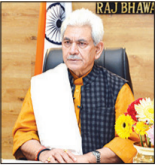


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir
@LokBhavanJandK



I often say that history is written by those who rise again after suffering and confronting countless challenges. Having earned global recognition, you are now returning to your roots. I salute your courage. I honour your steadfastness. I appreciate your achievements, and I express the commitment that together we will ensure a future brighter than the past and that the pride of the Kashmiri Pandit community will shine again for the welfare of all humanity, the Lieutenant Governor said.

Emerging Tech Has Altered Definition Of Warfare: Rajnath Singh



AGENCIES

HYDERABAD: Asserting that recruits to the armed forces must be mentally prepared for the evolving nature of modern conflict, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said major powers no longer hold an edge on the battlefield as even smaller forces can inflict significant damage using specialised tactics.

Addressing the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) at the Air Force Academy at Dundigal near here, Singh also said emerging technologies have altered the very definition of warfare.

"Earlier, it seemed that the big powers had a decisive edge on the battlefield. But now, comparatively, even small powers can cause heavy losses with their small but dangerous weapons and new tactics. My purpose in telling you all this is that you should be mentally ready for any form of warfare," he said.

"In contrast to the visibility of soldiers and equipment earlier, many systems such as radars, satellites, drones, sensors and robotics are deployed in modern warfare. Such scenarios are being witnessed now in which traffic systems and CCTVs of adversaries are being controlled," he said.

According to him, the definition of warfare has changed to a great extent. The newly commissioned officers should understand modern warfare and strategies and adapt, adopt, and, if necessary, amend them.

Underscoring the importance of smart work along with hard work, he said smart nations are carving out a place for themselves in the modern technology landscape.

Noting that IAF serves as a source of inspiration for crores of Indians, he cited the example of astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and exhorted the officers to uphold the rich legacy of the Force.

Congratulating the **●P-06**

Global Kashmiri Pandit Conclave

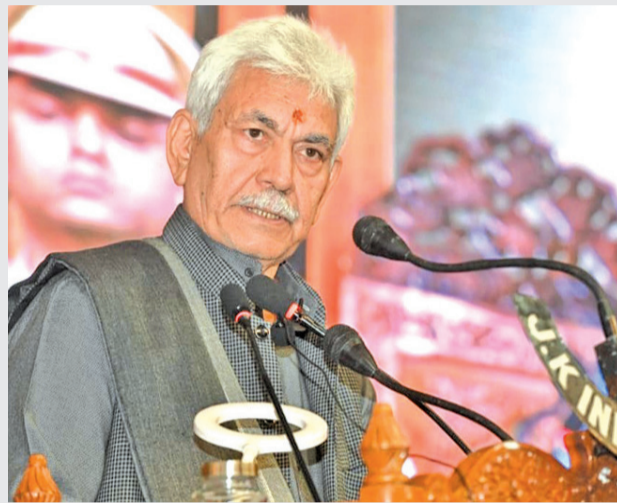
LG Sinha Urges Kashmiri Pandits To Set Up Industries In J&K

Says Those Once Uprooted From Their Homeland Return And This Homecoming Truest Victory

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called upon the Kashmiri Pandit community to establish industries, academic institutions and cultural organisations in the Union Territory, saying such initiatives would help build a lasting legacy and create opportunities for future generations.

"I believe the true measure of life lies in what we give back, in the hope we inspire, and in the change we leave behind for our society and nation. That is the essence of a meaningful life and that is the real service. And it is this legacy that will continue to guide and inspire generations to come," the Lieutenant Governor said while attending the Global Kashmiri Pandit Conclave at Srinagar. The landmark event was attended by distinguished personalities of the Kashmiri Pandit community from India and abroad to celebrate Kashmiri Pandit



Community's journey of resilience, renaissance and return. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said the Global Kashmiri Pandit Conclave celebrates the community's patience and resilience by distinguished personalities of the Kashmiri Pandit community from India and abroad to celebrate Kashmiri Pandit

"A moment of transformation is here. Those once uprooted from their homeland return and this homecoming is the truest victory. The presence of business leaders, corporate heads, technology entrepreneurs, and cultural icons sends a powerful message of confidence in the peace **●P-06**

I BELIEVE THE TRUE MEASURE OF LIFE LIES IN WHAT WE GIVE BACK, IN THE HOPE WE inspire, and in the change we leave behind for our society and nation. That is the essence of a meaningful life and that is the real service. And it is this legacy that will continue to guide and inspire generations to come,"

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth Appointed Next Chief Of Army Staff



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Government of India on Saturday appointed Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth as the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS). He will assume charge from the afternoon of June 30, 2026, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi, who retires from service the same day.

Currently serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lt Gen Seth is a decorated officer with nearly four decades of military experience spanning operational, strategic, capability development and institutional domains.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla, Lt Gen Seth was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986. Over the course of his distinguished career, he has held several key command and staff appointments across diverse operational environments.

His command assignments include leading an Armoured **●P-06**

Rains Lash Plains, Higher Reaches Record Light Snowfall

MeT Forecasts More Precipitation, Thunderstorms Till June 19



SAJID RAJNA

SRINAGAR: Fresh rainfall across Kashmir plains and light snowfall in the higher reaches on Saturday turned the weather pleasant.

According to the details available, temperatures in most parts of the Valley dropped significantly below normal.

Data released by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar revealed that daytime temperatures remained several degrees below normal across most parts of the Valley. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 23.8 degrees

Celsius, which was 4.2 degrees below normal, while Pahalgam registered 17 degrees Celsius, nearly seven degrees below the seasonal average.

The weather department said intermittent rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds are expected to continue across Jammu and Kashmir over the next several days.

The MeT officials said that scattered areas may experience light to moderate rainfall, brief intense showers, thunderstorms and lightning till June 17. Similar conditions are likely to persist on June 18 and 19, with **●P-06**

'Global Pandit Conclave'

Can't Paint Entire Kashmiri Society With Same Brush; Storm Affected Everyone: CM's Advisor

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Stating that the entire Kashmiri society cannot be held responsible for the circumstances that led to the migration of Kashmiri Pandits, Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani on Saturday said the government would work towards reviving the Apex Committee on their return and rehabilitation. He asserted that all efforts made so far would remain incomplete unless Pandits and Muslims once again lived together in Kashmir.

Addressing the Global Kashmiri Pandit Conclave, titled "From Exile to Excellence," at SKICC Srinagar, Wani, said the issue of Kashmiri Pandits' return required dialogue, reconciliation, and a collective roadmap rather than a continuation of the blame game.



Responding to concerns expressed by community members, he said it would be unfair to hold the entire Kashmiri society responsible for the events that led to their displacement. "You cannot paint everyone with the same brush. There were people whose hearts beat for Kashmiri

Pandits then and continue to do so even today," he said.

Recalling his childhood in an atmosphere of communal harmony, the CM's Advisor said his generation grew up in togetherness where religious identities rarely defined social relations. "It was often impossible to distinguish who was a Kashmiri Pandit and who was a Kashmiri Muslim. Many of the teachers who shaped our generation were Kashmiri Pandits. Our education and social values were shaped in this society," he said.

Referring to the turmoil that led to the migration, Wani said a storm came that affected everyone, bringing immense suffering to Kashmiri Pandits, but Kashmiri Muslims also suffered. "There was a section with a particular mindset that wanted division and instability, but **●P-06**

Pak National Held Near LoC In Kupwara, Probe On

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A Pakistani national was apprehended near Simri village in north Kashmir's Kupwara district after allegedly crossing the Line of Control (LoC) under suspicious circumstances, the Army said on Saturday.

In a post on X, the Chinara Corps, said alert troops, in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, acted swiftly to apprehend the intruder and prevent any potential security breach.

"Based on specific intelligence input, alert Chinara Warriors, in a joint operation with Jammu and Kashmir Police,

apprehended a Pakistani national near Simri village, Kupwara, on 12 June 2026, who had crossed the Line of Control under suspicious circumstances. Acting swiftly, the vigilant joint team intercepted the individual and prevented any potential security breach," the Army said.

The Army said the apprehended individual is currently being questioned and remains under investigation to ascertain the circumstances surrounding his crossing and any possible links or motives—(KNO)

BASED ON SPECIFIC INTELLIGENCE input, alert Chinara Warriors, in a joint operation with Jammu and Kashmir Police

No Shortage Of Energy In Country, LPG, Oil Supply Situation Comfortable: Hardeep Puri

AGENCIES

CHANDIGARH: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said there is no shortage of energy in the country and the supply situation of crude oil, LPG and natural gas is quite comfortable. Speaking with reporters in Ludhiana, Puri further asserted that, while fuel prices rose considerably in many countries, rates in India dropped by 3.1 per cent from May 2022 to May 2026.

The petroleum and natural gas minister said oil prices rose across the world in the wake of the Iran conflict.

Sharing data of fuel prices during May 2022 to May 2026, Puri said petrol prices in Pakistan rose by 70 per cent, Sri Lanka by 66 per cent, France



by 47 per cent, Italy 46 per cent, Bangladesh 36 per cent and the US 35 per cent.

"In India between May 2022 and May 2026, prices dropped by 3.1 per cent. On one hand, prices rose by 70-80 per cent in the world, but here (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji reduced prices by 3.1 per

cent," he said.

"How did it happen? The cost of petrol at the extraction point, then add insurance cost, freight, margin, Centre's excise duty and states' VAT.

Fuel prices dropped after the Prime Minister reduced the central excise duty three times in November 2021, May

2022 and now recently, he pointed out.

"A few weeks ago, excise duty on petrol and diesel was reduced by Rs 10 a litre," he said, adding that it put an additional burden of Rs 1 lakh crore on the budget.

But the PM did not want people to face any financial burden, he said.

"When we raised petrol and diesel prices, how much did it increase? Fuel prices rose by Rs 7.60 a litre," he said. In addition to Japan, there was the lowest increase in fuel prices in India, he said.

Replying to a question on capping sale of diesel at 200 litres a day, he said it was done to curb black marketing.

To another question, Puri said the supply situation is quite comfortable. **●P-06**

Officials Review Amarnath Yatra Security, Stress Tech Measures

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Security arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra were reviewed during a meeting here, with authorities stressing technology-driven measures such as enhanced CCTV surveillance, real-time monitoring through integrated control rooms, and stronger communication networks for rapid response.

The security management and coordination meeting was chaired by Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Joginder Singh and attended by senior officers of district police, CRPF, BSF, SSB, ITBP, intelligence agencies, civil administration, and disaster management authorities, according to a police spokesperson.

The deliberations focused on ensuring seamless coordination among all stakeholders for the safe and peaceful conduct of the 57-day annual pilgrimage scheduled to begin on July 3.

During the meeting, the SSP Jammu emphasised **●P-06**

'Rs 1,667 Crore Expansion To Transform Sgr Airport Into World-Class Aviation Hub'

'Annual Passenger Traffic Rose From 2.04 Million To 4.47 Million Over A Decade'



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Srinagar International Airport is set for a major transformation with a Rs 1,667-crore expansion project aimed at significantly enhancing passenger handling capacity, modernising infrastructure and elevating the overall travel experience, Airport Director Javed Anjum said on Saturday.

Speaking ahead of the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) observance of Yatri Suvidha Diwas on June 15, Anjum, said Srinagar Airport has witnessed remarkable growth in passenger traffic,

air connectivity and cargo operations over the years and continues to play a pivotal role in promoting tourism, trade and economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The airport has emerged as the principal aviation gateway to Kashmir, connecting the Valley with major destinations across the country while supporting sectors such as tourism, hospitality, handicrafts, horticulture and local commerce," the Director told the media persons.

He said the annual passenger traffic at Srinagar Airport increased from 2.04 million passengers **●P-06**

Div Com chairs board meeting of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board

Emphasises infrastructure upgradation, enhanced pilgrim amenities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

REASI: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar Saturday chaired the 13th Board meeting of the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, Ransoo, reviewing the overall functioning of the Shrine Board and deliberating on measures aimed at strengthening infrastructure and enhancing facilities for pilgrims.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek presented a detailed overview of the Board's activities, pilgrim footfall, financial position and the progress of ongoing development works.

Reviewing the functioning of the Shrine Board, the Divisional Commissioner noted that sustained efforts have been made to upgrade infrastructure and expand pilgrim amenities at the holy shrine.

He directed that tenders for shops near the shrine and along the pilgrimage track be floated at the earliest and stressed the installation of CCTV cameras at key locations within the shrine complex.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed the status of the helipad terminal



building and directed the PWD to prepare a DPR for development works around the helipad, including land levelling and allied infrastructure. He instructed the department to augment manpower and expedite execution of works and directed the authorities concerned to coordinate with helicopter service providers for the early operationalisation of helicopter services.

During the meeting, on-the-spot approvals were accorded for several developmental works. The Divisional Commissioner took stock of safety arrangements around the helipad, particularly the installation of fire safety infrastructure and directed the departments concerned to ensure all essential safety measures are put in place.

The action taken on decisions of the previous meeting was also reviewed. Discussion was held on the construction of an alternate track from Ram Mandir to the Holy Cave to decongest the existing route during peak pilgrimage periods. The Divisional Commissioner was apprised of progress on the repair and renovation of the existing track, Gouri Bhawan and Shiv Shakti Bhawan.

To further strengthen safety measures, the Divisional Commissioner directed that a safety audit of bridges along the track be conducted. He asked the executing agencies to closely monitor all development works, ensure use of quality materials and complete projects within stipulated timelines. Tehsildar

Pouni was instructed to identify suitable state land for the construction of a Sarai for the convenience of devotees.

The meeting further reviewed several ongoing and proposed projects, including the construction of waiting halls, overhead sheds, security infrastructure, bus stand facilities, water supply systems, cafeteria buildings and other public utility works aimed at improving pilgrim convenience and overall shrine management.

Among those present were CEO SMVDSB Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek, SSP Reasi Mukund Tibrewal, Director Tourism Vikas Gupta, ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma and other officers concerned.

Anti-Corruption Court Dismisses Complaint Against Former CS in JJM Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A Special Judge of the Anti-Corruption Court in Jammu has dismissed a complaint filed by retired IAS officer A.K. Parmar alleging large-scale corruption in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the procurement of GI, DI and HDPE pipes.

The court dismissed the complaint after considering a detailed report submitted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), which examined the allegations

levelled against former Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta and officers of the Jal Shakti Department.

According to the findings placed before the court, no misappropriation of funds was detected during scrutiny of records and no irregularities were found in the tendering process related to procurement under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The court observed that the allegations made in the complaint were not substantiated by the material examined during the

inquiry and held that the protest petition was not maintainable.

The dismissal assumes significance as it marks the second setback to the complainant on the same issue. Parmar had earlier filed a separate complaint containing similar allegations, which was also dismissed by the same court on April 20, 2026.

The matter had additionally figured before the Chief Information Commission in connection with RTI applications filed by the complainant with the Public Health Engineering

authorities in Kashmir and Jammu.

In its order issued in November 2025, the Commission had held that the departments concerned had responded in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Information Act and noted that much of the information sought was voluminous and already available in the public domain.

The Commission had further concluded that there was no deliberate or willful denial of information by the concerned authorities. [KNT]

Awareness Programmes on Substance Abuse organised under NMBA in B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: As part of the ongoing activities under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), several awareness programmes against substance abuse were organised across Government Degree Colleges in Bandipora district on Saturday to sensitise students about the harmful effects of drug addiction and to promote a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

At Government Degree College Sumbal, a pledge ceremony against substance abuse was conducted under the presence of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Shabeena Iqbal Shawl. The event witnessed the participation of students and faculty members, who collectively took a solemn pledge to refrain from substance use and to spread awareness about the importance of a healthy and drug-free society.

Meanwhile, under the



banar of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the Youth Club of the Red Ribbon Committee of HKM Degree College Bandipora organised a "Pledge Against Substance Abuse" under the convenership of Dr. Mehrajuddin Talie. The programme concluded with a strong message highlighting the collective responsibility of youth in combating the menace of drug abuse and promoting a healthy and productive lifestyle.

In another programme, the NSS Units of HKM Degree College Bandipora,

in collaboration with the Department of Education, organised an interactive session on the causes, consequences and remedial measures of drug abuse. The programme aimed at creating awareness among students regarding the growing menace of drug addiction and its adverse impact on individuals, families and society.

On the occasion, Head of the Department of Education, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Parry, delivered an insightful lecture and elaborated on the major causes of

substance abuse, its harmful consequences and the preventive as well as remedial measures required to combat the social evil.

Further, the Department of Political Science, in collaboration with the NCORD Cell of HKM Degree College Bandipora, organised a counselling session on the theme "Say Yes to Life and No to Drugs." The session was aimed at sensitising students about the dangers of drug abuse and encouraging them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

During the session, Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Convener of the NCORD Cell, delivered an informative lecture highlighting the causes and harmful effects of substance abuse. He stressed the importance of self-discipline, positive thinking and community support in preventing drug addiction among youth.

Zeashta Ashtami DC Kulgam reviews arrangements at Mata Tripuri Sundri Temple



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Saturday visited the Mata Tripuri Sundri Temple, Devsar, to review the arrangements being made for the smooth and successful conduct of the annual Zeashta Ashtami celebrations, scheduled to commence on June 18.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Tehsildar Devsar, Rakib Ahmad; Executive Officer Devsar, Irfan Ahmed; AE Jal Shakti, Towseef Ahmad and other senior officers.

During the visit, officials from various departments, including KPDC, Jal Shakti, Health, and other line departments, briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the preparations being undertaken to ensure the availability of essential services and facilities for

devotees expected to visit the shrine.

Reviewing the arrangements, the DC emphasized the need for effective coordination among all departments to ensure a safe, hassle-free, and comfortable experience for pilgrims. He directed the concerned officers to complete all necessary preparations well ahead of the religious event.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with members of the temple management committee and assured them of full administrative support for the successful observance of the Zeashta Ashtami festival.

The visit was aimed at assessing on-ground preparedness and ensuring that all requisite facilities are put in place for the convenience of devotees during the annual religious occasion.

DIPR's Cultural Unit organises Awareness Programme under NMBA at GHS Chattabal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Saturday organised an awareness programme at Government High School (GHS) Chattabal aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic partic-



ipation from students, who took part in a symposium highlighting the need for collective action against substance abuse and the importance of building a drug-free society.

On the occasion, artists of the DIPR's Cultural Unit presented a thematic short play depicting the devastating consequences of drug addiction on individuals, families and society. The performance effectively conveyed the message of prevention, awareness and social responsibility.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Assistant Exhibition and Cultural Officer (AECO), Cultural Unit Kashmir, Syed Shakeel Shan, said that the 100-day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan has now transformed into a people's movement with active participation from all sections of society. He said that DIPR is actively playing its role in spreading awareness through cultural programmes and public outreach initiatives across the Valley.

The Principal of GHS

Chattabal appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Unit Kashmir and thanked DIPR for organising the programme. He stressed the importance of sustained awareness campaigns to protect the younger generation from the menace of drug abuse.

Students and teachers also hailed DIPR's endeavour in promoting awareness through informative and engaging cultural activities, and reiterated their commitment towards supporting the vision of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

CIIBM of JKEDI organizes Stakeholder Meet under J&K Startup Policy

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Business Modelling (CIIBM) of Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) organized stakeholder meet under J&K Startup Policy at its main Campus Pampore.

The session was chaired by the Director, JKEDI, Mohammad Younus Malik, and brought together key stakeholders from academia, industry, incubation centres, financial institutions, and the startup ecosystem to deliberate on strengthening entrepreneurship and innovation across the Union Territory.

The meeting served as a platform for meaningful discussions on enhancing the startup ecosystem through targeted mentorship, improved market access, stronger institutional collaborations, and sustained support mechanisms for entrepreneurs.

Participants emphasized that while access to seed funding remains important, the long-term success of startups depends equally on continuous mentoring, business development support, financial prudence, market linkages, and professional guidance.

Deliberations also focused on nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset

from an early age through the introduction of entrepreneurship education in schools, promotion of innovation and tinkering labs, and creation of opportunities for young innovators to experiment and develop problem-solving skills. Stakeholders highlighted the need for robust incubation frameworks, stronger proof-of-concept development, and platforms that enable startups to validate ideas, refine business models, and scale effectively.

The discussions further underscored the importance of collaborative efforts among JKEDI, educational institutions, incubation centres, indus-

try partners, and financial institutions to address challenges related to commercialization, investment readiness, and business scalability. The pivotal role of JKEDI in facilitating connections between startups, investors, mentors, markets, and other ecosystem stakeholders was widely appreciated.

The Stakeholder Meet concluded with a shared resolve to foster a vibrant, inclusive, and innovation-driven startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir, aligned with the vision and objectives of the J&K Startup Policy and aimed at creating sustainable opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs across the region.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
GENERATION DIVISION USHP-II, KANGAN**

Email: xenekangan@gmail.com | Tel / fax - 01942-950048
e-NIT No. USHP-II/GD/03 of 2026-27 | Dated: 03-06-2026

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of Managing Director JKPCD, online e-bids in double cover system are invited (Cover-I-Techno-Commercial Bid and Cover-II-Price Bid) from authorised firms/ contractors/Self Help Groups/MSME registered with J&K government or any organization owned by PSUs/ State Government/ Central Government having sufficient related experience

S. No	Name Of Work	Qty	Cost Of Tender Document	Estimated cost (Rs)	EMD @ 2% (Rs)	Time Completion
1.	Improvement of 132Kv Yard lighting and improvement in electrical infrastructure along approach road to Power house USHP-II, Kangan.	As per Scope of Work	Rs 500/-	4.91 lacs	9900/-	Within 60 days from date of LOA

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information , eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website jktenders.gov.in or www.jkspdc.nic.in as per schedule of dates given below.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-06-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding document	04-06-2026 to 24-06--2026
3.	Bid submission Start Date	04-06-2026 1400 hrs
4.	Bid submission End Date	24-06-2026 upto 1600 hrs
5.	Deadline for receiving Hard Copies (Proof of Cost of tender document and EMD only)	24-06-2026 upto 1600 hrs
6.	Date and time of opening of Bid (online)	26-06-2026 or any other convenient date.
7.	Venue for submitting the hard copy of DD Cost of tender document / EMD	Office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, USHP-II, Kangan, Ganderbal, Kashmir.

Position of AAA - Accorded
Technical Sanction - Sanctioned
Position of Funds - Available

- The entire process of bidding shall be online. The bidding document consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the government website jktenders.gov.in or www.jkspdc.nic.in. The bidder has to submit the bids (complete in all respects) online on the said website.
- The following documents are to be uploaded along with the bid; otherwise the bid shall be liable for rejection:
 - Details of Contractor along with working phone no. and e-mail id on the letter head of contractor.
 - Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Demand Draft only in favour of the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan.
 - Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan.
 - Copy of Valid Registration Certificate.
 - Copy of GST Registration Certificate.
 - Copy of PAN Card.
 - Experience/Relevant Work Orders' and Completion Certificates copies.
 - Income tax Certificate for the latest years.
 - Information regarding the current litigation (if any) in which the bidder is involved; parties concerned and disputed amount on registered affidavit/ stamp paper of Rs 10/-.
- The bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-bid document as stated above table through Demand Draft only pledged to the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan. The original demand draft shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer Generation Division, USHP-II, Kangan and should reach before the cutoff date. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bids.
- All the e-bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BG only, pledged to the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be submitted to the Office of the Executive Engineer Generation Division, USHP-II, Kangan and should reach up to the dates mentioned in above table.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if :-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Superintending Engineer Generation Circle-II Bemina Srinagar Kashmir.
- No price bid / Commercial Technical bid will be accepted in physical form. The original Demand Draft / EMD only is required to submit in the Office of the Executive Engineer Generation Division, USHP-II, Kangan.
- The bidders are advised to visit the site for assessment and go through the contents of the SBD before quoting the rates.
- Modification in scope of work and extension of period of download of tender specification, closing opening date if required will be notified through corrigendum.
- The Instruction to Bidders (ITB) and General Conditions of Contract (GCC) as per Standard Bidding Document uploaded separately against this NIT shall form integral part of this NIT/SBD.

No-USHP-II/GD/178-192
Dated:- 03-06-2026
DIPK-NB-757-26
DT: 13/06/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Generation Division
USHP-II, Kangan

India now has 2.3 lakh startups, generated 25 lakh jobs: Jitendra Singh



AGENCIES

BENGALURU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said India's startup ecosystem had generated nearly 25 lakh jobs over the past decade and emerged as a key driver of economic growth.

He was speaking after inaugurating the two-day RISE Conclave 2026, hosted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and its laboratories, including CSIR-NAL, CSIR-CFTRI and CSIR-4PI. Stating that the startup ecosystem is a relatively recent phenomenon in India, the minister recalled that in 2014 there were only about 350-400 startups and that the movement gathered momentum after Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted it in his Independence Day address from the Red Fort in 2015.

"It was quite a novel concept here. But after the PM spoke about it, it virtually

became a mass movement through Startup India. Startup policies were introduced, a new ecosystem developed, and today we have close to 2.3 lakh startups, making India the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world," he said, adding that these 2.3 lakh startups have generated nearly 25 lakh jobs across the country.

Singh said the RISE Conclave was conceived to bring together research, innovation, startups and enterprise on a single platform to ensure startups remain sustainable through continuous innovation and strong industry linkages.

The Union Minister of State for Science and Technology said sustaining a startup was often more challenging than launching one, and stressed that continuous innovation, value addition and strong industry participation were essential for entrepreneurs to scale

up their ventures.

Organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the conclave is being held under the theme, 'Innovation & Entrepreneurship Driven Growth for Viksit Bharat 2047'.

The minister said more than half of India's startups now originate from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, dispelling the notion that entrepreneurship is confined to technology hubs such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi.

"We must convey this message clearly and convincingly — that startup opportunities are available to everyone. What is required is passion, commitment, technological awareness and consistent hard work. The government is there to provide technology and handholding support," Singh said.

Stating that the startup ecosystem is not restricted to information technology, Singh said it encompasses

sectors such as agriculture, food processing and several others.

The minister said the government had worked over the past decade to create a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurship through initiatives such as Startup India, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the National Research Foundation (NRF), and programmes aimed at promoting innovation among underserved communities.

Highlighting emerging opportunities in sectors such as space, biotechnology, deep-ocean exploration and the Himalayan economy, Singh said these areas would contribute significantly to India's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Referring to the space sector, he said India's space economy is currently valued at about USD 9 billion and is expected to grow to USD 40-45 billion over the next eight to 10 years.

He said much of this progress had occurred over the past five years after the sector was opened to private participation.

The minister said major national missions, including the National Quantum Mission and the IndiaAI Mission, were helping build future-ready technological capabilities, while defence exports had risen to nearly Rs 23,000 crore in 2025-26. (PTI)

BUDGAM ROAD ACCIDENT

Sakina Itoo visits SHMS Hospital, enquires about well-being of injured students



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakina Itoo Saturday early morning visited SMHS Hospital here to enquire about the health condition of two school children who sustained injuries in a road accident at Negoo Brenwar Budgam.

The Minister arrived at the hospital in the early hours and met the injured girl students undergoing treatment at the hospital. She personally interacted with each child and their attendants, taking stock of their health status and the medical care being provided.

Expressing concern over the incident, the

Minister conveyed her sympathies to the affected families and assured them that the Government is closely monitoring the situation.

"The government stands with the affected families in this difficult hour. No effort will be spared for the speedy recovery of the children", Sakina Itoo said.

Sakina Itoo also interacted with the attending doctors and hospital administration and directed them to provide comprehensive healthcare services to the patients without any inconvenience. She emphasized that all necessary medical facilities and specialised care should be made available to facilitate the speedy recovery of the children.

Sakeena Itoo reaffirms govt push for quality education, future ready learning

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday visited Kulgam and presided over the Graduation Day Ceremony at Ayesha Ali Academy.

Sakeena Itoo congratulated the graduating students and encouraged them to pursue excellence through dedication and continuous learning.

Addressing the gathering, she stated that the government is committed to strengthen the education sector and is continuously working to ensure quality education for every child across Jammu and Kashmir. She highlighted that the present dispensation is focused on providing better infrastructure and modern facilities in educational institutions to create a conducive learning environment. She said sustained efforts are being made to enhance the

teaching standards and expand educational opportunities for the students.

The Minister stressed the importance of using technology in a positive and productive manner. She exhorted upon the students to optimally harness the digital tools for learning, innovation and personal growth while avoiding their misuse.

Highlighting the pivotal role of teachers, she said the educators must identify and nurture the unique talents of every student while also understanding and addressing the challenges they face. She called upon the teachers, parents and educational institutions to work collectively in shaping the future of young learners.

She stated that continuous efforts are being made to provide more facilities and create an inclusive, future-ready education system that empowers the students to succeed in every sphere of life.

Javid Dar reviews irrigation infrastructure in Rafiabad, Baramulla



GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAFIABAD: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Saturday undertook an extensive tour of Rafiabad, covering Sagipora, Zalipora, Nathipora, Bagh-e-Chatkakh, Bohipora, Wadoora, Seelo and Shankargund areas of Baramulla district, to review the functioning of irrigation infrastructure.

During the visit, the Minister carried out field inspection of canals, lift irrigation schemes, distributaries and water reservoirs to assess the water availability, progress of desilting operations and overall functioning during the ongoing agricultural season.

He interacted with the farmers and local residents to obtain firsthand feedback on irrigation-related issues. He emphasized that irrigation is the lifeline of agriculture, underscoring

the importance of ensuring efficient and timely water supply.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure uninterrupted and equitable distribution of water, particularly to paddy fields. He stressed that no farmer should face hardship due to shortage of irrigation water during the cultivation season. He instructed the officers to identify the vulnerable and underserved areas and prepare time-bound plans for upgradation and modernization of lift irrigation systems wherever required. He reiterated that strengthening irrigation infrastructure is critical for enhancing the agricultural productivity.

Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control Kashmir, ACD Baramulla, Executive Engineers of Irrigation and Flood Control and other senior officers of the department accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Sakeena Itoo holds public outreach camp at Yaripora; reviews Muharram arrangements

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday visited Kulgam and held a public darbar at Yaripora, where she interacted with the local residents and assessed their grievances and developmental concerns.

During the camp, people from different areas projected issues related to



civic amenities, infrastructure, healthcare, education and other public welfare matters.

The Minister assured them that their genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner through coordination with the concerned departments.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that the government is working for welfare and development of the people.

MLA Devsar Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah also

said that the government is committed to betterment of the people and highlighted the developmental requirements of the area.

Later, the Minister visited Shahoo to take stock of the arrangements being put in place for the upcoming observance of Muharram-ul-Haram. She reviewed the preparations related to sanitation, drinking water, electricity, healthcare facilities, traf-

fic management and other essential services to ensure the smooth conduct of the religious observance.

While interacting with the officers, Sakeena Itoo directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure that all necessary arrangements are completed well in advance. She emphasized the importance of providing all required facilities to the mourners and maintaining seamless public services during the occasion.

Rana calls for scaling up rainwater harvesting, stresses adoption in new govt buildings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Saturday chaired a review meeting with officers of the Jal Shakti Department to take stock of the measures initiated to address the summer exigencies and strengthen preparedness for the ensuing monsoon season.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress achieved in implementing the decisions taken during an earlier review of summer and monsoon preparedness across Jammu Division.

The Minister reviewed the status of various initiatives aimed at ensuring uninterrupted drinking water supply, enhancing flood management capabilities and strengthening the department's response mechanism to meet any eventuality.

Underlining the urgent need to address declining groundwater tables and erratic precipitation patterns, Rana stressed that rainwater harvesting must be treated as a core component of water resource



planning in Jammu and Kashmir. He called for a fundamental shift in water management practices and emphasised the need for strict implementation of the mandate requiring the incorporation of rainwater harvesting infrastructure in all newly constructed government buildings. He said that government establishments must set the standard and lead by example in institutionalising water conservation across the region.

Rana observed that the growing challenges posed by climate variability and increasing water demand necessitate a shift towards sustainable water conservation practices. He called for formulation of a comprehensive roadmap to expand rainwater harvesting infrastructure across the division and create

greater public awareness regarding its benefits.

The Minister also directed the officers to undertake monitoring of groundwater levels across all districts in close coordination with the Central Ground Water Board and ensure that timely corrective measures are taken based on the assessments and inputs received. He stressed that regular monitoring and data-driven interventions are crucial for sustainable groundwater management and effective planning to address emerging water stress.

The Minister also directed that all private water filling stations operating in Jammu Division register themselves with the concerned authorities within ten days. He stressed the need for a credible registry of such stations to ensure quality

control and accountability in water distribution, particularly during periods of high demand.

While chairing the meeting, Javed Rana underscored the importance of proactive planning, close monitoring and timely execution of works to ensure efficient service delivery and safeguard public interests. He directed the officers to maintain a high level of preparedness and ensure that all necessary measures are in place to effectively address challenges arising from water scarcity, heatwave conditions and potential flood threats during the monsoon season.

The Minister called upon concerned officers to ensure that all repairable hand pumps in Jammu Division are restored immediately and that defunct borewells are revived without delay.

Rana also directed the officers to identify and implement all necessary flood protection measures, including construction of protective walls and other structural interventions, to safeguard water supply infrastructure from future flood damage.

Pahalgam Alliance thanks LG for reopening tourist spots, seeks access to more destinations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Pahalgam Trade and Civil Society Alliance on Saturday expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for facilitating the reopening of key tourist destinations in the region and urged authorities to restore access to more tourist sites to boost local tourism.

In a statement, Mushtaq Pahalgami, Chief Spokesperson of the Pahalgam Trade and Civil Society Alliance (Pahalgami Alliance), welcomed the reopening of Chandanwari and Gulshan Park in Aishmuqam, describing the move as a positive response to genuine



public demands.

He thanked Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the Divisional Administration, and the District Administration for fulfilling the commitments made during a recent meeting regarding the reopening of tourist destinations in the area.

Pahalgami said the Alliance was pleased that Chandanwari had been reopened

earlier and that Gulshan Park, Aishmuqam, was reopened on Thursday, bringing relief to stakeholders associated with the tourism sector.

While welcoming the development, he reiterated the demand that tourist vehicles be allowed to travel beyond Lower Chandanwari up to the main Chandanwari area, saying the move would significantly improve visitor convenience and strengthen tourism-related economic activity.

He also urged the authorities to reopen the Bijbehara-Langanbal Road for tourists, noting that the route has remained closed for a considerable period despite

its importance to the tourism sector.

Pahalgami further said the Alliance deeply appreciates the Lieutenant Governor's continued support and attention to public concerns and expressed hope that the remaining tourist destinations, including Baisaran Valley, Dabyan Valley and other important attractions, would also be reopened soon through appropriate government orders.

The Alliance said the reopening of tourist destinations is crucial for reviving tourism and supporting the livelihoods of thousands of people dependent on the sector in the Pahalgam region.

Secy RDD reviews sanitation services for SANJY 2026 along Pahalgam axis

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PAHALGAM: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Saturday conducted an extensive review of sanitation arrangements along the Pahalgam axis, from Nunwan Base Camp to Pissutop and Zojibal, in preparation for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

During the visit, the Secretary inspected the sanitation infrastructure, including toilets and bath units installed at Nunwan, Chandanwari, Pissutop and Zojibal, to assess the pace and quality of ongoing works. He directed the concerned agencies to expedite progress and ensure timely completion of all sanitation assets as per the prescribed timelines. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in and around the tented accommodations housing sanitation personnel.

Highlighting the scale of preparations, the Secretary said that the department has planned comprehensive sanitation arrangements along the Pahalgam axis to facilitate the smooth conduct of SANJY 2026. A total of 3,120 sanitation assets, comprising 2,755 toilets and 365 bath units, are being installed across key locations from Nunwan to Panjtarni to ensure better hygiene, convenience



and comfort for pilgrims.

He informed that major sanitation facilities have been established at Panjtarni, Sheshnag, Chandanwari and Nunwan Base Camp. Additional facilities are also being created at Pissutop, Zojibal, Wawbal, MG Top, Poshpathri and Bijbehara to further strengthen sanitation coverage along the Yatra route.

Aijaz Asad directed that dedicated sanitation teams be deployed at huts maintained by the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board to ensure regular and efficient cleaning throughout the Yatra period.

Reviewing the quality of infrastructure being created, he instructed that all toilets and bath units must be equipped with proper latches, door panels, bath fittings, electrical arrangements and drainage systems to provide safe, functional and hygienic facilities to the pilgrims.

Advisor Wani visits bereaved family of JKAS Officer Mohammad Younis

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Saturday visited the Natipora residence of late Mohammad Younis Mir, a Junior JKAS Officer of the 2019 batch, who passed away yesterday after a brief illness.

During the visit, the Advisor met the bereaved family and conveyed his heartfelt condolences on behalf of the Government. He offered words of comfort and solidarity to the family members and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Expressing profound grief over the untimely demise of the young officer, Advisor Wani described the loss as deeply saddening and extended sympathies to the family in this difficult hour.

He assured the family of all possible support from the Government and prayed for strength and fortitude for them to bear this irreparable loss.

The Advisor also joined the family in offering prayers for the departed soul and wished them courage and forbearance during this period of grief.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

**Rebuilding Trust
And A Shared Future**

When Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Global Kashmiri Pandit Conclave in Srinagar, his words did more than just fill an auditorium, they struck a deeply emotional chord. His speech forced a spotlight back onto one of the most painful, defining chapters of Jammu and Kashmir's modern history: the mass exile of the Kashmiri Pandit community and their unbreakable, enduring connection to the Valley.

More than thirty years have passed since thousands of Kashmiri Pandits were forced to flee their homes overnight amid a wave of targeted violence and turmoil. The decades that followed were defined by the raw trauma of displacement, loss, and deep uncertainty. Yet, the community's journey is also an astonishing masterclass in human resilience. Upended from their ancestral lands, Kashmiri Pandits quietly rebuilt their lives from scratch across India and the globe. Today, you find them excelling at the highest levels of education, science, technology, public administration, literature, and civic service.

Their success is a monumental testament to sheer perseverance. Even while scattered across foreign cities and unfamiliar climates, they fiercely protected their cultural identity, ensuring that their language, traditions, and heritage survived to be passed down to children who have never seen the snows of Gulmarg.

The Lieutenant Governor's invitation for Pandits to reconnect with their homeland arrives at a pivotal crossroads. Jammu and Kashmir is currently navigating massive political, economic, and social shifts. His message signals an important shift in perspective: it's time to stop viewing the Pandit community solely through the lens of their historical victimhood, and start recognizing them as vital stakeholders in the region's future. However, a meaningful homecoming requires far more than warm rhetoric or symbolic gestures. For the vast majority of displaced families, the thought of returning is incredibly complicated, wrapped up in a delicate mix of nostalgia and fear.

True homecoming isn't just about a plane ticket; it requires definitive answers to foundational questions: Will my family be safe? Where will we live? How will we earn a living? Will our neighbors truly accept us?

A genuine return can only happen when people feel physically secure, socially respected, and economically stable. Building that level of confidence demands sustained, honest effort from both government policy and grassroots society.

Progress Without Abandonment



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

In a world that celebrates upward mobility, many people quietly discover that achievement can also bring distance, loneliness, and an uneasy feeling of leaving their own people behind. Success is one of the most celebrated words in modern life. Parents pray for it, teachers encourage it, and young people are taught to chase it with all the energy they possess. We associate success with education, financial stability, social respect, better opportunities, and a life of dignity. In principle, there is nothing wrong with this aspiration. Human beings should grow. They should improve their circumstances. They should strive to build a better future for themselves and for their families.

Yet behind this admired idea lies a quieter, more painful reality that many people experience but rarely express openly: sometimes success begins to feel less like arrival and more like separation. A person moves ahead in life, but in doing so begins to feel emotionally distant from the very people, places, and habits that once shaped his identity. He has not necessarily become proud, and they have not necessarily become hostile. Still, a gap appears. He remains physically present among his own people, but inwardly he no longer feels entirely at home.

This is one of the hidden emotional costs of success.

In ordinary conversation, people often assume that success brings only joy. They imagine celebration, admiration, and fulfillment. But many who rise in life discover a more complex truth. Growth changes not only one's circumstances but also one's mind. It changes what one values, how one speaks, what one notices, and what one can no longer ignore. A person who has spent years struggling, studying, sacrificing, and disciplining himself does not return unchanged. His responsibilities become different. His sense of time becomes different. His concerns become different. He begins to think in terms of long-term planning, self-respect, professional standards, and meaningful purpose. Meanwhile, the people around him may still be living within the same patterns of conversation, comparison, distraction, and routine that once also defined him.

That is where the silent distance begins. Take the example of a young man from a lower-middle-class family who studies with unusual determination. He avoids many plea-



sure in his youth, works late into the night, learns new skills, earns a degree, and eventually secures a respected position. His family is proud, and rightly so. When he returns home, everyone welcomes him warmly. Yet after the greetings fade, he notices something difficult to explain. The old jokes no longer amuse him in the same way. The gossip that once filled long evenings now feels empty. The casual wastage of time troubles him. He wants to discuss possibilities, responsibilities, and future plans, but the room around him remains occupied with small rivalries and repetitive complaints. He sits with his loved ones, eats with them, laughs when required, but somewhere within, he feels alone. He has not rejected them, yet he feels that part of him has crossed into a world they do not fully understand.

A similar experience is common for many women who rise through education and professional achievement. A girl from a conservative or limited background may work hard, earn qualifications, become financially independent, and develop a broader understanding of life. She hopes this success will not only uplift her but also strengthen her family. Yet she may begin to hear subtle comments: "You have changed." "You think too much." "You are not like before." What is often meant by these statements is not simply that she has changed, but that her change has unsettled the expectations of those around her. Her discipline, confidence, and ambitions may inspire some people, but threaten others. She then begins to live with a strange paradox: she is praised for succeeding yet made to feel guilty for becoming different.

This tension is becoming more widespread because modern success often involves more than earning money. It reshapes identity. A person may change cities, languages, professions, clothing, schedules, friends, and even emotional habits. Someone who once belonged naturally to one environment may find that he no longer fits there entirely, while still not fully belonging to the new world he has entered.

He becomes suspended between two realities. He is too changed for one circle and not fully absorbed by the other. This is why some successful people, despite public admiration, carry a private loneliness that society rarely notices.

The problem is not success itself. The real problem is the narrow way in which society has learned to understand it. We celebrate achievement in material and visible terms, but we do not teach people how to remain rooted while rising. We teach ambition, but not emotional continuity. We applaud the outcome, but ignore the inner adjustment that success demands from both the individual and the community around him.

As a result, many people begin to experience success almost like a form of exile. They feel they have escaped difficulty, but at a personal cost. They have improved their lives, yet lost the effortless belonging they once enjoyed. They can no longer speak quite as they used to, think quite as they used to, or dream quite as they used to. Their old world may accuse them of becoming distant, while their new world often accepts them only conditionally. In between these two spaces, the successful person asks a painful question: Is moving forward the same thing as moving away?

This question matters not only at the individual level, but at the level of society itself. A healthy society should not force people to choose between growth and belonging. It should not produce a situation in which education alienates, refinement isolates, and ambition creates guilt. The purpose of progress is not to uproot human beings from their emotional foundations, but to strengthen their ability to live with greater wisdom, dignity, and service.

Unfortunately, there is another social tendency that deepens the wound. People often interpret the distance created by success as arrogance. "He has forgotten his people," they say. "She thinks she is better than the rest of us." Sometimes this accusation is true. Some people do become proud, dismissive, and self-important. But not every difference is pride. Not every silence is contempt.

Not every withdrawal is betrayal. Sometimes a person is simply trying to reconcile two versions of himself: the one he came from and the one life has forced him to become.

This is why both sides need maturity. The person who succeeds must remain vigilant against vanity. Growth should refine character, not harden it. A better income should not produce a poorer heart. Education should not become a license to insult the uneducated. The truly successful person is not the one who merely escapes hardship, but the one who remembers hardship with humility. He must continue to listen, to visit, to help, to stay grateful, and to speak with respect. He may outgrow certain habits, but he should not outgrow affection. He may leave behind limitations, but he should never leave behind humanity.

At the same time, families and communities must also learn generosity of understanding. When one of their own rises, they should not only celebrate the result but try to understand the transformation. Discipline changes a person. Responsibility changes a person. Exposure changes a person. Pain changes a person. Long struggle leaves deep marks on the mind. Instead of saying, "You are not the same anymore," a wiser response would be, "You have carried many burdens to come this far; let us learn how to remain close." That approach preserves both love and dignity.

Real success, then, is not simply about reaching a higher place. It is about carrying one's values upward without dropping one's roots on the way. It is about becoming more capable without becoming emotionally unavailable. It is about learning to inhabit larger spaces while still speaking to ordinary people with sincerity. The finest achievement is not to rise above others, but to rise in such a way that others feel hope rather than abandonment.

A society that measures success only by wealth, status, or visibility will continue to produce polished loneliness. But a society that measures success by responsibility, humility, and connectedness will produce human beings who rise without becoming strangers.

In the end, success should not feel like exile from one's own people. It should feel like an expansion of one's ability to love, serve, and uplift. The true measure of achievement is not how far a person travels from his beginnings, but whether, after all the distance, he still knows the way back to the human warmth that first made him who he is.

To move forward is admirable. To move forward without losing one's soul is greatness. And to rise in life without making one's own people feel left behind—that is success in its highest form.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

From Viral Buzz To Organized Campaigns



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Today is an age of information and communication. The internet, social media, and digital platforms have accelerated the exchange of ideas at an unprecedented pace. There was a time when the formation of public opinion was limited to newspapers, magazines, and television. Now, with a simple mobile phone and internet connection, anyone can reach millions. This change has given new strength to democratic dialogue, but it has also created new challenges. Amidst these challenges, new words and concepts emerge that gradually become part of public discourse. In recent years, "cockroach party" has emerged as one such term, establishing its place in the social media vernacular.

The term is not the name of any formal political party, but rather a symbolic expression. It is used to describe groups, campaigns, or online activities that suddenly create a significant amount of buzz around an issue. Viral posts, memes, videos, and trending hashtags on social media are often associated with the term. Many consider it part of an organized digital campaign, while others simply view it as a natural consequence of social and political reactions. This is why serious discussion on this topic is needed.

First, it's important to understand that social media works differently from traditional media. Here, the success of any content depends more on its emotional impact than its factual value. If a post angers, frightens, excites, or emotes people, its chances of

going viral increase exponentially. This is why even small issues can sometimes escalate into massive public debates. Algorithms also promote content that generates the most reactions. As a result, real issues are often overshadowed, and emotional noise takes center stage.

Psychologist experts explain that humans are more influenced by stories than facts. If an event is presented in a compelling story or narrative, people are more likely to accept it. This same principle is used in digital campaigns. A small incident is presented as a symbol of a broader social injustice, political conspiracy, or cultural conflict. People then take a stand for or against that narrative without further investigation. This process often gives rise to mob mentality.

It is in this context that the term "toolkit" came into discussion. A toolkit is typically a guide designed to guide a campaign. It may include suggested hashtags, sample posts, promotional materials, video links, contact information, and program information. This is not a new concept. Social movements, non-governmental organizations, political parties, and citizen campaigns have long produced such documents. In the digital age, their reach and impact have increased.

Problems arise when a toolkit's purpose appears to be more than just raising awareness, but rather to incite public sentiment or increase social polarization. In such cases, allegations are made that a particular group or force is attempting to systematically influence public opinion. However, it is equally important to emphasize that it would not be appropriate to dismiss every toolkit as a conspiracy document. Sometimes, these are simply common campaign management tools. Therefore, any document or campaign should be evaluated based on its purpose, content, and impact.

Gen-Z, the current young



generation, appears to be at the center of this entire discussion. This generation was born and raised in a digital world. Their information-seeking habits differ from previous generations. Instead of reading newspapers or listening to lengthy debates, they acquire information through short videos, memes, reels, and social media posts. Consequently, they absorb new information quickly, but often don't take the time to verify its veracity.

This is why Gen-G is considered the most effective target for any campaign. If a message addresses young people's emotions, identity, concerns about the future, or a sense of social justice, it can spread very quickly. Sensitive images, emotional videos, powerful music, and inspiring slogans are widely used to appeal to young people. Sometimes these become a vehicle for positive social change, but sometimes these same techniques also popularize misinformation and extremist ideas.

This raises an important question: Is there truly an organized conspiracy at work to incite the younger generation? The answer to this question is not simple. History shows that foreign powers, ideological organizations, and political groups in various countries have attempted to influence public opinion. The digital age has made these efforts easier. Through fake accounts, bot networks, sponsored content, and coordinated campaigns, any topic can be artificially popularized. This is a real challenge that

cannot be completely dismissed.

But on the other hand, it would be wrong to assume every social unrest is the result of a foreign conspiracy. Issues like unemployment, economic inequality, educational problems, administrative failures, and social injustice naturally breed discontent among people. If these problems are not addressed, any campaign or narrative can easily gain popularity. Therefore, to understand any movement or digital campaign, it is essential to consider its social and economic context.

It's also important to distinguish between foreign interference and international collaboration. In a globalized world, organizations, research institutes, and civil society groups from different countries interact with each other. This collaboration can be a normal part of democratic processes. However, if there's a lack of transparency in a campaign's funding, strategy, or operations, suspicions are bound to arise. Therefore, transparency is paramount. The public has the right to know who is behind a campaign, its financial sources, and its stated objectives.

Political discourse often features a tendency to label various groups. Terms like "left," "liberal," "right-wing," "urban Naxal," "nationalist," or many others become part of the debate. The problem arises when these labels are used to dismiss individuals or groups without truly listening to their point of view. Diversity of opinion is natural in a democracy. Attributing any disagreement to conspiracy or anti-national activities is as dangerous as ignoring real threats.

In such circumstances, the role of citizens becomes crucial. The most effective defense is media literacy. People must understand that not all information seen on social media is true. Before sharing any viral post, verify its source. If a video, photo, or document is generating a highly emotional response, verifying its authenticity becomes even more crucial.

Young people, in particular, should be taught digital research skills. They should be taught how to compare information sources, use fact-checking websites, and how algorithms present selective content. If Gen Z becomes proficient in these skills, they will be less likely to be influenced by any misleading campaign.

Dialogue is equally important. Protest, criticism, and disagreement are natural in a democracy. But when dialogue is replaced by accusations, rumors, and hatred, divisions grow in society. Therefore, dialogue between people of different ideologies must be encouraged. Differences of opinion are not the problem; the problem arises when dialogue ceases.

Ultimately, it's essential to adopt a balanced approach when discussing topics like the "cockroach party," the toolkit, and the alleged conspiracy to incite Gen-G. Social media and digital campaigns certainly have the potential to influence public opinion. In some cases, there may be organized and purposeful efforts. However, it's not factually correct to dismiss every viral incident or foreign contact as a conspiracy. The reality is often more complex, with local issues, social discontent, political competition, digital technology, and human psychology all playing a role.

The most effective way to maintain national and social stability is not through fear or superstition, but through transparency, reason, dialogue, and responsible citizenship. If citizens learn to distinguish between fact and rumor, if young people adopt media literacy, and if institutions become transparent and accountable, the power of any toolkit, real or imagined, will be limited. A democracy's greatest strength lies in its informed citizens, who are also its most effective safeguard against any form of misinformation or instability.

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

More Than A District, A Living Repository Of Kashmiri Identity


DR. RIZWAN RUMI

Nestled in the lap of the majestic Pir Panjal Mountains and nourished by the waters of the Veshaw River, Kulgam stands as one of the most captivating districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Blessed with breathtaking landscapes, fertile fields, revered shrines, and a rich spiritual legacy, Kulgam embodies the essence of Kashmir's cultural and civilizational heritage. It is a land where nature and spirituality coexist in harmony, where every mountain, spring, shrine, and village narrates a story woven into the fabric of Kashmir's history.

Often described as the gateway to the majestic Pir Panjal highlands, Kulgam occupies a unique place in Kashmir's geographical, spiritual, and cultural landscape. The significance of Kulgam extends far beyond its geographical boundaries. It is a district that has nurtured saints, scholars, poets, and ordinary people whose lives have been shaped by values of tolerance, hospitality, faith, and coexistence. The district continues to serve as a living example of Kashmir's composite culture and enduring traditions.

Historically, Kulgam has occupied an important place in the socio-cultural landscape of Kashmir. Historical records suggest that the region was once known as Shampora before being renamed Kulgam by the renowned Sufi saint Hazrat Mir Syed Hussain Simnani, although historians and local traditions offer varying views regarding the origin and renaming of the district. Throughout different historical periods, including the Mughal and Dogra eras, the area attracted travelers and spiritual seekers owing to its natural beauty and peaceful environment. Archaeological findings from different parts of the district further indicate the existence of ancient settlements dating back centuries, highlighting Kulgam's historical significance.

Kulgam's greatest distinction, however, lies in its spiritual heritage. The district is regarded as one of the most important centres of Sufi and Rishi traditions in Kashmir. These traditions played a crucial role in shaping the social and cultural character of the Valley, promoting values of compassion, humility, and communal harmony.

Among the most revered spiritual personalities associated with Kulgam

is Hazrat Mir Syed Hussain Simnani, a renowned Sufi saint who migrated from Persia and settled in Kashmir. His teachings emphasized spiritual purification, love for humanity, and devotion to the Almighty. His shrine continues to attract devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir, serving as a centre of spiritual reflection and guidance.

The district also shares a close connection with Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani, popularly known as Nund Rishi or Sheikh-ul-Alam, the patron saint of Kashmir and founder of the indigenous Rishi Order. His message of simplicity, selflessness, social justice, and religious harmony transcended divisions and became a guiding force for generations of Kashmiris. The teachings of Sheikh-ul-Alam remain deeply embedded in the collective consciousness of the people.

The spiritual landscape of Kulgam is further enriched by the memories of Lal Ded (Lalleshwari), the great mystic poetess whose verses continue to inspire seekers of truth and wisdom.

The influence of the Sufi-Rishi tradition in Kulgam extends far beyond religious discourse. It has profoundly shaped the social ethos of the district, fostering a culture rooted in mutual respect, compassion, and communal harmony.

Together, the traditions represented by Lal Ded and Nund Rishi symbolize the unique cultural synthesis that has historically defined Kashmir.

The influence of the Sufi-Rishi tradition in Kulgam extends far beyond religious discourse. It has profoundly shaped the social ethos of the district, fostering a culture rooted in mutual respect, compassion, and communal harmony. For centuries, the shrines and spiritual centres scattered across Kulgam have served not only as places of worship but also as centres of learning, dialogue, and social cohesion.

The district is home to numerous shrines and religious sites that hold immense significance for devotees. The shrine of Hazrat Mir Syed Hussain Simnani, the revered Ziyarat of



Sheikh-ul-Alam, Gofbal Shrine, and several other sacred places continue to attract pilgrims throughout the year. These sites are not merely places of worship; they are repositories of history, spirituality, and cultural memory.

Nature has bestowed Kulgam with extraordinary beauty. The district boasts some of the most enchanting landscapes in Jammu and Kashmir. Among its most celebrated attractions is the majestic Aharbal Waterfall, often referred to as the "Niagara of Kashmir." Here, the Veshaw River plunges dramatically through rocky cliffs, creating a spectacular sight that leaves visitors spellbound. The roar of cascading waters amidst dense forests and rugged mountains creates an atmosphere of serenity and grandeur.

Equally mesmerizing is Kousarnag Lake, a pristine alpine lake situated at a high altitude amidst the Pir Panjal range. Revered by many and admired for its crystal-clear waters, the lake remains one of Kashmir's most beautiful natural treasures. The surrounding meadows and mountains provide breathtaking views that attract trekkers, nature enthusiasts, and photographers.

Beyond its famous tourist destinations, Kulgam is dotted with numerous villages, streams, meadows, and springs that remain relatively unexplored yet possess immense natural and cultural significance. Places such as Devsar, D.H. Pora, Frisal, Yaripora, Behibagh, and Qaimoh present a unique blend of traditional Kashmiri rural life and scenic beauty. The district's landscape changes with the seasons, from lush green fields in spring and summer to golden harvests in autumn and snow-covered panoramas in winter.

The picturesque meadows of Kungwattan and Gurwattan, the serene landscapes of Nandimarg, and the crystal-clear springs scattered across the district further enhance Kulgam's natural charm. These destinations possess immense potential for eco-tourism and sustainable tourism initiatives that can contribute significantly to the local economy.

Agriculture forms the backbone of Kulgam's economy. Blessed with fertile soil and abundant water resources, the district is regarded as one of Kashmir's important agricultural regions. Vast paddy fields stretch across the landscape, while horticulture plays a vital role in sustaining thousands of families through apple cultivation. Walnut, pear, cherry, and plum orchards further contribute to the district's agricultural prosperity.

The bond between the people of Kulgam and their land is deeply rooted. Agriculture is not merely an economic activity but a way of life that shapes social relations, cultural practices, and seasonal rhythms. The blossoming of orchards, sowing of crops, and harvest season continue to be celebrated as collective experiences that bring communities together.

In recent years, the district has witnessed gradual transformation through improved educational opportunities, expanding infrastructure, and growing entrepreneurial initiatives. Young people from Kulgam are increasingly making their presence felt in academia, administration, research, journalism, business, and various professional fields.

The cultural life of Kulgam reflects the richness of Kashmiri traditions. Folk songs, Rouf dances, traditional handicrafts, local cuisine, and centuries-old customs continue to thrive in its villages. Festivals and religious gatherings serve as occasions for social bonding and cultural expression. Hospitality remains a defining characteristic of the people, who continue to uphold values passed down through generations.

Kulgam's story is also one of resilience. Like many regions of Kashmir, it has witnessed periods of social and political upheaval, yet its people have consistently demonstrated an extraordinary ability to preserve their traditions and rebuild their communities. The enduring strength of its social fabric lies in the values inherited from generations of saints, scholars, farm-

ers, artisans, and community leaders. Despite its immense potential, Kulgam faces contemporary challenges. Issues such as unemployment, environmental degradation, changing climatic conditions, and the need for improved infrastructure require sustained attention. Protecting forests, water bodies, and natural resources has become increasingly important in the face of ecological pressures.

Today, as Jammu and Kashmir moves through an era of rapid change, Kulgam finds itself at a crucial crossroads. The challenge before policymakers, civil society, and local communities is to ensure that development proceeds hand in hand with the preservation of cultural heritage and environmental sustainability.

At the same time, Kulgam possesses enormous opportunities. The promotion of heritage tourism, eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, entrepreneurship, and educational development can contribute significantly to the district's growth. By combining modern development with the preservation of its cultural and environmental assets, Kulgam can emerge as a model of balanced and sustainable progress.

Kulgam is far more than an administrative district on the map of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a living repository of history, spirituality, culture, and natural beauty. It is a land where saints preached love and compassion, where rivers nurtured civilizations, where mountains safeguarded traditions, and where communities built a legacy of coexistence and harmony.

In understanding Kulgam, one discovers not merely a district but a reflection of Kashmir's soul itself—a soul shaped by faith, resilience, beauty, and an enduring commitment to humanity. Preserving and promoting this remarkable heritage is not only a regional responsibility but a collective duty for all who value the rich cultural legacy of Kashmir.

As Kashmir continues to evolve in the modern era, districts like Kulgam remind us that true progress is measured not merely by infrastructure and economic growth, but also by the preservation of history, culture, spirituality, and the natural environment.

Kulgam remains a land where the echoes of saints still resonate through shrines and villages, where crystal-clear springs continue to nourish both fields and communities, and where the majestic mountains stand as silent witnesses to centuries of history. It is this unique blend of faith, nature, culture, and resilience that makes Kulgam not only one of the most beautiful districts of Jammu and Kashmir but also one of its most treasured inheritances.

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Homemaker's Worth

Finally Counted, But Still After The Last Rites

SHOBHA SHUKLA

It all started with a road accident in Punjab on 25th November 2001 which killed home maker Reshma - a mother of three children. Incidentally, 25th November is also observed globally as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Following her death, her legal heirs - husband and children - filed a compensation claim before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT). The Tribunal awarded a compensation of INR 2,42,000 (~US\$ 2500) in December 2003. Not satisfied by this meagre amount the claimants filed an appeal in the High Court in 2004. The case was decided twenty years later at the fag-end of 2024 and a Single Judge enhanced the compensation to INR 8,43,400 (~US\$ 8850) vide order dated 11th December 2024, along with 7.5% interest from the date of filing of the claim petition. It was further clarified that should the said payment be not made within three months, the rate of interest would be enhanced to 9% per annum and further if the amount is not paid within six months, enhancement shall be with interest at 12% per annum.

Still dissatisfied, the claimants approached the Supreme Court, contending that the lower courts had grossly undervalued the loss, and failed to adequately account for the full value of Reshma's domestic and caregiving contributions among other things. In its landmark judgement delivered on 11th June 2026, the Court enhanced the compensation to INR 62,77,900 (~US\$ 66,000), payable to the complainant by the respondent - insurance company. The Supreme Court has earned laurels and accolades on two accounts for delivering this landmark judgement.



Loss of unpaid domestic care is a distinct economic loss

First and foremost the Court established that the loss of unpaid domestic care is a distinct economic loss, and ordered that a homemaker's work must be valued at a minimum of INR 30,000 (around USD 315) per month when calculating accident compensation. The Court further clarified that "this amount of INR 30,000 - i.e. loss of domestic care is to be taken as a 'stand-in' (basic minimum monthly income) for monthly income in those cases where the homemaker does not have an input into the house, in strictly conventional, monetary terms. In those cases where the homemaker is part of the workforce, the component of loss of domestic care shall be in addition to the monthly income as may be proved before the Tribunal/Courts."

Unpaid domestic and care work is economically undervalued

In their 36 pages judgement the

Bench of Justice Karol and Justice Singh observed that homemakers, actually are the 'nation builders' and they ought to be recognised as such. The Court noted that unpaid domestic and caregiving work performed by women remains economically undervalued despite its enormous contribution to society and the economy. In the Court's view, "it is ironic to describe a homemaker as dependant on earning members, when, in reality the household's functioning depends substantially on the homemaker. The earning members are in fact solely dependent on the homemaker but alas, this reality does not receive the acknowledgment it deserves." The judgment also contains an extensive discussion on the social, emotional, economic and psychological contributions made by homemakers.

24 years delayed justice

The second important lacunae flagged by the Bench was the inordi-

nate delay of 24 years in deciding the case. To assess the extent of the problem, the Bench examined precisely 123 appeals of Motor Accident Claims Tribunal decided by Supreme Court Benches headed by Justice Karol. The analysis revealed that the average pendency before Motor Accident Claims Tribunals was approximately six years, while appeals remained pending in High Courts for about eight years. So much for our Judiciary system.

"Although it is never possible to fully compensate for the loss of a person who has been an integral part of a person's family, the idea of just and fair compensation requires that an amount of money be paid to the claimants that would, as far as possible, place them in a position as if the unfortunate incident of the death of their loved one had not taken place. For whatever reason, when this takes twenty years, the suffering is only compounded further," the Bench observed. Reshma's soul must have had some respite after 24 years, for her family being compensated by the court for her unsung contribution to the family when she was alive.

The magnanimity of the Court notwithstanding, it is ironic that the importance of a woman's unpaid care work is acknowledged when she is no more. Do we need a fatal accident to establish her worth? She deserves that acknowledgement while she is alive, even though it is difficult to assess such a contribution in monetary terms alone. Unpaid domestic and caregiving work performed by women remains undervalued economically as well as socially.

This gender inequality is not genetic but created by patriarchy - every man has tasted the fruits of its entitlements. And every woman has borne

its brunt in some form or the other. Patriarchy is a social system that normalises male dominance, entitlement, and control, and that devalues women, girls, and gender diverse peoples. The pressure to adjust, compromise, stay quiet, and ask for less - not because we women are incapable of more - but because we were taught to expect less since our early childhood. That's how evil inequality survives. And the moment women begin questioning these expectations, change begins. Let us not forget that change often starts with small refusals and not with big revolutions - like the Court refused to ignore the significance and value of unpaid domestic care work.

The Supreme Court has set the ball rolling, by recognising a woman's worth, albeit, in this case, after her death. But recognition has to come within one's lifetime. Else all the plaudits by the Court will amount to lip service. In Hindi we have a proverb 'मृत्यु के बाद की तारीफ़ें' (This loosely translates into 'starving someone to death when alive, but performing the last rites with fanfare'). Women and girls deserve to be recognised to enjoy the fruits of their never-ending labour while they are still alive and not be put on a pedestal after their death.

What we need is a people centric feminist response that addresses patriarchal norms around masculinity, entitlement and control. And thanks once again to the Supreme Court for breaking the eerie silence and starting the conversation.

Note: Views expressed in this opinion are authors' own and may not be found in accord with those of GMK

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Emerging Tech Has

women officers commissioned by the Indian Air Force, he said their growing numbers make the IAF even more powerful, balanced and robust, which demonstrates the strength of the inclusive force.

He also wished success to the graduating Vietnamese cadets in their future endeavours, exuding confidence that their training will bolster the friendship between the two countries.

He highlighted the Indian Air Force's success in high-stakes rescue missions and its role in ensuring the safety of foreign citizens during crises.

"That way, during the humanitarian missions, the Indian Air Force has enhanced the Indian culture and ethos," he added.

A total of 231 Flight Cadets (194 men and 37 women), including the first batch of women from the National Defence Academy, were commissioned as officers in the IAF following their graduation from the Air Force Academy (AFA).

The Defence Minister, who reviewed the Combined Graduation Parade of 217 Course, awarded the 'President's Commission' to the graduating cadets, marking the culmination of the pre-commissioning training of the cadets for the Flying and Ground Duty branches of IAF.

Nine officers from the Indian Navy, three from the Indian Coast Guard and two from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam were awarded 'Wings' on the occasion. 'Brevets' were given to three officers upon the completion of their navigation training.

Singh was presented with a General Salute by the parade, followed by an impressive march past. The parade was interspersed with a synchronised flypast led by Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh.

The flypast showcased four types of trainer aircraft – Pilatus PC-7 Mk II, Hawk, Kiran, and Chetak aircraft.

In recognition of their exceptional performance across various training disciplines, the defence minister gave away awards to the graduating officers. Flying Officer Ashish Kumar Yadav was awarded the coveted 'President's Plaque' and the 'Nawanagar Sword of Honour' for standing first in the overall order of merit in the Pilot Course.

Flying Officer Ekta Gupta was awarded the 'President's Plaque' for standing first in the overall order of merit in the navigation stream. Flying Officer Divyanshi Singh was awarded the 'President's Plaque' for standing first in the overall order of merit in the Ground Duty branches.

The event also included a display by the Akash Ganga and 'Shakti', the Woman Air Warrior Drill Team, which was well appreciated by the audience. A captivating aerobatics display by Su-30 MKI, Sarang helicopter display team and Suryakiran Aerobatic Team formed part of the grand finale of the parade.(PTI)

LG Sinha Urges

of Jammu Kashmir, and trust in the administrative stability under Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Journey of Kashmiri Pandit Community has been scarred by genocide, exile and struggle. World once witnessed their wounds and now the triumph. The community chose a different path. They refused to be defined by wounds and struggle. Instead, they transformed that pain into strength," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon distinguished members of Kashmiri Pandit Community to set up industries, academic and cultural institutions in Jammu Kashmir that will become the immortal story of their heritage and provide opportunities to generations to come. He emphasised that the Kashmiri Pandit Community's contribution is needed across industry, education, arts and spirituality.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that the world remembers the 1990s, when the Kashmiri Pandit community faced unimaginable brutality and endured massacres and, overnight, families were forced to leave everything behind and live in exile in their own country.

"Lives marked by pain and struggle gave the Kashmiri Pandit community only two choices- despair or rebuilding. They chose creation, rebuilding and selfless service and in doing so, the community made history. Carrying the weight of massacre, they never turned away from their purpose.

Hardship never broke the spirit of the Kashmiri Pandit community. Suffering did not silence their ambition. Instead, they shaped their own destiny by building industries, founding institutions, driving innovation, and earning respect across the world.

Today, I am proud that the Kashmiri Pandit community is celebrated for reaching new heights of success. The world honours their talent, leadership, and contributions to humanity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the Global Conclave also indicates that the time has come for the reconstruction and revival of the ancient glory of the Kashmiri Pandit community. He said the discussions at this conclave on building global industries and institutions here and a shared economic future are blueprints and pathways for cultural revival, economic empowerment, and community restoration.

"You turned struggle into strength, and that struggle forged community leaders who achieved excellence in technology, finance, medicine, the arts, and civil services. In that struggle your commitment produced entrepreneurs who built companies shaping global markets, and I believe it also produced scholars who enriched the academic world and influenced policy.

Through your advancement the Kashmiri Pandit community reminded the world that resolve, courage, and determination are the great-

est weapons. Today, as the world celebrates your accomplishments, it honours your talent, your patience, and the spirit that refused to bow," the Lieutenant Governor told the distinguished members present at the conclave.

The Lieutenant Governor said the return of the Kashmiri Pandit community reflects that after 2019 a new Jammu Kashmir has been born.

"The strength of this new Jammu Kashmir reflects your resolve. Its hope reflects your vision. Jammu Kashmir, which witnessed the massacres, pain, and displacement of the Kashmiri Pandit community has been transformed into a centre of reconstruction by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

I often say that history is written by those who rise again after suffering and confronting countless challenges. Having earned global recognition, you are now returning to your roots. This dignified return is also the resolve of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. I salute your courage. I honour your steadfastness. I appreciate your achievements, and I express the commitment that together we will ensure a future brighter than the past and that the pride of the Kashmiri Pandit community will shine again for the welfare of all humanity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the contribution of the Kashmiri Pandit community towards building a Viksit Bharat would be significant and would play an important role in the nation's development journey.

On the occasion, the participants witnessed various sessions during which distinguished speakers and prominent members of the Kashmiri Pandit community shared their experiences and insights.

Among those present on the occasion were Shri Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister; Shri Upshaar Kotru, President, Kashmiri Overseas Association (KOA); Shri Utpal Kaul, International Coordinator & Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD); Shri Ashwani Bhat, President, Kashmiri Pandit Association (KPA) Mumbai; Shri Sanjay Koul, President All Minority Employees Association Kashmir (AMEAK); Shri Autar Krishan Trakroo, Social Activist and Organising Secretary, Sanjeevani Sharda Kendra; Shri Dileep Mattoo President Jammu Kashmir Vichar Manch (JKVM); Shri R.K. Bhat, President, Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj.

Senior officers from the Police and Civil Administration, prominent citizens, youth and a large number of members of the Kashmiri Pandit community also attended the conclave.

J&K Has Undergone

inherit easy paths; instead, he forged new avenues for India's future.

While his contemporaries debated structural reforms across education, Swadeshi, national unity, and rapid industrialization, Mahamana had already advanced significantly toward implementing solutions.

In 1904, Mahamana had envisioned a comprehensive curriculum that would produce engineers to make the nation powerful and prosperous. He placed special emphasis on holistic education focussing on modern engineering, industrial machinery manufacture, chemical sciences and agricultural research with indigenous handicrafts, handloom skills, arts, and India's cultural-spiritual heritage. 122 years later, we are giving concrete shape to his ideas through the National Education Policy.

Mahamana wanted to strengthen the nation through education and skills aligned with industrial needs. Today, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is working to fully realize the dreams of Mahamana. While the entire world is grappling with economic crises, India is moving forward with renewed momentum and confidence," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that under leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the UT of Jammu & Kashmir is leading the country in implementing Mahamana's visions.

"A historic industrial revolution, catalysed by the 2021 New Industrial Policy, has resulted in an influx of investments over the past four years that surpasses the cumulative industrial investments of seven decades.

Aligning with Mahamana's principles of national unity, social harmony and women-led development, Jammu Kashmir has undergone a societal transformation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to commit to five core pillars of growth:

"First, continuous Mastery of Knowledge and skills aligned with evolving industrial needs. Second, cultivate a culture of personal integrity, honesty, and ethical values. Third, adopt an entrepreneurial mindset in both thought and action. Fourth, engage in community service. Fifth, promote National Unity and foster cross-sectoral collaboration and social harmony."

Shri Prabhu Narain Srivastava and Shri Kamal Nain Rai, Patrons of the Mahamana Malaviya Mission; Shri Hari Shankar Singh, President, Mahamana Malaviya Mission; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir; office-bearers of the Mahamana Malaviya Mission, faculty members of the University of Kashmir, and senior officers of the police and civil administration were present on the occasion.

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth

Regiment in the Desert Sector, an Armoured Brigade in the Western Theatre, and a Counter-Insurgency Force in Jammu and Kashmir. As a

Lieutenant General, he commanded the prestigious Sudarshan Chakra Corps and later served as General Officer Commanding (GOC), Delhi Area. Regional business updates

Upon elevation to Army Commander, Lt Gen Seth headed both the South Western Command and Southern Command, becoming one of the few officers to command two operational Army Commands. During this period, he provided strategic oversight across critical theatres and contributed significantly to operational preparedness.

Widely recognised for his role in force modernisation, Lt Gen Seth has served in key appointments related to strategic planning and capability development at Army Headquarters. His contributions have helped shape the Army's long-term modernisation roadmap, force restructuring initiatives and integration of emerging technologies.

A highly accomplished military professional, he is a graduate of the Higher Command Course and the National Defence College. He also attended the prestigious Command and Staff Course in Paris, reflecting his extensive exposure to contemporary military and strategic affairs.

Rains Lash Plains, Higher

cloudy skies and isolated spells of rain expected at several places.

The department has also warned of hailstorms at isolated locations and strong winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph, with occasional gusts touching 60 kmph during thunderstorm activity.

The prolonged wet spell has affected normal summer conditions in the Valley, while reports of fresh snowfall from higher-altitude areas further contributed to the drop in temperatures.

Authorities advised residents, farmers and travellers to remain cautious during periods of adverse weather and to follow official advisories, particularly in areas vulnerable to lightning, landslides and localised flooding.

Meanwhile, traffic on the Jammu-Poonch highway was restored after debris of a landslide was removed from Lassana in Surankote—(KNO)

Can't Paint Entire

it would be wrong to blame an entire society for the actions of a few," he said, adding that many Kashmiris have always wanted Pandits to return.

Calling for a fresh institutional mechanism, the CM's Advisor announced that the government would move to revive the Apex Committee constituted for the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits. "At the government level, we believe the Apex Committee should be revived. We will engage with representatives of the Kashmiri Pandit community, invite stakeholders, and work together to find a practical roadmap for return and reconciliation," he said, adding that the government would hold consultations and work towards a consensus-based approach.

Stressing the importance of return and reconciliation, Wani said Kashmir would remain incomplete without its Pandit community. "Jammu and Kashmir, particularly Kashmir, is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits. The Valley cannot be complete until Pandits return and become part of its social fabric once again," he said.

Acknowledging that successive governments had introduced several measures, including Prime Minister's employment packages, transit accommodations, and institutional mechanisms, he said the larger objective remained unfulfilled. "We made many efforts. Rehabilitation packages were announced, transit accommodations were created, and committees were constituted. We tried different approaches, but unless Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims live together again, all these efforts remain incomplete," he said.

Wani said the return of Pandits could not be achieved through administrative measures alone and required rebuilding trust between communities. "If we continue blaming each other, we will never reach a solution. We need to sit together, talk to each other, and collectively find a way forward. My skin is the same as yours. My blood is the same as yours. We have a shared history and a shared future," he said.

The Advisor said preserving Kashmir's language, culture, and centuries-old traditions required the participation of both communities, and expressed optimism that renewed dialogue could help bridge differences and create conditions conducive to dignified return—(KNO)

No Shortage Of

"We have a stock of crude oil for over 60 days, we have natural gas stock for over 60 days," he said.

On the LPG situation, he said it is also quite comfortable.

For example, if 80,000 metric tonne of LPG per day were used, we ourselves used to make 32,000 MT and it has now been raised to 54,000 MT, he said, which led to reduction in dependence on its import.

He further said LPG connection holders were being asked to shift to piped gas. "We have a maximum stock of LPG which is 75-80 days of stock," he said.

On E85 fuel (85 per cent ethanol blended petrol), he said at present, there are 47 E85 fuel pumps in the NCR.

By December 2026, the strength of pumps would go up to 500 and by December 2027, it would further increase to 5,000 pumps, he said.

To a question on the killing of three Indian seafarers in a US military strike on a merchant vessel in the Gulf of Oman, he said India has lodged a strong protest.

India summoned US Charge d'Affaires twice, while External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

raised it with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in this regard, he said.

Officials Review

the need for heightened vigilance and directed all concerned agencies to intensify patrolling, conduct surprise checking, and ensure the strategic deployment of Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) for prompt response to any contingency.

Detailed discussions were held regarding law and order management, traffic regulation, crowd management, border security, emergency response mechanisms, and inter-agency coordination, the spokesperson said.

The official said special emphasis was laid on technology-driven security measures, including enhanced CCTV surveillance, real-time monitoring through integrated control rooms, and strengthening communication networks to facilitate swift information sharing and response.

The SSP Jammu underscored the importance of community participation and public cooperation in maintaining a secure environment during the yatra.

Citizens were urged to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity to the nearest police unit or control room, the spokesperson said.

Representatives of intelligence agencies shared recent security inputs and assessments, the official said, adding it was resolved that timely dissemination of intelligence, regular joint coordination drills, and close monitoring of vulnerable locations would remain key priorities throughout the yatra period.

Directions were also issued for conducting mock drills, strengthening security checkpoints, reviewing contingency plans, and holding weekly review meetings at the sub-divisional level to assess preparedness and address emerging challenges.

The SSP reiterated that ensuring the safety and security of pilgrims and residents remains the highest priority.

He emphasised that proactive policing, robust inter-agency coordination, and active public cooperation will play a vital role in maintaining peace, security, and stability across Jammu district during the yatra.(PTI)

'Rs 1,667 Crore Expansion

in 2014-15 to 4.47 million passengers in 2024-25, reflecting sustained growth in demand for air travel and improved connectivity.

"Although passenger traffic declined to 3.38 million during 2025-26 following the Pahalgam incident, the airport continues to remain among the busiest airports in northern India and a key contributor to the region's tourism-driven economy," he said.

Anjum said enhanced flight operations and improved connectivity have strengthened regional integration and facilitated easier access for tourists, business travellers and residents alike.

Highlighting future development plans, the Airport Director said the Government of India (GoI) has approved a Rs 1,667-crore expansion project that will transform Srinagar Airport into a modern aviation facility comparable with international standards.

Under the project, the airport's passenger handling capacity will increase from the existing 2.5 million passengers per annum (MPPA) to 10 MPPA, enabling it to cater to future growth in passenger traffic.

The expansion will also increase the terminal area from 20,000 square metres to 71,000 square metres, creating a spacious and technologically advanced terminal designed to provide greater comfort and convenience to passengers.

"In addition, the upgraded airport will feature a multi-level car parking facility capable of accommodating 1,000 vehicles and infrastructure enabling it to handle 15 aircraft simultaneously, substantially improving operational efficiency and passenger movement," Anjum said.

The Director said the new terminal will be developed at par with international standards and will greatly enhance passenger experience while strengthening the airport's ability to meet future requirements.

He added that the project is expected to be completed within four years and will mark one of the most significant infrastructure upgrades undertaken at the airport.

Anjum further said that, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), a dedicated airport access corridor connecting the facility with the Ring Road is also being planned to improve accessibility and ease traffic congestion around the airport.

He said the Srinagar Airport has simultaneously focused on passenger convenience through a range of modern facilities and technology-driven initiatives.

"Passengers currently have access to DigiYatra, self-baggage drop counters, free Wi-Fi, meet-and-greet facilities, EV charging stations, complimentary e-cart services, Flybrary, laptop workstations, smoking lounges, children's activity zones, and various shopping and dining outlets," he said.

Annual cargo handling has increased from nearly 7,000 metric tonnes to over 10,500 metric tonnes during the last five years, with an annual capacity of approximately 40,000 metric tonnes.

"Srinagar Airport will celebrate Yatri Suvidi Diwas on June 15 with passenger-centric programmes. Meanwhile, a phased operational shutdown has been planned for runway resurfacing, with flight operations suspended every Monday and Tuesday from July 1 to September 30, and complete closure from October 1 to October 16," Anjum said—(KNO)

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Literary Forum Bandipora Observes Nazki Day

Releases Prof Rashid Nazki's Book "Irfanuk Pai"

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Literary Forum Bandipora (LFB) on Saturday organised its annual "Nazki Day" programme to commemorate the literary legacy of Prof. Rashid Nazki and highlight his contribution to the promotion and development of the Kashmiri language and literature.

Noted scholars, poets, writers and literary activists from across Kashmir. Among those present were Prof. Sonauallah Parvaiz, Dr. Ayaz Rasool Nazki, Majrooh Rashid, President Adbi Markaz Kamraz Mohammad Amin Bhat, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi, Shafaq Sopori, Dr. Maroof Shah, M. Yousuf Mashoor, Mir Dachigami, Mubashir Saleem Nazki, Sufi Showkat, Mir Tariq, Dr. Adil Mohiuddin, Mansoor Muntazir, Sheikh Saleem, Fayaz Tilgami, Tanha Nizami, Ayoub Dilber, Rashid Jawahar and Abid Ashraf.

Poet and Researcher Basharat Fauqir presented a paper examining the literary works and intellectual contributions of Prof. Rashid Nazki.

Delivering the keynote address, Majrooh Rashid described Nazki as a poet who helped revive Persian and Central Asian influences in Kashmiri



literature and played a significant role in shaping the modern literary identity of the language.

Recalling his association with the late poet, Dr. Ayaz Rasool Nazki shared personal memories and anecdotes highlighting Prof. Nazki's influence in literary and public life.

Mohammad Amin Bhat said the enduring relevance of Nazki's work could be seen in the continued growth of institutions founded by him, including Literary Forum Bandipora and Adbi Markaz Kamraz.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Sonauallah Parvaiz described Prof. Nazki as a poet of thought, existence and metaphysics whose writings engaged with philosophical and theological questions.

He said Nazki consistently worked for the preservation and development of language and culture.

A major highlight of the event was the posthumous conferment of the Nazki Award on late poet and former Director of Door-darshan, Farooq Nazki, in recognition of his contribution to Kashmiri language and literature.

The award was received by his daughter, Roohi Nazki, while the citation was read by Dr. Adil Mohiuddin. Farooq Nazki, a noted poet in both Kashmiri and Urdu, was widely known for his works exploring themes of identity, memory, love and social realities. He received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1995 for his Kashmiri poetry collection "Naar Hyutun Kanzal Wanas".

The Forum also conferred the Charaag-e-Sukhan Award on Prof. Naseem Shafaie for her recent publication "Bu Vanyeth Zaan Kass". Prof. Shafaie is regarded as a

leading contemporary Kashmiri poet and became the first Kashmiri woman to receive the Sahitya Akademi Award for Kashmiri literature in 2011.

On the occasion, Prof. Rashid Nazki's book "Irfanuk Pai" was also released. The event concluded with a poetry session sponsored by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, chaired by Prof. Naseem Shafaie, Shahnaz Rashid, Munawar Parwana and Gul Tanveer.

More than a dozen poets presented their latest poetry that enthralled the audience. The programme was supported by The Kashmir Convener, The Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Shudh Spices, Design and Eff Ess Traders

LFB President Sufi Showkat presented the vote of thanks.

Amit Sharma reviews Census preparedness in Ganderbal

Stresses Accuracy, Quality Checks and Public Participation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma along with Deputy Director General, Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, Biswajit Das and Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal to assess the progress of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) being conducted under Census 2027 in the district.

The meeting was also attended by Joint Director, DCO J&K, Arun Kumar; Assistant Director DCO J&K, Vijay Kumar; Chief Planning Officer Ganderbal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan, District Coordinator Census Ganderbal, Charge Officers and other concerned officers associated with the Census exercise.

At the outset, Chief Planning Officer Ganderbal briefed the CPCO on the district profile and the status of preparations for Census-2027. He informed that all House Listing Blocks (HLBs) have been successfully created and demarcated on the CMMS portal, while field operations are progressing smoothly across the



district. He apprised the meeting about the training imparted to enumerators and supervisors, self-enumeration progress, awareness campaigns undertaken through various IEC activities, and the monitoring mechanisms put in place to ensure quality data collection and comprehensive coverage of all households, including migratory populations.

Reviewing the progress, Amit Sharma appreciated the preparedness of Ganderbal district and emphasized that Census is the country's largest administrative and statistical exercise, forming the basis for planning, resource allocation and socio-economic development for years to come.

Amit Sharma stressed the importance of maintaining the highest standards of accuracy during data collection and directed enumerators and supervisors to ensure that every entry is recorded correctly and verified thoroughly. He cautioned that even minor errors or conceptual

misunderstandings can adversely impact the quality of Census data and affect future policy planning.

The CPCO directed Charge Officers to ensure that Supervisors undertake regular field inspections and conduct random quality checks instructed to intensify monitoring and ensure strict adherence to Census guidelines. He also emphasized verification of household information, coverage of migratory populations, forest areas and other special categories to ensure that no household or individual is left out of the enumeration process.

Special emphasis was laid on ensuring comprehensive coverage of migratory and seasonal populations during the ongoing Census exercise.

The CPCO directed field functionaries to meticulously track migration routes and collect details of all eligible tribal population and individuals to ensure that no person is left out of the enumeration process.

Highlighting the role of tech-

nology, Amit Sharma said the digital mode of data collection would enhance efficiency and improve the quality of information gathered.

Principal Census Officer Ganderbal, assured full administrative support for the smooth conduct of Census operations and directed all concerned officers to closely monitor field activities to ensure timely completion of the exercise.

The meeting also reviewed training activities, awareness campaigns, supervision mechanisms and field-level monitoring arrangements aimed at ensuring comprehensive and error-free Census operations across the district.

Later, the CPCO briefed the media regarding the progress achieved under the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) of Census-2027 in the district and highlighted the extensive preparations undertaken to ensure smooth, accurate and timely completion of the exercise.

He appealed to the public of Ganderbal and overall public residing in UTs of J&K and Ladakh to fully co-operate with Census functionaries and provide accurate information, stating that reliable Census data serves as the foundation for informed governance, developmental planning and equitable distribution of resources.

G&B Hostel B'pora visit Waqar Knowledge Centre on Educational Exposure Tour

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Students of the Gujjar and Bakarwal (G&B) Hostel Bandipora on Saturday visited the Waqar Knowledge Centre Mini Secretariat Bandipora as part of an exposure tour aimed at encouraging interactive learning, dialogue, and greater awareness about educational and developmental opportunities available to the youth.

Programme Officer, ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan, interacted with the students and highlighted the importance of awareness, continuous learning, and positive community engagement in shaping responsible and confident youth. He encouraged the students to actively participate in educational and developmental initiatives and make constructive use of platforms like the Waqar Knowledge Centre for their personal growth and future aspirations.

District Information Officer Bandipora, Aadil Manzoor Wani; Block Development Officer Alosa, Ulfat Ali; and other officials were present on the occasion and interacted with the students during the exposure visit.

During the visit, officials and staff members associated with the Waqar

Knowledge Centre interacted with the students and highlighted the broader vision behind the facility as a shared learning and community space designed to promote awareness, guidance, innovation, and constructive engagement among young people.

The students were introduced to the various activities and initiatives being conducted at the Waqar Knowledge Centre, particularly those focusing on youth empowerment, career awareness, public participation, and social issues affecting society. Officials also encouraged students to make use of such platforms for learning, self-development, and informed decision-making.

The interactive exposure visit provided the students with an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions and gain firsthand experience of a community-oriented space dedicated to learning and awareness. The students actively participated in the session with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Hostel staff including Warden and teachers accompanying the students appreciated the initiative and termed the visit informative, inspiring, and beneficial for the overall exposure and personality development of the students.

DC Budgam visits Railway Station Nowgam, reviews preparedness for SANJY

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Saturday visited Nowgam Railway Station to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth facilitation of devotees undertaking the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

During the visit, the DC inspected various facilities and reviewed the preparedness of the concerned departments to ensure seamless movement, convenience, and safety of the pilgrims. He visited the Registration-cum-Facilitation Centres established at the railway station and assessed the arrangements being made for the registration and assistance of the Yatris.

The DC also inspected the stay accommodation and allied facilities being provided for the devotees at the railway station. He directed the concerned officers to complete all necessary arrangements well in advance and ensure that no inconvenience is caused

to the pilgrims during the Yatra period.

The DC instructed the concerned Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to keep all essential medical facilities available throughout the Yatra period.

He also directed the PHE Department to ensure adequate drinking water facilities and asked the Power Development Department to repair all defunct lights at the station and adjoining areas.

The DC further directed the concerned departments to put in place proper sanitation measures and maintain cleanliness in and around the railway station to ensure a hygienic environment for the pilgrims.

The DC instructed the Nodal Officer SANJY 2026 for Budgam to install Help-desk Kiosks on both sides of the boarding areas. He also directed that proper signage boards be installed from the boarding area to the Registration-cum-Facilitation Centres to enable easy navigation and assistance for the Yatris.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, INAYAT HUSSAIN, S/o GH MOHD RATHER, resident of Sath Boni, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, hereby notify the general public that I have completed my Master's Degree in English Literature (MEG) from IGNOU under Enrolment No. 2201444823, through Amar Singh College, Region Code 30. It has come to my notice that my father's name has been recorded as "Ghulam Muhammad Rather" in my academic records/certificate bearing Certificate No. 333077. I intend to have the same corrected to "GH MOHD RATHER", which is the correct and actual name of my father as reflected in his valid identity and official documents. Any person having any objection regarding the same may intimate the concerned within seven days of this publication.

INAYAT HUSSAIN
S/o GH MOHD RATHER
R/o Sath Boni, Lal Bazar, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name recorded in my J&K Bank Account No. 0346040100018470, maintained at J&K Bank, Botshamuhallah Branch, Srinagar, is "MUNEZA SHAKEEL NAJAR". I intend to correct and update the name in the bank records from "MUNEZA SHAKEEL NAJAR" to "MUNEZA SHAKEEL", in accordance with the name appearing on my PAN Card and other valid identity documents. If any person has any objection may intimate concerned department within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

MUNEZA SHAKEEL
Account Holder
Place: Srinagar

JKEDI Srinagar Trains 27 Aspiring Entrepreneurs under RAMP



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: JK-Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Srinagar concluded the 3rd Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the RAMP Initiative at ITI, Bemina.

The valedictory ceremony was attended by Er.Mubashir Hafiz Jan Jan, Superintendent Women, ITI, Bemina; Dr.Naila Khanday, Range Officer; Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Srinagar.

The officials urged participants to build scalable businesses for local economic growth and emphasized the critical role of entrepreneurship, skill development, and capacity building in empowering aspiring entrepreneurs.

The JKEDI course team provided continuous academic and mentoring support during the training period. Participants expressed deep gratitude to JKEDI for its guidance and for creating a platform that strengthens entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K.

Subject: Appointment of Physical Training Instructor (PTI) in the Higher Education Department.
Reference: Letter No. PSC/DR/PTI/GCET/Hr Edu/2023 (7739071) dated: 09-01-2026 (Recommendation) from the J&K Public Service Commission.

Government Order No: 172 -JK(HE) of 2026 Dated: 12-06-2026

As recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of following candidates as Physical Training Instructor (PTI) on Regular Temporary basis in the Pay Band of Rs. 15600-39100 with AGP Rs.6000/- (Pre-revised) Academic Level-10 with Pay Structure of Rs.57700/- in the Higher Education Department, with immediate effect.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Address	Selection Category
1.	IFTIKHAR AHMAD WANI	MOHD JABAR WANI	77 WANIHAMA ANANTNAG	OM
2	JAVAD AHMAD GANAIE	HABIB ULLAH GANAIE	16 GANAIE PORA SHANGAS SHANGAS	OM
3	PANKAJ MANHAS	ROMESH KUMAR MANHAS	SHAROTE THATHRI	OM/RBA
4	SUNIL SINGH	KAKA SINGH THAKUR	WARD NO 3 NEAR GGMS MALTI BILLAWAR	OM
5.	MANSI VAID	SHAM LAL VAID	H.NO 3 WARD NO 13 MOHALLA SAN DIG ATE TEHSIL HAVELI	OM
6.	NASEER MUSHTAQ RATHER	MUSHTAQ AHMAD RATHER	95 MEHRIPORA MANIGAM LAR	OM
7.	ZAHID MUSHTAQ	MUSHTAQ AHMAD RATHER	50 RATHER MOHALLA SEEPAN KHANABAL	OM
8.	SAHIL SHARMA	SHAKTI SHARMA	115 MOH. SUTHRA BAWLI WARD NO. FIFTEEN HAVELI	OM/PSP
9.	AMIT SHARMA	BISHAN DUTT SHARMA	VILLAGE DUNDPUR TEHSIL MANDAL PO MANDAL DISTT JAMMU	OM
10.	SURESH KUMAR	PARSHOTAM LAL	VILLAGE MAIRA PO JOURIAN JOURIAN	OM/ALC
11.	NAVEEN SHARMA	BANARSI SHARMA	CHAK KORA BAKORE KHOUR	OM/ALC
12.	JUNAID AHMAD PARREY	MOHAMMAD YOUSUF PARREY	1/72C BONPORA UGJAN ANANTNAG	OM
13.	SHABIR AHMAD MALIK	GH MOHD MALIK	03 PALNOO PANDITH PORA KULGAM	OM
14.	AJAY KUMAR BILLA	MADAN LAL BILLA	VILL GARAN JAGIR PO DADOOA POUNI	OM/SC
15.	NASEER UD DIN WAZA	GH. MOHI UD DIN WAZA	ONE HUNDRED TAWHEED CHOWK GANGERHAMA GANDERBAL	OM
16.	KOUSER UL HASSAN	GH HASSAN GANIE	CHANDERHAMA PATTAN KHOSA MOHALLA PATTAN	OM
17.	PAWAN KUMAR	PASHORI LAL	SINDRA SARAN BHALLA	OM
18.	GOYAL GIRI	MADAN GIRI	RO BODANA FANGOTA DODA	OM
19.	AMIR FAROOQ	MOHAMAD FAROOQ DAR	29 RATNIPORA SHOPIAN	OM
20.	MIR YASIRUL AMEEN	MOHD AMEEN MIR	KHUNDOORA ACHABAL ANANTNAG	OM
21.	MANPREET KOIR	TARLOK SINGH	192 MOHALLA KHAHKA NAWAN HAVELI	OM
22.	IFTIAZ SHAHIB	MOHD SHAHIB	NA KHABLAN THANAMANDHI	OM/ST
23.	MANJEET KOTWAL	NARESH KUMAR KOTWAL	193 R/O VILLAGE MATHOLA BHADARWAH	RBA
24.	SANJEEV SHARMA	RATTAN CHAND	SEER-BHALLA SEER-BHALLA RAMNAGAR	RBA
25.	BILAL AHMAD BHAT	AZAD ABDUL GANI BHAT	ARA KHOSHIPORA ARA KHOSHIPORA DOORU	RBA
26.	DILBIR SINGH	KAPOOR SINGH	MUNDHAR/ KASTIGARH	RBA
27.	JAHANGEEER MOHD DAR	GH MOHD DAR	0 SHOLIPORA BUDGAM BUDGAM	RBA
28.	RAVINDER KUMAR	TARA CHAND	W.NO. 06 BHARAKH POUNI	SC
29.	PANKAJ KUMAR	RATTAN CHAND	WARD NO. 1 GEETA NAGAR GRAN BAYOTRAN GRAN MORE REASI	SC
30.	DESH BANDU	SAT DEV	NIKKIAN NIKKIAN KHOUR	SC
31.	SHEETAL KUMARI	BISHAN DASS	MH MANDA AKHNOOR AKHNOOR AKHNOOR	sc
32.	NEERU MANHAS	LOCHAN SINGH	VILLAGE BHOPUR POST OFFICE JOURIAN KHOUR	ALC
33.	SANJAY VERMA	MOHAN LAL	SMAILPUR MARH	SLC
34.	FAROOQ AHMAD KUMAR	MANZOOR AHMAD KUMAR	48 SHIRMAL SHOPIAN CHITRAGAM	SLC
35.	JATINDER PAUL	PARSHOTAM IAL	H.NO. 82 MOHALLA KHORINAR W.NO.8 TEHSIL HAVELI DISTRICT POONCH	PSP
36.	RISHIV SHARMA	SURESH KUMAR	MOHALLA POWER HOUSE WARD NO. 12 HOUSE NO. 243 POONCH	PSP
37.	RANJEETA LANGEH	KASHMIR SINGH	FB 85 MOHALLA NARANAMIA KACHI CHAWANI JAMMU	EWS

The candidates hailing from Kashmir Division shall report to the Nodal Principal, Government College of Education, Srinagar and the candidates hailing from Jammu Division shall report to the Nodal Principal, Government College for Women, Parade, Jammu within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order failing which their appointment shall be deemed to have cancelled without any notice. The appointment of candidates shall be subject to the following conditions:-

- The appointees will be on probation for a period of two years from the date of joining.
- The appointment of the candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009.
- The appointees shall, at the time of joining, produce the following testimonials in original which will be verified by the concerned Principal:-
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Qualification and Marks Certificate i.e. NET/SLET/Ph.D. etc and Marks cards/Degrees.
 - Category certificate as may be applicable to the appointees.
 - Health and Medical Certificate.
 - Any other certificate as required under law.

The salary of the appointees shall be drawn and disbursed only after the receipt of the satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate and subject to production of an Affidavit as per Annexure-A to this order. The inter-se-seniority of the candidate shall be determined in terms of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.

The appointment of the candidates shall remain provisional till such time all the certificates are got verified by the concerned Principal(s) and are found to be in order. In case any certificate is found to be fake, inadequate or not consistent with the eligibility requirements, the appointment of the candidates shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio. The appointment of the candidates shall be subject to outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending before any competent Court of law on the subject.

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

No. HED-GAZ/22/2026-04(7720603)
Dated: 12-06-2026

DIPK-2104-26
DT: 13/06/2026

Sd/-
(Ram Niwas Sharma), IAS
Commissioner Secretary to the Government

1st ODI: Brar, Dubey, Gill star as India beat Afghanistan by seven wickets, take 1-0 lead

IAN S

DHARAMSHALA: The crowd at the HPCA Stadium may have come expecting a full 50-over contest, but they were treated to an entertaining 25-over chase in a match truncated due to rain as skipper Shubman Gill hit 84 not out to help India beat Afghanistan by seven wickets in the ODI series opener on Saturday.

After debutants Gurnoor Brar and Harsh Dubey claimed three wickets apiece to help India bowl out Afghanistan for 194, despite a blistering 102 coming from Rahmanullah Gurbaz's willow, Gill produced a knock of absolute authority and was at his sublime best to hit 11 fours and two sixes in his 66-ball knock, taking India home with 13 balls to spare.

India needed a solid start, and skipper Rohit Sharma provided it before a mix-up cut short his innings. Shubman Gill carried on fluently, striking boundaries to keep the tempo high. He was joined by Ishan Kishan, who sparked on his return to ODIs with a 22-ball 34, while peppering the field with aggressive strokes.

KL Rahul then took charge in the middle overs, ensuring there was no let-up. The right-hander remained unbeaten on a 19-ball 39, laced with four boundaries and three sixes to guide India home with ease, as they never looked under pressure in the chase.

Afghanistan's bowlers struggled to find rhythm. Rashid Khan was expensive but managed to pick up a wicket, while the pacers leaked runs throughout. The visitors failed to build momentum with the ball, allowing India's batters to dominate from start to finish, as the hosts maintained their unbeaten record against them.

The innings began dramatically as Azmatullah Omarzai conceded five wickets and a no-ball, before Rohit was struck on the



wrist by his short delivery, and required treatment from the physio. Rohit soon found his rhythm, punching through covers and pulling Omarzai for a six to reach 16,000 international runs. Gill joined in with crisp drives, and the pair had a 46-run opening stand.

The opening stand was broken when a mix-up led to Rohit's run-out for 16. Gill carried on, unfazed, and was joined by Ishan Kishan, whose aggressive knock included three fours and a six, but Rashid Khan's googly castled him in the 13th over.

Shreyas Iyer added a few boundaries, but pulled to mid-on for 12 off Zia. At 137/3, India still held control thanks to Gill's composure. The skipper reached his fifty off 37 balls with a pull off Nabi and crossed 3,000 ODI runs during the chase.

He struck sixes and fours with absolute author-

ity, while Rahul ensured there were no late hiccups. He began cautiously but soon accelerated with his lofted cover drives and pulls, before completing the chase in the 23rd over and helping India take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Previously, Gurbaz had luck on his side - India didn't review an lbw appeal when he was on 14, and he made them pay. After taking time to get going and understanding the pitch, he launched into the Indian back-up bowlers with some outrageous clean hitting in a 25-overs-a-side contest.

In an outstanding knock studded with eight fours and as many sixes, Gurbaz brought up his ninth hundred off 48 balls, the fastest by an Afghan batter in the 50-over format and the second fastest by any batter against India in ODIs.

At one point, Afghanistan looked set to get

beyond 220, but Gurbaz's dismissal helped India claw back. Barring Hashmatullah Shahidi and Azmatullah Omarzai making 20s, none of the other batters got past single digits. For India, Gurnoor and Harsh maintained their composure and bowling smarts to pick three-fors while Arshdeep Singh and Nitish Kumar Reddy chipped in with two scalps each.

Afghanistan's innings began shakily as Ibrahim Zadran, Sediqullah Atal, and Rahmat Shah fell inside the powerplay. Gurbaz, however, counter-attacked spectacularly as Washington Sundar, Dubey, and Prasidh Krishna bore the brunt of his big-hitting. With 78 percent of his runs coming in boundaries, Gurbaz put on a treat for fans who braved four hours and 15 minutes of rain delay and left them enthralled.

Shahidi offered support with a fluent 27, while adding a 116-run stand with Gurbaz at a run-rate of over ten. Azmatullah Omarzai chipped in with a brisk 26, but once Nitish Kumar Reddy dismissed Gurbaz with a pinpoint slower yorker for 102, Afghanistan's momentum stalled.

Left-arm spinner Dubey recovered from an expensive start to strike thrice - removing Shahidi, Omarzai, and AM Ghazanfar to take 3-47, while lanky right-arm pacer Brar capped his debut by castling Rashid Khan with pace and later had Zia Ur Rahman Sharif caught at long-on to finish with 3-27, as India's bowlers, rattled initially, pulled things back smartly in the final overs.

Brief scores:
Afghanistan 194 all out in 24.5 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 102, Hashmatullah Shahidi 27; Gurnoor Brar 3-27, Harsh Dubey 3-47) lost to India 195/3 in 22.5 overs (Shubman Gill 84 not out, KL Rahul 39 not out; Rashid Khan 1-37, Zia Ur Rahman Sharif 1-39) by seven wickets

FIFA WC 2026: Ghana seeks review of Canada's visa refusal for midfielder Partey

IAN S

ACCRA: Ghana's government has strongly criticised Canada's decision to refuse a visa to midfielder Thomas Partey, a move that will prevent the player from featuring in the country's opening FIFA World Cup match against Panama on June 17.

The Ghanaian Foreign Ministry described the decision as "high-handed and extremely unfair" and confirmed that it had formally protested to Canadian authorities while seeking a review of the ruling.

According to the Ministry, Canadian officials based their decision on ongoing criminal proceedings involving Partey in the United Kingdom. The 32-year-old footballer, who currently plays for Spanish club Villarreal and previously represented Arsenal, has denied allegations of rape and sexual assault brought against him in Britain.



In a statement, Ghana's government argued that denying entry on the basis of charges that have not yet been adjudicated raises concerns about fairness and proportionality.

"While respecting Canada's sovereign right to enforce its immigration laws, Ghana considers that reliance on unproven

charges in the absence of a judicial determination raises fundamental questions of fairness and proportionality," the statement said.

FIFA confirmed that Partey will not be able to travel from Ghana's team base in Boston to Canada for the Group L encounter against Panama after his visa application was

rejected by Canadian authorities.

Despite missing the opening fixture, Partey remains with the Ghana squad in the United States and is available for the team's remaining group-stage matches. Ghana will face England in the Boston area before taking on Croatia in Philadelphia.

The visa setback adds to a growing list of entry-related issues affecting participants at the ongoing FIFA WC. Earlier, Somali referee Omar Artan, Iraq internationals Aymen Hussein and Talal Salah, Haiti's Woodensky Pierre, and Switzerland forward Breel Embolo have encountered visa complications linked to World Cup travel arrangements.

Ghana are now awaiting Canada's response to their diplomatic protest as the team prepares for its tournament opener without one of its most experienced players.

Two-time medalist Sindhu, 2022 champs Satwik-Chirag headline India's Asian Games squad

IAN S

NEW DELHI: PV Sindhu, a two-time Asian Games medalist, and the 2022 Asian men's doubles gold winners, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, will lead a strong Indian team in the badminton championships at the 20th Asian Games, scheduled in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, 2026.

The Asian Games are one of the world's most esteemed multi-sport events and a top sporting accolade in Asia, uniting the continent's best athletes in their quest for national pride. The Badminton Association of India (BAI) selection committee confirmed the team after assessing recent results from national and international tournaments and BWF rankings as of May 26, 2026.

Led by India's top-ranked men's singles player Lakshya Sen, the team also includes



seasoned players H. S. Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth, who were instrumental in India's historic silver medal at the previous edition. The

men's team retains much of the core of the bronze-medal squad from this year's BWF Thomas Cup.

Reflecting the rise of a new generation, Ayush Shetty, who won a silver medal at the Badminton Asia Championships, along with Tanvi Sharma, a silver medalist at the BWF World Junior Championships Individual Championship, and Unnati Hooda, a Team Championship medalist, have all been selected after a series of impressive performances on the international circuit.

"Indian badminton today is in a position where success is being shaped not just by individual excellence, but by the growing depth of talent across categories. Over the last few months, we have seen encouraging signs across the board - Satwik-Chirag back to their best, Lakshya returning to the world's top 10, the men's team reaching another

Thomas Cup podium, Sindhu and our senior players delivering consistently, and younger athletes stepping up with strong performances and important results internationally. This squad reflects that journey, a blend of experience, depth, and emerging talent, and we believe it has the quality and character to compete strongly at the Asian Games and make the country proud," said Sanjay Mishra, General Secretary, BAI.

India heads into Aichi-Nagoya with strong momentum. Indian badminton has accumulated 13 medals in Asian Games history, including a notable gold at the last edition. The 2022 Games were India's most successful badminton run, with one gold, one silver, and an individual bronze won by Prannoy. The country's highest medal count was five bronze medals at the 1982 New Delhi Asian Games.

Women's T20 WC: 'Australia pretty much outplayed us today', says Wolvaardt after South Africa's defeat

IAN S

MANCHESTER: South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt admitted Australia were the better side on the day after the Proteas suffered a 65-run defeat in their opening match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 at Emirates Old Trafford on Saturday.

After restricting Australia to 172/8 despite a blistering 51 from Phoebe Litchfield, South Africa struggled in the chase and were bowled out for 107 in 16.4 overs, with Wolvaardt top-scoring with 44.

Reflecting on the defeat, the South African skipper felt her side had done a reasonable job with the ball but failed to build momentum during the chase.

"Tough day today. I thought we had a pretty decent first half. Restricting them to that score was not too bad, but obviously, we just lost our way with the bat a bit. It's a disappointing loss, but I think they bowled really well and pretty much outplayed us today," Wolvaardt said after the match.

The captain believed Australia's total was within reach despite being slightly above par on a surface that offered assistance to the bowlers. "I thought it was okay. Maybe a little bit above par, but it could have been worse. We backed ourselves to go at around nine runs an over, but we just lost our way and struggled to get some momentum in the innings," she said.

Wolvaardt also took



positives from South Africa's bowling performance, particularly the return of the experienced pace duo Marizanne Kapp and Shabnim Ismail.

"It was awesome to have them back. It's been a long time since we had them bowling together in a Power-play like that. Nadine de Klerk and Nonkululeko Mlaba bowled pretty well too, so that's going well at least," she added.

The South African captain endured a frustrating innings herself. Although she stayed at the crease and fought hard for her 44, she struggled to keep up with the required rate as wickets continued to fall around her.

"It was hard to get going. I got stuck at the other end a bit, and then they bowled pretty well to me later on and closed up my areas. By

the time I got out, it was quite late already, so I was disappointed with that," Wolvaardt admitted.

She also backed the decision to promote Nadine de Klerk to No. 4 after the all-rounder scored 25 and shared a 41-run stand with her captain. "I think it's nice to stack our lineup like that and have a little bit of power early. She batted well and has a lot of different options in the powerplay, so it's nice to have her up the order," Wolvaardt said.

Despite the heavy defeat, the South African skipper remained confident that her side could bounce back in the remainder of the tournament. "Definitely. There's still a long tournament to go. We'll put this game behind us as quickly as we can and move on to the next one," she said.

Show Timings

SUNDAY, 14TH JUNE

MOVIE SCHEDULE

HAI JAWANI TOH ISHQ HONA HAI (HINDI ATMOS) (UA16+)
🕒 12:00 PM

DISCLOSURE DAY (ENGLISH) (U/A13+)
🕒 01:40 PM, 07:50PM

OBSESSION (ENGLISH) (A)
🕒 10:30 AM, 02:50 PM

GOVERNOR (HINDI)(U/A 13+)
🕒 07:35 PM

BHARAT BHHAGYA VIDHAATA (HINDI) (U/A16+)
🕒 11:00 AM

BACKROOMS (ENGLISH) (A)
🕒 05:10 PM

MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA (HINDI ATMOS) (U/A16+)
🕒 12:50 AM, 04:35 PM, 07:00 PM

HAUNTED ECHOES OF THE PAST (3D HINDI)(A)
🕒 04:10 PM

INNOX
SRINAGAR

Call: 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets