transmission Utility (STU) network, severe low voltages have been observed in J&K grid."

FIR registered against Hami over rape allegations, probe underway

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Police in Srinagar have registered a rape case against Sheikh Ghulam Rasool, alias "Hami," chairman of Karwaan-e-Islami, following allegations made by a woman who accused him of sexual assault and other offenses.

According to police sources, an FIR (No. 78/2026) has been lodged at Parimpore Police Station under Sections 376 and 354 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The case was registered after a woman filed a complaint alleging that the cleric raped her and outraged her modesty.

The complainant alleged that the accused physically assaulted and raped her in 2022 at HMT, Srinagar. She further claimed that he (Hami) subsequently contacted her on multiple occasions and pressured her to visit his residence, where she was allegedly subjected to acts against her will.

In her complaint, the woman stated that fear, social pressure and prevailing circumstances prevented her from approaching authorities immediately. She said she later informed her husband about the alleged incidents but claimed he discouraged her from making the matter public due to concerns about social stigma.

The complainant also alleged that her husband may have had links with the accused and requested authorities to investigate the matter. Additionally, she claimed that her husband took or concealed her Nikah Nama without her consent and sought an inquiry into the allegation.

The woman stated that the alleged incidents caused her physical pain, mental trauma and emotional distress. She requested legal action against the accused in accordance with the law. Police sources said the investigation has been initiated and statements of the complainant and other relevant witnesses are being recorded.

Further legal proceedings will be carried out based on the findings of the investigation.

Sakeena Itoo visits several areas in D.H. Pora, holds public outreach programme in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Wednesday visited Ahmadabad and several other villages in D.H. Pora, where she held an extensive public outreach programme to hear the grievances, issues and demands of the local residents.

A large number of people from Ahmadabad and adjoining areas participated in the event and apprised the Minister of various developmental needs and public welfare concerns.

Sakeena Itoo gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured the people that all their genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, she highlighted various initiatives and people-centric measures undertaken by the present government to ensure equitable development and improve the quality of life across Jammu and Kashmir. She said the government is committed to strengthen the public infrastructure, enhance service delivery and create new opportunities for youth and women. She added that the Government is resolved to work with transparency, accountability and a focus on inclusive growth.

The Minister also directed the concerned officers to take prompt action on the issues raised during the public outreach programme and ensure effective follow-up for their early resolution.

Govt approves ₹15.99 crore Water Supply Scheme for Watergam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved a ₹15.99 crore Water Supply Scheme for Watergam Town in Baramulla district under the Capex Budget 2026-27.

The project is aimed at significantly strengthening the drinking water infrastructure in the town and ensuring improved access to safe, reliable and sustainable potable water for the residents.

The scheme will help augment

the existing water supply network, address the growing demand for drinking water, and enhance the quality of life of the people by providing better water services.

The approval reflects the Government's continued commitment to improving essential public infrastructure and ensuring equitable access to basic services across Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative is expected to benefit a large population in Watergam and contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the area.

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, BUDGAM

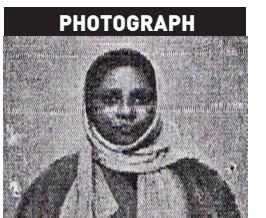
Tel. (0) 01951-255240 (Fax) 256386 | email: dpobudgam@jkpolice.gov.in
No. CRB /L-01/2026/26208-40 | Dated: 10.06.2026

LOOK OUT NOTICE

- As intimated by Dy. Superintendent of Police (Hqrs) Budgam vide letter No. Hqrs/2026/L-03/4811 dated 06.06.2026 that on 31.03.2026 one lady was found roaming in LD colony Hyderpora, who disclosed her name as Shahnaz R/o Kulgam. The said lady was shifted to Sakhi One Stop Centre Srinagar for safe custody wherefrom she was referred to Smile Shelter Home Hawal Srinagar. The said lady is presently admitted in Psychiatric Hospital Rainawari Srinagar on the directions of Hon'ble Court of law. All possible efforts were taken to reach/trace out the family members of the said lady.

- Description roll of the said lady is mentioned in table-02 below.

Description	
Age	45 years (Approx.)
Height	5".3" (Approx)
Face	Round
Complexion	Darkish
Wearing	Grey Fehran & White Dupatta



- It is therefore requested that sharp look out may please be maintained and if any clue leading to the said lady is received, immediate information may kindly be shared on the below mentioned email address/ Fax & Telephone numbers for further course of action.

Email: dpobudgam@jkpolice.gov.in.
Fax: 01951256386.
PCR Budgam: 8082567612.
P/S Budgam-6006751942.

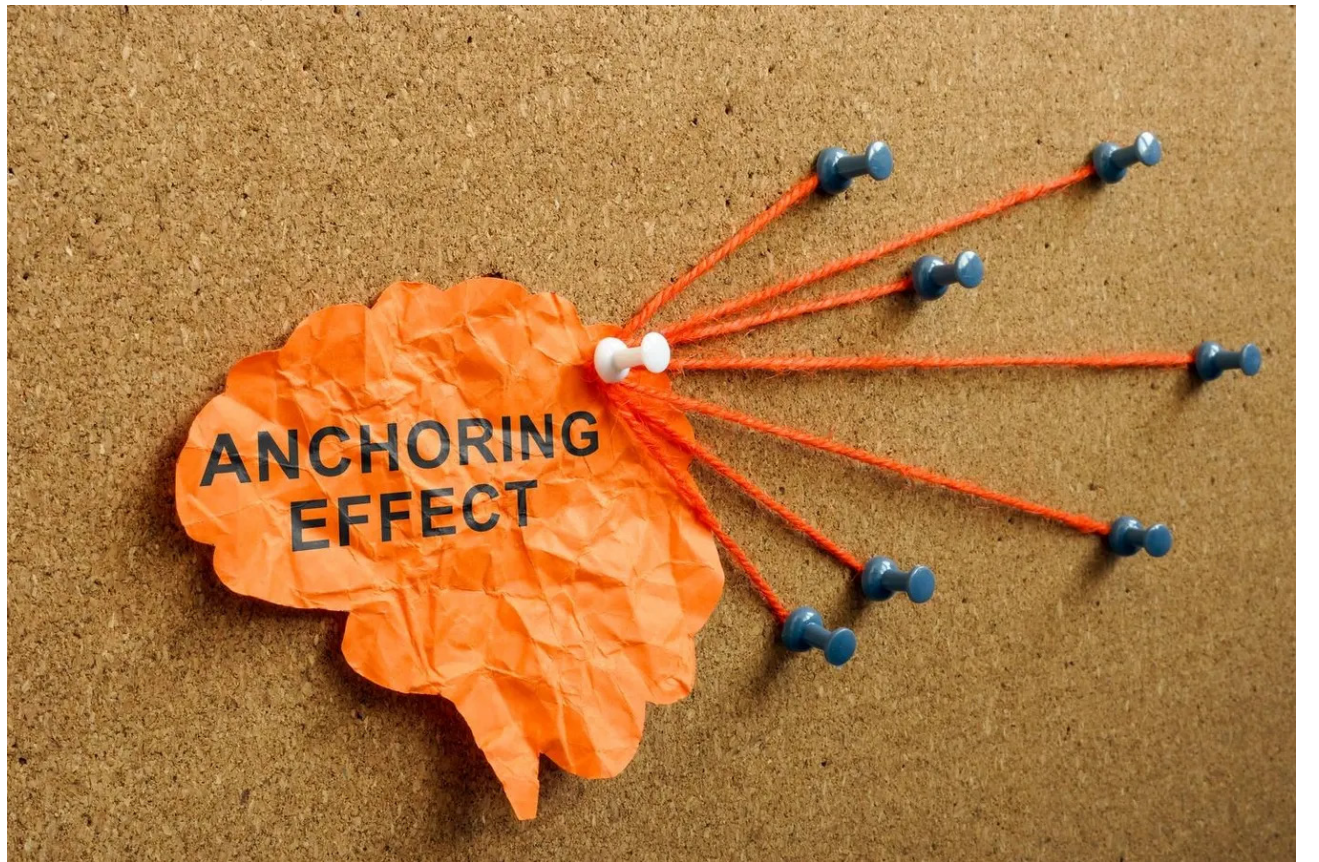
DIPK-1985-26
DT: 10/06/2026

(Hariprasad K K, IPS)
Sr. Superintendent of Police
District Budgam

Talk Less, Connect More



DR. ANJUM NAZIR QURESHI



Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Why Development Must Not Feel Like Dispossession

When the bulldozers rolled into Nagbal, Ganderbal, to clear a path for the new Ring Road, they didn't just break ground, they broke a sense of security. The scene reignited a painful, recurring question that cities and towns across the country face: How do we build for the future without tearing down the trust of the people living in the present?

Let's be clear: nobody is arguing against the Ring Road itself. We all know the reality of the suffocating traffic congestion around Srinagar. We welcome the promise of smoother commutes, better connectivity, and the economic boost this infrastructure is bound to bring to Kashmir. These roads are the literal arteries of our future growth.

But we have to ask ourselves: At what cost? While a shiny new highway benefits the collective "us," the heavy, heartbreaking burden of that progress is carried by a very specific, vulnerable "few." It is borne by families whose generational land, cozy living rooms, and small shops happen to sit on the wrong side of a blueprint. Their anxiety cannot simply be brushed aside as the necessary friction of progress.

The anger and protests from the residents of Nagbal aren't born out of a stubborn refusal to see the valley grow. Their pain stems from a deep sense of unfairness. Outdated Valuations: Many residents point out that the compensation rates being offered were fixed years ago. They simply do not match today's soaring market realities.

The Emotional Toll: When a family loses a piece of their home or the shop that feeds them, it isn't just a line item on a government balance sheet. It is deeply personal. It is their history and their livelihood.

The administration, conversely, maintains that everything is being done by the book, asserting that demolitions are only happening where compensation has already been legally settled. Even if that is technically true, legality is not the same as empathy.

Infrastructure is not just about concrete, steel, and machinery. It is about the people who have to live around it.

When a bulldozer arrives at someone's front door, the grand promise of a macro-economic boost feels incredibly small and cold. If the government wants these massive projects to truly succeed, authorities must go the extra mile to ensure transparency, pull up a chair, and look people in the eye.

True progress requires: Active Listening: Moving past bureaucratic forms and holding genuine, empathetic dialogues with affected families.

Fair-Market Compensation: Ensuring that those who give up their property can actually afford to rebuild their lives in today's economy.

Progress is vital, but justice is non-negotiable. The true success of the Ring Road project won't be measured solely by how quickly the asphalt is laid or how fast traffic moves. It will be measured by whether the people who sacrificed their land to make it happen were treated with dignity and fairness.

Development should connect our communities, it should never leave our people feeling stranded in the name of progress.

Anchoring is an important part of any event. Whether it is a wedding, a college function, a business conference, a product launch, or an award ceremony, the anchor plays a key role in making the event successful. An anchor is not just someone who announces the next item on the schedule. They are the link between different parts of the program and help keep the audience engaged and informed throughout the event.

Many people think anchoring is easy. They believe all an anchor has to do is stand on stage and make announcements. In reality, anchoring requires much more than that. It demands confidence, good communication skills, presence of mind, and the ability to connect with people. A good anchor knows how to maintain the flow of the event and create a positive atmosphere for everyone present.

One of the most important rules of anchoring is preparation. Before stepping onto the stage, an anchor should understand the purpose of the event and learn about the audience. It is helpful to gather information about the speakers, guests, performers, and the event schedule. Proper preparation helps the anchor feel confident and avoid unnecessary mistakes.

Communication is another important aspect of anchoring. An anchor should speak clearly and confidently. Voice modulation, proper pronunciation, and the right pace of speaking help in keeping the audience interested. However, confidence should not be confused with speaking too much. Many new anchors make the mistake of giving long explanations and unnecessary comments between program segments. The best anchors know how to be brief, relevant, and meaningful. They understand that the event is not about them but about the purpose of the gathering.

Anchors also need to be calm and composed. Sometimes unexpected situations arise, such as technical issues, delays, or last-minute changes in the schedule. In such moments, the audience looks to the anchor for guidance. A good anchor handles

these situations gracefully without creating panic or confusion.

The role becomes even more interesting when there are two anchors on stage. Co-anchoring is a wonderful example of teamwork. Unfortunately, many people treat co-anchoring as a competition rather than a collaboration. They try to speak more than their partner in the hope of attracting greater attention from the audience. However, this approach often creates an imbalance on stage.

A successful co-anchor understands that the stage is meant to be shared. Respect for the co-anchor is one of the most important qualities of a professional presenter. Interrupting a co-anchor, speaking over them, or trying to dominate the conversation reflects poorly on one's professionalism. Active listening is just as important as speaking. When anchors listen carefully and respond naturally, the presentation becomes smooth and enjoyable.

Some people feel that speaking more gives them control over the stage. They may believe that they are impressing the audience. In reality, audiences quickly notice when one anchor is trying to overshadow the other. While people may praise such behaviour openly, they often

One of the most important rules of anchoring is preparation. Before stepping onto the stage, an anchor should understand the purpose of the event and learn about the audience. It is helpful to gather information about the speakers, guests, performers, and the event schedule.

recognize the lack of respect and teamwork behind it. True appreciation comes when both anchors com-

plement each other and contribute equally to the success of the event.

Good co-anchors maintain eye contact, support each other, and ensure balanced participation. They understand that teamwork is more valuable than individual showmanship. Their goal is not to outshine one another but to make the event memorable for the audience.

In the end, successful anchoring is not about who speaks the most. It is about who communicates effectively, manages the event smoothly, and treats others with respect. A good anchor gains attention, but a great anchor earns admiration through humility, cooperation, and professionalism. Audiences may forget the exact words spoken on stage, but they always remember the respect, grace, and teamwork displayed by those holding the microphone. The secret of excellent anchoring lies in balancing confidence with humility and communication with collaboration. After all, true success on stage comes not from dominating the spotlight, but from sharing it.

Author is Assistant Professor, RCERT, Chandrapur. (Author, TEDx Speaker, POSH Trainer, and Parenting Coach)

Delayed Parenthood: A Blessing Or A Burden?

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Science has provided human life with numerous conveniences and possibilities.

Advances in medical science have opened the way to parenthood for couples who, for whatever reason, were unable to conceive naturally. Technologies like IVF (in vitro fertilization) have blessed thousands of families with the joy of having children. This is undoubtedly a major achievement of modern medicine. But every achievement comes with certain questions and responsibilities. Today, when some couples, at the age of 50-52 or even older, sometimes by taking on debt, decide to become parents through IVF, it becomes necessary to seriously consider this issue.

The desire for children is one of the most natural and deepest human emotions. Every person wants a family, a home filled with the laughter of children, and a new direction in life. This desire drives many couples to undergo years of treatment and endure financial and mental struggles. Their feelings should be respected. But parenthood isn't limited to the birth of a child. The real responsibility begins after that. Giving birth to a child is relatively easy, but raising them to be responsible, educated, and self-reliant citizens is a long and challenging process.

When a couple becomes parents in their 50s, it's natural that by the time a child reaches 12th grade, the parents will be between 68 and 70 years old. This is the stage of life when most people expect a comfortable life after retirement. Many changes occur in the body with aging. High blood pressure, dia-



betes, thyroid, heart disease, arthritis, and other health problems become common. In such circumstances, it's difficult to maintain the same level of activeness as before to support a child's academic, career, and emotional needs.

Adolescence and young adulthood are the most crucial times in a child's life. During this period, they need the most guidance, confidence, and emotional support. Preparing for competitive exams, choosing higher education, career planning, and many other life-related decisions are made during this age. If parents themselves are struggling with health issues at this time, it can put additional pressure on both the child and the family. Often, children must juggle their studies and future plans, as well as the responsibility of caring for their parents.

There's also a social aspect to this topic. Children are surrounded by friends and classmates at school and at

social events. Sometimes, having older parents can lead to unwanted comments or jokes. While this reflects social immaturity, it can still have an impact on a child's psyche. Children often want to feel comfortable and accepted among their peers. Such situations can sometimes impact their self-confidence.

Delaying parenthood also presents numerous financial challenges. IVF treatments can cost lakhs of rupees. Many families exhaust their savings or take out loans to fund them. This is followed by ongoing expenses for the child's upbringing, education, health, and other needs. Today, obtaining a quality education is more expensive than ever before. If parents are already under financial pressure and nearing retirement, it may be difficult to secure adequate resources for their child's higher education and career development.

This topic becomes even

more important in the context of women. Nature has set a biological time limit for reproduction. Menopause signals that the body has reached the end of its reproductive lifespan. Modern medical technologies can extend this limit somewhat, but they cannot eliminate all the challenges associated with aging. Older women carry increased health risks during pregnancy and childbirth, which cannot be ignored.

However, it's important to maintain balance when discussing this topic. It's unfair to assume that everyone who becomes a parent at an older age will become a problem for their children. Many people are perfectly healthy, active, and financially capable even at age 60. At the same time, many young parents are unable to devote adequate time and resources to their children. Therefore, a decision shouldn't be evaluated solely on the basis of age. However, considering

average circumstances, age is certainly an important factor that cannot be ignored.

In this context, adoption is also a worthwhile option. There are thousands of children in our country who, for whatever reason, are deprived of parental love and protection. If capable families adopt them, not only can their futures be secured, but families can also experience the joy of having children. Unfortunately, even today, society places greater importance on biological children, which is why many people don't seriously consider a positive option like adoption.

In reality, becoming a parent isn't just about fulfilling one's own desires. It means actively participating in a child's life for the next twenty to twenty-five years, supporting their dreams and standing by them through every circumstance. Therefore, when deciding to have children, one should consider not only present happiness but also future responsibilities. Emotions are important, but foresight is equally essential.

Ultimately, the question isn't about IVF or medical science. The question is whether we're adequately considering the long-term consequences of our decisions. Having children is one of life's greatest joys, but it's also a huge responsibility. Therefore, before deciding to delay parenthood, it's essential to consider health, financial status, social circumstances, and, above all, the child's future. The best interests of a child should be the basis for every decision. This is the hallmark of mature parenthood.

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

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The Wisdom Behind The Storm

Finding Allah's Mercy In Life's Delays, Losses, And Unanswered Prayers



DR. RIZWAN RUMI

"Perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you, and perhaps you love a thing and it is bad for you. Allah knows while you know not."
— Qur'an 2:216

Life does not always unfold according to our plans. There are moments when dreams crumble without warning, relationships end unexpectedly, opportunities disappear just when we need them most, and prayers seem to remain unanswered despite our sincere supplications. In such moments, the human heart naturally searches for answers. We ask why certain doors close, why certain people leave, and why some struggles linger longer than we think we can bear.

Yet faith teaches us that not every answer is revealed immediately. Sometimes Allah, in His infinite wisdom, allows us to walk through a storm before



a wall was repaired in a town whose people had shown no hospitality or kindness. To Musa (AS), these actions seemed wrong, even unjust.

Yet by the end of the journey, Allah revealed the hidden wisdom behind each event:

- **The Damaged Boat:** A tyrannical king was seizing every functional boat by force; the defect saved the fishermen's livelihood.

- **The Loss of the Child:** The boy was destined to bring immense grief and spiritual ruin to his righteous parents; Allah replaced him with a child who would bring them purity and affection.

you are the Most Merciful of the merciful" (Qur'an 21:83). His story reminds us that hardship is not a sign of Allah's abandonment or anger. Rather, it can be a means of spiritual elevation, purification, and an unparalleled closeness to the Creator.

Redefining Success Through Adversity

These stories challenge a common misconception prevalent in modern society—the secular, materialist belief that success means living a linear life completely devoid of difficulty, pain, or discomfort. In reality, Islamic history and the broader human experience

and enhanced personal strength.

Long before these concepts entered modern academic literature, Islam taught believers that trials can strengthen faith, refine character, and deepen trust in Allah. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) beautifully summarized this psychological and spiritual state when he said:

"Wondrous is the affair of the believer, for there is good for him in every matter... If prosperity attends him, he expresses gratitude and that is good for him; and if adversity befalls him, he endures it patiently and that is good for him."
— Sahih Muslim

Indeed, many of life's greatest lessons emerge from hardship. Patience is learned through waiting. Gratitude is appreciated after loss. Courage develops in the presence of fear. Trust in Allah becomes strongest when worldly supports seem weakest.

Moreover, difficulties often reveal the true nature of human relationships. Times of ease attract many companions, but hardship acts as a natural sifter, distinguishing sincere friends from temporary acquaintances. The people who stand beside us during our darkest moments often become among Allah's greatest blessings.

The Concept of Tawakkul and Holy Redirection

As we move through life, we gradually realize that some of the things we once desperately wanted would not have benefited us. Certain relationships, opportunities, and ambitions that occupied our thoughts may have carried hidden harms known only to Allah. What felt like rejection was often divine redirection. What seemed like loss was frequently protection.

Consider the mother of Musa (AS), Sayyidatuna Yukhabid. From a human perspective, placing her newborn infant into a fragile wooden chest and casting him into the fast-flowing Nile River seemed like an act of absolute danger and despair. She could never have imagined that this very river would safely carry her son into the palace of the Pharaoh—the very tyrant who was hunting him down—forcing the enemy to fund, feed, and protect the Prophet who would eventually

camel with excellence, doing your absolute best with the means provided, and leaving the psychological burden of the outcome entirely to the Creator.

When we reflect upon our lives honestly, many of us can identify blessings that first arrived disguised as disappointments. The career opportunity that never materialized led to a completely different, far more fulfilling path. The friendship that ended abruptly taught us invaluable lessons about self-worth and boundaries. The delay that frustrated us prepared us emotionally and mentally for a responsibility we were not yet ready to handle. Life often makes sense only when viewed in retrospect.

Embracing the Unfinished Story

There will always be chapters we do not understand. There will be storms whose purpose remains hidden for months, years, or perhaps even until the Hereafter, when all veils are lifted. Yet the believer finds comfort in know-

What appeared harmful was actually protective. What seemed unjust was part of a greater divine plan. The story offers a lesson that remains relevant today. Human beings often judge events based on what they can immediately see. Allah's wisdom, however, encompasses realities hidden from our sight.



showing us the purpose behind it.

I remember sharing my struggles with a friend during a particularly difficult phase of life. Listening patiently, he offered a simple response: "What happens, happens for a reason. Allah does everything with wisdom." At the time, those words felt difficult to accept. Pain often clouds perspective, and when the heart is wounded, wisdom can seem distant. But as days turned into months and months into years, I began to see truths that had once remained hidden.

The disappointments I considered punishments were often forms of protection. The delays I perceived as neglect were moments of preparation. The losses I mourned eventually became lessons that guided me toward growth, maturity, and a deeper connection with Allah.

The Dual Lenses of Knowledge

This realization lies at the heart of one of the most profound teachings of Islam: Allah's wisdom extends far beyond human understanding. We see a single page; He sees the entire book. We witness a chapter; He knows the complete story.

In Islamic theology, this is understood through the distinction between absolute divine knowledge (Al-Alim) and limited human perception. Islamic scholars have long noted that human sight operates on Al-Zahir (the apparent, outward reality), whereas divine decree operates through Al-Batin (the hidden, inward truth). We lack the vantage point to see how the threads of our current sorrow weave into the tapestry of our ultimate good.

One of the most powerful illustrations of this truth is found in the story of Prophet Musa (AS) and Khidr in Surah Al-Kahf. During their journey together, Musa (AS) witnessed actions that appeared unfair and incomprehensible. A boat belonging to poor fishermen was damaged, an apparently innocent young boy was killed, and

- **The Repaired Wall:** It concealed a treasure belonging to two orphan boys; repairing it preserved their inheritance until they reached maturity.

What appeared harmful was actually protective. What seemed unjust was part of a greater divine plan. The story offers a lesson that remains relevant today. Human beings often judge events based on what they can immediately see. Allah's wisdom, however, encompasses realities hidden from our sight.

The Architecture of Prophetic Trials

The life of Prophet Yusuf (AS) offers another remarkable example of this divine choreography. Betrayed by his own brothers, thrown into a dark well, sold into slavery for a miserable price, falsely accused of a crime he did not commit, and forgotten in a dungeon for years despite his innocence, Yusuf (AS) endured one hardship after another.

Yet every trial became a stepping stone toward a greater purpose. Had he not been thrown into the well, the passing caravan would never have picked him up. Had he not been brought to Egypt and subsequently imprisoned, he would never have encountered the King's cupbearer, nor would he have been in a position to interpret the King's dream. What appeared to be a tragic series of betrayals and structural injustices ultimately became the exact pathway that elevated him to become the Grand Minister of Egypt, enabling him to save entire nations from a devastating seven-year famine.

Likewise, Prophet Ayyub (AS) endured immense suffering that tested the absolute limits of human endurance. He lost his vast wealth, his lands, his children, and his physical health, leaving him afflicted with a severe skin disease for nearly two decades. Throughout this prolonged isolation, he remained patient and steadfast in his faith, famously supplicating, "Indeed, adversity has touched me, and

demonstrate that every meaningful achievement is preceded by struggle. Every great character is shaped by adversity.

History offers countless secular and spiritual examples of this universal law:

Their stories demonstrate a universal truth: setbacks are not dead ends; they are often the necessary structural

Figure	The Adversity Endured	The Ultimate Outcome
Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)	Experienced the Year of Sorrow (Aam al-Huzn), losing his beloved wife Khadijah and protector Abu Talib, alongside intense persecution in Ta'if.	Built the foundational model of spiritual, ethical, and societal governance that transformed global history.
Nelson Mandela	Spent 27 years in rigorous imprisonment, isolated on Robben Island under a brutal apartheid regime.	Emerged as a global symbol of reconciliation and successfully transitioned South Africa into a multi-racial democracy.
Thomas Edison	Faced thousands of unsuccessful attempts—frequently cited as nearly 10,000 failures—while developing a filament.	Revolutionized global industry by creating a practical, long-lasting electric incandescent light bulb.
Abraham Lincoln	Suffered the sudden death of his mother, the loss of his fiancée, multiple business bankruptcies, and at least ten distinct political defeats.	Preserved the Union during the American Civil War and permanently abolished slavery through the 13th Amendment.

preparations for future success.

The Psychology of Adversity: Post-Traumatic Growth

Modern scientific research heavily validates these ancient spiritual truths. Psychologists today speak extensively of resilience and Post-Traumatic Growth (PTG)—a concept developed by psychologists Richard Tedeschi and Lawrence Calhoun in the mid-1990s. Their empirical data shows that up to 70% of trauma survivors report positive psychological growth after experiencing profound adversity, manifesting in a deeper appreciation for life, altered priorities,

overthrow him. Allah transformed what appeared to be certain doom into perfect protection.

Similarly, many of the events, job rejections, or broken engagements we fear today may eventually reveal themselves as part of Allah's profound mercy.

Faith does not require us to understand everything immediately. Rather, it asks us to trust the One who understands everything completely. This trust—tawakkul—is not a passive, fatalistic resignation, but an active, psychological confidence in Allah's wisdom, mercy, and perfect timing. True tawakkul means tying your

ing that Allah never acts without wisdom, never decrees without purpose, and never abandons those who place their trust in Him.

As the classical scholar Ibn al-Qayyim beautifully remarked:

"Had Allah lifted the veil for His slave and shown him how He handles his affairs... the slave's heart would have melted out of love for Allah and gratitude to Him."

One day, we may look back upon the trials that once brought bitter tears to our eyes and realize that they were among Allah's greatest mercies. The closed doors protected us from realities that would have broken us. The delays prepared our characters. The storms strengthened our spiritual resolve. The unanswered prayers guided us toward something infinitely better.

Until then, we continue to move forward with faith, whispering through every difficulty:

"Ya Allah, I may not understand Your plan today, but I trust Your wisdom tomorrow."

For Allah's timing is never late, His wisdom is never flawed, and His mercy reaches places that our human understanding cannot even conceive. The storm may not make sense today. But one day, by Allah's grace, we may discover that what we thought was a storm was actually mercy in disguise.

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CM Meets Ashwini

the period. The Chief Minister noted that improved rail services during the airport closure would benefit visitors arriving during the festive season, including Durga Puja holidays, besides facilitating the travel needs of residents and pilgrims.

It is pertinent to mention that on April 30 this year, Union Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, along with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and other dignitaries, flagged off the Vande Bharat Express service between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar, establishing for the first time a direct rail link between Jammu and the Kashmir Valley.

LG Sinha Chairs

is expected to be higher as compared to that in recent Yatras. The Lieutenant Governor stressed upon the need for whole of government approach and close coordinated efforts by various departments and organizations to manage and facilitate the Yatra 2026.

The Lieutenant Governor, while reviewing the infrastructure works, was apprised that the tracks along both Baltal and Pahalgam routes have been widened to around 12-feet in order to make the journey comfortable, and that all the remaining works are progressing as per timelines. He directed the concerned agencies, including BRO, to ensure that both tracks are fully functional by June 25 and that crash barriers and hand railings are installed at all vulnerable points on the roads leading to the two base camps.

The Lieutenant Governor also reviewed arrangements relating to road connectivity, sanitation, water and power supply, registration management, health facilities, disaster management, transportation, lodge centres, holding spaces and telecom connectivity. He directed the concerned authorities to enhance holding capacity at key locations, increase the number of toilets and ambulances, and ensure comprehensive disaster preparedness. Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag were asked to conduct thorough inspection of the tracks, identify slippery stretches and shooting stone areas, and ensure installation of adequate warning signage at vulnerable spots.

He further directed that pitching of only high quality and aesthetic tents at various camps should be ensured, and no unauthorized tents be permitted. All service providers and pilgrims shall be required to have valid registration and RFID cards for moving on the Yatra tracks. Pony stands are to be properly fenced, and a comprehensive emergency evacuation plan is to be prepared well in advance. The Lieutenant Governor also directed telecom service providers to ensure seamless connectivity along the Yatra route.

All concerned departments have been instructed to set up their respective Yatra camps and centres by June 20.

Earlier, the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Dr Mandep K. Bhandari, presented a detailed overview of the works executed by various departments and agencies for the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

LG Calls For Stronger

knowledge into public health action and putting dedicated focus on immunological research to further strengthen the ability to combat infectious diseases, improve vaccine effectiveness and enhance healthcare delivery.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the continuous immunological innovation remains a moral obligation to prepare for future global health threats.

"I consider 'Precision Medicine' to be a major revolution in the healthcare sector today. Scientists, experts and researchers from various disciplines and institutions participating in this conference must collaborate and deliberate on this aspect and focus on inventing solutions capable of transforming medical science," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the scientists and stakeholders to foster deeper collaborations and work on three key areas: "First, there is a need to develop 'Immuno-AI Fusion' systems using Artificial Intelligence tools to help create immune profiles across different age groups in states.

Second, scientists, given the changing environment, must work on 'climate immunity' and prepare for the challenges and potential threats including pandemics.

Third, stakeholders in "Translational Medicine" must reduce the time gap between laboratory discoveries and practical patient care, ensuring that the public healthcare system gains access to new diagnostic tools, medical devices, and therapies".

The Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to the global immunology community for their lifelong dedication to safeguarding human life.

He also stated that organising the annual conference of the Indian Immunology Society in Jammu Kashmir aligns with the region's ancient legacy as a historic hub of knowledge and scientific discovery.

Prof. G P Talwar, Founder Director, National Institute of Immunology; Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS; Prof. Amit Awasthi, President, Indian Immunology Society; Prof. Anil Kaul, Vice Chancellor Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth; Dr. Bashir A Fomda, Dean Medical Faculty SKIMS; Prof. Dil Afroz, Head, Advanced Centre for Human Genetics SKIMS; scientists, researchers, policymakers, industry partners, and senior officials were present.

DG CRPF Visits Srinagar,

During the meeting, he stressed strengthening inter-agency coordination to guarantee a safe and incident-free pilgrimage.

Demonstrating a hands-on approach to ground-level readiness and troop welfare, the Director General made a comprehensive field visit to the 118 Battalion headquarters at Gund, where he also stayed overnight. He inspected the infrastructure and ongoing developmental works at the battalion HQ and received a detailed briefing from senior officers on the prevailing security scenario and strategic operational activities within their area of responsibility.

During his visit, Shri G.P. Singh interacted with

officers and jawans. He was accompanied by Shri Vitul Kumar, SDG Ops Dte CRPF; Shri Rajesh Kumar, ADG J&K Zone CRPF; Shri Vineet Brij Lal, IG Kashmir Ops Sector CRPF; Smt. Sonal V Mishra, IG Prov Dte CRPF; Shri Pawan Kumar Sharma, IG Srinagar Sector CRPF; and other senior CRPF officers.

Sports Quota Recruitment

adopted a comprehensive approach towards sports development, focusing not only on infrastructure creation and competitive excellence but also on ensuring social and economic security for athletes who dedicate years of hard work and perseverance to bring laurels to Jammu and Kashmir.

"The selection of 223 sportspersons for government employment is not merely a recruitment process; it is a recognition of the discipline, commitment, sacrifices and achievements of our young athletes. It sends a strong message that excellence in sports will be respected, rewarded and supported by the government," the Minister said.

He observed that sports have emerged as a powerful vehicle for youth engagement, character-building, leadership development and social transformation. He added that by creating assured career pathways for athletes, the government is encouraging young people to pursue sports with greater confidence and commitment.

The Minister highlighted various initiatives being undertaken to strengthen the sports landscape across the Union Territory, including the upgradation of sports infrastructure, development of modern training facilities, organization of competitive events at district and state level, promotion of grassroots talent identification programmes and enhanced support for athletes participating in national and international competitions.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir has consistently produced talented sportspersons who have excelled in diverse disciplines and brought recognition to the region at national and international forums. The government, he added, is determined to create an enabling environment where such talent can flourish through sustained institutional support, professional coaching, scientific training methods and improved access to opportunities.

Satish Sharma said that the sports quota recruitment fulfils a long-standing aspiration of many athletes who have dedicated themselves to excellence despite numerous challenges. He said the initiative will not only provide financial stability and career security to the selected candidates but will also inspire thousands of aspiring sportspersons across Jammu and Kashmir to take up sports as a serious and rewarding pursuit.

The Minister called upon the educational institutions, sports associations, coaches and parents to work collectively towards nurturing sporting talent and creating a culture of excellence. He emphasized that the future of Jammu and Kashmir's sporting success lies in strengthening grassroots participation and ensuring that every talented youth receives adequate opportunities to showcase their potential.

Reiterating the government's vision of making Jammu and Kashmir a hub of sporting excellence, Satish Sharma said that sports are no longer confined to recreation but have evolved into a dynamic sector offering opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, international exposure and social mobility.

"The success of these 223 sportspersons belongs not only to them and their families but to the entire sporting community of Jammu and Kashmir. Their achievements will inspire a new generation of athletes to dream bigger, work harder and contribute to the progress and prestige of the Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The Minister extended his warm congratulations to all the selected candidates and wished them success in their future careers. He expressed confidence that they would continue to uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and serve as role models for the youth while contributing meaningfully to public service and the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

From Article 370

Bangladesh reflected the government's focus on internal and external security.

The Cabinet further credited PM Modi's administration with placing welfare of the poor at the centre of governance through the expansion of housing, electricity, drinking water and direct benefit transfer schemes.

It said more than 80 crore people benefited from free ration support while over 60 crore individuals received free medical treatment under government programmes. The resolution also claimed that more than 25 crore people had moved out of poverty during the period.

Highlighting economic and developmental achievements, the Cabinet said India had emerged as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem and strengthened its position in science and technology through missions such as Chandrayaan.

It also pointed to initiatives aimed at women's empowerment, including the Lakhpati Didi programme and legislation providing 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies.

The resolution credited programmes such as PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi and the extension of Kisan Credit Cards to pastoralists and fishermen for supporting the agricultural sector and helping agricultural exports cross Rs 5 lakh crore.

The Cabinet said initiatives such as Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat had strengthened domestic manufacturing capacities in sectors ranging from defence production to artificial intelligence.

It also highlighted India's global engagements, including its G20 Presidency, International Yoga Day, the International Solar Alliance and Mission LiFE.

Expressing "heartfelt congratulations and best wishes" to Modi, the Cabinet reaffirmed its support for his vision of a "Viksit Bharat" and expressed confidence that India would continue progressing towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 under his leadership—(KNO)

CS Frames Rehab,

He emphasized that the framework should be adopted forthwith on a pilot basis through IMHANS Srinagar

and one additional district to identify operational challenges and fine-tune the model before its large-scale implementation across the Union Territory.

Elaborating on the proposed mechanism, the Chief Secretary observed that each Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) should function through a collaborative support system comprising trained Counsellors and Psychiatrists from the Health Department an ASHA Worker, and a Social Worker designated by the Social Welfare Department.

He stated that the ASHA Worker would play a vital role in ensuring adherence to treatment protocols by assisting beneficiaries in taking prescribed medicines regularly and facilitating timely follow-up consultations making home visits.

The Chief Secretary further stressed that the Social Worker would serve as the critical link between treatment and rehabilitation by motivating recovering individuals towards stabilization, rehabilitation and their eventual reintegration into the socio-economic mainstream.

He noted that beneficiaries could be linked with self-employment initiatives, livelihood-generation programmes and various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, besides being encouraged to resume their education for those who had left these midway, thereby ensuring long-term recovery and self-reliance under continuous monitoring and support.

Highlighting the need for community participation, the Chief Secretary also advocated the creation of an additional support network comprising trained counsellors drawn from Self Help Groups (SHGs), educational institutions and health centres to strengthen outreach, counselling and follow-up mechanisms and transform the initiative into a sustainable and successful model of rehabilitation.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, assured full support from the Finance Department for successful implementation of the initiative.

He advised the Social Welfare Department to further refine the framework to make it more realistic, outcome-oriented and beneficial for the affected individuals, ensuring tangible socio-economic gains for those undergoing rehabilitation.

The scheme as elaborated by the Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti is designed around six key objectives, including institutionalizing a structured rehabilitation cycle, ensuring seamless transition from detoxification to socio-economic stabilization, reducing relapse rates through continuous care and monitoring, establishing mentor-led handholding for beneficiaries, promoting interdepartmental convergence and preventing premature exit before certified stabilization.

Elaborating it further the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez revealed that under the framework, rehabilitation shall be undertaken through three distinct phases spanning over a period of time.

He divulged that the first phase, Treatment and Stabilization focuses on centralized intake, assessment, detoxification, clinical evaluation and risk categorization of beneficiaries. Cases referred from government-recognized de-addiction centres will undergo comprehensive assessment by authorized psychiatric professionals.

Additionally based on risk levels, beneficiaries will receive appropriate supervision and support. The Department shall prepare preliminary Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs) covering educational, social and economic rehabilitation needs. The District Task Force will review these plans and assign dedicated mentors to each beneficiary.

The second phase, as elucidated includes Reintegration and Livelihood Activation, which focuses on socio-economic activation and implementation of approved Individual Reintegration Plans. Beneficiaries will be connected with education, skill development programmes, apprenticeships, employment opportunities and livelihood interventions.

The third phase, Sustained Monitoring and Social Inclusion, will concentrate on long-term retention, community acceptance and sustained socio-economic stability. Beneficiaries will continue receiving support to maintain educational pursuits, employment, entrepreneurship initiatives, family relationships and mental well-being.

A key feature of the proposed framework is the institution of mentor-led handholding, whereby each beneficiary will be assigned a dedicated mentor responsible for continuous guidance, coordination with departments, monitoring of progress and facilitating access to opportunities and support systems.

Moreover these designated mentors will conduct periodic physical, telephonic and digital follow-ups to verify progress and provide continued guidance.

The framework also emphasizes strong interdepartmental convergence, bringing together multiple departments and stakeholders to ensure seamless delivery of services and benefits required for the rehabilitation process.

During the meeting, Head, IMHANS Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Arshid Hussain, presented the proposed treatment and rehabilitation framework, highlighting evidence-based protocols and best practices required for ensuring the success of the initiative. He elaborated on the institution's three-tier "Circle of Care" model, detailing the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders involved in the rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration process as per the IRP model.

Prof. Hussain also outlined a comprehensive capacity-building roadmap for the personnel associated with the programme and informed the meeting about the series of training programmes proposed to be conducted by IMHANS Srinagar.

These trainings, he noted, would equip the concerned functionaries with the requisite skills and knowledge for effective implementation of the framework and facilitate the timely operationalization of all components of the strategy.

By integrating treatment, livelihood generation, social inclusion and continuous monitoring into a single structured framework, the Government aims to significantly reduce relapse rates, enhance recovery outcomes and empower recovering individuals to lead productive, dignified and self-reliant lives.

Demolition Drive For

being conducted strictly as per records and legal procedures," he said.

The Ring Road project is considered a key infrastructure initiative aimed at easing traffic congestion around Srinagar and improving regional connectivity. Yet in Nagbal, the project has become the centre of a bitter dispute, with residents demanding revised compensation rates and alleging that the administration is prioritizing infrastructure over the rights and concerns of affected families.

As bulldozers moved through the area, many residents watched helplessly, saying the road to development should not leave those living in its path feeling unheard and uncompensated.

Rain, Thunderstorm

The weather office has advised residents, farmers and travellers to remain cautious, particularly in areas prone to landslides and flash floods.

According to the forecast, weather conditions are expected to remain partly to generally cloudy from June 13 to 17, with scattered spells of light rain, brief showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds at several places.

The advisory warned that brief but intense showers at isolated locations in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions may lead to flash floods, mudslides and localized waterlogging between June 11 and June 14.

The forecast comes amid continued above-normal temperatures across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to data released by the Meteorological Department, Jammu recorded the highest maximum temperature in the Union Territory at 42.7 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, nearly four degrees above normal. Srinagar registered 32.3 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund recorded 32.8 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara recorded 29.2 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 30.5 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 23.4 degrees Celsius.

Despite the prevailing heat, water levels in major rivers and tributaries remained well below danger marks, according to data released by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

The River Jhelum was flowing at 1.35 feet at Sangam, 2.96 feet at Munshibagh and 3.45 feet at Asham on Wednesday morning. Wular Lake stood at 1,575.43 metres.

Among major tributaries, Vishw Nallah at Khudwani was recorded at 2.35 metres, Lidder Nallah at Batkoot at 0.20 metres, Doodhganga at Barzulla at 0.40 metres and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama at 0.99 metres.

Officials said all rivers and streams were flowing within safe limits and there was no flood threat at present. However, they said the situation would continue to be monitored closely in view of the forecast rainfall activity over the coming days—(KNO)

Kashmir On Path Of

Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Referring to the tourism sector, Seth said tourism is the backbone of Kashmir's economy and the region continues to attract visitors from across the country.

"Despite challenges faced in 2025, Kashmir welcomed around 1.77 crore tourists. Before that, tourist arrivals crossed 2.66 crore. I believe the number can touch nearly three crore in the coming period because people across India now want to visit Kashmir and experience its beauty and peace," he said.

The Minister said he met tourists from several states, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Jharkhand during his visit, which reflected Kashmir's growing appeal as a national tourist destination.

"Kashmir is amazing. The peace and development visible today are encouraging people from every corner of India to visit the Valley," he said.

Seth credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for accelerating development in Jammu and Kashmir through investments in healthcare, roads, tunnels, bridges and other infrastructure projects.

"Prime Minister Modi has visited Jammu and Kashmir numerous times and has provided unprecedented support in sectors such as health, roads, tunnels and bridges. Today, the path of development is open and Kashmir is moving forward rapidly," he said.

On the security situation, the Minister said terrorism has witnessed a significant decline and assured that the government remains committed to maintaining peace and stability.

"The Government of India will ensure there is no lapse in security. Peace, brotherhood and development will continue. The people need not worry," he said.

Highlighting economic activities in the region, Seth said Kashmir's cricket bat industry has gained international recognition. "Nearly 30 lakh cricket bats are being manufactured here and exported to countries such as Britain, Australia and Saudi Arabia. This reflects the growing economic potential of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Drawing a contrast with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoJK), the Minister said people there are facing hardships, while Jammu and Kashmir is moving on a path of development and prosperity.

He also praised India's progress under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, saying the country is on track to become one of the world's largest economies.

India is moving rapidly towards becoming a five-trillion-dollar economy and is poised to become the world's third-largest economy. The vision of Viksit Bharat is steadily becoming a reality," he said.

Referring to the completion of 12 years of the PM Modi-led government, Seth said the period has been marked by transparent governance and zero tolerance towards corruption.

"Over the last 12 years, the country has witnessed transparent governance and decisive leadership. The era of scams has ended and a new chapter of accountability and development has begun," he said.

The Minister thanked the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their support and expressed confidence that the Union Territory would continue to witness peace, prosperity and development in the years ahead—(KNO)

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DC Ganderbal presides over weekly Block Diwas at Tulumulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Wednesday presided over a public outreach programme under the weekly Block Diwas initiative at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Tulumulla.

The programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad; PO ICDS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development and other district and sectoral officers, besides civil society members, public representatives and residents from different areas of Tulumulla and adjoining villages.

At the outset, several delegations and individuals projected issues and demands concerning development and public welfare in their respective localities.

The issues raised during the programme mainly related to augmentation of drinking water supply, issues related to Dhobi canal, repairs of roads and damaged water pipelines, improvement of existing



playground, establishment of additional Anganwadi Centres, healthcare infrastructure, sanitation, maintenance of public assets, street lighting, restoration of springs in the localities among others.

Residents also sought better management of irrigation canals, revival of defunct infrastructure, improvement of public facilities, establishment of library in Tulumulla and deployment of sanitation workers and dustbins at Main Market Tulumulla.

Officers of the concerned departments responded to several issues on the spot and apprised the public about ongoing works, departmental procedures and measures being undertaken for resolution of grievances.

The DC gave a patient hearing to all delegations and individuals and directed the concerned depart-

ments to take prompt action on genuine public grievances in a time-bound manner.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that programmes such as Block Diwas provide an important platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public and help in obtaining valuable feedback regarding developmental requirements and service delivery.

The DC directed the concerned irrigation officials to undertake field visits to identified locations and assess practical issues raised by residents so that necessary interventions can be taken up at the earliest.

Expressing concern over certain complaints regarding public service delivery, he directed departmental officers to ensure that officials perform their duties with sincerity and com-

mitment and that public grievances are addressed in a responsive manner.

Referring to the forthcoming annual Kheer Bhawani Mela at Tulumulla, the DC appreciated the tradition of communal harmony and hospitality displayed by the people of the district. He said the event holds immense significance for Ganderbal and expressed confidence that local residents would continue to extend a warm welcome to visiting devotees and uphold the positive and inclusive atmosphere for which the mela is known.

Earlier, students of Government Higher Secondary School Watlar, Ganderbal presented a captivating song on Nasha Mukh Bharat, while students of Royal Public School staged an impactful skit highlighting the menace of drug abuse among youth.

These performances sensitized the audience regarding the harmful consequences of substance abuse and underscored the importance of collective efforts in safeguarding younger generations from the threat of addiction

Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan gains momentum across Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), various departments and stakeholders across district Budgam have intensified awareness, outreach and preventive activities to combat drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society.

A series of awareness programmes, community interactions and sensitization campaigns were conducted at different locations across the district to educate the public, particularly youth, about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Participants were informed about the social, psychological and economic consequences of drug addiction and the importance of adopting a healthy and productive lifestyle.



The campaign also focused on generating awareness regarding the provisions of the NDPS Act, prevention of illicit cultivation of narcotic crops and the role of community participation in curbing the menace of drug abuse. Officials emphasized the need for collective efforts involving government departments, educational institutions, civil society organizations, parents

and community leaders to safeguard the younger generation from the dangers of addiction.

During the programmes, participants pledged to support the objectives of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and actively contribute towards creating awareness in their respective communities.

The District Administration Budgam reiterated its commitment to strengthening pre-

ventive, awareness and enforcement measures under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and urged all sections of society to join hands in building a safer, healthier and drug-free district.

The campaign will continue across the district through coordinated efforts of line departments and stakeholders to ensure sustained public awareness and community engagement against drug abuse.

VC SKUAST-K holds SAC meeting of KVK Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir's Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ganderbal on Wednesday convened its 22nd Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting at the Kendra campus Shuhama.

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and



was attended by Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, KVK scientists, district heads of line departments, agri-entrepreneurs, and progressive farmers to deliberate on scientific interventions and future strategies for strengthening the agricultural sector in the district.

Prof. Ganai highlighted the Kendra's growing role in promoting region-specific agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship. Interacting with progressive farmers and agri-preneurs, he urged them to dive into agriculture, agri-

preneurship, and post-harvest value as there are end number of opportunities.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth emphasized the need to transform traditional farming into a commercially sustainable enterprise. She urged scientists to intensify skill development programs, promote low-cost organic farming solutions, and develop specialized training modules aimed at enhancing farmers' capac-

ities and livelihoods across the Union Territory.

Dr. Ajaz Ahmed Malik, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Ganderbal delivered a detailed presentation on the Action Taken Report, Annual Progress Report, and newly launched initiatives of the centre.

On the occasion, Vice Chancellor inaugurated several newly established facilities at the KVK, including a Food Technology Laboratory, a High-Density Pear Orchard, Diversified Stone Fruit Block, Cucurbitaceae Crop Cafeteria, and the "Sindh Greens" Urban Kitchen Garden initiative.

GCW Nawakadal organizes Rehabilitation Awareness Camp under NMBA



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Government College for Women (GCW), Nawakadal, Srinagar, Wednesday organized a one-day Rehabilitation Awareness Camp on the theme "Recovery is Possible: Understanding Substance Use Disorders and Rehabilitation" under the nationwide Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan campaign.

The programme was organized by the College Well-Being and Anti-Substance Cell (CWASC) and coordinated by Dr. Nuzhat Jan, Programme Coordinator, and Dr. Waseem Ahmad, Nodal Officer.

The awareness camp aimed to educate participants about the causes, consequences and treatment of substance use disorders, while promoting a supportive environment for recovery and rehabilitation.

Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Huda Galzai, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of institutional safeguards, awareness and student welfare initiatives in combating substance abuse. She underscored

the collective responsibility of educational institutions in fostering healthy and supportive learning environments.

Dr. Nuzhat Jan also shared her vision for sustained campus wellness programmes and highlighted the significance of continuous awareness and counselling initiatives to promote mental health and well-being among students.

On the occasion, Resource Person Dr. Nowfeema Nizam, Senior Resident, IMHANS Srinagar, delivered a keynote lecture highlighting the medical and psychological dimensions of substance use disorders. She provided valuable insights into prevention strategies, available treatment options and successful pathways to de-addiction and rehabilitation.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from teaching and non-teaching faculty members as well as staff, who actively engaged in interactive discussions on substance abuse prevention, rehabilitation and community support mechanisms.

Comprehensive Cleft Care CME, CDE 2026 programme held at GMC Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Department of Dentistry, Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, Wednesday organized a one-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Dental Education (CDE) programme on "Comprehensive Cleft Care: A Holistic Approach Towards Cleft Lip and Palate Patients", aimed at raising awareness and strengthening coordinated care for cleft patients.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid, graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest, while Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Kaur, Principal/Dean, Government Dental College (GDC) Srinagar, attended as the Guest of Honour.

Among other dignitaries present were Prof. (Dr.) Majid Jehangir, Principal/Dean GMC Baramulla (Patron); Dr. Parvaiz Masoodi, Medical Superintendent GMC

Baramulla (Co-Patron); Prof. (Dr.) Shaikat Ahmed Lone, Registrar Academics and Head, Department of ENT (Co-Patron); Prof. (Dr.) H.U. Malik, President IDA; and Dr. Omer Husain Misger, Head, Department of Dentistry.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner, accompanied by the Guest of Honour and other dignitaries, inspected various stalls established at the venue showcasing awareness materials, treatment modalities and initiatives related to comprehensive cleft care and oral health services.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the Department of Dentistry for organizing the programme and reiterated the district administration's commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at improving healthcare outcomes. He emphasized the importance of early identification and timely management of cleft lip and palate

cases and urged the organizing team to conduct screening and awareness camps in peripheral and remote areas for wider outreach.

The Deputy Commissioner also highlighted the objectives of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and appreciated the contribution of GMC Baramulla towards rehabilitation and awareness programmes. He particularly acknowledged the role of various departments, including the Department of Dentistry, in extending healthcare support, counselling and rehabilitation services to individuals affected by substance abuse.

He further urged the organizers to conduct similar camps in far-flung areas under the Vibrant Village Programme to ensure that the benefits of such healthcare initiatives reach people residing in remote and underserved regions.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Kaur congratulated the Department

of Dentistry for introducing comprehensive cleft care services at GMC Baramulla and emphasized the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in ensuring holistic treatment and rehabilitation of cleft patients.

Prof. (Dr.) Majid Jehangir extended his appreciation to the Department of Dentistry for successfully organizing the CME/CDE programme and for taking a significant step towards strengthening specialized healthcare services in the district.

The programme was organized with the objective of creating awareness about cleft lip and palate among the general public and frontline healthcare workers. ASHA workers and coordinators from all blocks of Baramulla district were sensitized about early identification of cleft cases, feeding techniques, door-to-door surveys, provision of psychosocial support and timely referrals for comprehensive management at GMC Baramulla.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

BALGARDEN, SRINAGAR

Phone No 0194-2470465/24704466 Fax 0194-2476931 | Email: commissioner-smc@jk.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING OFFER (NIO) FOR E-AUCTION NIO NO: 02 of 2026 DATED: 05/06/2026
SUBJECT: ALLOTMENT OF BUILT-UP SHOPS AND OFFICE HALLS AT HABBA-KHATUN COMMERCIAL COMPLEX, PARIMPORA
 Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) invites online offers through the GeM Portal for the allotment of built-up shops and office halls at the Habba-khatun Commercial complex at Parimpora. This auction is conducted on an "as is where is" basis, and the space is deemed public premises under the Jammu & Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of unauthorized occupants) Act 1988.

I. OFFICIAL BIDDING SCHEDULE

S. No	Description	Critical Dates and Details
01	NIO No. & Date	02 of 2026 05/06/2026
02	Name of the Complex	Habba-Khatun Commercial Complex at Parimpora
03	Starting Price	As per Annexure-1
04	Start of Online Training & Help Desk Support	06/06/2026 onwards 11 AM to 4 PM
05	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	10 % of starting price for each unit
06	EMD Submission Start and End Date	08/06/2026 to 11/06/2026
07	Actual Online Bidding Window (GeM Portal)	12/06/2026 to 13/06/2026

II. MANDATORY FINANCIAL & LEGAL TERMS

- Eligibility: Individuals, companies, or partnership firms are eligible. Minors are excluded.
- The allotment shall initially be granted for a period of ten (10) years, providing adequate tenure to the allottee for establishing and operating the business in a commercially viable manner. Upon expiry of the initial term, a further extension of up to ten (10) years may be considered by the Competent Authority, subject to satisfactory performance, compliance with all terms and conditions of allotment, timely payment of dues, proper maintenance of the premises, and the Corporation's assessment of public interest and asset management requirements. The grant of any extension shall not be automatic and shall remain at the sole discretion of the Competent Authority.
- Starting Price and Rent Structure: As specified in Annexure-1 of the bid document.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): A mandatory 10% of the Starting Price per unit must be submitted via Demand Draft/ FDR pledged to the FA/Chief Accounts Officer, SMC.
- Bidding Increment: The minimum bid increment value is Rs. 25,000/-.

III. MANDATORY COMPLIANCE FOR BIDDERS

- Registration: Bidders must register on the GeM portal. Assistance is available at the SMC Help Desk, Corporate Office, Karan Nagar.
- Required Documents (Scanned): EMD Demand Draft, PAN Card, Aadhar Card, a declaration for the allotment name, and a cancelled cheque.
- Payment Deadlines: The H1 bidder must pay the difference to reach 25% of the quoted price within 7 days of the LOI. The remaining 75% balance is due within 45 days.
- Operational Rules: No subletting or change of name is permitted. Units are for general commercial use only; manufacturing and repair work are strictly prohibited.
- Penalty: A penalty of Rs. 10,000/- per month applies for failure to take possession by the specified date.
- Caution: Bidders are advised to complete submissions early to avoid last-minute system or power failures. SMC reserves the right to reject any bid without assigning reasons. The decision of the Commissioner, SMC, shall be final and binding.

Detailed documents and terms are available at www.smc.srinagar.in and the GeM Portal.

IV. FACILITATION & ASSISTANCE

A dedicated Help Desk has been established at the SMC Corporate Office, Karan Nagar, Srinagar, to assist bidders with registration and e-auction procedures during working hours, in Room No. 207/208, Block-C, SMC, with the following composition:

S.No	Name	Phone No.
01	Mr. Zahoor Ahmad	+91- 7006482906
02	Ms. Tahira Parveen	+91- 9006976308
03	Mr. Adil Shafi Rangrez	+91- 9796765830
04	Mr. Javeed Ahmad Matta	+91- 7006966432
05	Mr. Danish Nazir	+91- 7006009917

Interested bidders are advised to visit the property before participating in the auction. An official Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Sofi, Contact No: +91- 9906589927 has been deployed as 'Property Guide' at the site for assistance of the bidders.

S.No	Name of Commercial Property	HSN Code	Description	Unit	Qty	Unit Price/ Starting Price	GST	Total Amount Inclusive of all taxes
GROUND FLOOR								
01	Shop at Parimpora 12'x16'6" 198 sft	997222	SHOPS@	No	6	30,05,074.00	NII	30,05,074.00
02	Shop at Parimpora 12'x17'6" 210 sft	997222	SHOPS@ GROUND FLOOR	No	5	31,87,200.00	NII	31,87,200.00
FIRST FLOOR								
01	Shop at Parimpora 12'x16'6" 198 sft	997222	SHOPS@FIRST FLOOR	No	6	25,92,000.00	NII	25,92,000.00
02	Shop at Parimpora 12'x17'6" 210 sft	997222	SHOPS@FIRST FLOOR	No	5	27,49,000.00	NII	27,49,000.00
SECOND FLOOR								
01	Shop at Parimpora 12'x16'6" 198 sft	997222	SHOPS@SECOND FLOOR	No	6	22,28,000.00	NII	22,28,000.00
02	Shop at Parimpora 37'3"x16'6" 615 sft	997222	HALLS@SECOND FLOOR	No	1	49,78,500.00	NII	49,78,500.00
03	Shop at Parimpora 24'9"x16'6" 408 sft	997222	HALLS@SECOND FLOOR	No	1	33,08,000.00	NII	33,08,000.00

E- Auction Matrix Details

Rent Structure

01	Ground Floor	@ of INR 34.00 per sft per month
02	First Floor	@ of INR 30.00 per sft per month
03	2 nd Floor	@ of INR 28.00 per sft per month per shop @ of INR 33.00 per sft per month per Hall

The above rent rate will be fixed for three years and then revised @10% above the existing. For example, at the end of the 1st three year rent will be re fixed as (INR 34.00 +3.40= INR 37.40) for the next three years and so on.

No: SMC/PPS/544-554
 Dated: 05/06/2026

DIPK-NB-702-26
 DT: 10/06/2026

Sd/-
 Commissioner,
 Srinagar Municipal Corporation

Sports play transformative role in combating drug abuse among youth: Satish Sharma

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Wednesday emphasized the vital role of sports and physical activities in steering young people away from the menace of drug abuse and towards a healthier, disciplined and productive future.

The Minister was speaking at an awareness programme organized at International Delhi Public School (IDPS), Srinagar, under the theme "Say Yes to Sports, No to Drugs". The event was aimed at sensitizing the students and youth about the harmful consequences of substance abuse and promoting sports as a powerful tool for character building, fitness and social empowerment.

The programme was organized under the aegis of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, a nationwide initiative aimed at creating awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and mobilizing communities, educational institutions and youth towards building a drug-free society. The event brought together students, educators, policymakers and sports administrators to reinforce the message that sports and healthy lifestyles are among the most effective tools in preventing drug abuse among young people.

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma lauded the initiative taken by the school administration and highlighted that sports not only contribute to physical fitness but also instill discipline, determination, teamwork and resilience among young people. He observed that engaging youth in constructive activities such as sports is one of the most effective ways to counter the growing challenge of



drug addiction.

Satish Sharma said that the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan can only be achieved through sustained public participation, awareness generation and positive youth engagement. He stressed that sports provide an ideal platform for channelizing the energy of young people towards constructive pursuits and away from the dangers of drug addiction.

The Minister said that the Government is committed to creating a vibrant sporting ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir by strengthening sports infrastructure, expanding opportunities for participation and nurturing sporting talent from the grassroots level. He stressed that every educational institution has a crucial role to play in shaping responsible citizens and fostering awareness against social evils such as drug abuse.

"Drug addiction poses a serious threat to society, particularly to our younger generation. We must collectively work to create awareness, provide guidance and encourage healthy lifestyles. Sports offer a positive direction, helping youth channel their energy towards achievement, excellence and nation-building," the

Minister said.

Satish Sharma urged students to become ambassadors of the anti-drug campaign and inspire their peers to adopt healthy habits. He called for a sustained and collaborative approach involving schools, parents, civil society organizations and government agencies to effectively tackle the issue.

The programme was also attended by MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar, who underscored the urgent need for effective and coordinated measures to curb the growing menace of drug abuse. He emphasized that awareness campaigns, community participation and proactive engagement of youth are essential to protect future generations from the harmful effects of narcotics and substance abuse.

Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, spoke about the various initiatives being undertaken by the department to promote sports and youth engagement across Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that sports have emerged as a powerful platform for empowering youth, fostering leadership qualities and building a drug-free society. He also stressed the importance of integrating

awareness programmes with sports activities to maximize outreach and impact.

Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, highlighted the efforts of the Sports Council in expanding sporting opportunities and encouraging greater participation of youth, particularly at the grassroots level. She emphasized that sports can serve as a catalyst for positive social change and play a significant role in keeping young people away from harmful influences.

Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Qazi Irfan, also addressed the gathering and called upon students to make informed life choices, stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a healthy and progressive society.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Members of Chamber of Industries represented by their President Tariq Bedaba, Chairman IDPS Shoukat Choudhary, Babur Choudhary, students, teachers, sports enthusiasts and members of civil society. Various awareness materials and presentations highlighting the ill effects of drug abuse and the benefits of sports were showcased during the programme.

PM Modi praises Indian sportspersons, calls for ambitious Olympic goals at NDA Conclave

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the performances of Indian sportspersons and urged the nation to set ambitious targets for the Olympics, saying the country's growing sporting success reflects its rising aspirations.

Speaking at the NDA Conclave, Modi highlighted the achievements of young athletes and the rapid growth of sports in India, while stressing the need to aim higher on the global stage. "Indian youth are performing remarkably well in sports, and their performances continue to improve with each passing day," Modi said.

On Wednesday, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) passed a resolution extending congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister and calling the Prime Minister's



leadership and the accomplishments of the NDA government 'iconic' during a conclave at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

The Prime Minister noted that India was increasingly emerging as a major hub for professional sports and expressed confidence that the country's standing in the sporting world would continue to rise.

"India is steadily becoming the home of some of the world's biggest sporting leagues. In the years ahead, this reputation will grow even stronger," he said. "Our preparations for the Olym-

pics are also a reflection of India's aspirations," he said.

Emphasising the need for a bold approach, Modi urged athletes and stakeholders to dream big and work relentlessly towards achieving success. "We must not think small. We must set ambitious goals and put all our strength into achieving them," he said.

The Prime Minister also used the occasion to underline his government's commitment to reforms, drawing a parallel between India's progress in sports and its broader development agenda. "Friends,

today India is moving rapidly forward on the reform express," Modi said. "For us, reform is not a compulsion; reform is our conviction."

The alliance conclave, to be attended by all the partners of NDA, senior leaders of BJP, chief ministers and deputy chief ministers of all the 22 NDA ruled states and union territories, was convened in lieu of the completion of 12 years of the NDA government at the Centre and the premier accomplishment of PM Narendra Modi during a conclave in New Delhi. The other key figures present were: BJP president Nitin Nambin, TDP supremo N.Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U) leader Sanjay Jha, Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde, LJP (Ram Vilas) supremo Chirag Paswan, NCP leader Sunetra Pawar, Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan, HAM leader Jitan Ram Manjhi, JD(S) chief H.D. Kumaraswamy, and RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary.

Day 7 of Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament: volleyball and wrestling competitions held in Doda



GMK SPORTS DESK

DODA: The seventh day of the Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament 2026 featured competitions in Volleyball (U-19 Boys) and Wrestling (U-17 and U-19) categories, bringing together student-athletes from across District Doda.

The tournament saw participation from the zones of Assar, Ghat, Gundna, Bhalessa, Bhag-

wah, Doda, Bhalla, Baderwah, Bhatyas and Thathri. Athletes displayed determination, discipline and sporting skill throughout the day's events.

The tournament is being organised under the guidance of Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta and Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu Inderjeet Singh Parihar and is being conducted under

the overall supervision of DYSSO Doda Ashok Kumar.

The Volleyball U-19 Boys matches were highly competitive, with teams demonstrating teamwork, coordination and resilience. The Wrestling competitions in the U-17 and U-19 categories highlighted the strength, technique and perseverance of young wrestlers representing different zones of the district. The organising commit-

tee congratulated all medal winners and participants for their performances in the Wrestling Boys U-19 competition.

The competitions were officiated by technical officials from the Department of Youth Services and Sports, including PELs, PEMs, PETS, REK teachers and NYK coordinators, ensuring fair play and the smooth conduct of all events.

Joe Root returns as England captain after Stokes left out of second New Zealand Test

IAN S

LONDON: Joe Root will make a surprise return to the England captaincy after Ben Stokes was ruled out of the second Test against New Zealand at The Oval amid an ongoing investigation into an off-field incident involving the England skipper and pace bowler Gus Atkinson.

Stokes and Atkinson have both been left out of the squad for breaking the team's midnight curfew early Monday morning. They were at a London nightclub when a member of England's security was reportedly struck by a Saracens rugby player named Totoa Auva'a.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed that neither player would be available for selection while investigations are underway. "Given the ongoing investigation, Ben Stokes and Gus Atkinson have not been made available for selection for the second Test against New Zealand," said an ECB statement.

Although Harry Brook is England's vice-captain, selectors chose Root to lead the team. Brook himself was involved in an off-field incident in New Zealand last October when a bouncer punched him outside a nightclub on the eve of a one-day international. Root's appointment marks a noteworthy return to the role he held from 2017 to 2022. England's all-time leading run-scorer captained the team in a record



64 Tests before stepping down after a tough stretch that included just one win in 17 matches. Stokes, a close friend of Root, took over as captain.

England have also added Jofra Archer and Jordan Cox to the squad that achieved a 115-run victory in the opening Test at Lord's. The Cricket Regulator is conducting a separate investigation into the nightclub incident. This process could take several weeks to finish. Stokes, 35, has been given time by the ECB to consider his future options, but the governing body has dismissed claims that he has been asked to resign as captain.

This controversy is another blow for English cricket after a disappointing 4-1 Ashes defeat in Australia, a tour that was also marred by off-field issues. England's strong win over New Zealand at Lord's seemed to indicate a positive turnaround, but now they must try to win the series without their captain and top all-rounder, as well as one of their main fast bowlers.

While Stokes' batting

form has faced criticism in recent months, his contributions go beyond scoring runs. His ability to perform with both bat and ball is crucial for England's balance and strategy. Atkinson, on the other hand, had a challenging winter but showed signs of improvement during the first Test, taking seven wickets in the match. The 28-year-old will now miss the chance to play at his home ground, The Oval.

His absence could create an opportunity for Archer, who missed the series opener after returning from his time in the Indian Premier League. England also need to decide on the team's balance. Spin-bowling all-rounder Rehan Ahmed is seen as the most fitting replacement for Stokes and remains in the squad after not playing at Lord's.

England squad for the second Test:

Joe Root (capt), Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Sonny Baker, Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Jordan Cox, Ben Duckett, Matthew Fisher, Emilio Gay, James Rew, Ollie Robinson, Jamie Smith (wk), Josh Tongue

MOVIES SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, 11TH JUNE

	PEDDI (HINDI) (U/A16+) 06:00 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) 12:00 PM
	HE-MAN THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (UA16+) 03:00 PM

INOX SRINAGAR

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