

# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Srinagar • Wednesday 17, June 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 145 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998



**Mutual trust is the most important strategic asset today. But, sadly, today, the world does not suffer from a shortage of resources... it suffers from a shortage of trust. And the future of our partnerships depends on re-building this trust.**

Wet Spell Till June 22

## Rain, Thundershowers Lash J&K Parts



FILE PHOTO

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed rain and thundershowers on Tuesday afternoon as the Meteorological Centre Srinagar issued a nowcast warning for brief intense showers, thundershowers, lightning, hailstorms and gusty winds across multiple districts.

According to the MeT department, a spell of rain and thundershowers affected Baramulla, Uri, Gulmarg and adjoining areas, besides many parts of Budgam, Poonch and Rajouri districts during the day.

Rainfall activity was also reported from Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag districts in south Kashmir, while parts of Ganderbal, including the Sonamarg-Baital-Holy Cave axis, and the Pahalgam-Holy Cave route received showers accompanied by thunder and lightning.

In the Jammu region, parts of Ramban, Kishtwar, Reasi, Kathua and Jammu districts experienced rain

and thunderstorm activity, the weather office said.

The MeT department said that some areas were likely to witness brief intense showers, lightning, hailstorms and gusty winds during the afternoon and evening hours. It advised people to remain indoors during thundershowers and avoid taking shelter near electric poles, wires, old trees and other vulnerable structures.

Authorities also advised suspension of boating and Shikara operations on water bodies, including Dal Lake, during periods of thunderstorm activity due to the possibility of strong winds and sudden weather changes.

The weather office warned that hailstorms accompanied by intense showers were possible at a few places in Uri, Baramulla, Gulmarg and adjoining areas, as well as parts of Budgam, Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Meanwhile, the MeT department has forecast unsettled weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days. **•P-06**

## J&K Sees Massive Security Boost Ahead Of Amarnath Yatra

Mock Drills, Anti-Sabotage Checks, Multi-Agency Exercises Intensified Across UT

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities have beefed up security across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, with multi-layered arrangements, mock drills and coordinated exercises being carried out to ensure the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Officials said that security forces, police and civil administration have activated a comprehensive security grid covering transit routes, base camps, railway infrastructure, lodgement centres and other critical installations linked to the pilgrimage, scheduled to begin early next month.

An official said, "In Anantnag district, police have strengthened security measures along the traditional Pahalgam route. Specialised teams are carrying out anti-sabotage checks, area domination exercises and sanitisation drives from Khanabal to Pahalgam, covering transit points, parking areas, accommodation centres and vulnerable locations."



FILE PHOTO

"The operations are being supported by bomb disposal squads, sniffer dog units and technical surveillance teams," he added.

"Security personnel are also conducting inspections of vehicles, including abandoned and unattended vehicles, while surveillance has been enhanced in forest areas and along key stretches of the pilgrimage route," the official said.

Authorities, he said, have also introduced QR code-based verification for service providers associated with the yatra, including pony operators and

other workers, to strengthen identification and monitoring mechanisms.

"As part of broader preparedness efforts, security forces conducted a mock drill at the Chichi Mata Temple in Jammu's Samba district to assess response capabilities in the event of a terror attack or other emergency situation," the official added.

The exercise involved coordinated action by multiple agencies and focused on evacuation procedures, emergency response and crowd management, he added. **•P-06**

**AS PART OF BROADER PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS, SECURITY FORCES CONDUCTED A mock drill at the Chichi Mata Temple in Jammu's Samba district to assess response capabilities in the event of a terror attack or other emergency situation," the official added.**

## Comprehensive Arrangements In Place For Amarnath Yatra: Dr Jitendra

REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** Stating that the administration has made comprehensive arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra 2026, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday said that the annual pilgrimage will be conducted smoothly and successfully.

Talking to reporters here, Singh, said that security and logistical preparations for the Yatra have been given special attention.

"The Yatra is longer this year and the administration has taken every possible measure, particularly from the security point of view, to ensure a safe and hassle-free pilgrimage," he said.

He said all concerned agencies are working in coordination to facilitate devotees and ensure the smooth **•P-06**

## Govt Restricts Telegram Ahead Of NEET-UG Re-Test

AGENCIES

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday temporarily restricted access to the Telegram messaging app ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination, with the National Testing Agency saying the measure was aimed at tackling cheating rackets.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), acting on recommendations made by the National Testing Agency (NTA), has issued a direction under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, restricting access to the Telegram platform in India for a defined and limited period ending June 22, 2026 covering the day of the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination and its immediate aftermath.

A separate direction requires Telegram to disable in India the message-editing feature for already-posted messages for a defined period ending June 30, 2026 addressing the specific structural feature through which the platform has been used to fabricate after-the-event "paper leak" evidence in respect of national examinations, the NTA said in a statement.

"Both measures have been taken in the **•P-06**

## Govt Committed To Preservation Of Kashmir's Houseboat Heritage: Javed Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday said that the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed towards protecting and preserving the treasured houseboat heritage of Kashmir.

He made these remarks during a meeting with the All Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association (AKHBOA) held at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The meeting was also attended by MLA Zaidal constituency, Tanveer Sadiq. Rana said that the houseboat remains a symbol of the Valley's cultural identity and a vital pillar of its tourism economy and every effort will be made for welfare of the communities dependent on it.

The delegation, led by Chairman AKHBOA, Manzoor Ahmad Pakhtoon,



apprised the Minister of various issues concerning the houseboat sector, particularly the requirement of timber for repair, renovation and maintenance of these heritage structures.

The representatives underscored that houseboats constitute a unique heritage asset of Jammu and Kashmir and play a significant role in sustaining tourism and providing livelihood to hundreds of families. They requested for enhancement of the existing timber quota to meet maintenance requirements while seeking easier **•P-06**

## J&K Witnessing Unprecedented Transformation In Road Infrastructure: Union Min Ajay Tamta

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Union Minister Ajay Tamta on Monday asserted that Jammu and Kashmir has moved from a phase of "difficult and disrupted connectivity" to a modern transport network backed by massive investments in highways, tunnels and expressways, which are expected to accelerate tourism, industry and socio-economic growth.

Tamta, who was on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, inspected key National Highway projects and later chaired a high-level review meeting here.

During the visit, the MoS travelled the entire Srinagar-Jammu section of NH-44, inspecting the Qazigund-Banihal, Chenani-Nashri tunnels, the landslide-prone Ramban-Banihal stretch and the ongoing Srinagar and Jammu Ring Road projects being executed



by NHAI. He also assessed the Chenani-Sudhmahadev stretch and the proposed Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnel alignment under NHIDCL.

Senior officers of NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO, PWD and MoRTH accompanied him during the field inspections.

The review meeting was attended by Members Parlia-

ment Jugal Kishore Sharma and Sat Pal Sharma, MLAs Chandra Prakash Ganga, Yudhvir Sethi, Vikram Randhawa, Arvind Gupta and Surendra Bhagat besides senior officials from all highway agencies.

The officials briefed the Minister on the progress of ongoing and upcoming works funded by MoRTH, covering projects being executed by NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO and PWD across the Union Territory.

Highlighting the shift since 2014, Shri Ajay Tamta said that Jammu and Kashmir has undergone an "unprecedented transformation" in road and transport infrastructure. Before 2014, highway development in the region was limited, with difficult terrain, frequent landslides and poor all-weather connectivity. Since then, works worth nearly 1.35 lakh crore have been taken up. Of this, 700 km **•P-06**

## Chief Secretary Reviews Progress Of TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan

Calls For Accelerating Efforts Towards Making TB-Free J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the ongoing Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan to assess the progress achieved across the Union Territory and chart out a strategy for accelerating efforts towards tuberculosis elimination.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME); Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM); Managing Director, JKMSCL; Principals of Government Medical Colleges (GMCs); Director, Health Services, Kashmir Jammu; and Senior Faculty Members from various medical institutions across the UT.

Reviewing district-wise performance, the Chief Sec-



retary noted that while several districts have achieved encouraging results, there remains considerable scope for improvement in certain critical indicators. He directed the Health & Medical Education Department to intensify efforts in districts reporting lower coverage of X-ray screening, differentiated TB care, TB preventative treatment and nutritional support. He emphasized **•P-06**

## Peace Boosts Tourism Along LoC Areas In Kashmir

Initiative Will Boost Tourism, Create Jobs, Strengthen LoC's Presence On Travel Map

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Once known for cross-border shelling and insecurity, villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in North Kashmir are witnessing a tourism boom.

According to the details available, destinations such as Keran, Machil, Teetwal, Tangdhar, Gurez and Bangus Valley are emerging as major attractions.

Situated on the banks of the Kishenganga river in Kupwara district, Keran has become one of the most visited border destinations in Kashmir. The river forms the LoC between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), offering visitors a rare glimpse of life across the border.

Tourists can often be seen gathering along the river-



banks, exchanging waves with people on the opposite side and enjoying the scenic landscape of forests, mountains and flowing streams.

The surge in tourist arrivals has opened new economic opportunities for local residents, many of whom have converted their homes into homestays and tourism facilities.

"We have learned from

established tourist destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam. People have decorated their homes, prepared homestays and even arranged horse rides for visitors to explore nearby scenic areas," said Suhail Ahmad, a homestay owner in Keran.

He said tourism has become a major source of livelihood for residents who for decades lived

under the shadow of conflict.

"Before the ceasefire, shelling was a regular occurrence and life was extremely difficult. Today, tourists are visiting throughout the year and local families are benefiting from it," Ahmad said.

Residents credited the February 2021 reaffirmation of the India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement for bringing stability and creating conditions conducive to tourism and development.

"Over the past few years, we have witnessed a complete transformation. Earlier, people would leave their homes during shelling. Now, those same homes are welcoming guests from different parts of the country," said Abdul Majeed, a resident of Karnah.

Official figures indicate that more than 4.30 lakh tourists have visited **•P-06**

## J&K To Sign MoU With Centre For Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Jal Shakti for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0.

Sources said that the Union Territory's cabinet has cleared the proposal through circulation, paving the way for J&K to join the second phase of the flagship scheme.

"The cabinet has approved the MoU," Minister for Jal Shakti, Javid Rana, told KNO. He added that a meeting scheduled in New Delhi on June 18. "Let us see what happens," he said.

The signing of MoUs is one of the four mandatory requirements for states and Union Territories to avail central funds under JJM 2.0. The other requirements include: creation of Sujal Gaon IDs to ensure complete digital mapping of all rural water supply schemes, timely financial **•P-06**

## J&K Reports Improvement In Child Health Indicators: NFHS-6

RAJA SYED

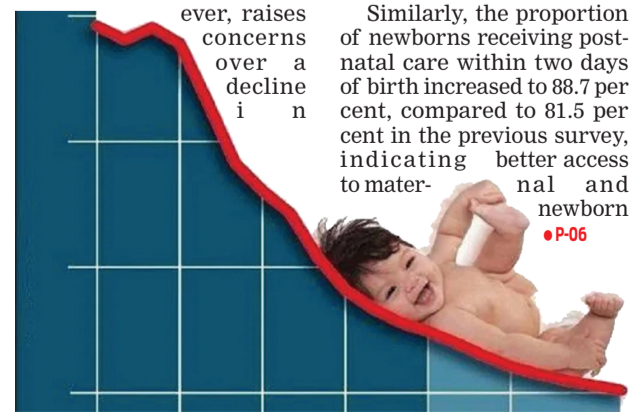
**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir has recorded notable progress in child health-care, with improvements in immunisation coverage, postnatal care, and a reduction in childhood illnesses and malnutrition, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) 2023-24.

The survey, however, raises concerns over a decline in

exclusive breastfeeding practices and inadequate nutrition among young children.

Data from NFHS-6, accessed, show that postnatal care services have improved significantly in the Union Territory. Around 88.2 per cent of mothers received postnatal care from a doctor, nurse, midwife, or other health professional within two days of delivery, up from 84.2 per cent in NFHS-5 (2019-21).

Similarly, the proportion of newborns receiving postnatal care within two days of birth increased to 88.7 per cent, compared to 81.5 per cent in the previous survey, indicating better access to maternal and newborn **•P-06**



# Amit Sharma chairs Census review Meeting in Kupwara

Cautions public against Cyber Criminals

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** In a streak towards covering all districts of both the UTs, Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma along with Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex Kupwara to assess the progress of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) being conducted under Census 2027 in the district.

During the Meeting in strategic Border district Kupwara, CPCO, Amit Sharma specifically cautioned public against Cyber fraudsters and criminals who want to dupe masses by fetching their vital information like Bank Account Numbers, Credit Card details, etc on the name of ongoing phases of Census 2027. He requested public to act as responsible and awakened citizens and counter all such challenges smartly and also report such instances to Police and Census Helpline of 1855 so that swift action can be taken against such criminals.

Initially, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara shared a brief profile of the district with



the CPCO regarding the preparedness and progress for Census 2027.

Reviewing the progress of Kupwara district, Amit Sharma appreciated its performance during Self Enumeration and the IEC activities undertaken here. He 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 while mentioning Census 2027 as country's largest administrative and statistical exercise, forming the basis for planning, resource allocation and socio-economic development for years to come. He also 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.

Special emphasis was laid on ensuring comprehensive coverage of migratory and seasonal populations during the ongoing Census exercise so as to meticulously track migration routes and collect details of all eligible tribal population and individuals.

Before culmination of the review meeting, Amit Sharma said the digital mode of data collection would enhance efficiency and improve the quality of information gathered.

Principal Census Officer Kupwara 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.

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

He appealed to the

public of Kupwara 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.

The CPCO also reiterated that all the information collected during the Census 2027 is fully protected under Section 15 of Census Act, 1948 and assured that it remains completely confidential and cannot be shared with any agency or individual. The meeting was also attended by Joint Director, DCO J&K, Arun Kumar; Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ADC Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, Assistant Director DCO J&K, Vijay Kumar, Chief Planning Officer Kupwara, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kupwara, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Lolab/Karnah, Charge Officers and other concerned officers who are associated with the ongoing Census exercise.

# Div Com reviews arrangements for annual Mela Kheer Bhawani Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the conduct of the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela Yatra, to be flagged off from Nagrota, Jammu on June 20.

The Divisional Commissioner held a threadbare discussion on the arrangements to be ensured by the departments concerned. JKRTC was directed to provide an adequate number of buses and to coordinate the journey.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to ensure robust arrangements for the security of devotees, uninterrupted electricity and water supply, sanitation, traffic management, medical facilities, tents and transportation. He emphasised that all depart-



ments must work in close coordination to ensure a hassle-free experience for devotees.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban was directed to ensure arrangements at the langar facility where the convoy of pilgrims will halt en route to Kheer Bhawani temple in Tulmulla, Ganderbal.

A number of religious and community representa-

tives expressed their views during the meeting and conveyed satisfaction and gratitude for the robust arrangements made every year. It was informed that around 7,000 devotees have registered for the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela Yatra and will participate in the mela to be organised on June 22.

Among those present were Managing Director JPDCL, Deputy Com-

missioners of Jammu, Ramban and Udhampur, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K, SSP Jammu, SSP Security, SSP Traffic, Heads of Departments, senior officials of JKRTC, Tourism and Health, Joint Director Information, representatives of religious organisations, community leaders and other officers concerned.

# DC Shopian chairs District Level Telecom Committee Meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** To review and discuss the development of telecom infrastructure under Jammu & Kashmir Communication and Connectivity Infrastructure Project (JKCCIP), a meeting of District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) was Tuesday held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta here at DC Office Shopian.

During the meeting, the Committee deliberated on key issues related to strengthening of telecom infrastructure and enhancement of network connectivity across Shopian district.

Detailed discussions were held regarding the commissioning of mobile towers, 4G saturation, status of Right of Way (RoW), progress under the BharatNet Project, 5G mapping and other related matters.

The DC also emphasized improving telecom connectivity at key tourist destinations by expediting the installation of mobile towers to ensure better network coverage, enhance

tourist safety and support tourism related activities in these areas.

The DC also urged the saturation of 4G network coverage and the BharatNet projects across the district, noting that these initiatives are vital for enhancing digital connectivity and benefiting residents across all communities.

Highlighting the significance of robust telecom networks, DC stated that improved connectivity is vital for effective governance, delivery of essential services, education and economic activities.

During the meeting, the DC also took detailed feedback from telecom companies operating in the district and urged them to enhance the quality of telecom services, particularly in remote areas.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz; ACD, Muzaffar Ahmad; ACR, Shakoor Ahmad; Dy.SP DAR, CEO MC, Executive Engineers, besides officers from Forest, Wildlife etc and representatives of various telecom companies operating in district.

# DC Kulgam visits Zaipora, Devsar to oversee Public Reading of Digitized Jamabandi



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Tuesday visited Village Zaipora in Tehsil Devsar to oversee the public reading of the latest digitized Jamabandi and reviewed the progress of revenue-related matters in the area.

The Deputy Commissioner also assessed the pilot implementation of the AgriStack Farmer Registry being undertaken in the village.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various revenue records and interacted with revenue officials to assess the status of record maintenance, digitization, and verification. Stressing the need for accuracy, transparency, and timely update of land records, he directed officials to

ensure error-free records for the benefit of the general public.

He directed the concerned officers to address genuine public grievances in a time-bound manner and ensure efficient delivery of revenue services.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of the AgriStack module being implemented on a pilot basis in Village Zaipora for the creation of the Farmer Registry, describing it as a transformative initiative being rolled out across the country to strengthen agricultural governance and farmer-centric services.

Senior officers of the Revenue Department, including the Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kulgam, Tehsil Dar Devsar, and other field functionaries, accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

# BOPEE conducts Common Entrance Test for M.Sc. Nursing Courses

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) Tuesday conducted the Common Entrance Test (CET) for M.Sc. Nursing Courses for the academic session 2026-27 at Jammu and Srinagar Centres.

The test was conducted at S.P. College, M.A. Road, Srinagar, in the Kashmir Division and at Government Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu, in the Jammu Division, with a total of 447 candidates appearing across J&K.

To ensure smooth conduct of the entrance test, adequate arrangements had been made in collaboration with the respective College administrations and law enforcement agencies, under the guidance of Professor Minu Mahajan, Chairperson, J&K BOPEE.

The examination was conducted under the vigilant supervision of staff from the respective institutions and no incident of misconduct or malpractice was reported.

The Chairperson, along with the Members, the Secretary, the Controller of Examinations and the officials of the J&K BOPEE actively monitored the Common Entrance Test at both the centres in Jammu and Srinagar. They thanked the staff members of the respective Colleges and the staff deployed under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioners in the respective District Headquarters for smooth conduct of the said Entrance Test.

# DC Pulwama chairs DLRC-DCC meeting, reviews banking performance



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Tuesday chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2025-26 at Circuit House, Pulwama, to review the performance of banks and the implementation of various credit-linked, employment generation and financial inclusion schemes in the district.

At the outset, Lead District Manager (LDM), Pulwama, presented a detailed overview of the district's banking performance. The Chair was informed that as on March 31, 2026, the district recorded deposits of Rs 5,902.15 crore and advances of Rs 6,218.79 crore, while the district's Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio stood at 105.36 percent.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed bank-wise and sector-wise performance under the District Credit Plan (DCP). A detailed review of employment generation schemes, including Mission YUVA, PMEGP, PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar, PMFME, NRLM, HADP, Artisan Credit Card and Weavers Credit Card, was also conducted.

Reviewing the progress under Mission YUVA, the DC directed banks to expedite the sanctioning and disbursement of pending cases and ensure that aspiring entrepreneurs receive timely financial assistance. He stressed close coordination among banks, line departments and beneficiaries for effective

implementation of the scheme and directed that pendency be reduced through regular follow-up at all levels. He also directed the concerned departments and banking institutions to ensure timely processing of applications and improved credit flow to eligible beneficiaries under various government-sponsored schemes. He emphasised the need to strengthen credit linkage initiatives to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities and promote entrepreneurship in the district.

The Chair also reviewed the status of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) issued under the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors. He directed the concerned departments and banks to intensify efforts for saturation of eligible beneficiaries under KCC and ensure timely disposal of pending applications. He stressed the inclusion of all eligible PM-KISAN beneficiaries under the KCC scheme to enhance access to institutional credit and strengthen the agricultural economy of the district.

The DC also reviewed the implementation of social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). He directed banks and line departments to intensify enrolment drives, undertake targeted interventions and achieve saturation targets in a time-bound manner.

# B'pora organizes Anti-Drug Awareness Activities across Educational Institutions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** Various educational institutions across Bandipora district organized a series of awareness and creative activities under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) campaign to sensitize students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and promote a drug-free society.

At HSS Gadakhud, a morning assembly was conducted, followed by a Creative Writing Event. Students composed articles and letters highlighting the

dangers of substance abuse, preventive measures, and its adverse impact on individuals and society.

Similar NMBA activities were organized at HS Panar, HS Koragbal, and HS Ketson, where students actively participated in awareness programmes designed to strengthen anti-drug messaging and encourage healthy lifestyles.

At HSS Quilmuqam, a Creative Writing Activity (Letters and Articles) along with an Anti-Drug Pledge was conducted under the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Cam-

paign. At PM SHRI GHS Odina, a Creative Writing Activity was organized under the theme "Words Have the Power to Inspire Change." The programme was followed by the anti-drug pledge, reinforcing the campaign's message among students.

Likewise, BHSS Alooosa organized a Creative Letter Writing Activity under the banner of NMBA, providing students with an opportunity to articulate their thoughts on the importance of staying away from drugs and promoting social responsibility.

Meanwhile, the NCORD Cell of HKM Degree College Bandipora, under the convenship of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay, organized a Poster Campaign titled "Say No to Drugs" under the banner of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. Students actively participated by preparing and displaying creative posters carrying impactful messages against substance abuse. The posters highlighted the social, physical, and psychological consequences of drug addiction and encouraged young people to make positive and healthy life choices.

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING SRINAGAR

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

\*\*\*NOTICE INVITING TENDERS\*\*\*

E-NIT No: 04/2026-2027 DATED: 16-06-2026

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT J&K, e-tenders (In single covers system) are invited on PERCENTAGE BASIS from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	BLOCK	Adv. Cost (In Lac)	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	EMD	Major Head	TYPE OF TENDER
1	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Filling of Graveyard at Chaudhary Bagh Soiteng in lal chowk constituency	SRINAGAR	3.92	300	45 DAYS	DEE/	2% of Adv. Cost	CDF	OPEN
2	Development of Park/ Community ground at Mir Mohalla Lasjan B in lal chowk constituency	SRINAGAR	3.92	300	45 DAYS	DEE/	2% of Adv. Cost	CDF	OPEN
3	Development of Graveyard by way of filling at Mir Mohalla Zoo Vethpara in lal chowk constituency	SRINAGAR	2.93	300	45 DAYS	DEE/	2% of Adv. Cost	CDF	OPEN
4	Development of Wani Graveyard opposite Ziyarat Sharief two fencing and cement concrete wall and gate at Soiteng in lal chowk constituency	SRINAGAR	3.00	300	45 DAYS	DEE/	2% of Adv. Cost	CDF	OPEN

Position A/A: ACCORDED

Position of T/S: ACCORDED

Position of Funds: BUDGETED

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 www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-06-2026
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	17-06-2026 from 09:00 AM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	24-06-2026 up to 06:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	25-06-2026 at 11:00AM or any convenient day in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW Srinagar
5.	NOTE: Lowest Qualified bidder shall deposit hard copy of original Tender documents, Fee Receipt, EMD and other documents (in original) within 05 Days after the financial bid is opened. Failed to produce the documents shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the contractor be forwarded to higher authorities for the period of 1 year.	

SPECIAL CONDITION:

Only the eligible contractors of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in the tendering process for works under District Capex with Advertised Cost 3.0 Lacs or below as per Govt. Order NO.238-F OF 2021 Dated 07.09.2021. Bidders must upload self attested halqa level certificate as per annexure attached, as residence proof that he/she is residing in respective Panchayat Halqa.

19. The contingency charges will be utilized by the office in terms of Circular No. A/51/(2016)-B-927/J 20. All terms and conditions shall be governed as per Govt. orders/Circulars issued from time to time and shall be implemented in letter and spirit

NO:-XEN/REW/SGR/ 291-300  
DATED:- 16-06-2026

DIPK-2211-26  
DT: 16/06/2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
REW Srinagar

# CM Omar lays foundation stones for two major sewerage infrastructure projects in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday laid the foundation stones for two major sewerage infrastructure projects in Srinagar aimed at strengthening wastewater treatment facilities and improving urban sanitation in the city.

The projects include the augmentation and upgradation of the 17.08 MLD capacity Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Brarinambal, Srinagar at a cost of ₹12 crore, and the construction of a 2.5 MLD capacity STP along with laying of 3.95 kilometres of sewer lines at Chattabal, Srinagar at an estimated cost of ₹14.54 crore.

These projects are being executed under the Capex Programme by the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), Kashmir, under the Housing & Urban Development Department.

The Chief Minister said that strengthening urban infrastructure, particularly sewerage and wastewater treat-



ment systems, remains a key priority of the government to ensure sustainable development and improved quality of life for citizens. He emphasized that the projects would significantly enhance sewage treatment capacity, improve environmental conditions and contribute towards the conservation of water bodies in and around Srinagar.

The Brarinambal project will upgrade the existing sewage treatment infrastructure to improve

efficiency and cater to the growing wastewater management requirements of the city. The Chattabal project, comprising a new STP and an extensive sewer network, is expected to provide improved sanitation facilities to the area and help prevent the discharge of untreated wastewater into water channels.

The foundation stone laying ceremonies were attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Habakadal Shamir Fir-

dous, MLA Khanyar Ali Mohammad Sagar, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar and Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeeep Kaur, besides senior officers of the department and local residents.

The projects are expected to play a significant role in enhancing Srinagar's urban infrastructure and promoting environmentally sustainable wastewater management practices.

# Chairs 84th Board of Directors meeting of SDA

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired the 84th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting reviewed the implementation status of decisions taken in the previous Board meeting and considered a range of issues relating to urban infrastructure development, housing, organizational reforms, land management and progress in execution of various projects by the Authority.

The Board took note of the action taken report on decisions of the previous meeting, including identification of land for public infrastructure projects, progress in development initiatives, engagement of key technical personnel and other administrative measures undertaken by the Authority.

The meeting reviewed the status of major urban development projects being undertaken by SDA, including the proposed Satellite Township at Rakhi Gund Aksha, Bemina, development of commercial assets, housing projects and other infrastructure initiatives aimed at improving urban facilities in Srinagar.

Referring to the proposed Satellite Township at Rakhi Gund Aksha and other upcoming housing projects, the Chief Minister

underscored the importance of creating well-planned, aesthetically appealing and livable urban spaces. He stressed that housing development should incorporate adequate civic and social infrastructure, including schools, parks, playgrounds, shopping facilities and other essential amenities, while ensuring quality landscaping and attractive surroundings that enhance the overall urban environment.

The Board also discussed measures for strengthening institutional capacity of the Authority, formulation of recruitment rules, implementation of welfare measures for employees and steps for improving planning and development activities.

The proposal relating to revision and implementation of Srinagar Master Plan, preparation of zonal development plans, management of commercial assets, development of public infrastructure and budget estimates of the Authority were reviewed during the meeting.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the need for transparent, efficient and sustainable urban development, directing that all projects be implemented in a time-bound manner while ensuring adherence to planning norms and public interest. He stressed the importance of strengthening institutional mechanisms and

improving delivery of civic and urban services to meet the growing needs of the city. Chief Minister exhorted SDA to focus on large scale housing projects to address the housing needs of Srinagar city and also improve parking facilities in busy areas of Srinagar.

The board underlined the need for planned development of Batmaloo area and making Sangarmal Shopping Centre fully functional. The board also gave directions to develop the vacant land parcels near Sangarmal by taking up key projects at the site.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department Mandeeep Kaur, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority and other senior officers.

Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority, Shabir Hussain Bhat, presented the agenda items before the Board.

## Meets legislators; reviews constituency issues, development needs



**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday met several public representatives at the Civil Secretariat here and listened to their concerns, suggestions and issues requiring government attention.

The Chief Minister met Legislators Iftikhar Ahmad (Rajouri), Rafiq Ahmad Naik (Tral), Justice (Retd.) Hasmain Masoodi (Pampore), Javed Reyaz Bedar (Pattan), Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh (Langate), Arjun Singh Raju (Ramban) and Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Dooru), who apprised him of various developmental needs, public welfare issues and constituency-specific matters.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the public representatives and assured them that the issues and concerns raised would be examined and addressed in a time-bound manner.

# Public outreach remains integral part of transparent, accountable governance: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday met several public delegations and individuals at Civil Secretariat here and listened to a wide range of public issues and developmental concerns raised by them.

The delegations, representing different areas and sections of society, apprised the Minister of matters pertaining to healthcare services, education, social welfare initiatives, civic amenities and local infrastructure. Individual citizens also projected issues requir-



ing timely administrative intervention and sought appropriate redressal.

Giving a patient hearing to all the representations, the Minister assured the visiting delegations and individuals that their genuine concerns would be examined on priority

and taken up with the concerned departments for necessary action. "Public outreach remains an integral part of transparent and accountable governance as sustained engagement with citizens helps in identifying and addressing grassroots issues effective-

ly", Sakeena Itoo stated. The Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring equitable development, efficient public service delivery and welfare-oriented governance across Jammu and Kashmir. She stressed that coordinated efforts among departments are being encouraged to resolve public grievances in a prompt and effective manner.

The Minister also urged the officers concerned to maintain close coordination with stakeholders and ensure that developmental initiatives and welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and transparent manner.

# Srinagar to Host 3-Day Major Viksit Bharat Exhibition 'Rise in J&K 2026' from Jun 17

Exhibition will connect citizens with institutions driving India's development: MP Khatana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Emphasizing Jammu & Kashmir's growing role in India's journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Ghulam Ali Khatana on Monday addressed a press conference ahead of the three-day national exhibition and awareness initiative, "Rise in Jammu & Kashmir 2026 - Building the Path Towards Viksit Bharat @2047."

The mega event, scheduled to be held from June 17 to 19 at SKICC, Srinagar, is being organized by Tarmeh Events under the guidance of Shri Ghulam Ali Khatana and will bring together some of India's leading public sector enterprises, scientific institutions, government departments, and development organizations on a common platform.

Addressing media persons, Shri Khatana said the exhibition has been conceived as a significant public outreach initiative to showcase India's developmental journey and the transformative changes taking place across sectors including infrastructure, science and technology, healthcare, agriculture, education, energy, environment, innovation, and public service delivery.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is witnessing unprecedented progress across multiple sectors and that Jammu & Kashmir is emerging as an active participant in the country's development story. The exhibition, he added, aims to connect citizens—particularly youth, students, entrepreneurs, researchers, and aspiring professionals—



with institutions that are driving national growth and innovation.

Khatana stated that "Rise in Jammu & Kashmir 2026" will serve as a platform for creating awareness about flagship national programmes, technological advancements, scientific achievements, and development initiatives that are contributing to the vision of a developed India by 2047. He said the event reflects the spirit of inclusive development and public participation while encouraging greater engagement between citizens and nation-building institutions.

The exhibition is expected to witness participation from several prominent organizations, including NHPC, BIS, ICMR, ISRO, CSIR, ICAR, APEDA, Northern Railway, IRCTC, CPCB, Survey of India, POWERGRID, HURL, NFL, NBCC, REC, NTPC, TRIFED, National Jute Board, NAFED, the Department of Atomic Energy, and various other public sector undertakings, research institutions and government bodies.

According to the organizers, the event will feature thematic exhibition pavilions, technology demonstrations, citizen awareness campaigns, interactive displays, innovation showcases, and opportunities for direct engagement between institutions and the public.

# CS finalises arrangements for grand celebration of Int'l Day of Yoga across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday reviewed the preparations being undertaken across Jammu and Kashmir for the celebration of the International Day of Yoga (IDY)-2026, scheduled to be observed on June 21, 2026, under the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing".

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, H&ME; Commissioner Secretary, YS&S; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir was attended by Secretary, Transport; Secretary, RDD; MD, NHM; Director, Colleges; Director, Ayush and other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioners and District SSPs attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Reviewing the preparedness for the event, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the arrangements being put in place by the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu as well as Kashmir and all the Deputy Commissioners regarding identification of venues, logistical arrangements and mobilization of participants. He emphasized the need for meticulous planning to ensure smooth conduct of the celebrations across the Union Territory.

Stressing on showcasing Jammu and Kashmir's natural beauty and tourism potential alongside the message of wellness, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned authorities to organize yoga sessions at prominent iconic tourist destinations across the UT, thereby promoting the spirit of yoga amid the region's scenic landscapes and encouraging wider public participation.



Earlier the Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M.Raju threw light on the extensive prelude activities being conducted across Jammu and Kashmir to create awareness and encourage public participation. These activities, he continued, included yoga sessions, yoga at iconic locations, Samyoga programmes integrating yoga with other healthcare systems, youth-centric initiatives in educational institutions, Harit Yoga programmes promoting environmental consciousness, and community outreach campaigns.

He further gave out that 1,952 yoga-related events have been organized so far across the Union Territory, witnessing participation of over 1.31 lakh people, reflecting the growing enthusiasm among citizens towards yoga and healthy living.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that as per the past practice Directorate of Ayush, J&K has been designated as the nodal agency for IDY-2026 celebrations. The department is coordinating with all line departments and stakeholders to ensure successful organization of yoga programmes at the Union Territory, district and grassroots levels.

It was divulged that trained yoga instructors from the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi, are being deployed to facilitate mass yoga demonstrations during the countdown and main events.

# Satish Sharma reviews Muharram preparations across Srinagar city

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Tuesday undertook an extensive tour of several areas in Srinagar city to assess the arrangements being put in place for the forthcoming Muharram observances.

The visit was aimed to ensure that all the requisite civic and infrastructural facilities are made available to the public well in advance.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Zadaibal, Tanvir Sadiq, senior officers of the District administration and officials from various line departments during the inspection.

The Minister visited the interior areas of Dal like Mir Bahari, Meena Bazar, Moti Mohalla, Batt Mohal-



la, Gucchi Mohalla, besides Kathidarwaza, Madin Sahib, Tibetan Colony, Butt Colony and Mandibal. He took stock of the ongoing works and reviewed the preparedness of various departments responsible for providing essential services during the holy month.

During the visit, Satish Sharma conducted on-the-spot inspection of civic infrastructure and reviewed the arrangements related to street lighting, sanitation, drainage, drinking water supply, road connectiv-

ity, cleanliness drives and other public utility services. He directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and adopt a proactive approach to ensure that all facilities are put in place in a timely manner.

The Minister also reviewed the preparedness of the Power Development Department (PDD) and the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED). He emphasized the need for uninterrupted electricity and water supply during Muharram.

He instructed the concerned officials to identify and address any deficiencies immediately and ensure round-the-clock monitoring of essential services during the observance period.

At various locations, the Minister interacted with the local residents, community representatives and members of Muharram committees, who apprised him of their concerns and requirements. He assured them that the government remains committed to facilitate the smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram and that all genuine issues raised during the visit would be addressed on priority.

The Minister also visited the historic Imambara at Madina Sahib, where he inspected the arrangements being made for devotees and mourners. He directed the concerned agencies to ensure proper sanitation, adequate lighting, drinking

water facilities and hassle-free movement of people around the religious site.

MLA Zadaibal Tanvir Sadiq highlighted several locality-specific issues and urged the concerned departments to expedite the pending works.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma underscored the significance of Muharram. He said that ensuring adequate civic amenities and public services during important religious occasions remains a top priority of the government.

"The administration and all the concerned departments must work in close coordination to ensure that the required arrangements are completed within the stipulated timeframe. Every effort should be made to provide seamless services and create an enabling environment for peaceful observance of Muharram," the Minister said.

# MLA Nazir Gurezi chairs meeting of Committee on Estimates



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** A meeting of the Committee on Estimates of the Legislative Assembly was held Tuesday at Assembly Secretariat under the Chairmanship of MLA, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi).

Legislators Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Ali Mohammad Dar, Javid Hassan Baig, Mush-taq Guroo, Irshad Rasool Kar, Sajad Shaheen, Sunil Bhard-waj, besides Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit, DG Budget Mohd Sultan Malik and other senior officers of

the Legislative Assembly were present in the meeting.

While addressing the introductory meeting, the Chairman briefed the members about the core mandate and vital importance of the Committee. He emphasized that the panel's primary role includes the meticulous examination of original and revised estimates, as well as tracking the actual expenditures incurred on various developmental projects across the region to ensure accountability and fiscal discipline.

To streamline its oversight function, the Committee decided to call a meeting

with the senior officers of the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department in its next session. The upcoming meeting will specifically examine the current status, funding, and progress of all languishing and ongoing developmental projects under the department's purview.

During the meeting, the participating members offered valuable suggestions aimed at maximizing the Committee's efficiency. They assured the Chairman of their full cooperation and support in ensuring the smooth and impactful functioning of the Committee.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Return Home

**Piecing Back Kashmir's Broken Soul**

The return of the Kashmiri Pandit community to their roots, even through brief, symbolic visits, is easily one of the most beautiful things to happen in the Valley over the last thirty years. When they were forced to leave in the early 1990s, it wasn't just a community being displaced; it was a profound tragedy that tore a deep gash right through the social and cultural heart of Kashmir.

Recently, a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits traveled to Beerwah, a small town in central Kashmir's Budgam district. It was a beautiful, emotional reminder of what Kashmir used to be, a place defined by shared heritage and centuries of living side-by-side. For many in the group, who now live scattered across the United States, Europe, and different corners of India, this was the first time they had stepped on this soil in nearly 36 years. They were walking the very ground that shaped their childhoods, their memories, and their identities.

What made the day truly unforgettable wasn't just the destination, but the welcome. Local Muslim residents, community leaders, and activists greeted the visitors with open arms and warm smiles, walking alongside them to the historic Bhairav Cave. The hugs, the tears, and the sheer joy of the reunion said more than any political speech ever could. Sitting together, the two groups spent hours reminiscing about an older, gentler Kashmir. They talked about a time when neighbors didn't just live next to each other, but with each other, celebrating the same festivals, sharing the same grief, and protecting one another.

The message from the local residents was clear, emotional, and direct: "Kashmiri Pandits are an inseparable part of who we are. Kashmir is simply incomplete without you." For the visiting Pandits, the journey was an emotional rollercoaster. It wasn't just about visiting a geographic location; it was a return to a flood of memories, old relationships, and a deep-rooted sense of belonging that decades of distance could never wipe away. The immense gratitude they felt for the hospitality showed that, despite everything, the invisible threads connecting these communities never truly snapped.

While politicians and policy-makers continue to debate the logistics of rehabilitation and return, these quiet, human moments carry the real weight. They prove that away from the cameras and political talking points, ordinary people have a genuine, deep-seated desire to rebuild bridges and bring back the spirit of togetherness. The road to true reconciliation is going to be long and incredibly tough. But moments like the one in Beerwah offer a flicker of real hope. They remind us that peace isn't negotiated in boardrooms through official decrees; it is grown organically through human connection, empathy, and a shared willingness to heal old, painful wounds.

Bringing Kashmiri Pandits back isn't just a logistical exercise in resettlement. It's about restoring a piece of Kashmir's soul. The future of the Valley relies on this exact foundation: rebuilding trust, strengthening human bonds, and ensuring that its rich, beautifully diverse culture can finally breathe and flourish once again.

**How India's Women Have Emerged As Nation-Builders In Last 12 Years**



DR BASANT GOEL

In the last 12 years, the perspective of Indian female citizens has changed dramatically since the introduction of female citizens as contributors to nation building instead of beneficiaries of various welfare schemes. The governmental programs have shifted from providing support services for female citizens to programs that allow female citizens to support economic growth directly through their work within the economy. The policy landscape has changed significantly during this period, from only being a focus for government to becoming the foundation for many government policies designed to enhance the quality of life for all female citizens.

Unlike in prior generations where female issues were only considered safety and needs-based, now many government programs focus on providing opportunities for females to be part of the entire development process, which has allowed for female citizens to improve their ability to contribute to the growth and development of India.

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Campaign is one of the most successful examples of the way India has tackled the urgent social problem of deteriorating child sex ratio and the discrimination against female children. The Campaign focuses on addressing the need for society to value and support the contribution of female children through education and support for a long time. While laws alone will never eradicate social problems, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign has changed society's perception of female children and is catalyzing social change.

Women's financial empowerment is one of the key characteristics of programs aimed at women. For example, the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana helps families save for their daughter's future, while the promotion of women's businesses has allowed many women to achieve financial independence. If women are financially secure, that will generally allow them to develop confidence, dignity and independence.

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana



has been one of the most successful programs for rural women. Millions of rural women had to put themselves at risk for many generations from smoke in their kitchens and to spend a great deal of time collecting firewood to cook. Access to clean cooking fuel has provided not only better health for those women, but also less time spent on a chore and therefore more time to pursue education, work and family welfare.

Also, the expansion of the number of households connected to a tap through the Jal Jeevan Mission has addressed a major impediment to women's productivity. When there were no taps in rural homes, a great deal of burden was placed on women to carry water from long distances. By putting taps in the home, women have increased their standard of living and are no longer required to carry water, which takes a lot of time and is physically demanding.

Policy makers have also started to pay more attention to maternal health issues. There have been many programs created to help pregnant and breastfeeding mothers to improve nutrition and health care during this critical time in their lives. Maternal health should not be separated from a nation's development, and investing in the health of mothers leads to families that are healthier and communities that are stronger as a whole.

The level of safety for women is still an important measure of progress for any society. The strengthening and establishment of institutional mechanisms to help assist women like hotlines and integrated service centers recognizes that empowerment cannot exist without security. In order for women to be fully involved in the public sphere

they need to have access to timely support, legal services, and protection.

Self-Help Groups for women have developed all over the country from small and localized groups to powerful forces of economic and social change. Today there are millions of women managing their own businesses, contributing to the local economy in their area, and assisting with rural development through collective action and entrepreneurship.

As entrepreneurship becomes more prevalent in society, women are entering areas that would otherwise have been closed off to them. With more accessible funding and skills training available to them, female entrepreneurs are increasingly creating jobs instead of looking for jobs. These changes will not only help drive economic growth, but will also help to change the traditional roles of women in society.

The recent emphasis on connecting women to technology through policy and programs has also encouraged the growth of female entrepreneurs. For instance, the creation of training programs for women as drone operators and other technology service providers is an innovative way to prepare women for future job opportunities. In order for women to become empowered into the 21st century, they need access to technology and innovation, as well as digital and computer skills.

Programs focusing on women and children's nutrition and health have also been critical to the empowerment of women as entrepreneurs by targeting malnourished mothers and children. By providing programs that promote better nutrition, health care, and development for young children, these types

of programs are expected to create a solid foundation for future generations and improve the overall quality of life for women.

The advancement of women's rights and Gender Equality is considered another significant milestone to have occurred recently. A presiding belief that greater representation of women in the political arena is important for the advancement of gender equality through policy decisions has created a change in perception by the passage of laws. Increased representation of women in governance can introduce additional viewpoints into the decision-making process and result in more equal treatment of all individuals.

In addition, the cumulative effect of these initiatives on the overall empowerment of women has the potential to create an environment conducive to women's empowerment. All of the initiatives fall under the categories of clean fuel, access to quality water, access to affordable and quality health care, access to financial services, access to entrepreneurship opportunities and technology training; and political representation may seem to be separate interventions but they form an ecosystem, whereby working together support the empowerment of women. True empowerment occurs when multiple barriers to women's empowerment are successfully addressed at the same time.

As previously explained, challenges still exist for women in the form of regional disparities, implementation gaps, social prejudices, and economic inequalities throughout the country. The existence of such social challenges limits the potential of any one line of government programs to provide immediate resolution to long-standing social problems. Since the passage of multiple federal laws over the last twelve year, it has been clear that there has been a long-term commitment by the federal government to break down barriers for women through a combination of the provision of assistance through indirect means (i.e. welfare) and direct means (i.e. economic and opportunity creation). Based on the experience of the last twelve years, investing in women should not only be viewed as a social imperative, but rather as a national necessity.

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KASHMIR'S JOURNEY TOWARDS PEACE

**A Collective Achievement Built On Shared Sacrifice**



RISHI SURI

The recently concluded DRAGASH programme, organised by members of the Kashmiri Pandit community at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, offered an important opportunity to reflect on Kashmir's evolving realities and the region's ongoing journey towards peace and reconciliation.

One of the notable speakers at the event was Dr. Surinder Koul, a Kashmiri Pandit currently residing in the United States. Recalling his recent visit to Tikker village in Kupwara district, he observed a Kashmir that appeared markedly different from the one remembered by generations shaped by conflict. Speaking before Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Dr. Koul described arriving in Srinagar close to midnight and witnessing bustling roads, active markets, and people conducting their daily lives without visible fear. To him, these were signs of a society gradually reclaiming normalcy.

Dr. Koul also recalled a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, during which the Prime Minister reportedly acknowledged the suffering endured by the Kashmiri Pandit community and emphasised the



need to collectively transform the atmosphere of Kashmir. Reflecting on that conversation, Dr. Koul stated that he has personally witnessed significant positive changes in the Valley. At the same time, he noted that genuine reconciliation between communities remains a work in progress, requiring patience, trust-building, and continued dialogue.

His observations raise an important question for policymakers, scholars, and peace advocates worldwide: How should societies emerging from prolonged conflict understand and sustain peace?

Kashmir's experience offers a powerful answer. Peace is rarely the achievement of a single government, institution, or community. Rather, it is the outcome of countless sacrifices made over generations by individuals from diverse backgrounds who, despite immense adversity, continued to believe

in the possibility of a better future.

Any honest discussion of Kashmir's transformation must begin with remembrance. Thousands of civilians from all communities—Muslims, Kashmiri Pandits, Sikhs, and others—lost their lives during decades of violence and instability. Their suffering remains an inseparable part of Kashmir's collective memory and conscience.

The story is equally incomplete without acknowledging the sacrifice of thousands of security personnel from the Indian Army, CRPF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and other security agencies who gave their lives while protecting civilians and combating terrorism. Their service contributed significantly to the conditions that have enabled greater stability and development in recent years.

Beyond the statistics are the lives of individuals who

stood for peace, coexistence, and the preservation of Kashmir's pluralistic ethos. Among them were leaders, intellectuals, scholars, doctors, and public figures such as Tika Lal Taploo, Khwaja Abdul Gani Lone, Mirwaiz Molvi Mohammad Farooq, Dr. Abdul Ahad Guru, Dr. Sheikh Jalal-ud-Din of Pampore, Ali Mohammad Shahbaz, and many others. They represented different communities and often held differing political views, yet each paid a profound personal price while striving for the welfare of Kashmir and its people.

The progress visible today is also linked to the efforts of policymakers, administrators, and institutions responsible for maintaining security, encouraging development, and strengthening governance. Many observers credit the contributions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha, and India's security and intelligence agencies for helping create an environment conducive to greater stability and economic activity.

Yet lasting peace cannot rest solely on security or economic development. Sustainable reconciliation requires something deeper: recognition of shared suffering, respect for diverse memories, and a willingness to engage with difficult histories without allowing them to dictate the future.

For intellectuals and peacebuilders across the world, Kashmir offers an important lesson. Societies heal not when one narrative triumphs over another, but when all communities feel that their pain, sacrifices, and aspirations are acknowledged with dignity. Peace becomes durable when remembrance is accompanied by empathy, justice, and a collective commitment to coexistence.

The Kashmir of today stands upon the sacrifices of countless known and unknown individuals. Honouring their legacy requires more than commemorating the past; it demands continued efforts to build a future grounded in peace, human dignity, mutual respect, and the enduring spirit of Kashmiriyat.

As Kashmir moves forward, its greatest achievement may not simply be the reduction of violence, but the gradual emergence of a shared hope—that future generations will inherit a Valley defined not by conflict, but by reconciliation, opportunity, and peace.

Rishi Suri is a senior editor covering international affairs at The Daily Milap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper

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

Good Morning **Kashmir**

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

**Javed Ashraf Shah**

Associate Editors

**Mir Suhail**

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Legal Advisor

**Bashir Sidiq**

Bureau Chief Jammu:

**Harbans Nagokay**

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

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Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

**Khidmat Offset Printing**

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

**Aijaz Ahmad Dar**

Academic Doctor

# Diagnosing And Curing Educational Apathy

MOHD SHABIR KHATANA

It is a fact that the teacher whose students are the most capable, efficient and intelligent as compared to other teachers, who are serving the society by obtaining high positions, will be the richest teacher as compared to other colleagues. When a teacher sees his students working on smart posts which would have been prepared by the miracle of his hands, his heart, mind and soul will get a kind of peace. I think it is difficult to express this peace on paper with the help of a pen, but this is the highest kind of peace.

When a teacher says, this Tehsildar is my student; I taught him in such a school, this BDO is my student, this Deputy Commissioner is my student; I taught him in such a school, speaking these words with the tongue gives a wonderful peace to the heart and mind, and when a teacher sees his capable students with his eyes, and if he will see his students working in high positions, he will get immense happiness and his heart and mind will get peace.

This passion and enthusiasm of teachers will be of great benefit first to them and then to the society. When this passion and enthusiasm are created in the hearts and minds of teachers, then all the teachers will work in co-ordination & cooperation with each other. They will work by getting cooperation from each other or by giving cooperation to each other.

When this passion and enthusiasm are created in teachers, then a teacher will create great interest in students who will not be interested in studies because a teacher is that person whose words create a sense of courage and confidence in students and can change their lives. The words of a teacher create an impact that even years of education cannot create. A student who considers himself weak in studies, when he hears from his teacher that you can do this, you are very capable and intelligent, and you only follow the path of hard work, then a new power is created in the student with a strong belief and self-confidence which will further encourage this student to go beyond the limits.

History is a witness to the fact that in the lives of countless people there must have been some great teacher who recognised the abilities of his student much earlier than his student did. The teacher who saw the

**This passion and enthusiasm of teachers will be of great benefit first to them and then to the society. When this passion and enthusiasm are created in the hearts and minds of teachers, then all the teachers will work in co-ordination & cooperation with each other.**

potential of such students increased their abilities and skills and helped them in reaching a beautiful destination.

That is why the words of a great teacher are not just sounds; those words become a means or source of their personality development. At first, teachers create beautiful dreams for achieving a beautiful destination and then the courage to achieve this destination and provide light in the difficult paths of the students' lives. Not only this, but also



a teacher enlightens the eyes of the hearts of his students, a deep feeling and then the conscience. When a teacher revives a pain, a feeling and a good thought in the hearts of his students, along with their conscience, then his students do full justice to their profession, justice to themselves and then to society throughout their service after obtaining a wonderful position. But all this will be possible only when the teachers themselves enlighten the eyes of their hearts with the help of their education and knowledge then the conscience of every teacher will become alive, and every teacher will work by understanding the importance of his noble profession, and then a teacher will become a great teacher and will light the lamp of hope, confidence and service to society in the future of the students. But the passion of becoming a rich teacher will prove to be helpful in developing all these abilities in the teacher. With this passion, the inner talent of a teacher will become fully functional for doing smart work.

Now because of the desire to become rich, every teacher will work with full diligence, great concern, foresight, high insight, sincerity, honesty, tolerance, patience and responsibility for the pleasing of Almighty Allah. An understandable truth will be fulfilled: The more beneficial a person is to the best creation of Almighty Allah, the more beloved

he is to Allah. This means that a great advantage of working with sincerity and honesty is that the more we benefit society, the more beloved we will become to Almighty Allah.

Now because of the desire to become rich, a wonderful change will be possible in the mindset of all the teachers because every teacher will start improving himself, he will choose a mentor teacher for himself and will be more ready and capable to teach children every day than every previous day. Dear teachers with the help of Of the innovative idea under discussion, you can give a Surprise the society with your success. Success happens when all the students taught by all the teachers are capable, efficient and intelligent and will be able to play their full role in the future development of the society. This innovative idea will help the teaching come up to the expectations of the society in doing its smart service.

This will be possible because every teacher will work with full diligence, great thoughtfulness, foresight, high insight, sincerity, honesty, tolerance, patience and responsibility for getting the pleasure of Almighty Allah. A fact worth understanding: The more useful a person is to the best creation of Almighty Allah, the more beloved he will be to Almighty Allah. This means that a great advantage of working hard with sincerity and honesty is that the more we benefit

society, the more beloved we will become to Almighty Allah.

Teachers will work as academic doctors:- All teachers will develop the ability to identify or detect the causes or problems of slow learners. This can be made possible by properly utilising personal experience in the fields of child psychology, educational psychology, self-psychology and teaching learning skills. All teachers will develop equal abilities to solve all such problems of students. All of them, as academic doctors, will create a desire and interest in learning in students, and then by utilising their professional skills, they will convert this desire and interest of students into a thirst for learning for acquiring education and knowledge in order to excel in their bright future careers by acquiring the ability and competence of a dynamic nature. With this the professional skills of all teachers will increase tremendously. Now, by working with full sincerity and honesty with hard work and dedication, the earnings of all teachers will also become rightful (Halal). And each teacher will perform his responsibility in a most professional manner.

One important thing to note is that more and more evidence of the smart work of teachers will be clear and visible in front of society, and it will get proved that teachers are indeed the most respected and essential members of society. Only teachers will be able to prove all this with their excellent work, and then the society will be completely happy and satisfied with the work of teachers.

All teachers will understand the fact that considering their education, knowledge and experience, teachers must be conscious, fair, living conscience and feelings with the society. No other government employee can ever and in any way be able to compete with the teachers. They must perform their duties with full dedication, sincerity and honesty by raising their potential, and they must also provide wonderful and unparalleled service to society so that it will get proved that all teachers are fulfilling their national responsibility very well.

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## The Growing Shadow Of Inflation

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

In a vast and developing country like India, inflation is not just an economic term, but a reality deeply embedded in the daily lives of millions of families, directly impacting their income, savings, food, education, and future plans. Recent reports and market trends indicate that prices of daily necessities have increased by 15 to 20 percent since March. Essential products like edible oil, soap, detergent, coffee, handwash, snacks, shampoo, and pulses are all steadily rising. Additionally, the increase in the prices of petrol, diesel, and gas cylinders has further exacerbated the hardships of the common consumer.

Inflation has the greatest impact on middle- and lower-income groups. These groups have limited incomes, and the bulk of their expenditures are devoted to essential needs such as food, housing, education, and health. When the prices of everyday goods rise, their savings opportunities diminish. As a result, families are forced to cut back on their needs or resort to debt.

According to the report, edible oil prices have seen the largest increase. While they increased by 3 to 5 percent in June, the increase has reached 20 to 25 percent since March. India imports a large portion of its edible oil needs. Fluctuations in international crude oil and edible oil prices directly impact the Indian market. Geopolitical tensions in West Asia, supply chain disruptions, and increased transportation costs have made edible oils more expensive.

Another significant driver of inflation is rising energy prices. Domestic gas cylinder prices have risen by more than 10 percent, while commercial cylinders, petrol, and diesel have also become more expensive. Energy is the backbone of any economy. When fuel prices rise, transportation costs increase. This impact is felt at every level, from farms to markets, from factories to markets, and from



warehouses to consumers. Consequently, the price of almost every commodity increases.

Today, companies are also under pressure from rising costs. Rising costs of raw materials, electricity, transportation, and packaging have increased production costs. In this situation, companies adopt two approaches: either raising product prices or reducing package sizes. Consumers often don't realize that a product available at the same price is now available in smaller quantities. In economic terms, this is called "shrinkflation." This is also a hidden form of inflation.

The most obvious impact of inflation is seen in the kitchen. A middle-class family's monthly kitchen budget, which used to be 15,000 rupees, can now reach 17,000 to 18,000 rupees due to rising prices. This increase may seem small, but over a year, this additional expense adds up to thousands of rupees. This situation becomes even more difficult for families with stable incomes.

The situation in rural areas is no less challenging. Rising costs of diesel, fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides have made agricultural produc-

tion more expensive. Farmers don't receive fair prices for their crops, while consumers have to purchase the same products at higher prices. Thus, the burden of inflation falls on both producers and consumers, while the intermediary supply chain and market structures reap greater profits.

Inflation also has profound social impacts. When essential commodities become more expensive, families first cut back on spending on entertainment, tourism, and luxuries. This then impacts areas such as education, health, and nutrition. Many families are unable to afford nutritious food for their children. This can lead to malnutrition and health problems. On the other hand, reduced spending on education impacts future human capital.

Economically, controlled inflation is considered a sign of development, as it indicates increased demand and production. However, when inflation rises faster than income growth, it creates economic imbalances. This is the concern that is emerging in the current situation. Wage and employment growth rates are not as fast as the rising prices of essential commo-

**Inflation has the greatest impact on middle- and lower-income groups. These groups have limited incomes, and the bulk of their expenditures are devoted to essential needs such as food, housing, education, and health. When the prices of everyday goods rise, their savings opportunities diminish.**

ties. This is reducing real purchasing power.

The Reserve Bank of India and the government take steps from time to time to control inflation. Measures such as changing interest rates, reducing import duties, monitoring stockpiles of essential commodities, and increasing market supply are taken. However, due to global conditions, international trade, and geo-

political tensions, these efforts are often limited in effectiveness.

The current situation requires the government to adopt a multi-pronged strategy. Domestic production must be promoted to reduce dependence on imports of edible oils and essential commodities. Expanding modern technologies in the agricultural sector, developing storage facilities, and increasing supply chain efficiency are essential. Hoarding and artificial price increases must be closely monitored. A review of the tax structure on petroleum products could also provide relief to consumers.

Consumers also play an important role. Avoiding unnecessary purchases, budgeting, prioritizing local products, and developing a saving habit are essential. Comparing prices digitally to find the best options can also help reduce expenses.

Inflation isn't just a matter of economic statistics; it's a question of the living standards, nutrition, education, and future prospects of millions of Indian families. If the prices of essential commodities continue to rise at this rate, the impact will not only be limited to household budgets but will also impact the pace of social and economic development. Therefore, the government, industry, and consumers—all three—must work together to find balanced and long-term solutions.

Today, the need is to ensure that the brilliance of development is visible not only in statistics, but also in the common man's plate, kitchen, and pocket. Unless inflation is effectively controlled, the benefits of economic progress will not fully reach the last person in society. The challenge of inflation is not just a government challenge, but a shared challenge for the entire nation, and its solution is possible only through collective efforts.

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

## Rain, Thundershowers

For June 17, it predicted partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds at scattered places across the Union Territory.

From June 18 to June 22, the department said generally cloudy conditions are expected with one or two spells of light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, hailstorms, lightning and gusty winds at many places.

The forecast indicates that weather activity may continue, though with reduced intensity, between June 23 and June 25. During this period, the region is likely to witness partly to generally cloudy skies with light rain, brief showers, thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds at a few places.

The MeT department has urged residents, tourists, pilgrims and transport operators to remain updated about weather advisories and take necessary precautions, particularly in vulnerable areas prone to flash floods, landslides and shooting stones.

Officials said brief, intense showers at isolated places could trigger flash floods and mudslides, especially in hilly and mountainous regions.

The advisory assumes significance as thousands of tourists continue to visit Kashmir and preparations are underway for the annual Amarnath Yatra, with weather conditions expected to remain changeable over the next several days—(KNO)

## J&K Sees Massive

NORTH KASHMIR

Meanwhile, a large-scale joint security exercise was held in North Kashmir's Baramulla district under the supervision of the Army's 79 Mountain Brigade.

The drill brought together personnel from the Army, CRPF, BSF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Special Operations Group (SOG), civil administration, Fire and Emergency Services and medical teams.

Officials said the exercise simulated a range of scenarios, including crowd mobilisation, misinformation campaigns, road accidents, stone-pelting incidents and casualty evacuation.

The drill tested command-and-control systems, intelligence-sharing mechanisms and rapid response procedures among participating agencies.

Security arrangements have also been reviewed at railway stations, bridges, culverts and other critical infrastructure in several districts. "Regular searches and area sanitisation drives are being undertaken as part of preventive measures," the official added.

To strengthen administrative coordination during the pilgrimage, the Jammu and Kashmir government has temporarily deputed 63 officers from various departments.

The officers will assist in managing logistics, pilgrim facilities, inter-departmental coordination and other operational requirements during the yatra.

Officials said security and administrative agencies are working in close coordination to ensure that all arrangements remain in place throughout the pilgrimage period.

Pertinently, the Amarnath Yatra attracts thousands of pilgrims from across the country every year.

Authorities have appealed to the public to remain vigilant and immediately report any suspicious activity or unattended objects to security agencies as preparations gather pace for the annual pilgrimage—(KNO)

## Comprehensive

conduct of the annual pilgrimage. "We are confident that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will be very successful this year," Singh added—(KNO)

## Govt Restricts

interest of public order, in response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates appearing for the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination scheduled on 21 June 2026," the NTA said.

The agency expressed its gratitude to MeitY for what it described as a "timely action" taken in the interest of students and said it would help ensure the conduct of "safe and secure examinations" on June 21.

The medical-entrance examination held on May 3 was cancelled amidst allegations of irregularities, leaving lakhs of aspirants in despair.

The re-test is scheduled to be held on June 21.

## Govt Committed To

process of timber procurement.

Responding to the issues raised by the delegation, the Minister assured that the concerns raised would be examined sympathetically for appropriate consideration. He said the government remains committed to safeguard the region's heritage assets while ensuring the welfare of communities dependent on them.

The delegation expressed gratitude to the Minister for his positive response to their

long-pending demands.

Legislators Ranbir Singh Pathania and Mir Saifullah also called on the Minister and appraised him of various development and public welfare issues pertaining to their respective constituencies.

The Minister assured them that their concerns would be looked into and addressed in a time bound manner.

## J&K Witnessing

worth 20,000 crore have been completed, 2,300 km worth 50,000 crore are under construction and DPRs for another 707 km worth 65,000 crore are being prepared.

He said that tunnel construction has been a major focus and only five tunnels existed in J&K before 2014. Today, the Jammu-Srinagar corridor alone has 25 tunnels with 20 completed and five under construction, he added. Strategic projects such as the Zojila Tunnel, Digidol-Khoomi Nallah, Sungal, Bhimber Gali, Sinthan Pass, Sudhmahadev, Sadhna Pass, Peer Ki Gali and the parallel Chenani-Nashri alignment are expected to ensure reliable, year-round connectivity.

The meeting was informed that 16,000-crore Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar four-lane corridor has achieved 95 per cent progress. Once complete, it will cut the travel time between Jammu and Srinagar from nine hours to about four hours and reduce the distance by nearly 70 km. Tunnels, viaducts, bypasses and landslide protection measures are turning the NH-44 into a safer all-weather route. To further strengthen resilience, works worth 230 crore are being taken up at 15 vulnerable locations between Udhampur and Banihal, while bypasses worth 600 crore have already been completed at Banihal, Ramban, Ashajipora, Seri and Makarkote.

Four high-speed corridors worth 50,000 crore including Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar, Jammu-Chenani-Anantnag, Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri and Jammu-Akhnor are under construction. These will improve the access to the Kashmir Valley, Chenab Valley, Rajouri-Poonch, North Kashmir and key border areas, aiding the tourism, trade and defence mobility. The 670-km Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Greenfield Expressway, costing 41,000 crore, will also strengthen the pilgrimage connectivity. Within J&K, 143 km of the expressway worth 11,500 crore is slated for completion by August 2027, reducing Delhi-Katra distance by 58 km.

The meeting was further told that the urban mobility is being addressed through ring roads. The 104-km Srinagar Ring Road, costing 7,200 crore, will divert through traffic from the city and improve links to Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Gurez, Kargil and Leh. The 58-km Jammu Ring Road is nearing completion with 53 km already operational while DPR work is underway for the 33-km Eastern Jammu Ring Road.

The next phase includes DPRs for 707 km of highways worth 65,000 crore. Key upcoming projects are the 125-km Katra-Srinagar High-Speed Corridor, the Rafiaband-Kupwara-Tangdhar route with Sadhna Tunnel, the Surankote-Buffiaz-Doodhpathri-Magam corridor with Peer Ki Gali Tunnel, Samba-Mansar-Udhampur four-lane, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri corridor and new service roads and underpasses on the Srinagar-Qazigund stretch.

It was informed in the meeting that Pilgrimage and tourism infrastructure has also received attention. DPRs are being prepared for 60 km of Amarnath Yatra road works worth 3,500 crore. The 880-crore Katra Intermodal Station will integrate rail, road and heli-services for devotees visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. Additionally, 54 ropeway proposals worth 30,000 crore have been received, with eight projects worth 16,000 crore to be taken up in the first phase at sites including Shri Amarnath Ji Cave, Shankaracharya Temple, Thajiwat Glacier, Bhadarwah, Sanasar and Doodhpathri.

The MoS appreciated the work of all agencies and directed the officials to complete the projects within stipulated timelines while maintaining quality, safety and public convenience. He said the infrastructure push of the last 12 years has moved Jammu and Kashmir "from difficult and disrupted connectivity to modern, all-weather, high-speed and integrated transport." The projects, he added, will boost tourism, pilgrimage, industry, defence logistics and overall socio-economic growth in the Union Territory.

## Chief Secretary Reviews

on expanding the coverage achieved in screening populations residing in identified high-risk villages, directing district administrations and health authorities to substantially increase the number of Nikshay Shivirs and ensure saturation coverage of all notified high-risk villages within the stipulated timelines. He emphasised optimum utilisation of hand-held X-ray units and greater outreach in remote and vulnerable areas.

While reviewing the implementation of the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, the Chief Secretary instructed the concerned authorities to complete all pending beneficiary authentication and ensure timely release of financial assistance to the eligible patients. He further

directed that all pending cases be cleared through a special drive so that no patient is deprived of entitled benefits.

The Chief Secretary also called for intensified efforts to enhance TB Preventive Treatment coverage among household contacts and healthcare workers, strengthen differentiated care protocols, improve Poshan Kit distribution and expand community participation through Nikshay Mitras.

Dulloo also stressed the need to improve the uptake of the recently launched TB Mukht Bharat App and Khushi Chatbot, observing that digital tools can significantly enhance treatment adherence, patient counselling and service delivery. He directed all concerned doctors and field functionaries to ensure registration and active utilisation of the platform by every notified TB patient.

Reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary observed that the performance reflects the efforts made by the healthcare workers, district administrations and community volunteers engaged in the campaign. He stressed that sustained efforts are essential to maintain momentum and achieve the national goal of eliminating tuberculosis.

The Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M.Raju took this occasion to present the detailed overview of the achievements, challenges and future action plans under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan being implemented across the districts of J&K.

The Commissioner Secretary apprised the meeting that Jammu & Kashmir has emerged as one of the best performing regions in the country under the ongoing 100-Day TB Mukht Bharat Campaign, securing 2nd rank among States and Union Territories under Phase-II of the national campaign launched on March 24, 2026.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that J&K has achieved notable success in several critical indicators, including vulnerable population screening, presumptive TB testing, TB notification, drug-resistant TB detection, differentiated TB care, nutritional support and community participation through Nikshay Mitras.

The MD, NHM, Akriti Sagar presented that over 2.45 lakh vulnerable individuals have been screened during the ongoing campaign, while 70 per cent of the enrolled vulnerable population has undergone X-ray examination, surpassing the national benchmark.

He further added that the UT has also recorded 90 per cent utilisation of NAAT-based molecular diagnostic testing, ensuring faster and more accurate diagnosis of tuberculosis cases.

The review further revealed that J&K has maintained strong performance in TB case detection, with 4,472 TB cases notified during the first five months of 2026, representing about 40 per cent of the annual target. The programme has also strengthened presumptive TB testing, recording over 2.52 lakh tests across the Union Territory during the current year.

It was noted that more than 2,100 TB patients have received Poshan Kits during the current year under community support initiatives, while the number of registered Nikshay Mitras has increased to over 13,100 reflecting growing societal participation in supporting TB patients.

The Chief Secretary was informed that 1,504 TB patients have been assessed under Differentiated TB Care, ensuring personalised treatment and management based on disease severity and associated vulnerabilities.

Moreover it was highlighted that significant improvement has also been registered in TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) coverage, which increased from 7 per cent during Phase-I to 34 per cent during Phase-II, indicating better protection of household contacts and other high-risk groups from developing active tuberculosis.

Emphasising that tuberculosis elimination requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, he urged all departments, district administrations, civil society organisations and volunteers to actively contribute towards the goal of making Jammu & Kashmir TB-Mukht in the days to come.

## Peace Boosts Tourism

border destinations in north Kashmir this year. Of these, nearly three lakh visited areas in Kupwara district, while Gurez recorded around 60,000 visitors and the Uri sector witnessed about 70,000 tourist footfalls.

Apart from Keran and Karnah, destinations such as Bangus Valley, Lolab, Machil, Teetwal, Tangdhar, Gurez and Tulail Valley are drawing increasing numbers of visitors seeking offbeat travel experiences.

Locals said the tourism boom has generated employment opportunities for youth and encouraged small businesses, including transport services, pony rides and hospital-ity ventures.

However, the rapid increase in tourist footfall has also created challenges.

Tanveer Ahmad, a resident of Keran, said improper disposal of waste by some visitors was becoming a concern.

"Tourists should avoid littering along riverbanks and scenic spots. Proper waste management is essential to preserve the

natural beauty of the area," he said.

Visitors also highlighted the need for improved mobile connectivity and additional public facilities.

Officials said work was underway to improve infrastructure, including the construction of public washrooms and the formulation of plans for scientific waste disposal.

They said cultural events organised by the administration, tourism department and security forces had helped bring border destinations onto Kashmir's tourism map and attract visitors from across the country.

Meanwhile, a tourism portal and a tourism magazine aimed at promoting North Kashmir's tourist destinations and boosting border tourism were launched in Kupwara by the Indian Army.

Officials said the portal and magazine have been designed to showcase the tourism potential of North Kashmir and provide visitors with information on destinations, cultural heritage, adventure tourism activities, local traditions and travel experiences across the region.

The platforms feature several destinations in the frontier districts, including Keran, Machhal, Karnah, Lolab, Tangdhar, Gurez and Kupwara, which have witnessed a rise in tourist arrivals in recent years.

"The objective is to create a comprehensive platform that highlights the unique attractions of North Kashmir and facilitates access to information for tourists planning to visit the region," an official said.

Officials said the tourism portal would serve as a digital gateway for visitors by providing details about destinations, accommodation facilities, local attractions and tourism-related services available in North Kashmir.

The tourism magazine, meanwhile, seeks to document and promote the region's scenic landscapes, cultural traditions, local crafts and emerging tourism circuits—(KNO)

## J&K To Sign MoU

reconciliation, and notification of operation and maintenance (O&M) policies.

In March 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the Ministry of Jal Shakti's proposal to restructure and reorient the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) from infrastructure creation to service delivery, supported by drinking water governance and an institutional ecosystem for sustainable rural piped potable water supply—(KNO)

## J&K Reports Improvement

healthcare services.

The survey also highlights gains in child immunisation. Full immunisation coverage among children aged 12-23 months rose to 89.4 per cent from 86.2 per cent in NFHS-5. Among children whose vaccination status was confirmed through immunisation cards, coverage reached 93.7 per cent.

Coverage of individual vaccines also improved. Around 97.5 per cent of children aged 12-23 months received the BCG vaccine, up from 95.1 per cent earlier. Coverage of three doses of the polio vaccine increased to 90.3 per cent from 87.6 per cent, while three-dose pentavalent vaccine coverage rose to 93.6 per cent from 92.8 per cent.

The first dose of the measles-containing vaccine reached 95 per cent coverage, while the second dose saw a significant rise to 82.4 per cent from 73.6 per cent in NFHS-5. The Hepatitis-B birth dose was administered to 94.1 per cent of eligible children, compared to 88.1 per cent earlier.

Vitamin A supplementation also improved slightly, with 84 per cent of children aged 9-35 months receiving the supplement in the six months preceding the survey, up from 82.3 per cent in the previous round.

The prevalence of common childhood illnesses declined in J&K, with diarrhoea among children under five dropping to 4.1 per cent from 5.6 per cent and acute respiratory infection (ARI) symptoms falling to 2.1 per cent from 3.8 per cent. Healthcare-seeking for children with ARI symptoms improved, with 67.2 per cent being taken to a health provider compared to 62.3 per cent earlier.

However, infant feeding indicators showed mixed trends. Early initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of birth declined to 52.8 per cent from 55.6 per cent, while exclusive breastfeeding among infants below six months fell to 59.2 per cent from 62 per cent. Continued breastfeeding among children aged 6-23 months improved slightly to 93.8 per cent.

Complementary feeding saw some progress, with 64.7 per cent of children aged 6-8 months receiving solid or semi-solid foods along with breastmilk, up from 41.8 per cent. The proportion of children aged 6-23 months receiving an adequate diet also increased to 18.9 per cent from 12.8 per cent.

The survey also recorded notable improvements in child nutrition. Stunting among children under five declined to 21.4 per cent from 26.9 per cent, wasting dropped to 10.6 per cent from 19 per cent, and severe wasting fell to 4.1 per cent from 9.7 per cent. The proportion of underweight children decreased to 14.5 per cent from 21 per cent, while the prevalence of overweight children remained largely unchanged at 9.2 per cent—(KNO)

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# DC Srinagar visits Yatra Transit Camp Panthachowk

Finalizes arrangements for smooth conduct of upcoming annual Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday undertook a site visit of Yatra Transit Camp (YTC) at Panthachowk to oversee the arrangements being put in place for the Yatris expected to participate in upcoming annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY-2026) set to begin in July.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various facilities and arrangements put in place for the convenience, comfort and safety of pilgrims expected to participate in the annual pilgrimage during their halt at the transit camp Srinagar. He reviewed the preparedness of different departments and assessed the overall readiness of the transit camp.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that all necessary facilities including provision for drinking water, electricity, sanitation, public convenience facilities, boarding, lodging, bedding, KYC & RIDF registration counters, medical facilities, etc have been made available at the Yatra Transit Camp. The DC reviewed the condition and operational readiness of various facilities at the camp, ensuring that all arrangements were functioning effectively so that pilgrims do not face any inconvenience during their stay.



The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of seamless coordination among all stakeholder Departments to ensure a safe, seamless and hassle-free experience for the yatris. He directed the concerned Officers to maintain high standards of service delivery and ensure that all facilities remain fully functional throughout the Yatra period.

The DC directed maintaining proper cleanliness and sanitation measures, ensuring availability of water, uninterrupted power supply, medical facilities, and other civic amenities, besides strengthening facilities at Langars (community kitchens) to provide wholesome meals to the pilgrims.

During the visit, the DC was informed that an adequate number of bathrooms, urinals, and mobile toilets have been established at the Transit Camp for the convenience of the yatris. He was also apprised that comprehensive sanitation and cleanliness measures have been

put in place, with regular cleaning and maintenance being carried out in and around the camp premises.

Additionally, sufficient manpower has been deployed to ensure efficient management and upkeep of the facilities throughout the Yatra period.

Similarly, regarding water supply, the DC was informed that besides a dedicated water supply to the camp, standby water storage tanks with a capacity of 80,000 litres have been installed to cater to the needs of the visiting pilgrims at the halt camp.

While inspecting the arrangements made to ensure hassle free queue management at newly established registration counters for RFID and KYC registrations at the Camp, the DC directed the concerned to ensure all required machinery and electronic gadgets are functioning properly.

Regarding healthcare facilities, the DC was informed that adequate arrangements have been put in place for providing

first-aid and emergency medical assistance to the yatris.

In addition, necessary measures have been taken for effective crowd management, traffic regulation and parking arrangements at the Yatra Transit Camp to ensure the seamless conduct of the temporary halt of pilgrims at the Srinagar camp.

The DC was further informed that two mobile ATM machines are being deployed at the venue for the convenience of the yatris.

Reviewing safety measures, the DC directed the Fire & Emergency Services Department to take all requisite fire safety measures at the camp and conduct a comprehensive fire safety audit of the Yatra Transit Camp.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, SP South, Intiyaz Ah, Deputy Commandant (IR), K.Sahu, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Deputy Director Information, Zubair Ahmad Lattoo, SDPO Panthachowk, Zohaib Hassan, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Muzamil Zamaan, the DC was accompanied by Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD, PHE, Fire & Emergency and other senior Officers of Police and Civil Administration.

# Sakeena Ito inaugurates Medical Examination-cum-Blood Donation Camp in Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito Tuesday inaugurated a multispecialty Health check up and Blood Donation camp at Talab Khatikan here today, reaffirming the Government's commitment towards strengthening preventive healthcare and promoting voluntary blood donation.

The Health cum Blood Donation camp was organised by Health department in collaboration with GMC Jammu. The camp provided medical examinations, health consultations and voluntary blood donation facilities, witnessing active participation from members of the public and healthcare personnel.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted the significance of regular health screenings and voluntary blood donation



in ensuring better health outcomes and meeting the critical requirement of safe blood for patients in need. She appreciated the efforts of the organisers, healthcare professionals and volunteers for conducting the camp and creating awareness about the importance of timely medical check-ups and blood donation.

The Minister observed that such initiatives serve as an effective platform for encouraging community participation in public

health programmes while fostering a spirit of social responsibility and humanitarian service. She urged citizens, particularly the youth, to come forward and actively participate in blood donation drives and adopt preventive healthcare practices.

On the occasion, Sakeena Ito also interacted with doctors, medical staff, blood donors and beneficiaries and reviewed the facilities put in place for health examinations and blood

collection. She stressed the need for maintaining the highest standards of safety, hygiene and quality in all healthcare interventions.

Reiterating the Government's resolve to make quality healthcare accessible to all, the Minister called for sustained collaborative efforts among healthcare institutions and voluntary organisations.

Principal Govt. Medical College, Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Director Health Services, Jammu, Dr. Poonam Sethi; Chief Medical Officer Jammu, Dr. Harbaksh Singh and other officers of health department were also present on the occasion.

During the camp ample residents and patients were provided consultation by the specialists from Health Department including Physician, Paediatrician, Dental surgeon, Medical officers along with paramedical staff and the volunteers donated blood for a noble cause.

# Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal visits Bandipora, Gurez Courts

Assures expeditious completion of pending Infrastructure Works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for District Bandipora, was on official visit to District Bandipora on Tuesday to inspect the newly shifted District Court Complex at Kaloosa.

Upon his arrival, He was warmly received by Jeema Bashir, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora, along with Ahsan Parvaiz, Additional District Judge, Bandipora; Iqbal Ahmad Aakhoon, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bandipora;

Senior Superintendent Police Bandipora Aijaz Ahmad Zargar Advocate Sofi Feroz, and members of the District Bar Association Bandipora.

During the visit, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal conducted a comprehensive inspection of all court-rooms and various sections of the newly established court complex. He reviewed the available infrastructure and assessed the facilities provided for judicial officers, advocates, litigants, and court staff. He interacted with judicial officers and members of the Bar and took stock of the functioning of the court complex.

Thereafter, He proceeded to Gurez Valley to inspect the Munsiff Court Gurez. On his arrival, he was received by Amandeep Singh, In-charge JMIC Gurez, along with SDPO Manzoor Ahmad Malik advocates and members of the Bar Association Gurez.

At Gurez, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal inspected the court premises and reviewed the infrastructural and functional requirements of the court. He emphasized the importance of strengthening judicial infrastructure in far-flung and remote areas to ensure effective and accessible justice delivery to the people.

During his interactions at both Bandipora and Gurez, He assured the judicial officers and members of the Bar that the remaining works and infrastructural requirements in the newly shifted District Court Complex at Kaloosa would be taken up on priority and completed expeditiously to facilitate smooth and efficient functioning of the courts.

The visit reflects the commitment of the High Court towards enhancing judicial infrastructure and ensuring better access to justice for the people of District Bandipora and its remote areas.

# DC Anantnag chairs RTA meeting

29 LA applications, 13 permits cleared

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** To review and strengthen traffic management in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC), who is also the Chairman Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Tuesday chaired a meeting of the authority at DC Office.

The meeting was attended by SE R&B, ARTO, DySP HQ, DySP Traffic, Exen R&B, Inspectors MVD and Traffic, CEO MCA and other officials.

At the outset, the ARTO presented an overview of the existing traffic management system and briefed the chair about different measures that have been adopted for streamlining traffic and vehicular movement in the district. He informed that enforcement actions including penalties are being taken against the traffic violators and officials have been deployed to manage traffic both in urban and rural areas.

Addressing the meeting, the DC emphasized the need to identify and

develop designated parking areas and to map routes for e-rickshaws to prevent congestion, directing MVD, Traffic Police and MCA to conduct a thorough survey for the purpose. He instructed that consultations be held with e-rickshaw operators and companies to address safety and operational concerns. He further asked the ARTO and Traffic Police to take immediate steps to prevent avoidable traffic jams at Bijbehara and other places, which are causing inconvenience to the public.

On the occasion, directives were issued to the ARTO to introduce special service days for slot allocation to applicants, identify land for fitness and trial grounds and conduct regular awareness programmes on road safety in educational institutions, taxi stands and other important places.

After thorough deliberations, the RTA approved 29 LA applications and condonation of delay in respect of 13 expired permits against appropriate fines.

# DLTFC Meeting for JKREGP cases of KVIB held at Kulgam; 38 Cases approved



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM:** A meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee of the Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Kulgam, under JKREGP scheme was held Tuesday under the chairmanship of the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan.

During the meeting, a total of 41 cases received under the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREP) were placed before the committee for consideration. After detailed scrutiny and deliberations, 38 cases were approved, involving a total project cost of ₹3.07 crore and a proposed Margin Money assistance

of ₹1.745 crore.

The approved projects are expected to generate substantial self-employment opportunities and contribute towards the economic upliftment of rural youth and aspiring entrepreneurs in the district.

The committee deferred two cases for submission of additional documents and clarification of certain deficiencies, while one case was rejected for being absent.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairperson emphasized the importance of self-employment schemes in promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood opportunities. He urged the concerned stakeholders to ensure timely implementation of the approved projects so that the intended benefits reach the beneficiaries without delay.

# Sheep, Goat Breeders from B'la participate in Exposure Visit to IGFR Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Department of Sheep Husbandry Baramulla organized an Exposure Visit-cum-Kisan Gosthi for 32 progressive sheep and goat breeders under the ATMA/SAME programme at IGFR Rangreth, Srinagar.

The farmers were flagged off from the District Sheep Husbandry Office, Baramulla and were exposed to modern fodder production technologies, scientific livestock management practices, and research activities at IGFR. Scientists briefed participants on high-yielding perennial fodder varieties, multi-cut fodders, and their role in improving livestock productivity.

The delegation also visited the ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Srinagar, where experts highlighted sustainable farming practices, judicious fertilizer use, and eco-friendly alternatives to chemical inputs. Scientists described sheep manure as "Black Gold" due to its rich nutrient value and importance in enhancing soil health.

The programme also featured awareness sessions on the One Health concept, emphasizing the link between animal, human, and environmental health. Participating farmers appreciated the initiative and called for more such exposure visits to enhance their knowledge of modern scientific farming practices.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that my name in PAN Card has been incorrectly mentioned as Ubaid Showkat S/o Showkat Hussain Qureshi instead of Ubaid Showkat S/o Moulvi Showkat Hussain. The same needs to be rectified. Any body having any objection to this may he/she may file the same to the Competent Authority within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

Ubaid Showkat  
S/o Moulvi Showkat Hussain

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Ubaid Showkat  
S/o Moulvi Showkat Hussain

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA.

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 32/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/2046-56 Dated: 16-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Construction of lane/Drain from H/O Nisaar Ahmad Mir to H/O Tariq Ahmad Mir at Behwar Colony road Frestabal Pampore.	4.13	200/-	2% of Adv cost	20 days	Normal Resources MC-Pampore	DEE	Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir
2.	Construction of Drain with the path from H/o Mohammad Maqbool wani to H/o Manzoor Ahmad at Frestabal Pampore	10.79	600/-	2% of Adv cost	35 days	Normal Resources MC-Pampore	BEE, CEE, DEE	Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir
3.	Reconstruction of Drain near H/o Sharief Ud Din to Abdul Satar Bhat at Drangbal Pampore.	2.35	200/-	2% of Adv cost	15 days	Normal Resources MC-Pampore	DEE	Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir
4.	Construction of Road by way of solving Metaling from main Road upto lane one from H/O Syed Faheem Bashir to Fayaz Ahmad and Lane 2 Near H/o Abdul Rashid Dar and others at Noorani Colony Pampore.	1.45	200/-	2% of Adv cost	15 days	Normal Resources MC-Pampore	DEE	Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No. 131 of 2026 Dated: 29.01.2026. (SE's Letter No. SE/R&B/DB/1488 Dated: 18-05-2026.)

Position of funds: Committed.

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 viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16-06-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	16-06-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	17-06-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	25-06-2026 2:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	25-06-2026 4:00 PM

- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)  
(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG
- All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG, which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

Sd/-  
Draftsman  
DIPK-2194-26  
DT: 16/06/2026

Sd/-  
Technical Officer

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Awantipora

# Women's T20 WC: 'It was a must-win game for us', says Athapaththu after victory over NZ



IAN S

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu described her side's five-wicket win over defending champions New Zealand as a "must-win" result but insisted there is no room for complacency despite defeating one of the favourites for the Women's T20 World Cup title.

Nilakshi de Silva scored an unbeaten 54, and Kaushani Nuthyanga made a steady 24 not out as Sri Lanka chased down New Zealand's 150/6 with one ball left. This marked their first victory of the tournament.

Athapaththu emphasised the importance of this result for Sri Lanka's chances in the competition. She commended her batting team for sticking to their plans under pressure. "I think it's a good win. It was a must-win game for us, or we would not have had a chance. As a team and batting unit, we executed our plans well. Nilakshi played excellently today. Kaushani is not

in her best form, but she contributed well alongside Nilakshi."

Sri Lanka's win not only relied on de Silva's crucial knock but also on solid fielding. They kept New Zealand to 150/6 after the White Ferns looked set for a much higher score. Kavisha Dilhari led the bowling with figures of 2 for 35, while the fielders made several sharp plays.

Athapaththu praised the improvement from months of hard work. "Our fielding unit, especially thanks to our fielding coach's efforts over the past six months, has improved a lot. We used to struggle in the field, but today we were much better. Our fielding unit performed well."

Sri Lanka's bowlers managed to pull New Zealand back after Amelia Kerr and Sophie Devine threatened to take control. Both scored 45 runs, but key wickets kept the White Ferns from going beyond 150.

The chase was not easy. Athapaththu hit 27 off 19 balls after being dropped

on seven, but Sri Lanka fell from 45/1 to 55/4. De Silva and Kavisha Dilhari then steadied the innings. After Dilhari's run-out for 17, de Silva and Nuthyanga formed an unbeaten 48-run partnership to secure the win.

Despite the importance of the result, Athapaththu noted that beating the reigning world champions means little if Sri Lanka does not uphold their performance in upcoming matches. "Every game is crucial for us. I know New Zealand is one of the best teams in this tournament. They are the world champions and favourites, so beating New Zealand doesn't mean we can relax. We need to execute our plans properly. That is key."

While she enjoyed the win, the Sri Lankan captain also pointed out areas for improvement. "We still need to work on a few things as a team, especially our batting. We lost a few wickets in the middle part of the innings. We also need to improve a bit in our bowling."

# UP Brij Stars crowned champions as Big Cricket League season 2 ends on a high



IAN S

**GREATER NOIDA:** The second season of the Big Cricket League (BCL) concluded on a high note with UP Brij Stars emerging champions after a tournament that featured 18 matches, more than 60 amateur cricketers, and several innovative elements aimed at promoting grassroots talent.

Positioning itself as a bridge between amateur and professional cricket, the league brought together aspiring players from across the country and provided them an opportunity to share the field with former international stars, including Shikhar Dhawan, Chris Gayle, Harbhajan Singh, Ross Taylor, S. Sreesanth and Upul Tharanga.

One of the major highlights of the season was the league's Amateur Buzzer Reward System, which added an extra layer of competition and strategy to matches. Season 2 witnessed more than 60 Bronze Buzzers, over 10 Silver Buzzers, three Golden Buzzers, and two Platinum Buzzers, producing several match-defining moments throughout the tournament.

The season also saw a unique reward initiative, with Batting Boss Amaan

Patel of MP Tigers and Bowling Boss Jatin Mavi of UP Brij being awarded equity in the Big Cricket League and announced as co-owners of the league.

More than 60 amateur cricketers featured in the competition, producing notable performances with bat and ball while showcasing their abilities on a national platform.

Speaking on the successful completion of Season 2, RP Singh, Founder and President, Big Cricket League, said, "Season 2 has been transformational for the Big Cricket League. The response we have received from players, fans, franchise owners, partners, and stakeholders has exceeded expectations. The success of innovations such as the Buzzer System, combined with the introduction of equity ownership for our Batting Boss and Bowling Boss winners, reflects our vision of creating a cricket ecosystem that is exciting, rewarding, and deeply empowering for players. Most importantly, this season proved that amateur cricketers, when given the right platform, can shine just as brightly on the biggest stages."

Puneet Singh, Chief Patron, Big Cricket League, said, "Big Cricket League stands for opportunity, belief, and talent discovery

— and Season 2 showcased exactly that. We saw players come in with dreams and leave with recognition, confidence, and life-changing experiences. The passion, energy, and quality of cricket this season reaffirmed our belief that India is filled with extraordinary untapped talent waiting for the right opportunity."

Anirudh Chauhan, co-Founder and CEO, Big Cricket League, added, "The success of Season 2 belongs to every player, franchise, partner, and supporter who believed in this vision. We pushed boundaries this season through innovation, competition, and player empowerment, and the results were phenomenal. We are proud of the talent that emerged and even more excited for what lies ahead. This is only the beginning of what Big Cricket League is building for amateur cricket in India."

Following the completion of Season 2, the organisers also announced that registrations for Season 3 are now open. The next edition of the tournament is expected to be held in January 2027 and will provide aspiring cricketers from across India another opportunity to compete for recognition and rewards on one of the country's fastest-growing amateur cricket platforms.

# FIFA World Cup: Ashley Westwood backs France for glory, warns England of Croatia challenge

IAN S

**MUMBAI:** Former Manchester United academy graduate and experienced English coach Ashley Westwood believes England have the quality to challenge at the FIFA World Cup 2026, while identifying France as the team to beat and Japan as one of the tournament's potential dark horses.

Talking about England's World Cup campaign, Westwood acknowledged the challenge awaiting the Three Lions in their opening fixture against Croatia, a side he described as one of England's most difficult opponents on the international stage.

"Croatia have always been a tricky team for England. They have resilience, a strong football culture, and a mentality that never gives up. They are a nation you can never take for



granted," he was quoted as saying by Zee5, the official broadcaster of FIFA World Cup 2026 in India.

Sharing his predictions for the upcoming World Cup fixtures, Westwood backed Portugal to defeat DR Congo 2-0, a 1-1 draw between England and Croatia, Ghana to overcome Panama 3-0, Uzbekistan to upset Colombia 2-1, and Czechia and South Africa to play out a 1-1 draw.

Looking at the wider tournament, Westwood identified France as his favourites to lift the trophy, citing the depth and quality of their attacking options. "You can't look past France. The attacking power they possess is incredible. They have goals, pace, and quality all across the front line," he said.

Among the potential surprise packages, Westwood highlighted Japan

and Sweden as teams capable of exceeding expectations. Westwood also reserved special praise for Morocco's enterprising style of play and named young Moroccan midfielder Ayyoub Bouaddi as a player to watch during the tournament.

Reflecting on the influences that shaped his coaching philosophy, Westwood credited his formative years at Manchester United for instilling the values of professionalism, discipline, and a relentless desire to win.

"Coming through the Manchester United academy taught us what it takes to work hard, dedicate yourself, and be professional every day. Those core beliefs have stayed with many players from that generation and continue to influence the way I approach the game today," he said.

# Boxing World Cup: Jyoti, Prachi, Nikhil progress as India continue campaign in China

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Indian boxers Jyoti, Prachi, and Nikhil emerged victorious on the second day of the Boxing World Cup (Stage 2) in China, advancing to the next round of their respective weight categories to be held at the Guiyang Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium in the city of Guiyang.

Competing in the women's 57kg category, Prachi registered a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision victory over the USA's Deborah Grant to move ahead in the competition.

Jyoti joined her in the next round after producing an equally dominant display in the women's 48kg division, defeating Mongolia's Enkh Angalan Nomundari via a Referee Stops Contest (RSC) verdict in the second round. With this crucial win, Jyoti moved into the semifinals and confirmed a medal for the country. Nikhil also progressed further after securing a hard-fought 3-2 split decision victory over France's Christopher Hippocrate in the men's 55kg



category. Looking ahead to Day 3, five Indian boxers are scheduled to take the ring. Nikhil (55kg) will look to continue his winning momentum against Brazil's Kelyv Trindade, while Deepak (70kg) takes on Japan's Sewon Okazawa. Malsawmtluanga (80kg) will face Jordan's Ashaish Hussein. In the women's section, Saneh (65kg) squares off against South Korea's Seon Sujin, and

Mahi Lama (60kg) clashes with Mongolia's Monkhor Namuun.

In other preliminary contests on day two, Poonam (54kg) was narrowly beaten 2-3 by Chinese Taipei's Hsiao Wen Huang, while Akash (75kg) went down against Poland's Mateusz Urban by a similar 2-3 margin. Giti-moni also bowed out after suffering a 0-5 defeat to France's Maelys Richol in the women's 70kg category.

# Sri Lanka 'A' players sanctioned after heated India 'A' clash in Dambulla: Report

IAN S

**DAMBULLA:** Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has reportedly taken disciplinary action against players involved in the ill-tempered India 'A' versus Sri Lanka 'A' tri-series clash in Dambulla on Monday, with match referee Pradeep Jayapragash imposing sanctions following the controversial contest, said a report on Tuesday.

A heated exchange, which escalated into lengthy discussions and what seemed to be a physical confrontation between India's young batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Sri Lanka A's Vishen Halambage, overshadowed Sri Lanka A's win in the Super Over after both teams recorded an equal score of 265.

According to Cricbuzz, Halambage is among the prominent targets of the sanctions issued by JJayapragash, a former Sri Lankan fast bowler and match referee of the game.

Curiously, Sri Lanka A wicket-keeper Niroshan

Dickwella has also been fined, though it seemed that he was trying to calm the ongoing confrontation between Halambage and Sooryavanshi. Dickwella was fined for a separate violation.

The violation by the keeper isn't exactly stated; however, according to Cricbuzz, it might have been for excessive appeals.

It is not confirmed whether Sooryavanshi, who was seen physically nudging Halambage after the game concluded, before the exchange of words between the two, has been sanctioned or not.

There was no official hearing. Sri Lanka 'A' sources told Cricbuzz that they believed Jayapragash issued the sanctions based solely on the on-field umpires' reports.

The 42-year-old referee, whose lone appearance for Sri Lanka was against India in 2005, issued the sanctions at the very ground where he made his sole international appearance.

## Movies Watchlist

Wednesday, 17th June

**OBSESSION**  
(ENGLISH) (A)

10:30 AM, 02:50 PM, 05:50 PM

**BACKROOMS**  
(ENGLISH) (A)

05:10 PM

**MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA**  
(HINDI ATMOS) (U/A14+)

12:50 PM, 02:15 PM, 07:00 PM

**DISCLOSURE DAY**  
(ENGLISH) (U/A13+)

11:00 AM

**HAUNTED ECHOES OF THE PAST**  
(3D HINDI) (A)

04:10 PM

**INOX**  
SRINAGAR

Call: 95416 13868 For assistance with tickets