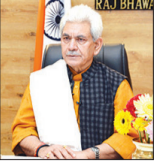


# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Srinagar • Friday 12, June 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 141 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

**Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir**  
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*"From the Ranji Trophy Championship to the 'Nasha Mukht J&K' campaigns, the exceptional dedication of our youth has already been proven across various arenas. I am proud of their spirit and I want our youth's contribution to nation-building to be second to none," the Lieutenant Governor said.*

**Supply Concerns**

## LPG Bookings Surge To 1.40 Crore In Three Days



GMK News Network

**NEW DELHI:** A sharp rise in demand for fuel and cooking gas in parts of the country has prompted the Union Petroleum Ministry to issue a public assurance that supplies of crude oil, petrol, diesel, LPG and natural gas remain stable and adequate. The clarification comes amid increased consumer demand reported at some retail fuel outlets and LPG distribution points, triggering concerns over the availability of essential petroleum products. According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Oil Marketing Companies are actively managing supplies across the country to prevent any disruption and ensure uninterrupted availability of fuel and cook-

ing gas. Official figures released by the ministry indicate that domestic LPG bookings touched 1.40 crore over the last three days, reflecting a significant surge in demand. However, authorities maintained that supply networks remain fully functional, noting that 1.49 crore LPG cylinders were delivered during the same period, exceeding the number of bookings received. The ministry also reported the sale of around 22,340 tonnes of commercial LPG over the past three days, while approximately 1.91 lakh units of 5-kilogram LPG cylinders were supplied across various regions. Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said refineries **•P-06**

**Amarnath Yatra Ahead**

## Amit Shah To Chair High-Level Security Review Meeting On J&K Today

Sajid Raina

**SRINAGAR:** In the run-up to the annual Amarnath Yatra Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high-level security review meeting on Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi on Friday. Sources said that J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will attend the meeting along with top officials, including the Director General of Police, the Chief Secretary, and senior officers from the Army and police, among others. "Participants will brief the Union Home Minister about the arrangements that have been put in place for the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage," they said. Pertinently, the meeting comes days before the commencement of the holy pilgrimage, which draws thousands of devotees to the Himalayan cave shrine each year and involves elaborate security arrangements across multiple districts in the Union Territory. "The review will focus on assessing the overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, with particular emphasis on preparedness for the yatra," sources



expected to be part of the discussions," sources added. It's in place to mention here that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting in Srinagar to review preparations for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra. LG Sinha directed all departments to ensure timely completion of arrangements including infrastructure, healthcare, sanitation, connectivity, and other pilgrim centric services. "Ama-

nath 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 **•P-06**

**AMARNATH 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,"**

**Protest Held Outside UN Office In Srinagar Against Killings In PoJK**



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Human rights activists in Kashmir have condemned the reported use of force by Pakistani authorities against civilians in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), urging the United Nations to intervene and ensure accountability. Members of the Association of Terror Victims in Kashmir staged a protest outside the UN office, demanding justice for those allegedly affected by the recent violence. Association chairperson Tasleema Akhter alleged that Pakistani security forces had opened fire on civilians who were participating in peaceful demonstrations in PoJK. "We are here to raise our voice for the people of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Innocent civilians have allegedly been subjected to relentless firing by Pakistan's military. We have come seeking justice for them," she said. Akhter stated that a memorandum would be submitted to the United Nations office, urging it to take cognisance **•P-06**

## Two Indian Seafarers Dead, One Missing After U.S. Attack On Ship Off Oman



GMK News Network

**NEW DELHI:** Two Indian crew members died and a third is reported missing following an attack by U.S. forces on the oil tanker Settebello off the coast of Oman on Wednesday, according to a senior union official. Manoj Yadav, general secretary of the Forward Seamen's Union of India (FSUI), identified the deceased as Aditya Sharma, a deck cadet, and Shivanand Chaurasiya, an engine fitter. The chief engineer, Patnala Suresh, remains unaccounted for. The Indian government had earlier stated that all three were missing. Yadav's confirmation of the two

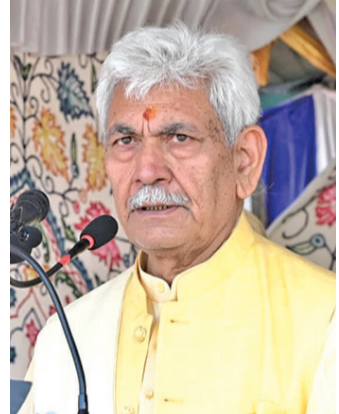
deaths marks an escalation in the casualty figures. In a post on X, US Central Command said an aircraft fired "precision munitions" into the engine room of the Palau-flagged Settebello "after the crew repeatedly failed to comply with directions from American forces". India's government said three Indian sailors were missing and 21 Indian crew members had been rescued after the attack on the Settebello off the coast of Oman. It said the "targeting of commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region must end". The US military blocked access to Iran's ports after Tehran effectively **•P-06**

## J&K Building Hockey Talent Pipeline To Create Future Champions: LG Sinha

Says Our Aim To See More Schools And More Young Players Take Up Hockey In The Coming Years

GMK News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the government is making dedicated efforts to strengthen hockey in Jammu and Kashmir, with the Sports Department and Sports Council working to create a pipeline for identifying and nurturing young talent. "From the Ranji Trophy Championship to the 'Nasha Mukht J&K' campaigns, the exceptional dedication of our youth has already been proven across various arenas. I am proud of their spirit and I want our youth's contribution to nation-building to be second to none," the Lieutenant Governor said while attending the closing ceremony of the ALFA HOCKEY Inter-School Tournament-2026 at Synthetic Hockey Astro Turf,



Polo Ground Srinagar. The tournament brought together participants from 32 schools across various districts, including Kupwara, Bandipora, Kulgam and Shopian. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated all

the winners and participants for their remarkable display of skills and talent during the tournament. He appreciated the collaborative efforts of J&K Sports Council, Badal Hockey Club and Hockey Jammu & Kashmir for providing a powerful platform, celebrating the spirit and passion of young athletes across the region. "This tournament aimed for something beyond the scoreboard. It provided a transformative stage for our talented children to realize their true athletic potential," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that over the last few years, Jammu Kashmir has witnessed a remarkable transformation in hockey. He stated that the **•P-06**

## Crop Insurance Scheme Under Process: Minister Javid Dar

GMK News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Thursday said the government is actively pursuing the implementation of weather-based crop insurance schemes to protect farmers against losses, while simultaneously focusing on training and awareness programmes to expose cultivators to the latest agricultural technologies and innovations. Speaking to reporters during a farmers' training programme organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Advisory Board for Development of Kisans, Dar said farmers are being provided opportunities to learn about modern agricultural technologies



and innovations through exposure visits and training initiatives. "Our objective is to ensure that farmers become aware of the latest technologies and innovations in the agriculture sector. Today, farmers are visiting SKUAST, where scientists will brief them on modern farming techniques, research developments and technological advancements. Such programmes help farmers gain practical knowledge, which they can later implement in their own fields to improve productivity and outcomes," Dar said. The Minister said interaction with scientists and experts would enable farmers to better understand modern agricultural practices and adopt innovative techniques suited to local conditions. Responding to **•P-06**

## CM Omar Calls On PM Modi; Raises Statehood, Economy, Development Issues

Seeks Continued Central Support For Growth, Connectivity, Jobs And Infrastructure In J&K

GMK News Network

**NEW DELHI:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and discussed a range of key issues concerning Jammu & Kashmir, including the early restoration of statehood, the economic situation and developmental priorities of J&K. During the meeting, the Chief Minister conveyed the aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir for the early restoration of statehood, underlining that it would mark an important step in strengthening democratic institutions, deepening public participation and advancing the next phase of the region's



development. He requested that the process be taken forward at the earliest. The Chief Minister briefed the Prime Minister on Jammu & Kashmir's economic trajectory and ongoing developmental initiatives across key sectors. He highlighted the progress achieved in infrastructure creation, public

service delivery and welfare measures, while also outlining areas that require sustained support and investment. The Chief Minister emphasized the need for continued support from the Government of India to accelerate economic growth, strengthen connectivity, generate employment opportunities, expand infra-

structure and enhance public welfare across Jammu & Kashmir. He drew particular attention to the fuller harnessing of the region's hydropower potential, augmentation of rail services on the Udhampur-Srinagar line in view of the forthcoming apple season and the scheduled closure of Srinagar Airport, development of new tourism circuits, and sustained support for J&K's farmers, artisans and MSMEs. "Jammu & Kashmir is committed to being a full and productive partner in India's growth story," the Chief Minister said, adding that the early restoration of statehood, coupled with continued support from the **•P-06**

## Road Repair 'No Night Traffic To Ply On Jmu-Sgr Highway From June 12 To 17'

GMK News Network

**JAMMU:** Traffic movement on a stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway will be restricted during night hours on select dates beginning June 12 to facilitate road repair and resurfacing works in Ramban district ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, officials said on Thursday. An official order accessed reads that vehicular movement between the Nashri and Navvay tunnels will remain suspended from 10 pm to 5 am during the nights of June 12-13, June 14-15 and June 16-17. The restrictions have been imposed to allow the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to undertake bituminous relaying and maintenance works along the strategic highway corridor. Officials said the repair work is being carried out in preparation for the Amarnath pilgrimage, scheduled to **•P-06**

## Rain, Hailstorms Lash J&K; Snowfall In Higher Reaches

Met Forecasts Rain Till June 17; 'Avoid Spraying Operations On June 12'



Sajid Raina

**SRINAGAR:** Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed rain, thunderstorms, gusty winds and hailstorms on Thursday following a spell of above-normal temperatures across the Union Territory. Fresh snowfall was also recorded in the Apharwat hills of Gulmarg and several other higher reaches of north Kashmir. Weather officials said that a fresh western disturbance influenced weather conditions across Jammu

and Kashmir during the day, bringing rain and thunder-showers to many areas. The Meteorological (Met) Centre, Srinagar, said several places experienced brief, intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds during the afternoon and evening hours. The department's nowcast issued during the day had warned of rain and thunder-showers at many places, with the possibility of hailstorms, lightning and strong winds over parts of Kulgam, Shopian, Rajouri, **•P-06**

# Secretary RDD reviews saturation status of individual beneficiary schemes

8.10 lakh households mobilized under UMEED; 444.39 lakh person-days generated

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohamad Aijaz Asad, Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the saturation status of Individual Beneficiary Schemes being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting reviewed the progress and saturation level achieved under major flagship programmes, including UMEED, Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) and HIMAYAT.

The meeting was attended by Director General, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra; Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma; Chief Operating Officer, HIMAYAT, Rajneesh Gupta; Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma and Additional Secretary (Member Secretary, MGNREGA), Waseem Raja.

Emphasizing the need for robust monitoring and evidence-based planning,



the Secretary called for a comprehensive reporting framework capturing the current status, achievements, targets, pipeline activities and future projections in a structured manner. He directed the officers to undertake detailed situation analyses before finalizing the future targets and stressed that planning should be firmly grounded in field realities. The Secretary instructed the officials to present scheme-wise and district-wise achievements separately, along with comparative progress since April 2026. He further directed departments to revisit and update saturation targets wherever necessary to ensure that all figures accurately reflect the latest achievements.

To provide a holistic picture of rural development interventions, he also called for the inclusion of key indicators such as the Lakhpati Didi initiative and other service delivery

schemes in departmental reports. Reviewing progress under UMEED, the meeting was informed that the programme has surpassed its Self Help Group (SHG) formation targets, with 96,595 SHGs formed and more than 8.10 lakh rural households mobilized, significantly strengthening women-led economic development across villages.

The Secretary directed the officials to ensure that updated household coverage figures and community achievements are adequately reflected in all reports and presentations. Under MKSP, all 176 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Integrated Farming Clusters have been completed, covering over 51,000 SHG households. The Secretary sought detailed information regarding fund utilization, expected allocations and implementation timelines.

While reviewing HIMAYAT

and other livelihood programmes, he stressed the importance of benchmarking current achievements against previous performance indicators. The meeting was informed that under the HIMAYAT programme of DDU-GKY 1.0 phase more than 35,700 youth have been trained, while the new DDU-GKY 2.0 phase has already trained 1700 candidates under the 2025-28 Action Plan with scheme target of 32,000 youth to be trained.

Under MGNREGA, the Department has nearly achieved its annual target by generating 444.39 lakh person-days, providing significant employment and livelihood support to rural households across Jammu and Kashmir.

The housing and sanitation sectors have also registered substantial progress. Under PMAY-G, over 3.24 lakh rural houses have been completed against a target of 3.34 lakh houses, reflecting

significant advancement towards rural housing saturation. Similarly, SBM-G has achieved 100 percent saturation in ODF Plus Model Villages and Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs), marking a major milestone in rural sanitation and cleanliness.

The Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) has also supported thousands of rural entrepreneurs by promoting sustainable self-employment opportunities and strengthening the local rural economy.

The Secretary directed the officers to include explanatory notes and analytical observations beneath all data tables to facilitate informed decision-making. He also instructed officials to strengthen field-level monitoring, regularly review organizational performance, and systematically incorporate feedback from districts and implementing agencies.

Reaffirming the commitment to achieve saturation of all eligible beneficiaries under flagship schemes, the Secretary emphasized that focused planning, accurate data management and continuous monitoring would remain central to attain the department's development objectives across Jammu and Kashmir.

# DC Anantnag reviews arrangements for NEET (UG) 2026, stresses adherence to SOPs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** Ahead of the upcoming NEET(UG) examination scheduled for June 21, 2026, a comprehensive meeting to review the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the examination in the district, was held Thursday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

GM DIC, ACR (ADM), ALC, ARTO, the City Coordinator (NEET), representatives of the Police, Traffic Police, Jal Shakti, PDD, Health, F&ES, and other departments, Nodal Officers, Flying Squad Members, Superintendents, Duty Magistrates, and other officials attended the meeting.

At the outset, the ACR (District Nodal Officer, NEET) informed that a total of 9,403 candidates are going to appear for

the examination, which will be held at 29 designated centers across the district. He said that key arrangements, including establishing a district control room and a strong room, as well as the deployment of nodal officers, magistrates, center superintendents, and a flying squad, have been put in place.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for meticulous planning and close coordination among all concerned departments to ensure the examination is conducted in a fair, smooth, and successful manner. He issued instructions to the concerned departments to ensure that all basic facilities, like drinking water, seamless electricity, dedicated healthcare, emergency response systems and accessibility are provided at the centers for ease and convenience of the candidates.

Dr. Bilal instructed

the concerned officials to devise plans for special transport services and proper traffic management on the examination day, which be given advance publicity for the information of the candidates as well as the general public. He called for strict adherence to the SOPs and guidelines issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and directed the concerned agencies to ensure robust security, effective surveillance, Fire and Emergency Services and other critical measures at and near the examination centers. He underscored the need for holding dry runs and mock drills, adding that the district administration is committed to extending all possible support to the NTA for the successful conduct of the examination.

The meeting focused on maintaining a professional approach, vigilance, and transparency during the entire process.

# DC Shopian Chairs DLRC, DCC meeting; Reviews Q4 financial performance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Thursday chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) cum District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting of the district here at the meeting hall of the District Administrative Complex, Shopian.

The meeting was convened to review the performance of financial institutions for the 4th quarter ended March 31st, 2026, for the financial year 2025-26. During the meeting, Lead District Manager, Farooq Ahmad Dar addressed the forum regarding the major financial milestones and achievements of the district as of March 31st, 2026.

Total deposits in the district recorded a 11% growth on a Year-on-Year (YOY) basis and a 7% increase compared to the previous quarter ended December 31st, 2025. Advances grew by 17% on a YOY basis and saw a 4% increase quarter-on-quarter.

Priority Sector advances witnessed a massive surge, showing an increase of 26% on a YOY basis and a 5% increase compared to the quarter ended December 31st, 2025.

The non-priority sector



registered a 4% growth YOY and a 1% increase over the previous quarter. The Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio of District Shopian stands comfortably placed at 122 as of March 31st, 2026.

Against the set financial target of Rs 2507.45 Crore and a physical target of 54,369 beneficiaries under DCP 2025-26, various banks operating across Shopian disbursed Rs 2157.98 Crore to 65,348 beneficiaries during the financial year 2025-26. With these disbursements, the district has remarkably achieved 86% of its financial targets and 120% of its physical targets.

The DC underscored the importance of enhanced credit flow in social infrastructure, renewable energy, agriculture sectors of District Credit Plan to ensure achievement of 100 percent targets along with improving banking services and facilitate sus-

tainable economic growth in the district.

The DC emphasised upon banks for timely disbursements of sanctioned sponsorship cases of different flagship government schemes especially meant for self employment generation and agriculture allied sectors and warned against delays in the sanctioning and disbursement process.

Similarly focus was given on enhancing greater outreach to beneficiaries under self-employment and livelihood generation schemes.

The review meeting was attended by the GM DIC, Shurjil Naik; LDO, RBI, Anoop Kumar Sharma; LDM, JK Bank, Farooq Ahmad Dar; DIO Shopian, CPO Shopian, other district and sectoral officers of various government departments and representatives of banking and financial institutions.

# Comm SMC conducts extensive inspection of Muharram arrangements across Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In order to ensure comprehensive civic preparedness for the forthcoming observance of Muharram-ul-Haram 2026, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, Thursday conducted an extensive field inspection of major Imambaras, shrines, and congregation points across Srinagar City.

The inspection was undertaken to review the status of arrangements being put in place by various wings of the Corporation and to assess on-ground preparedness at key religious sites expected to witness large gatherings during the holy month.

Accompanied by senior officers of SMC, including Joint Commissioners, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Chief Sanitation Officer, Transport Officer, Zonal Sanitation Officers, and

concerned Ward Officers, the Commissioner visited several important locations, including Ayatullah Syed Yousuf Imam Bara, Bemina; Kadimi Imam Bara, Zadal; Astaan Aalia Mir Shams-ud-Din Iraqi Shrine; Imam Bara Baghwanpora; and Imam Bara Hassanabad, among other sites.

During the inspection, the Commissioner issued strict directions to all concerned officers to ensure timely completion of sanitation, drainage clearance, road repairs, desilting of drains, maintenance of street lighting, uninterrupted water supply, and proper deployment of manpower and machinery at all identified locations.

The Commissioner stressed that all civic amenities must be made available well in advance and directed field officers to maintain continuous monitoring of the arrangements. He emphasized that no deficiency should remain unat-

tended and that all departments must work in close coordination to facilitate devotees and ensure smooth conduct of Muharram-related activities.

Special focus was laid on sanitation management, waste disposal mechanisms, emergency response preparedness, and improvement of public infrastructure around major religious congregational sites. The Commissioner also directed the concerned officers to remain available in the field and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances.

Reaffirming the Corporation's commitment towards public service, the Commissioner stated that Srinagar Municipal Corporation is fully committed to providing a clean, safe, and well-managed environment for the observance of Muharram-ul-Haram and that all necessary measures are being undertaken to ensure the convenience and welfare of the public.

# Shopian gears up for grand celebration of International Yoga Day 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta chaired a preparatory meeting Thursday here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian to review arrangements for the observance of International Yoga Day 2026, scheduled to be celebrated across the district on June 21, 2026.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the organization of yoga sessions, venue arrangements, awareness activities, publicity measures, sanitation, medical facilities and other logistical requirements to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of yoga in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being and a healthy lifestyle. He directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination and make comprehensive

arrangements for the district-level celebration as well as events at various institutions and public places across the district.

The meeting was informed that educational institutions, youth organizations, sports bodies, health institutions, government departments and civil society groups will be actively involved in the celebration to maximize public participation and awareness about the benefits of yoga.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for extensive outreach and awareness campaigns to encourage people from all walks of life to participate in the event and make International Yoga Day a mass movement for health and wellness.

On this occasion, Officers from various departments shared their plans and preparedness for the successful conduct of the programme. The department wise arrangements were fixed for execution and impactful conduct of celebrations.

# DC Kulgam reviews implementation of PMGSY in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** A review meeting regarding the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in District Kulgam was held at the DC Office, Kulgam, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Executive Engineer PMGSY Kulgam, and Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs).

During the meeting, the progress and achievements of PMGSY in providing road connectivity to far-flung and previously unconnected habitations through all-weather roads were reviewed in detail.

The chair was informed that, up to PMGSY-III, a total of 147 road projects and 5 bridge projects have been completed in the district.

It was further informed that, under PMGSY-IV, 13 road schemes are currently under execution, while another 8 schemes are in the tendering phase.

# Orientation Programme on "Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Remand Stage" held in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar Thursday organized an Orientation Programme on the theme "Access to Justice at Pre-Arrest, Arrest and Remand Stage" for police personnel and other stakeholders with the objective of enhancing awareness regarding legal safeguards, constitutional rights and procedural fairness during the criminal justice process.

The programme was attended by Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Srinagar, Haq Nawaz Zargar as Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Principal District & Sessions Judge emphasized the significance of adherence to constitutional mandates, statutory safeguards and human rights standards during pre-arrest, arrest, and remand proceedings. He underscored the collective responsibility of all stakeholders in ensuring fairness, transparency, and accountability within the justice delivery system.

Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Tabassum Qadir Parry highlighted the importance of ensuring access to justice and protecting the rights of individuals at every stage of criminal proceedings.

During the technical session, Adnan Sayeed,

Special Judge Anti-Corruption (CBI Cases), Srinagar, delivered a detailed presentation on the legal framework governing arrest and remand procedures, the rights of accused persons, duties of law enforcement agencies and the role of judicial oversight in safeguarding individual liberties.

The programme also witnessed valuable interactions and observations from representatives of the Police Department, Prosecution and LADCs of DLSA Srinagar who highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts in ensuring lawful procedures, of human rights and timely medical assistance whenever required.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR

Fax No: 0194-2497093

GIST of e-Tender

e-NIT No:	MDSK/TS /2026-27/06
Date	11.06.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from eligible contractors/ registered firms for the below mentioned work -

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Repairs & Replacements to the CCTV Camera Network of office premises of M&HED Complex Shalting, Sgr.	50.00	35000.00	700.00	Works programme approved by CE vide order No. M&HED/K/ Acctt/26 of 2026-27 Dt.30.04.2026.	Sanctioned vide No. 05 of 2026-27 Dated: - 11.06.2026

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website as per schedule of dates given below: -

01	Publish date	11-06-2026(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	11-06-2026(18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	11-06-2026 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	18-06-2026(9:55 hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	19-06-2026(14:00 hrs)

No: MDSK/ TS/ 926-29  
Date: 11.06.2026

DIPK-2066-26  
DT: 11/06/2026

Sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
Machinery Division, Kashmir

NITI Aayog Meet

# CM Omar seeks greater investment, institutional support for J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday participated in the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi. The meeting was convened on the theme "Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047."

Addressing the Council, the Chief Minister outlined Jammu & Kashmir's development journey and presented a set of priority proposals aimed at strengthening human development, economic growth and infrastructure. He emphasized that the true measure of development lies in expanding opportunities and improving the quality of life for every citizen.

The Chief Minister observed that the people of Jammu & Kashmir had overwhelmingly chosen peace, democracy and progress, creating a strong foundation for sustained development. He highlighted significant advances in higher education, healthcare and skill development, including the operationalization of IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu and AIIMS Jammu, the expansion of medical colleges from three to ten, and the training of more than 90,000 youth under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

Highlighting the challenges posed by difficult terrain and dispersed



habitations, he noted that Jammu & Kashmir has continued to register strong social indicators, with improvements in healthcare, education and social protection. He emphasized that development financing frameworks must adequately account for geographical disadvantages and urged the extension of the SASCI "Pride of Hills" Special Development Assistance to Jammu & Kashmir on the same principles applicable to other hill States.

The Chief Minister also highlighted Mission YUVA as a transformative initiative to promote entrepreneurship and employment. He noted that the programme has mapped entrepreneurial potential

across 24 lakh households, identified over 5.5 lakh prospective entrepreneurs and contributed to a sharp rise in the number of registered startups.

Referring to the growing diversification of J&K's economy, he cited record tourist arrivals of 2.36 crore visitors in 2024, the impact of the ₹5,000-crore Holistic Agriculture Development Programme benefiting over 6.5 lakh farmers, and the contribution of nearly 8.5 lakh MSMEs to local employment and economic activity.

On infrastructure and energy, the Chief Minister highlighted Jammu & Kashmir's vast hydropower potential of 14,867 MW and underscored the

importance of strengthening the J&K-Centre Joint Venture model beyond 2028 to fully harness the resources of the Chenab and Jhelum river basins. He also described the Udhampur-Srinagar railway as a critical all-weather connectivity corridor and a vital lifeline for the region's apple economy.

The Chief Minister sought the Union Government's support for extending the SASCI "Pride of Hills" package to Jammu & Kashmir; strengthening and expanding the J&K-Centre hydropower partnership; approval of ten new tourism circuits under a proposed ₹5,500-crore tourism development plan; institutional partnerships for the promotion of medicinal and aromatic plants, apples and wool; augmentation of railway services ahead of the apple season; and establishment of Government Medical Colleges in the eight districts that currently lack such facilities. Additional proposals relating to handicrafts and disaster resilience were submitted separately.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister reaffirmed Jammu & Kashmir's commitment to contributing meaningfully to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. He stated that J&K seeks partnership and convergence to transform its resilience, resources and human potential into a stronger contribution to national growth and development.

# Sakeena Itoo boosts healthcare, education infrastructure in Beerwah Constituency

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, Thursday inaugurated several key healthcare facilities besides laying foundation stones for education infrastructure projects in Budgam during her tour of Beerwah constituency in the district.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, senior officers of the Health & Medical Education Department, School Education Department, Higher Education Department and district administration.

During the visit, the Minister inaugurated a state-of-the-art Laparoscopy Unit at Sub-District Hospital Magam, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the local population. The facility is expected to significantly enhance access to specialized surgical care and reduce the need for patients to travel outside the district for advanced



medical procedures.

To further strengthen the healthcare services in the constituency, the Minister also inaugurated a Laparoscopy Unit at Sub-District Hospital Beerwah, which will provide affordable and minimally invasive surgical treatment to patients at the grassroots level.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for a dedicated Administrative Block at Government Degree College (GDC) Magam, aimed at improving the academic administration and expanding institutional infrastructure. She also laid the foundation stone for a modern Auditorium Hall at Government Degree College Beerwah, which will serve as a vital platform for academic, cultural

and co-curricular activities of students.

Reaffirming the government's commitment towards strengthening the school education infrastructure, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the new building of Government High School Rathsun in Beerwah, which will provide improved learning facilities and a conducive educational environment for the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo reiterated the government's commitment towards equitable and balanced development across Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized that healthcare and education remain the cornerstone sectors of public welfare. She assured that sustained efforts are being made to

ensure that quality services and modern facilities reach every corner of the Union Territory.

The Minister stressed the importance of strengthening public institutions and creating robust infrastructure to meet the growing needs and aspirations of the people.

MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, expressed gratitude to the Minister for prioritizing key developmental projects in the constituency. He said that these initiatives would significantly benefit the local population and assured that all ongoing works would be closely monitored to ensure their timely completion.

During the visit, the Minister also interacted with the public delegations, representatives of civil society and youth groups, and took first-hand feedback regarding various public services and developmental issues. She directed the concerned officers to address public grievances and resolve local issues on priority to ensure efficient service delivery and improved governance.

# Farooq Abdullah Seeks UN Intervention Over Killings in PoK



AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Thursday called for international attention to reported killings in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, urging the United Nations human rights bodies to intervene and prevent further loss of life in the region.

Addressing reporters, Abdullah alleged that several people had been killed and that repression was continuing in the area. He appealed to the United Nations to take cognizance of the situation and intervene to stop what he described as ongoing rights violations.

The veteran politician also spoke extensively on Jammu and Kashmir's political future, reiterating his party's demand for restoration of statehood and greater powers for the elected government.

Referring to the proposed National Conference protest seeking restoration of statehood, Abdullah said his party would not invite any political party to participate and that those who wished to support the cause were free to join on

their own.

On the issue of governance, Abdullah criticized the existing administrative arrangement in Jammu and Kashmir, arguing that excessive powers remain vested with the Lieutenant Governor while the elected government operates under significant constraints.

"The Lieutenant Governor is not an elected representative but a nominee of the Government of India," Abdullah said, adding that greater authority should rest with the elected government rather than unelected institutions.

He maintained that the present system has created difficulties for the elected administration and said governance would be more effective if powers were transferred to representatives chosen by the people. The National Conference leader also blamed the Centre's policies for what he termed continuing political instability in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the circumstances under which the erstwhile state acceded to India should be revisited and the commitments made at that time reviewed. [KNT]

# Javid Dar flags off farmers group for training camp at SKUAST-Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Dar, Thursday flagged off a group of farmers for a one-day training and awareness programme at SKUAST-Kashmir.

The programme was organized by the J&K Kissan Advisory Board with the objective of enhancing farmers' knowledge and exposure to modern agricultural

practices. Around 80 progressive farmers from different areas participated in the training session.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized the importance of capacity building and knowledge-sharing in strengthening the agriculture sector. He said that the training programme would enable the farmers to gain firsthand knowledge about high-density orchard management, integrated farming systems, waste decomposer technology, modern agricultural tools and machinery and post-harvest management of fruits and vegetables.



of organic farming, crop management and emerging agricultural technologies.

Among others present on the occasion were MLA, Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Secretary, J&K Kissan Advisory Board Bhumesh Sharma, Chief Agriculture officer Srinagar Aijaz Ahmad, Chief Horticulture officer of Barmulla Javid Ahmad, Chief Horticulture officer Srinagar, Jyoti Parashad, Chief Horticulture officer Budgam Shafiq Khalid and Chief Horticulture Officer, Ganderbal, Madan Lal along with their senior officers.

# J&K Bank receives IIBF award for employee development

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** J&K Bank has been awarded the 'Excellence in Continuous Professional Development' Award by the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF) in recognition of its efforts towards employee training, skill development and professional growth.

The award was received by the bank's Deputy General Manager and Mumbai Zonal Head, Farhan Irfan Kawoosa, at a function organised by the IIBF in Mumbai.

In a statement, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Amitava Chatterjee said the recognition reflected the bank's commitment to fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional excellence.

He said the award was a result of the collective

efforts of the bank's employees and underscored the importance of ongoing professional development in a rapidly evolving banking environment.

Chatterjee said the bank would continue investing in its workforce to strengthen customer service, promote innovation and support its transformation initiatives. According to the statement, the award was based on the bank's participation and performance in various IIBF certification, professional qualification, specialist and leadership development programmes over the past five years.

The bank said the recognition adds to its recent national-level achievements and reflects its focus on learning, digital transformation, customer service and organisational development.

# Anantnag lawmaker thanks Railway Minister for Vande Bharat halt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Anantnag MLA Peerzada Mohammad Syed on Thursday thanked Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for approving a stoppage of the Vande Bharat Express at Anantnag railway station, saying the move fulfils a long-pending demand of the people of south Kashmir.

In a statement, Syed said he had earlier urged the Railway Minister to provide a halt for the train at Anantnag in view of the growing demand for improved rail connectivity in the region.

He said the decision would benefit students, patients, traders, employees, tourists and daily commuters by providing faster

and more convenient travel facilities.

The MLA also expressed gratitude to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad for their efforts in addressing public concerns related to railway connectivity.

Syed said the train halt would help strengthen tourism, trade and economic activity in south Kashmir while improving accessibility for residents travelling within and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

Describing the decision as a significant step towards development, he said the Vande Bharat stoppage at Anantnag would contribute to better connectivity and create new opportunities for the region.

# Javed Rana meets delegations; orders priority action on water supply, tribal welfare

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday met several deputations from Jammu division and took stock of their issues and concerns.

He addressed a wide range of public grievances spanning drinking water supply, forest rights, tribal welfare, employment and other issues directly bearing on the daily lives of the people.

During his interaction with the delegations, the Minister emphasised that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah remains deeply committed towards addressing the aspirations of every section of society. Such public interface programmes serve as a vital bridge between the administration and the people, he added.

The delegations raised



concerns over irregular and inadequate supply of potable water, particularly in rural and semi-urban localities. They also raised the issue of defunct handpumps at certain locations and urged the intervention of the Minister in this regard.

The Minister directed the concerned Jal Shakti officials to conduct field assessments and ensure uninterrupted supply of clean drinking water on priority.

The deputations also flagged issues related to water scarcity for agriculture and livestock, urging

expeditious execution of the pending irrigation and lift-water schemes.

The Minister assured the delegations that such schemes would be fast-tracked and directed the divisional officers to submit status reports without delay.

On forest-related matters, several representations sought expeditious processing of claims under the Forest Rights Act. The Minister directed the Forest Department to examine each case on merit and ensure that genuine claimants receive their due rights under the

law.

Tribal delegations brought the issue of slow progress of development works under tribal sub-plans to the Minister's notice and demanded new Eklavya Model Residential Schools in underserved tribal belts.

Representations concerning employment opportunities were also received, with youth delegations urging the government to explore avenues for enhancing the livelihood and employment prospects.

Other issues raised before the Minister included demand for construction and repair of link roads connecting the remote habitations, resolution of revenue and land record disputes and upgradation of health and educational facilities.

Rana assured the delegations that all representations received would be examined and forwarded to the concerned departments for time-bound redressal.

# Satish Sharma chairs 88th JKRTC board meeting, approves 7th Pay Commission scales for employees

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma, Thursday chaired the 88th meeting of Board of Directors of Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) at Civil Secretariat, here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Shailendra Kumar; Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development, Mandeep Kaur; Secretary Transport Avny Lavasa, and JKRTC Managing Director A.R. War, along with other board members and officers.

The key decisions of the Board included approval of implementation of 7th Pay Commission scales for JKRTC employees, addressing a long-standing demand, in-principle confirmation of promotions for various officers of the corporation, revised wage structure for Consolidated Drivers of the corporation.



Besides, the Corporation was directed to clear all pending gratuity and pensionary claims of retirees. It was also directed that Corporation will formulate a firm welfare policy for the next of kin of employees who die in harness.

The Board reviewed and confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting and examined the action taken report. A detailed assessment of JKRTC's physical and financial performance was conducted, with a focus on operational efficiency, revenue generation, and expansion of public transport services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Board also deliberated on the proposed

budget for 2026-27 and discussed asset monetization, revenue enhancement, and resource optimization. Also, progress on the procurement of 200 new e-buses under the PM e-Drive Scheme was reviewed, along with the disposal of auctioned vehicles.

During the meeting Satish Sharma underscored the critical role of JKRTC in delivering affordable, reliable and efficient transport services. He called for a result-oriented approach to transform the corporation into a modern, financially sustainable, and passenger-friendly entity.

"Innovation, transparency and accountability

must guide all policy decisions, with public convenience at the core," Sharma said. He directed the officers to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for modernizing transport infrastructure, enhancing passenger amenities, and adopting digital technologies to improve efficiency and customer experience.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthen the public transport, Sharma stated that JKRTC would receive all necessary support to emerge as a vibrant, self-sustaining organization capable of meeting the growing mobility needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

## Moving From Promises To Reality

**T**he recent meeting between Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has put a crucial question back on the table: when will J&K get its statehood back? While conversations about boosting tourism, building roads, and creating jobs are undeniably important, they don't capture the real emotional weight of the region. For the people living there, the return of full statehood isn't just a technical bureaucratic shift. It's about political dignity, democratic empowerment, and having a real voice in their own future.

Ever since Jammu and Kashmir was downgraded to a Union Territory in August 2019, the central government has repeatedly promised that this status was only temporary. Now that assembly elections are over and a local government is finally back in office, the argument for delay is wearing thin. Everyday citizens are reasonably asking: if democracy has been restored, why is our political status still in limbo?

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's decision to take this issue straight to the Prime Minister isn't just political maneuvering, it is a reflection of what his constituents care about most. An elected local government can try to fix the economy or jump-start development projects, but without the actual powers and autonomy that come with full statehood, its hands are largely tied. True governance happens when the people who are voted into office actually have the authority to make the decisions that shape daily life.

None of this is to say that economic progress doesn't matter. J&K has seen a massive boom in tourism lately, which has been great for local businesses and jobs. But temporary booms don't replace the need for long-term investments in schools, hospitals, roads, and digital connectivity. Achieving those goals requires genuine partnership between New Delhi and local leaders—not a top-down administrative relationship. It is definitely a good sign that the Prime Minister is keeping the channels of communication open. But the time for polite dialogue and vague timelines has passed; the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been patient enough. Ultimately, economic progress is essential, but it cannot replace a functioning, fully empowered democracy. Restoring statehood has become the ultimate test of trust and accountability between the government and its people. It's time for New Delhi to turn a long-standing promise into practical reality

# Some Mountains Can Be Moved



ADITI BAJPAI

**O**n 9th June 2026, engineers blasted the last wall of rock at the eastern portal near Minamarg. What emerged from that dust was not merely a passage, rather a renegotiation of India's relationship with its most contested geography. For the people of Kargil and Dras, the world does not merely slow down. It simply stops. Students abandon the academic year mid-

*It simply stops. Students abandon the academic year mid-semester, a woman in labour in winter can spend hours on a treacherous road before reaching a hospital, and families make peace with the idea that if an emergency arises in winter, it will be largely unsurvivable because of zero connectivity.*

semester, a woman in labour in winter can spend hours on a treacherous road before reaching a hospital, and families make peace with the idea that if an



emergency arises in winter, it will be largely unsurvivable because of zero connectivity.

The 13.153 km Zojila Tunnel is the world's longest single-tube, bidirectional road tunnel at high altitude, sitting at 11,578 feet above sea level. A 3.5-hour crossing of one of the world's most accident-prone passes will shrink to roughly 15 minutes. But to frame this as a commute upgrade is to miss what is actually happening here.

The need to build this tunnel arose in 1999, when Pakistani forces occupied the heights above the Srinagar-Leh Highway and the Indian Army could not reach its own territory. Supply lines were exposed. Reinforcement was agonisingly slow. When the war ended, the question that lingered in military planning rooms was not just "how did we win?" but "what if the pass had been closed?" That question, eventually, produced this tunnel. The urgency has only sharpened since. With the India-China standoff along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh entering its sixth year, both seasonal road routes to the region remain vulnerable to snow closure. During those months, the army's logistical lifeline is primarily aerial, expensive, weather-dependent, and incapable of moving heavy artillery or bulk ammunition. The Zojila Tunnel changes this geometry quietly but permanently.

The civilian dividend is equally con-

sequential, if less discussed. Ladakh is not a resource-scarce region. It holds strategic mineral deposits, extraordinary solar energy potential, and a tourism draw that the world is increasingly discovering. What it has lacked is the year-round accessibility that makes economic planning possible at all. The tunnel shortens the Srinagar-Leh route from 434 km to 323 km. In infrastructure economics, reduced distance means reduced transaction cost, and lower transaction costs are the single most reliable lever for breaking what economists call the connectivity trap, where inaccessibility starves investment, which deepens inaccessibility further.

Before the tunnel, Ladakh's trade operated like a siege economy. Merchants would frantically stockpile goods before the first snowfall, knowing that once the Zojila closed, the only alternative was the Manali-Leh highway, a gruelling 474 km route crossing high-altitude passes like Rohtang and Baralacha La, itself seasonally unreliable. In peak winter, Ladakh was commercially cut off from both directions simultaneously. The tunnel dissolves this trap. Srinagar is the natural, far closer market for Ladakh's apricots, vegetables, pashmina and handicrafts, and now it is a year-round destination. More critically, Srinagar airport becomes an accessible export gateway, allowing high-value Ladakhi products, particularly pashmina and organic produce, to reach air freight terminals in any season,

opening domestic and international markets that winter previously shut entirely. The tunnel does not merely improve a trade route. It reorients Ladakh's entire economic axis, pulling it away from dependence on Manali and Chandigarh as commercial lifelines and anchoring it, for the first time permanently, to the Kashmir Valley's market and connectivity infrastructure.

The deepest question, however, is one that concrete cannot answer. India's infrastructure history carries a recurring cautionary note: roads are built with fanfare, and the hospitals, schools and governance frameworks that were supposed to follow them never quite arrive. Ladakh is also one of the world's most ecologically fragile high-altitude environments.

Shimla, Manali and Mussoorie stand as warnings of what unplanned connectivity does to mountain landscapes. And politically, the communities on either side of this tunnel have experienced significant disruption since 2019. Whether the tunnel builds a sense of genuine inclusion in the national project or merely delivers a faster route through a region still waiting for the republic to arrive is a question no engineer can answer. They said some mountains cannot be moved. Turns out, with enough will, some can.

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### DISTRACTED BRAIN

## The Neuroscience Of Digital Overload And Its Impact On Academic Performance

SEERAT MAQBOOL

**I**n today's world, smartphones and social media have become an important part of our daily lives. They help us communicate, learn, and stay connected. However, excessive use of phones, especially among children and students, is creating a serious problem. Teachers and parents are noticing that students find it harder to concentrate, remember lessons, and perform well in academics. At the same time, more young children are developing eye problems and needing glasses at an early age. This is not just a social issue, it has a strong scientific explanation.

Our brain learns best when we pay full attention to one task. When we study, information enters a part of the brain called the hippocampus, which helps create new memories. If we focus properly and revise regularly, these memories become stronger and stay with us for a long time. However, social media works differently. Apps like Instagram, YouTube Shorts, Facebook, and other platforms constantly provide new videos and posts within seconds. Every interesting video or notification releases a chemical called dopamine in the brain. Dopamine is often called the 'feel-good' chemical. It gives us a sense of excitement and makes us want to continue watching more content. As a result, the brain becomes used to getting quick rewards without much effort. Studying is different. Reading a chapter or solving a



chemistry problem requires patience and concentration before we feel satisfied. When the brain becomes addicted to quick rewards from social media, it starts finding normal studying slow and boring. This is one of the reasons why many students struggle to focus in class. Another problem is continuous scrolling. Every few seconds, students switch from one video to another or from one app to another. This habit trains the brain to change attention rapidly instead of concentrating deeply. Scientists have found that the human brain is not designed for constant multitasking. Every time attention shifts, the brain needs time to adjust again, reducing learning efficiency.

Because of this, students may spend several hours studying but remember very

little later. The information does not get stored properly in long-term memory.

Screen time also affects sleep. Mobile phones emit blue light, which reduces the production of melatonin, the hormone that helps us sleep. Poor sleep means the brain cannot properly organise and store the information learnt during the day. This is why students who stay awake using phones at night often feel tired, forgetful, and less attentive in school.

Scientists also talk about a condition called digital amnesia. Since information is always available on the internet, many students no longer try to remember facts. Instead, they simply think, 'I can search for it later. Gradually, the brain depends more on the phone than on its own memory. The effects are not

limited to the brain. Excessive screen use is also affecting children's eyes.

When children look at screens for long periods, their eyes remain focused at a short distance. The muscles inside the eyes work continuously without enough relaxation. At the same time, children spend less time outdoors. Natural sunlight helps release dopamine in the retina, which supports healthy eye development. Less outdoor activity and excessive near work increase the risk of myopia (short-sightedness). This is one reason why even children aged two or three years are now being diagnosed with vision problems and prescribed spectacles.

Long screen time also reduces blinking. Normally, humans blink around 15-20 times per minute, but while

using a phone, blinking decreases significantly. This causes dry eyes, irritation, and eye strain.

From an educational point of view, the biggest concern is that excessive phone use reduces deep learning. Students become accustomed to short videos lasting 30 seconds or one minute. As a result, reading long chapters, solving complex questions, and thinking critically become more difficult. The good news is that the brain is highly adaptable. Reducing unnecessary screen time, sleeping on time, reading books, exercising, spending time outdoors, and studying without distractions can improve memory and concentration. The brain can strengthen its learning ability again when healthy habits are followed consistently.

Technology itself is not the enemy. Smartphones are powerful tools for education when used wisely. The real challenge is maintaining a balance between digital entertainment and meaningful learning. As science educators and parents, we must guide children to use technology responsibly. Every hour spent on focused learning strengthens the brain, while every hour of mindless scrolling trains it to seek constant distraction. The future of education depends not only on what students learn but also on how they use the technology in their hands.

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

Good Morning Kashmir

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Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

■ Twelve Years Of Modi Era

# Trust, Development And India's Rise



LALIT GARGG

In the democratic history of India, certain periods are remembered not merely for a change in government but for the awakening of national consciousness. The twelve years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi represent one such defining era. It is not simply the story of a Prime Minister's long tenure; it is the story of an India that has rediscovered itself with renewed confidence, fresh energy, and an enhanced global identity. By taking the oath of office for a third consecutive term, Narendra Modi surpassed the record of independent India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, as the longest-serving consecutively elected Prime Minister. This achievement is not merely a political milestone; it is a testament to the enduring trust that the people of India have repeatedly expressed through the democratic process. In a vast nation marked by immense linguistic, religious, and cultural diversity, the granting of three successive national mandates to one leader is both extraordinary and historic.

The most remarkable aspect of the Modi era is not development alone, but the harmonious blend of development and trust. If the Nehru era is remembered as the period of building modern India, the Modi era may well be remembered as the age of India's renewed self-confidence. Modi has not merely built roads, bridges, airports, and digital infrastructure; he has instilled in millions of Indians the belief that India is second to none and is capable of assuming a leadership role on the global stage. One of Narendra Modi's most distinctive qualities has been his ability to transform politics from a mere instrument of governance into a vehicle for fulfilling national aspirations and public sentiment. He is among the rare leaders who have elevated government schemes beyond administrative programmes and turned them into



mass movements. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) stands as a prime example. A subject once confined to municipal departments was transformed into a national mission linked to civic responsibility and collective character.

The Modi era will also be remembered for restoring India's cultural identity and civilisational pride. National symbols, sacred sites, and cultural heritage that had long remained neglected have been revitalised and accorded new dignity. The construction of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya was not merely a religious event; it became a symbol of respect for the cultural sentiments of millions of Indians. Likewise, the redevelopment of Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Mahakal Lok, Kedarnath, and Somnath reflects the belief that modernity and tradition are not opposing forces but complementary pillars of national progress. Another defining feature of Modi's leadership has been the transformation of India's foreign policy into an expression of self-confidence and strategic autonomy. A nation once viewed as balancing between global powers has emerged as a significant influencer of international discourse. Whether in the context of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the crises in West Asia, India's leadership

of the G-20, or its advocacy for the Global South, India has played a decisive and constructive role. The world increasingly views India not merely as a developing nation but as a provider of solutions to global challenges.

One of the most significant achievements of the past twelve years has been the sincere effort to place the last person in the queue—the most marginalized citizen—at the center of governance. Initiatives such as the Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, the free food grain program, and Direct Benefit Transfers have transformed the lives of millions of underprivileged Indians. Transparency in governance has improved, and the role of intermediaries has been significantly reduced. Through the Digital India initiative, technology has reached not only metropolitan cities but also the remotest villages. A unique aspect of Narendra Modi's leadership style is his unwavering sense of purpose and determination. He sets ambitious goals and transforms them into national missions. Whether it was the abrogation of Article 370, the prohibition of triple talaq, the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, or firm action against

terrorism and Naxalism, each decision involved considerable political risk. Yet he demonstrated the courage to act decisively. It is this willingness to take bold decisions that distinguishes him from many conventional politicians.

Like every democratic government, however, the Modi administration also faces significant challenges. Unemployment, inflation, agricultural distress, rising costs of education and healthcare, social inequalities, and uneven access to economic opportunities remain pressing concerns. If India is to achieve its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, economic growth alone will not suffice. Equal emphasis must be placed on quality education, affordable healthcare, employment generation, and corruption-free governance. The coming years hold great expectations. The government's campaign against corruption must become even more effective and far-reaching. India requires a system where integrity is not an exception but the norm. Education and healthcare must be liberated from the grip of profiteering interests and made genuinely accessible to ordinary citizens. Entrepreneurship should not remain confined to large industrial houses but should reach villages, youth, and women, enabling every citizen to become not merely a job seeker but a job creator.

I have had the privilege of meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on several occasions and observing him closely. In 2007, when he was serving as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, I had the opportunity to engage in an extensive interaction with him during a massive tribal convention held at Kawant in Gujarat under the guidance of the revered tribal Jain saint, Gani Rajendra Vijayji. Modi was not present merely as a ceremonial guest; he attended along with his entire cabinet, demonstrating his commitment to the development of tribal communities. On that occasion, he entrusted the operation of an Ekklavya Model Residential School to our Sukhi Parivar Foundation for the educational advancement of tribal children and announced the historic 15,000-crore Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana for tribal welfare. This reflected his far-sighted vision and commitment to ensuring that development reaches the most marginalized sections of society. An especially memorable and historic moment also occurred during that gathering. Gani Rajendra Vijayji remarked

to Narendra Modi, "You should now go to Delhi and take charge of the nation." Modi responded with a gentle smile, "Who will take me to Delhi?" Yet there is often a prophetic power in the words of saints. What appeared to be a simple exchange at the time later proved to be remarkably prescient.

During those years, I also had several opportunities to visit the Gujarat Secretariat and meet Chief Minister Narendra Modi. What impressed me most was the culture of discipline and efficiency that permeated the administration. Even senior IAS officers exemplified punctuality, self-reliance, and professional accountability. Performing routine tasks independently, avoiding unnecessary protocol, valuing time, and placing responsibility above all else had become integral parts of the administrative ethos. It was evident that this work culture had evolved under the influence of the leadership at the top. Narendra Modi is not merely an administrator who issues directives; he is a leader who shapes institutions through personal example. India's greatest strength lies in its youthful population. If this demographic energy is effectively linked with skill development, innovation, and entrepreneurship, India can become not only the world's third-largest economy but also one of its most influential and dynamic economic powers. Likewise, by ensuring the full participation of women in the development process, the pace of nation-building can be accelerated manifold.

Perhaps the most significant achievement of the Modi era cannot be measured solely through statistics, infrastructure projects, or electoral victories. It lies in the psychological transformation visible across the Indian populace. Over the past twelve years, Narendra Modi has built not only physical infrastructure but also a vision of the future that has inspired millions of Indians. His dream of a developed India by 2047 will be realised only if development is accompanied by trust, prosperity by equal opportunity, and power by compassion and sensitivity. If this balance is maintained, history will remember the Modi era not merely as a long political tenure but as an age marked by India's renewed self-confidence, cultural renaissance, and emergence as a leading global power.

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4,399 Days And Beyond

## Assessing A Decade Of Leadership And Change



AMANJEET SINGH

When historians look back at this period of Indian politics, they will likely conclude that we are witnessing something genuinely rare in the annals of democratic governance. Narendra Modi's completion of 4,399 days in office, more than twelve years, is not merely a numerical milestone. It represents something far more significant: the systematic reshaping of how governance operates in the world's most populous democracy, achieved through sustained electoral legitimacy and an unflinching vision for national transformation.

**The Mandate That Defies Political Gravity**

Let us begin with what is most remarkable about this tenure. In a nation celebrated, and sometimes cursed, for its political volatility, where state elections routinely unseat incumbents and regional parties have historically checked central authority, Modi has achieved three consecutive Lok Sabha majorities. This is not the product of a broken opposition alone, as some critics suggest. It reflects a fundamental realignment of Indian political loyalties.

The 2014 mandate was undoubtedly a rejection of the corruption-ridden UPA years. But 2019 and 2024 were different. These were affirmative endorsements. Voters witnessed a decade of governance and chose continuity. In 2019, it came after the Pulwama attack and the Balakot response, suggesting that national security had become a primary voting consideration. In 2024, despite predictions of a close contest, the NDA secured its third term. What explains this durability? I would argue it is the perception, deeply held across vast sections of the electorate, that Modi delivers. Not perfectly, not without flaws, but measurably.

**The Infrastructure Revolution That Changed Everyday Life**

The most visible legacy of this era is not found in policy white papers but on the ground. I have travelled extensively across India's tier-2 and tier-3 cities over the past decade, and the transformation in physical infrastructure is unmistakable. Highways that once were death traps are now expressways. Airports that resembled bus depots now rival global standards. The electrification of nearly every village, a goal that eluded every previous government, has been achieved.

But the more profound revolution has been digital. When critics dismiss the government's achievements as mere optics, they overlook the quiet miracle of the India Stack. A vegetable vendor in Lucknow can now accept UPI payments from a customer in London. A farmer in Maharashtra receives fertilizer subsidies directly in his bank account, bypassing the leaky layers of middlemen who once devoured a third of every rupee. Direct Benefit Transfers have saved an estimated 2.7 lakh crore from corruption. That is not a talking point. That is real money that stayed in the pockets of the poor.

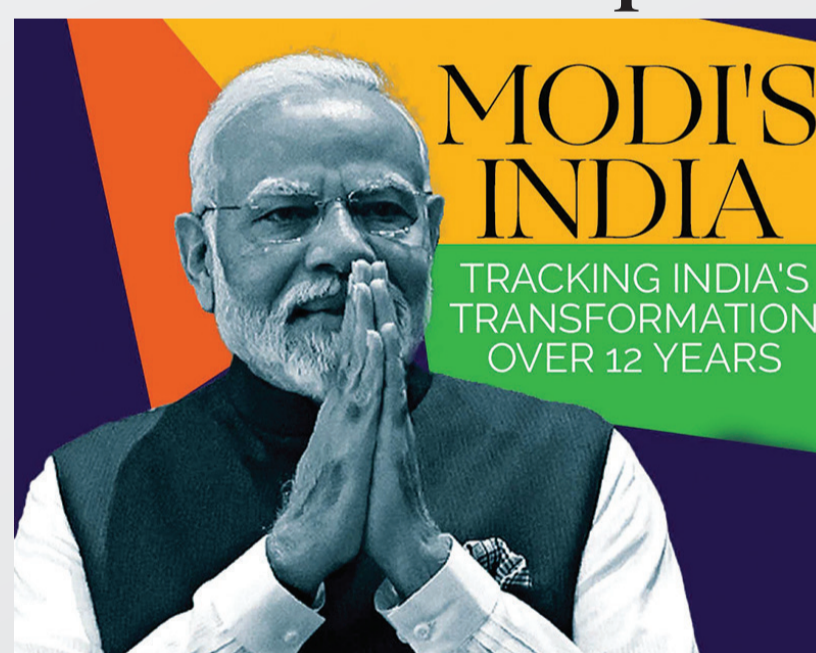
**Welfare That Actually Reaches**

Let me address the cynical dismissal of welfare programmes as "freebies." The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has provided pucca houses with toilets, electricity, and gas connections to millions who previously lived in kuccha dwellings. The difference between this and earlier housing schemes lies in targeting. Technology enabled last-mile delivery in ways that the Congress-era Public Distribution System never achieved. The PM-KISAN income support, however imperfect, reaches 11 crore farmers. The free ration scheme during COVID, expanded from 80 crore to 100 crore beneficiaries, prevented what could have been a humanitarian catastrophe.

I do not say this to paint an uncritical picture. The quality of some constructed houses remains questionable. Many beneficiaries still face exclusion errors. But the direction of change is undeniable.

**The Economic Record: Ambition Meets Reality**

The economic story is more contested, and here I must offer nuance. India has indeed remained among the world's fastest-growing major economies. The IMF projects sustained growth above 6 percent. Foreign exchange reserves are healthy. But job creation in the formal manufacturing sector has lagged behind the government's own aspirations. The "Make in India" ini-



tiative has seen successes, mobile phone manufacturing, electronics, and pharmaceuticals, but has not yet delivered the labour-intensive industrial revolution that the country desperately needs.

However, the formalisation of the economy is an underappreciated achievement. GST, for all its implementation challenges, has brought millions of small businesses into the tax net. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has changed the creditor-debtor relationship fundamentally. These institutional reforms will pay dividends for decades, even if their benefits are not immediately visible in quarterly GDP figures.

**Foreign Policy: A Decisive Break from the Past**

On the international stage, the transformation has been striking. India under Modi no longer approaches the world with the defensive, non-aligned diffidence that characterised much of its post-independence foreign policy. The relationship with the United States has deepened across defence, technology, and intelligence sharing, without sacrificing strategic autonomy. The outreach to Israel, long shadow-boxed by Congress governments, has been normalised without damaging ties with the Arab world.

The handling of China, particularly the calibrated response to the Galwan clash—

demonstrated a new muscularity. India is now seen not merely as a balancing power but as a necessary partner for any serious global initiative. The G20 presidency was handled with exceptional diplomatic skill, positioning India as a bridge between the Global North and South. This is not hyperbole; it is the consensus view among international affairs analysts.

**The Pandemic: When Leadership Mattered Most**

No assessment of Modi's tenure can avoid the COVID-19 period. The initial lockdown in March 2020 was chaotic. Migrant workers walked hundreds of kilometres. The government was unprepared for the humanitarian fallout. These failures must be acknowledged.

Yet the vaccination campaign that followed, the world's largest, delivering over two billion doses, was a logistical triumph. CoWIN, the digital platform for vaccine registration, was built from scratch in weeks. Free vaccines for adults, extended repeatedly despite fiscal constraints, saved countless lives. The lesson is that this government responds poorly to sudden crises but organises effectively when given time to plan. That is neither a full endorsement nor a full condemnation, it is an honest observation.

**The Criticisms That Cannot Be Dis-**

missed

I will not pretend that this era has been without serious blemishes. The erosion of institutional autonomy in agencies like the CBI and ED is deeply troubling, regardless of which party benefits. The weaponisation of tax investigations against political opponents sets a dangerous precedent. The shrinking space for critical media, evident in the concentration of news ownership and the intimidation of journalists, is incompatible with the healthiest version of democracy.

On social cohesion, the record is genuinely mixed. The revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir was constitutionally valid and has brought development to a region long starved of it. But the rise in hate speech, the lynching incidents of previous years, and the selective enforcement of cow protection laws have created an atmosphere where minorities feel anxiety. The government has often appeared reluctant to condemn violence when committed by its own supporters. This silence is its greatest moral failure.

**An Unfinished Verdict**

So where does this leave us? Narendra Modi's tenure is not a completed chapter, it is one still being written, with two years likely remaining in his third term. The final judgement will depend on what follows. Will the government address the jobs crisis through deeper manufacturing reforms? Will it defend institutional independence against encroachment? Will it model the inclusive rhetoric that national leadership demands?

What is beyond dispute is that Modi has changed the grammar of Indian governance. For better and sometimes for worse, the passivity, the incrementalism, the acceptance of low-level corruption as inevitable, these have been replaced by an approach that is ambitious, centralising, and relentlessly focused on delivery. Whether this represents a permanent improvement or a temporary departure will be decided by the leaders who follow. But no serious observer of Indian politics can deny that we have lived through a consequential era—one that will be debated, studied, and argued over for generations to come. That, perhaps, is the truest measure of significance.

Author is District President Minority Mocha District Baramulla

## DLIC Kupwara approves 600 Mission YUVA Cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review the implementation of Mission YUVA, during which the Committee approved 600 fresh cases under the scheme aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment among the youth of the district.

The Committee scrutinised applications recommended by the concerned Block Handholding Departments (BHDs) and Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) through

the Mission YUVA portal and approved all eligible cases for onward processing by the concerned financial institutions.

Reviewing the status of pending cases, the DDC expressed concern over the slow pace of loan sanctions by banks. He called upon all financial institutions, particularly Jammu & Kashmir Bank, to expedite the sanction and disbursal process to ensure timely credit support to deserving beneficiaries.

The DDC emphasised the need for strict adherence to the scheme guidelines and stressed the importance of enhanced awareness and outreach initiatives to extend the benefits of Mission YUVA to eligible youth,

SHGs, MSMEs etc.

During the meeting, he also reviewed progress achieved in onboarding stores and products on the Mission YUVA Seller App and ONDC-linked platforms to facilitate digital market access for local entrepreneurs and progress achieved under the capacity-building component of the mission.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Handwara; SDM Lolab; Lead District Manager; Cluster Head, Jammu & Kashmir Bank; District Employment Officer; Branch Managers of various banks; representatives of line departments; and other concerned officers.

## DC Rajouri reviews VVP-II projects to transform border villages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI:** Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma Thursday chaired a meeting to review the feasibility of projects submitted by nodal officers under Phase-II of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP-II) for eight identified border villages of the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed a range of proposed projects aimed at improving infrastructure, livelihood opportunities and tourism potential in the border villages. The projects discussed included the plantation of fruit-bearing plants, tourist homestays, motorable bridges, wool processing units, milk storage units and milk processing units.

Emphasising the need for an integrated approach towards dairy development, the DC directed the officers concerned to explore the establishment of a common milk processing unit for four Vibrant Villages—Sarya, Bhawani, Pukhrani and Kalal to ensure the optimum utilisation of resources and enhanced benefits to local dairy farmers.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed proposals for the development of a multipurpose stadium with a running track and the establishment of a pine needle collection unit for manufacturing cricket wickets, aimed at generating employment opportunities while promoting the sustainable utilisation of local resources.

Stressing the importance of promoting eco-friendly tourism,

the DC directed the departments concerned to include eco-tourism camping sites in the project proposals to harness the untapped tourism potential of the area.

The feasibility of various projects proposed for Chowkian, Chappardhara and Loharkota was also reviewed in detail, with directions issued for the timely submission of viable, need-based proposals.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed all district officers to undertake field visits to the Vibrant Villages and ensure 100 percent saturation of all eligible beneficiaries under centrally sponsored schemes. He instructed the designated nodal officers to submit detailed reports regarding the functioning and service delivery status of different depart-

ments for effective monitoring and intervention.

Among those present were Additional District Development Commissioner Malikzada Sheraz-ul-Haq, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ravi Kumar Sihag, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramkesh Sharma, Programme Officer (ICDS) Harpal Singh, Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Development Aqil Naveed, Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafeez, District Social Welfare Officer Abdul Raheem, Superintending Engineer (PWD), Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Divisional Forest Officers and Block Development Officers.

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

#### LPG Bookings

across the country continue to operate at optimal capacity and that adequate stocks of petroleum products are available to meet consumer requirements.

The statement appears aimed at easing concerns arising from the recent spike in demand, with officials emphasizing that the country's fuel supply chain remains stable and capable of meeting current consumption levels. [KNT]

#### Amit Shah To Chair

and maintain the highest standards of efficiency and safety.

After chairing the meeting LG Sinha posted on X: "Today, chaired a high-level review meeting on preparations for Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 & directed all departments and security agencies to ensure timely completion of arrangements from infrastructure and security to healthcare, sanitation, connectivity, and pilgrim services. 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."—(KNO)

#### Protest Held Outside

of the situation and act to safeguard the rights of those affected.

She further claimed that the people of PoJK had been peacefully expressing their grievances when security forces resorted to force. According to her, the protesters in Kashmir would continue to amplify the concerns of people across the Line of Control and press for international attention.

Akhter also criticised Pakistan's handling of the region, alleging that funds collected globally in the name of PoJK had not benefited its residents. She said activists would persist in their campaign until justice was delivered and hoped the United Nations would take concrete steps to address the alleged human rights violations.

The protests come amid reports of growing unrest in PoJK, where demonstrators have been demanding accountability, protection of civil liberties and an end to the use of force against peaceful protesters by the administration.

According to reports, thousands of people gathered in Rawalakot and other areas of PoJK, raising slogans against what they described as Pakistan's continued control and policies in the region. Protesters also demanded justice for civilians who were reportedly killed or injured during recent clashes involving security forces.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International has criticised Pakistan's response to the protests, expressing concern over what it described as a sweeping crackdown on dissent ahead of regional elections.

The rights organisation objected to the decision to designate the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) as a "proscribed organisation" under anti-terrorism laws, calling the move unlawful and disproportionate.

Amnesty argued that the action represented a serious infringement on the rights to freedom of association and peaceful political participation. It said the crackdown intensified after

talks between the authorities and the JKJAAC reportedly broke down over disagreements related to the composition of the region's legislature.

#### Two Indian Seafarers

closed the Strait of Hormuz, through which some 20% of the world's oil and gas supplies are transported, during the ongoing conflict.

#### J&K Building Hockey

investments in sports infrastructure, grassroots competitions and community engagement have successfully enhanced the popularity of the sport across the Union Territory.

"It is our aim to see more schools and more young players take up hockey in the coming years and establish Jammu Kashmir as a cradle for world-class hockey talent. We are building talent pipeline in Jammu Kashmir that will ensure a player's journey from the school level to the regional level, and national stage. In recent years, synthetic hockey turfs at Polo View Srinagar, Pulwama and Poonch have opened up new avenues for aspiring players from cities, border districts and remote areas. State-of-the-art synthetic hockey turfs are currently under construction at Bandhu Rakh and K.K. Hakku Stadium in Jammu. These projects will significantly expand the capacity for advanced training, specialized coaching camps, and rigorous talent identification programs, establishing a sustainable foundation for future national players," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that it is our constant endeavor to provide opportunities and resources for the young talent, enabling them to move forward and contribute to building a Viksit Bharat.

Prof. Mohammad Mobin, Vice Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports; Shri Rajiv Omprakashn DIG CKR; Dr. GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council; S. Harmeet Singh Sasan, President and other members of Badal Hockey Club; senior officials, eminent sports personalities, coaches, students and teachers from various schools were present.

#### Crop Insurance Scheme

a question regarding crop losses suffered by farmers due to hailstorms and other weather-related disasters, Dar said the government is actively working towards implementing weather-based crop insurance schemes in Jammu and Kashmir.

"As I have said earlier, the weather-based crop insurance scheme is under process. All preparations had been completed, but at the last moment, the Government of India informed us that it is revising the policy framework related to insurance schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme," he said.

The Minister said the revised policy framework from the Centre required the Union Territory administration to temporarily pause the process.

"We had to wait because of the revised

policy being formulated by the Government of India. However, we have already initiated the process from our side. The tendering process remains to be completed, and a committee has been constituted at the Government of India level to examine the matter. Once that process is completed, the remaining formalities will be taken up immediately," Dar added.

He expressed optimism that the insurance schemes would be rolled out after the Centre finalises the revised guidelines, providing much-needed protection to farmers against weather-related losses. (JKNS)

#### CM Omar Calls

Government of India, would further strengthen J&K's march towards inclusive growth, prosperity and good governance.

#### 'No Night Traffic To Ply

commence on July 3.

To ensure that vehicles do not get stranded near the work sites, authorities have imposed additional movement restrictions on both sides of the highway. Vehicles travelling towards Srinagar from Jammu will not be allowed to proceed beyond Udhampur after 5 pm on the affected dates.

Similarly, traffic from the Kashmir side heading towards Jammu will be stopped from moving beyond Qazigund after 8 pm, the order said.

The administration said the temporary curbs are necessary to ensure the safety of commuters as well as personnel engaged in the road restoration work.

Transporters, particularly those carrying perishable goods and livestock, have been advised to plan their journeys in advance and take the scheduled closures into account.

Officials also urged commuters to check the latest traffic advisories before undertaking travel on the highway, especially on June 13, 15 and 17, when the overnight restrictions will be in force.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway serves as the only all-weather road link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country and frequently undergoes maintenance works ahead of the annual pilgrimage season—(KNO)

#### Rain, Hailstorms

Ramban, Reasi, Udhampur, Doda and Kishtwar districts. It had also cautioned about localised flash floods and mudslides in vulnerable areas due to intense short-duration rainfall.

Officials said the lightning strike in Sazaan village sparked a forest fire in pine-covered areas. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The Met advised people to remain indoors during thunderstorms and stay away from electric poles, loose structures, overhead wires and old trees.

It had also advised suspension of boating and shikara operations in Dal Lake and other water bodies during periods of adverse weather.

Earlier in the day, temperatures remained above normal across most stations in the Kashmir and Jammu regions. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 31.5 degrees Celsius, 3.5 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 18.5

degrees Celsius, also 3.9 degrees above the seasonal average.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 30.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.4 degrees Celsius, both above normal. Pahalgam registered 25.9 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara recorded 30.2 degrees Celsius. Gulmarg, the Union Territory's coldest tourist resort, recorded a maximum temperature of 21.6 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city remained the hottest place with a maximum temperature of 41.8 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal. Katra recorded 38.3 degrees Celsius, while Batote registered 31.3 degrees Celsius. Bhadarwah recorded 27.2 degrees Celsius.

Rainfall during the day remained scattered, with Batote receiving 24.6 mm and Bhadarwah 21.2 mm. Katra recorded 2.6 mm, while Pahalgam received 1.2 mm. Several stations reported only trace rainfall.

The Meteorological Department has forecast partly to generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds at many places through June 12.

From June 13 to 17, the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with scattered rain and thundershower activity, particularly during afternoon and evening hours.

It advised orchard growers to avoid spraying operations on June 12 due to the likelihood of widespread thundershower activity. Spraying during morning hours may be feasible on most days from June 14 onwards, subject to local weather conditions.

It said thundershowers are generally expected to be short-lived but could be accompanied by hailstorms and gusty winds in isolated areas—(KNO)



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# Rana reviews functioning of Jal Shakti, Forest Departments at Samba

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday chaired a review meeting with officers of the Jal Shakti and Forest, Ecology & Environment Departments at Bari Brahmana, Samba.

He directed them to ensure prompt redressal of public grievances and time-bound resolution of issues affecting the people. The Minister stressed that public welfare remains the foremost priority of the government. He called upon officers to adopt a proactive, responsive and accountable approach in addressing the people's concerns. He emphasised that no public grievance should remain unaddressed and directed the departments to put in place robust mechanisms for tracking and resolving complaints at the field level.

Rana underscored that officers must remain accessible to the public and delays in service delivery would not be tolerated.

On matters pertaining to the Jal Shakti Department, the Minister directed the officers to ensure unin-



errupted supply of clean drinking water across all habitations in the district, with special attention to rural and remote areas where infrastructure gaps continue to affect service delivery. He called for expeditious completion of pending water supply schemes and directed that dysfunctional pipelines, handpumps and distribution networks be repaired and restored on priority.

Regarding the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Rana directed officers to ensure effective implementation of ongoing green initiatives, expedite the resolution of pending forest rights cases and maintain close coordination with the revenue and tribal affairs authorities to address the issues faced by forest-dependent commu-

assess ground realities and ensure that government schemes and programmes are reaching their intended beneficiaries.

Earlier, the Minister held a public interaction programme at Bari Brahmana, listening to grievances and developmental concerns raised by the local residents and public representatives from different areas of the district.

The delegations highlighted issues related to drinking water supply, pending forest rights claims, employment, infrastructure development and access to basic amenities. Rana assured the delegations that all representations received would be forwarded to the concerned departments for time-bound redressal.

While addressing the delegations, Javed Rana reiterated the Omar Abdullah-led Government's commitment towards equitable and inclusive development of all regions. "The present Government is focused on strengthening public service delivery and ensuring that the benefits of welfare and developmental schemes reach every deserving household of Jammu and Kashmir," Rana asserted.

# DC Sgr reviews Block-wise status of development of playfields

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Thursday chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office to review the Block-wise progress of the initiative to develop at least one playfield in every Panchayat of the District.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad, Executive Engineer REW, SDM East, Zuber Ahmad, Tehsildars of Panthachowk, Tehsildar Central Shalteng, Tehsildar Chanapora and other senior officers of Rural



Development Department. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the status of land identification, feasibility assessments, administrative approvals and other preparatory works required for execution of physical works for the development of playfields in all Panchayats across the District. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner was given a Block-wise updates regarding the identification of suitable land and

the progress achieved so far under the initiative. He was informed that out of 21 Panchayats across the four blocks of Harwan, Qamarwari, Srinagar and Khonmoh, playfields have already been developed in 10 Panchayats. The remaining Panchayats are at different stages of land identification, feasibility assessment, and approval processes. The DC directed the concerned Officers to expedite the identification of suitable land in the remaining

Panchayats and ensure that all feasibility reports, technical clearances and administrative approvals are completed at the earliest. He stressed the need for close coordination among all stakeholders to achieve the objective of developing at least one playfield in every Panchayat within the prescribed timelines.

Emphasizing the importance of creating quality sports infrastructure at the grassroots level, the DC said that the initiative would provide recreational facilities to local youth and promote sporting activities in rural areas. He also underscored the need for regular monitoring of progress and timely resolution of issues to ensure successful implementation of the project.

# DC Ganderbal reviews progress under JJM, SBM(G)

GMK NEWS NETWORK



**GANDERBAL:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Thursday chaired a review meeting to review the Comprehensive Implementation and Reforms Plan (CIRP) and progress under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) in the district.

During the meeting, the Executive Engineer PHE informed that the district has successfully completed JJM 1.0, under which Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) were provided to rural households. It was further informed that JJM 2.0 is focused on completion of ongoing and approved water supply schemes to strengthen rural drinking water infrastructure.

Reviewing the status of schemes under JJM, the DC was informed that out of 10 identified schemes, five have been completed while work on the remaining schemes is progressing at an advanced stage. The meeting was also apprised that under the 'Har Ghar Jal' initiative, 118 out of 129 selected villages have been certified. Further, all 120 eligible

Gram Panchayats in the district have achieved certification under the Jal Seva Aankalan assessment. The DC also reviewed habitation-wise progress on creation of Rural Piped Water Supply System (RPWSS) IDs. He directed concerned engineers to expedite disposal of pending cases and submit weekly progress reports for close monitoring.

The DC also reviewed water quality monitoring and surveillance activities, SBM(G) interventions and the ongoing 'Catch the Rain' campaign. Stressing the importance of water conservation, he sought regular weekly reporting on its implementation.

The DC emphasized coordinated efforts, adherence to timelines and effective execution of schemes to ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water across rural areas of the district. Among others, the meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer Hydraulics PHE, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Executive Engineers of PHE Divisions Ganderbal and Sumbal, Chief Agriculture Officer and other concerned officers.

# ADC Budgam reviews Muharram arrangements in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehrj-ud-Din Shah, Thursday chaired a meeting of officers from various departments to review the arrangements being put in place for the ensuing holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the preparations was undertaken to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of Muharram processions and majalis across the district. Discussions focused on the availability and delivery of essential services, public convenience, and inter-departmental coordination.

The ADC reviewed arrangements related to power and drinking water supply, road repairs and maintenance, sanitation measures, ration and firewood availability, street lighting, healthcare facilities, transport management, and other essential services.

At the onset ADC directed all concerned departments to complete the required arrangements well

in advance and ensure uninterrupted public services during the holy month.

The Power Development Department was instructed to ensure scheduled and hassle-free power supply, while the Jal Shakti Department was directed to maintain adequate drinking water supply and ensure availability of water tankers wherever required.

The Forest Department was asked to ensure sufficient availability of firewood, and the FCS&CA Department was directed to facilitate timely distribution of ration and other essential commodities. The Cooperatives Department was instructed to ensure availability of essential items through designated outlets.

The R&B Department and Urban Local Bodies were directed to undertake necessary road repairs, drainage clearance, and sanitation works on priority. Healthcare authorities were asked to ensure readiness of medical facilities and deployment of medical teams at important locations during Muharram.

# STEAM-2026 St. Joseph B'la hosts inter-school conclave, emerges overall champion



BILAL DAR

**BARAMULLA:** St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Baramulla hosted 'STEAM-2026', an inter-school conclave aimed at fostering innovation and creative excellence in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, with students from leading educational institutions across the Kashmir Valley participating in the event.

Participating schools included Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School Srinagar, Biscoe Boys Higher Secondary School Srinagar, Kashmir Valley Higher Secondary School Srinagar, Burn Hall Higher Secondary School Srinagar, and Baramulla Public Higher Secondary School, officials said.

The conclave featured quizzes, debates, and model exhibitions, providing a platform for students to demonstrate their

problem-solving skills and knowledge. Participants engaged in healthy competition and exchanged ideas, they added.

Speaking to media, Principal Suresh Brattu emphasised the importance of STEAM education in preparing students for future challenges and fostering innovation-driven learning. He appreciated the enthusiasm of all participating schools and stressed the need for such academic platforms to nurture young talent.

In a notable achievement, St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Baramulla, emerged as the overall champion of STEAM-2026 and lifted the Winners' Trophy, the organisers said.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks to participating schools, teachers, students, and organisers for making the conclave a success.

# Modern Sufi bard, Satinder Sartaaaj's love for Yezdi continues with new Roadster



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles proudly announces that one of the most respected and intellectual voices in modern Punjabi music, singer, poet and composer Satinder Sartaaaj, made a custom Yezdi Roadster his own. His love for the brand was immortalised when he released his cult-hit 'Yezdi', pictured on his vintage pastel-green D250 Classic in 2023. He sealed it today with his latest acquisition.

The kinship Sartaaaj shares with Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles is not only because of his much-loved song. Just like the company's approach to contemporary performance classics with engineering depth and lived riding culture, Sartaaaj has carved his own path in Punjabi music through artistic integrity and a deep respect for his craft. In a music market dictated by a mass-market formula, he has stayed true to poetry and his rigorous training. The modern Sufi bard has contemporised the soulful fusion of Sufi and Punjabi folk for a global audience without losing their essence.

Anupam Thareja, Co-founder of Classic Legends, said, "Yezdi instinctively understands Satinder's drive to blend timelessness with individuality. When he celebrated Yezdi in his music, it became a cultural moment for both riders and music lovers. Yezdi is an emotion that has lived generations through stories, memories, music and culture. It has shared an enduring bond with Punjab that Satinder so affectionately

captures in his rendition. Our customised Yezdi Roadster pays tribute to his talent, art and our timeless connection with the soil of Punjab and its riding culture."

The inimitable Satinder Sartaaaj said, "When I wrote 'Yezdi', it came from a place of affection. Growing up, Yezdi was about the sound, swagger, companionship, and freedom. My song brought its charm closer to a younger audience. The new Yezdi Roadster called out to me when it was launched last year. This feels like coming a full-circle and am thrilled to be a part of a legacy that continues to speak to a new generation."

Sartaaaj's crowd favourite, "Yezdi", mixes playful romance and nostalgia for Punjab's motorcycle culture in true Punjabi folk style, as he rides his Yezdi D250 Classic. The celebrated singer-actor's customised Yezdi Roadster is Sharkskin Blue and sports exclusive graphics celebrating the bond between Yezdi and Satinder Sartaaaj. Mr. Anupam Thareja presented the special Yezdi Roadster to the cultural icon, with a devoted following across India, spanning the northern states and Gujarat in the west. His home state, Punjab, has always had motorcycling in its blood, and Yezdi continues to remain an inseparable part of its legacy. Legendary artists like Satinder Sartaaaj know what it takes to bridge generations and stay true to their craft, just as Jawa Yezdi Motorcycle strives to inspire newer generations while evolving with modern motorcycling culture.(PR)

# NBT Budgam Presents 'Wan Che Wadaan' to Highlight Environmental Conservation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** National Bhand Theatre (NBT) presented its cultural production "Wan Che Wadaan" at Government Primary School, Gakhri Mohalla, Gogjiipathri in Budgam district. The performance was organised under the Repertory Grant (Guru-Shishya Parampara) Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi.

The play focused on the growing issue of deforestation and delivered a powerful message on environmental conservation. Through an engaging performance, the artists raised awareness among students and local

residents about the importance of protecting forests and maintaining ecological balance.

The event was attended by Mehrj-ud-Din Paul, Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Gogjiipathri, as Chief Guest, and Mrs. Ameena, Headmistress of Government Primary School Gogjiipathri, as Guest of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest lauded the efforts of the artists and highlighted the role of theatre in fostering social awareness and preserving cultural heritage. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and an enthusiastic response from the audience.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from KAUSAR YOUSUF BHAT (old Name) to KAUSAR YOUSUF (New Name). In future I will be known as KAUSAR YOUSUF. I want the new name to be updated in my passport bearing no L8615188. If anybody is having any objection in this matter he/she may contact the passport within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

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This is for the information to the general public that my real and correct name as per school records (10th class marks sheet) is MOHD FAHEEM ARIF S/O MOHD ARIF. There has been an inadvertent clerical error while mentioning my name in my Aadhar card bearing no: 667849533835 as FAHEEM ARIF S/O MOHD ARIF ZARGAR. Now I want my actual and correct name to be updated in my aadhar card. If anybody is having any sort of objection in this matter, he/she may contact the concerned department within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE PRISONS DEPARTMENT, J&K

**Subject:- Final Selection list for the post(s) of Assistant Superintendent, Jails of Home Department advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022 dated 09.02.2022- Verification of character and antecedents thereof.**

### NOTICE

The following candidates who have been recommended by the J&K Services Selection Board for appointment to the post of Assistant Superintendent Jails, UT Cadre (advertised vide Notification No. 02 of 2022 dated 09.02.2022 under Item No. 041), pursuant to JKSSB letter No. JKSSB-Scry/4/2026-03(E-7843652) dated 02.06.2026 and Home Department letter No. HOME-Jail/87/2021-01 -Home (CC-19500) dated 09.06.2025 are hereby informed to submit their e-mail IDs and contact number details in the Establishment Section of the Prisons Department, J&K, Amphalla Jammu/ Old Secretariat, Srinagar in person or on the e-mail ID: prison-jk@nic.in within a period of twenty one (21) days positively from the date of issuance of this notice for registration under the "Employee Verification System (EVS)" for verification of character and antecedents, failing which it shall be presumed that they are not willing to take up their appointment as Assistant Superintendent Jails in the Jammu & Kashmir Prisons (Subordinate) Service, and shall forfeit the right of appointment without any further notice:

SR. NO.	CANDIDATE NAME	PARENTAGE	D.O.B	ADDRESS	SELECTION CATEGORY
1	SHAKTI SINGH	PRITAM SINGH	12.11.1994	13 TUBE WELL COLONY, LALE DA BAGH JAMMU 181205	OM
2	SONALI JAMWAL	RAJINDER JAMWAL	10.07.1990	39 TOPE SHER KHANIA JAMMU 181121	OM
3	SINAN AQUIB GULL	GHULAM MOHMAD BHAT	01.10.1995	68 HERPORA CHEWA KHURAD NEWA KARIMABAD PULWAMA KASHMIR 192301	OM
4	AAQIB JAVED	GH. MOHD PADDAR	18.02.1993	79 KASKOOT BANIHAI RAMBAN 182146	OM/RBA
5	MUKESH RANA	PURAN CHAND	08.03.1996	KAMORE S RAMGARH SAMBA 181141	SC
6	AUWASE AHMAD BADANA	ABDUL HAMID BADANA	29.11.1994	17,6 HAFTHRADA TARATHPORA RAMHAL KUPWARA KASHMIR 193224	ST
7	MOHD ARIF SHAH	MOHD. MUBARAK SHAH	10.03.1991	129 PANZGAM KOKERNAG ANANTNAG KASHMIR 192202	RBA

No. Esstt/E-7915085/ 2554 Dated: 10.06.2026

DIPK-2045-26 DT: 11/06/2026

(Mushtaq Ahmad Malla) Staff Officer to DGP, Prisons, J&K.

# Bangladesh Secures Maiden ODI Series Win Over Australia



AGENCIES

**MIRPUR :** Bangladesh secured its first one-day international series win over Australia on Thursday.

A 2 1/2-hour rain delay forced a revised DLS target of 192 in 41 overs and Bangladesh reached 195-5 with six overs to spare to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

"It's an amazing feeling," batter Najmul Hossain Shanto said. "The way we played this series, we showed a lot of courage. We have been working really hard the last few months, and we wanted to improve our game. I'm really proud to be part of this team."

The depleted Australians started the match losing three wickets without a run on the board. Half-centuries from Marnus Labuschagne (55 not out) and Xavier Bartlett (52) bailed them out to 187-8 in 42 overs.

Opening batter Soumya Sarkar, the only change

Bangladesh made from the first game by 86 runs, and Shanto made 42 runs each while Towhid Hridoy was unbeaten on 40 off 55 balls.

Shanto had a nervy start but steadied the chase with a stand of 86 runs with Sarkar. Shanto edged Riley Meredith behind to give the fast bowler his first ODI wicket in five years following his recall.

Bangladesh wobbled at 144-5 in the 27th over but Hridoy and captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz shared an unbeaten 51-run stand to clinch the historic series result.

"Bangladesh have outplayed us so far in this series so congratulations to them," Australia captain Josh Inglis said.

Just before the end, Mehidy took a blow to the helmet from a Nathan Ellis delivery and dropped to his knees and vomited. Mehidy spurned a stretcher and was allowed to continue. He hit the winning runs, a six over fine leg. Shanto

suggested he was taken to hospital afterward for observation.

Australia chose to bat first and Matthew Short was out for his third consecutive duck in ODIs followed by Cooper Connolly and Renshaw, also out for ducks. It was only the fourth time in ODI history that a team started off 3-0.

Left-arm fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman (3-27) and Taskin Ahmed (3-33) took the wickets, and Mustafizur also had Alex Carey caught at point. When Inglis holed out at deep cover Australia had lost half its wickets for 68 runs.

Labuschagne, who dropped to No. 7 in the lineup, and Bartlett revived Australia with a 103-run partnership. Labuschagne's first ODI fifty in 14 innings came after he should have been run out on 1 but Tanvir Islam missed the stumps.

The third and final game will be at the same Mirpur venue on Sunday.

# Teen Borgaonkar upsets 3rd seed Gupta in Mumbai chess event

IANIS

**MUMBAI:** Upset wins were the trend in the opening round of the Rs 35 lakh prize money 360 One Masters Chess tournament, organised by Indian Chess School, in Mumbai, proving that routine results need not be the norm in the first round of a Swiss League event.

Second seed GM Sankalp Gupta was shocked by Sri Lankan IM L M S T De Silva in a short game. In another major upset, third seed GM Abhijeet Gupta, a former World junior Champion, lost to 17-year-old IM Akshay Borgaonkar from Pune. IM Kavstuv Kundu defeated Andrey Gorovtsov of Belarus.

The higher-rated overseas Grandmasters also found the going tough and had to settle for draws. Fifth seed GM Luka Paichadze of Georgia was held to a draw by FM Adak Bivor, while 9th seed GM Boris Savchenko too had to settle for a draw against Daeveik Wadhawan. FM Vivaan Shah could also earn half a point against GM Aleksandrov Aleksej. FM Kush Bhagat also earned a creditable draw against eighth seed IM Nitin Belurkar.

Amidst the spate of major and minor upsets, top seed GM Iniyana Pa, the reigning National champion, showed plenty of spirit and spunk to eke out a win from a dead-draw appearance



ing position against L Srihari. The frequent exchange of pieces between them in a Queen's Gambit Declined game soon transposed into a rook and identical pawn ending.

While most times these positions are declared theoretically drawn, Iniyana played a waiting game, testing Srihari's defence, which paid dividends with Srihari blundering with a King move on the 64th turn. Iniyana pocketed the point on the 74th turn by threatening to promote his pawn.

Sankalp Gupta was on the defending side, right from the Opening stages of a French Advance Defence against an aggressive DE Silva. In a sort of a whirlwind attack, De Silva's two knights, rook and Queen, broke through the defensive barriers after the rolled pawns had made inroads into enemy territory to set up a checkmating net. The game lasted for 26 moves.

In a Reti game, Abhi-

jeet Gupta was pushed on the back foot almost from the initial stages by Borgaonkar. Gupta, a multiple-time Commonwealth Champion, was not in the best of form, and a few inaccurate moves resulted in his pieces pushed backwards even as Black's pawns advanced menacingly.

Gupta castled late and tried to get a counterattack going with his queen and bishop. By the 18th turn, Borgaonkar had a couple of pawns extra and played perfectly. Gupta continued to fight a battle that kept going downhill and resigned on the 54th turn when faced with an inevitable checkmate.

The 13-year-old Madhavendra Pratap Sharma notched up a double delight by winning both his games in the junior category and the Challenger category after being seeded top in both Categories. The higher seeds had a smooth sailing in this category, albeit there were a few draws.

# Ronaldo Misses Chances as Portugal Beat Nigeria

AGENCIES

**LEIRIA (PORTUGAL):** Portugal is heading to the FIFA World Cup on the back of a 2-1 warmup win over Nigeria and some regrets for star striker Cristiano Ronaldo.

The 41-year-old Ronaldo failed to add to his men's-record international haul of 143 goals despite being presented with clear-cut chances with

just the goalkeeper to beat in both halves in Leiria on Wednesday.

The five-time world player of the year was substituted off in the 65th minute, having been given longer on the field than every other outfield player to start the match for Portugal.

Ronaldo will be making his record-tying sixth appearance at a World Cup.

Francisco Conceição, one of the 11 replacements

to come on for Portugal, grabbed the 75th-minute winner by cutting in from the right and curling a shot into the far corner.

Pedro Neto gave Portugal the lead in the 23rd. Akor Adams equalised for 14 minutes later for Nigeria, which had failed to qualify for the World Cup.

Portugal is in Group K at the World Cup with Congo, Uzbekistan and Colombia.

# Inter-Zonal U-14 Boys Kho Kho Championship begins in Baramulla

216 players from 18 zones participate in two-day district-level tournament

GMK SPORT DESK

**BARAMULLA:** Inter-Zonal District Level Kho Kho Competition for Under-14 Boys commenced with great enthusiasm and sporting fervour today at HS Khawaja Bagh Ground, Baramulla.

The prestigious two-day championship is being organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Baramulla under its annual sports calendar with the objective of identifying and nurturing young sporting talent across the district.

The championship was formally inaugurated by District Youth



Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Baramulla, Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori, in the presence of Activity Incharges Mubeen Ahmad Khan (PEM) and Shabir Ahmad Thoker (PEM), along with technical officials, field staff, team managers, and participating athletes.

A total of 18 zonal teams comprising 216 players from different educational zones of Baramulla district are participating in the tournament. The competition is being conducted on a league format, ensuring maximum exposure and competitive opportunities

for all teams, with each team scheduled to play four matches during the championship.

Speaking on the occasion, DYSSO Baramulla highlighted the importance of sports in shaping the character, discipline, leadership qualities, and overall personality devel-

opment of young students. He encouraged the athletes to exhibit the true spirit of sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play while striving for excellence on the field.

He further emphasized that the Department of Youth Services and Sports remains committed to providing quality sporting platforms to students across the district and creating opportunities for talented athletes to showcase their abilities at higher levels of competition.

The championship will continue over the next two days, culminating in the crowning of the district champions after a series of league matches.

# World Cup 2026 opens in grand style at historic Azteca Stadium

IANIS

**NEW DELHI:** The 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup began in spectacular fashion on Thursday night as Mexico City's iconic Estadio Azteca hosted a dazzling opening ceremony that blended football, music, and history on a memorable night.

Spanish actress Salma Hayek and FIFA president Gianni Infantino have declared the tournament open and placed the trophy inside the Mexico City stadium.

With thousands of fans packing the legendary venue, FIFA President Gianni Infantino officially declared the tournament open before presenting the coveted World Cup trophy to an enthusiastic crowd. The ceremony marked the start of football's biggest celebration and set the tone for a month-long festival across North America.

Global music stars Shakira and Burna Boy headlined the star-studded event, captivating supporters with a vibrant performance of the tournament's official anthem, "Dai Dai." Their energetic show transformed the stadium into a sea of colour, lights, and music, creating an



electric atmosphere ahead of the opening match.

The festivities began approximately 90 minutes before kick-off, with cultural performances and visual displays showcasing the rich heritage of the host nation. Fans from around the world joined in the celebrations, waving flags and singing along as the excitement reached

fever pitch.

The choice of Estadio Azteca added a powerful historical dimension to the occasion. Widely regarded as one of football's most iconic venues, the stadium became the first in history to host World Cup matches in three different editions of the tournament, having previously staged games in 1970 and 1986.

# Anas Khan dominates day 2 at 24th NCR Cup; Chaitanya Pandey weathers the storm to take lead

IANIS

**NEW DELHI:** Windswept conditions and high stakes tested the grit of India's finest young golfers on Day 2 of the 24th NCR Cup Junior Golf Tournament at the Delhi Golf Club. With valuable World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points on the line, the marquee Category A and B divisions battled the championship Lodhi Course, while the sub-junior categories commenced their campaigns on the picturesque, 9-hole Peacock Course.

Anas Khan is the son of a caddy.

Category A: Khan extends staggering advantage

Following his first-round hole-in-one, overnight leader Anas Khan showed absolutely no signs of slowing down in Boys' Category A (15-18 years). Khan put together a masterful, disciplined level-par round of 72 to extend his command over the field, building a massive 8-stroke cushion heading into the next phase of play.

The biggest movement on the leaderboard came from Ranveer Singh Dhupia. Staging an incred-



ible second-day comeback, Dhupia carded an exceptional level-par 72 of his own, catapulting himself straight into second place. Ayan Dubey sits alone in third position, keeping himself in the hunt with a two-day combined score of 154\*.

In Girls' Category A, local favourite Ayesha Gupta mounted an excellent charge. Shaking off the tough layout, she carded a brilliant 3-over par round to seize total control of the division, opening up a comfortable 6-stroke advantage over her closest competitors.

Category B: Pandey braves the wind

# Movies Schedule

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June

**MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA**  
(U/A16+)  
• 04:10 PM

**DISCLOSURE DAY** (ENGLISH)  
(U/A13+)  
• 01:40 PM

**OBSESSION** (ENGLISH) (A)  
• 07:15 PM

**BACKROOMS** (ENGLISH) (A)  
• 05:10 PM

**GOVERNOR** (HINDI)(U/A 13+)  
• 07:35 PM

**BHARAT BHAGYA VIDHAATA** (HINDI) (U/A16+)  
• 4:35 PM

**HAI JAWANI TOH ISHQ HONA HAI**  
(HINDI ATMOS) (U/A16+)  
• 01:50 PM, 07:00 PM

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